



GIPSA's Farmer Fair Practices Rules

Proposed Rule: Unfair Practices and Undue Preferences in Violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act

Below are sample comments for GIPSA's Proposed Rule: Unfair Practices and Undue Preferences in Violation 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 this proposed rule, 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 this proposed rule because it clearly establishes which unfair practices would be considered illegal by GIPSA. That, in turn, will assist the industry in understanding what constitutes inappropriate conduct, and establish criteria to protect the legal rights of independent family farmers. Like other whistleblowers, farmers shouldn't lose their business when they speak out against the abusive practices of the big packers and integrators. Similarly, when independent ranchers speak out against the predatory market practices of the big packers they should not lose their livelihood as has happened to cattle producers.

These rules would provide important safeguards for contract poultry growers, eliminating abusive and inequitable contract provisions. The abusive power of a small group of giant corporations has created an impossible business environment for America's independent family farmers and their families. This has resulted in 71% of contract poultry growers living below the federal poverty level, while holding a million dollars or more in financial risk that benefits these corporations. Below-market payments can put the contract poultry grower in the position of choosing paying the bank or paying for the heat in a chicken barn.

Please enact these long-overdue rules and give America's farmers and ranchers some much needed relief from abusive and anticompetitive corporate market practices.

Thank you for considering my views.