



GIPSA's Farmer Fair Practices Rules Interim Final Rule: Scope of Sections 202(a) and (b) of the Packers and Stockyards Act

Below are sample comments for GIPSA's Interim Final Rule: Scope of Sections 202(a) and (b) of the Packers and Stockyards Act. You are welcome to use this language as your own, although personalized comments will be more effective, so please tell the USDA why these rules are important to you! When you are ready, [click here](#) to post your comments in the Federal Register.

Sample Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the interim final rule, "Scope of Sections 202(a) and (b) of the Packers and Stockyards Act," which I strongly support. I am a farmer who grows XXXX in the state of XXXX. I am familiar with the many ways that packers and processors are using their iron grip on the markets to prevent family farmers from being treated fairly and equitably in our quest to produce safe and healthy food products for the American consumer.

I support this rule because it will help myself and other family farmers by making it easier to hold packers and processors accountable for their unfair and abusive trade practices. More specifically, American farmers and ranchers deserve a rule that firmly establishes that not all violations of the Packers & Stockyards Act require a showing of harm or likely harm to competition. For far too long, packers and processors have relied on the holdings of some federal courts that have ruled that the Packers & Stockyards Act requires a showing of harm to competition before harm to an individual farmer or rancher could be claimed. Processors have used this false interpretation of the Packers & Stockyards Act to avoid responsibility for damages caused to contract farmers when the farmer could not prove harm to the entire sector - a nearly impossible feat for a farmer.

I strongly urge GIPSA to adopt this rule swiftly, as American family farmers and ranchers are finding it increasingly difficult to compete in today's market. Thank you for considering my views.