

69. PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT

We support:

1. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Trade Commission, with the support of the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), enforcing current anti-trust laws pertaining to packer mergers, market concentrations, packer feeding, and contracting.
2. Open, competitive markets which include access to slaughter space and the number of contracted slaughter days should be monitored and enforced if necessary.
3. The DOJ monitoring for a potential monopoly on a regional, rather than a national basis.
4. Including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the decision-making procedure with respect to proposed mergers and acquisitions of meat packing firms.
5. Legislation that grants GIPSA authority to prosecute violators and seek restitution for farmers in cases involving agricultural production, processing, and marketing violations.
6. Incorporation of a dealer trust provision to the Packers and Stockyards Act. The bonding requirement for livestock dealers and packers should be reviewed on an annual basis and be adjusted to reflect the volume of the maximum financial exposure to farmers and/or their brokers and then be made available to the public.
7. Changes to the administration of the Illinois Livestock Auction Market Law that will clarify, as well as strengthen, language relating to the use of custodial accounts by livestock auctions.

We oppose packers owning livestock before slaughter with the exception of farmer-owned closed cooperatives and farmer-owned livestock fed and retail-marketed within the provisions of a specialty product marketing alliance.