

WORC

Western Organization of Resource Councils

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For more information, contact: Jeri Lynn Bakken, WORC Regional Organizer at 701/376-7077 or Mabel Dobbs at 208/880-0441

On November 3, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it had sent modified sections of the June 22, 2010 proposed Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) rule as a Final and an Interim Rule to the Office of Management and Budget for review. Mabel Dobbs, Livestock Committee Chair for the Western Organization of Resource Councils, issued this statement in response to the submission.

“WORC is appalled that USDA has diluted the final fair livestock market rules so significantly. While some poultry provision are included and we hope they are helpful to contract growers, livestock producers like our cattle growing members will see no benefits in the final rules announced yesterday.

“WORC members had high hopes for these rules based on the content of the original proposal and have been waiting for their final publication for over 18 months with great anticipation. With this final rule, USDA and the Obama Administration have let down the independent farmers and ranchers of this country.

“In his campaign, President Obama said he would fight to ensure family and independent farmers have fair access to markets, control over their production decisions, and transparency in prices. Instead of taking this opportunity to keep that promise, with these rules the Administration has caved in to pressure from big meatpackers, and is allowing unfair and deceptive practices to continue.

“In its announcement, USDA said that it will continue to consider some further reforms sometime in the future, but livestock producers have waited too long already. USDA should finalize fair rules for cattle producers now.”

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