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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:

RONALD BELTZ, an individual; and )  
CHRISTOPHER JEROME ZAHND, an individual; )

HPA Docket No. 02-0001

Respondents )  
)

Consent Decision and Order as to RONALD BELTZ

This proceeding was instituted under the Horse Protection Act ("Act"), as amended (15 U.S.C. § 1821 et seq.), by a complaint filed by the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the respondents violated the Act. This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provisions of the Rules of Practice applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138).

Respondent Ronald Beltz admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaint and specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admits nor denies the remaining allegations, waives oral hearing and further procedure, and consents and agrees, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this decision.

The complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent Ronald Beltz, is an individual whose mailing address is 601 W. College Street, Energy, Illinois 62933-3541. At all times mentioned herein said respondent was the owner of the horse known as "Lady Ebony's Ace."

2. On May 25, 2000, respondent Ronald Beltz entered "Lady Ebony's Ace" as entry number 15 in class number 13, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fun Show Preview "S.H.O.W. Your Horses" in Shelbyville, Tennessee, for the purpose of showing or exhibiting the horse.

#### Conclusions

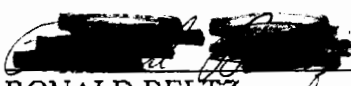
Respondent having admitted the jurisdictional facts and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.


#### Order

Respondent Ronald Beltz is disqualified for an uninterrupted period of 1 year beginning on January 1, 2005, from showing, exhibiting, or entering any horse, directly or indirectly through any agent, employee, or other device, and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction. "Participating" means engaging in any activity beyond that of a spectator, and includes, without limitation, transporting or arranging for the transportation of horses to or from equine events, personally giving instructions to exhibitors, being present in the warm-up or inspection areas, or in any area where spectators are not allowed, and financing the participation of others in equine events.

This order shall have the same effect as if entered after a full hearing and shall become effective on the first day after service of this decision on the respondents.

Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.

  
RONALD BELTZ  
Respondent

  
BRIAN T. HILL  
Attorney for Complainant

Done at Washington, D.C.  
this 18th day of January, 2005

  
Administrative Law Judge