

## **GIPSA Rule Takes Detour but Not Dead**

When the House of Representatives recently voted on next year's agriculture budget, many cattlemen contacted their representatives in support of the GIPSA rule, and waited to hear how what legislators would do when funding it came into question. Kansas Cattlemen's Association was disappointed to see that no amendment was offered to allow the GIPSA rule process to continue. The House of Representatives, rejecting funding for the rule, however did not kill the rule.

As the Senate looks at the agriculture appropriations bill, there is always the opportunity to them to include a budget to allow the GIPSA rule process to continue.

"If the Senate supports transparency and justice, than they will pursue funding for this process. The rule hasn't even been finalized, and yet special interest groups are trying to kill it before it's even established. The GIPSA rule was created from the 2008 Farm Bill where legislators acted on the injustices that occur in production agriculture and directed USDA to follow through with the process. USDA and GIPSA are taking the responsibility that they were given, states KCA executive Director Brandy Carter.

"The Packers and Stockyards Act is a law, a law that has not been adequately enforced and the GIPSA rule merely clarifies and enforces the law as it was intended. It is my hope that our legislators will see how important for rural America the P & S Act is and what the GIPSA rule brings to the table," remarks Linn county cattleman and KCA President Paul Acton.

"If some form of GIPSA is not implemented the supply side of the beef industry is doomed to continue down the same path as pork and poultry... consolidation," explains KCA Board member and Butler county cattleman Mason Greene.

At this point, USDA is conducting an economic analysis which could provide legislators with additional reason to allow USDA to do their job and proceed with finalizing and implementing a law that was enacted more than 90 years ago.