



PRESS NOTICE

W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN F. MCDONALD
(803) 929-3000

CHESNEE MAN ADMITS TO DEFRAUDING AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
(Sold cattle purchased with \$100,000.00 loan)

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today that Gregory T. Flowe, age 38, of Chesnee, South Carolina, pled guilty today in federal court in Anderson, to defrauding the Department of Agriculture, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 658. Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr., accepted the plea and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the presentence report which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Evidence established that in the Fall of 2005, Flowe borrowed \$100,000.00 from the Farm Services Agency (FSA), a farm credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to buy cattle for his herd. In return for the loan, Flowe

signed a promissory note pledging the cattle and some farm machinery as collateral and promising to repay the FSA if the cattle and personal property were sold. Thereafter, between January 2006 and August 2007, Flowe sold the cattle, used the money for personal debt, and failed to repay the FSA loan. When inquiries were made, Flowe initially reported that some of the cattle had died. He later admitted to authorities what he had actually done and acknowledged converting the money to his own use.

Mr. Wilkins stated the maximum penalty Flowe can receive is a fine of \$250,000.00 and imprisonment for five years.

The case was investigated by agents of the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Assistant United States Attorney William C. Lucius of the Greenville office handled the case.

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