



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Nicholas A. Klinefeldt
Southern District of Iowa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 8, 2011
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ias/>

CONTACT: Kevin VanderSchel
(515) 473-9300
kevin.vanderschel@usdoj.gov

TWO SOUTHWEST IOWA MEN SENTENCED ON METH MANUFACTURING CHARGES

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA - On December 9, 2011, Robert Gene Ott, Jr, age 45, of rural Imogene, Iowa, and Christopher Nicholas Smith, age 24, of rural Glenwood, Iowa, were sentenced in United States District Court for their participation in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, announced United States Attorney Nicholas A. Klinefeldt. Senior United States District Court Judge Ronald E. Longstaff sentenced Robert Gene Ott, Jr. to 168 months imprisonment, plus five (5) years of supervised release following his imprisonment, and imposed a \$100.00 special assessment for the Crime Victim Fund. The Judge sentenced Christopher Nicholas Smith to 90 months imprisonment, plus 3 years of supervised release following his imprisonment, and imposed a \$100.00 special assessment for the Crime Victim Fund. Both Defendants were ordered to remain in the custody of the United States Marshal pending designation of the Federal Bureau of Prison facility at which each will serve his sentence.

On April 28, 2011, an indictment was returned by the federal grand jury charging Ott, Smith and four other persons with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and associated charges in what has been referred to as "the Fisher Farm Case". Each of these defendants previously appeared in Federal Court in Council Bluffs and pled guilty to that respective defendant's participation in the conspiracy. The "Fisher Farm" is an acreage located in rural Mills County where an estimated 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) of pure methamphetamine was

manufactured by several people from at least February of 2003, to May of 2011. Persons involved in the conspiracy were responsible for the theft of substantial quantities of anhydrous ammonia in southwest Iowa and for the purchase of pseudoephedrine from several stores in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri, all of which were used to manufacture methamphetamine. Ott's role in the conspiracy included manufacturing methamphetamine, providing a location at which other co-conspirators manufactured methamphetamine, and purchasing pseudoephedrine to be used to manufacture the methamphetamine. Smith's role in the conspiracy included manufacturing methamphetamine, obtaining anhydrous ammonia to manufacture methamphetamine, and purchasing pseudoephedrine to be used to manufacture the methamphetamine. In sentencing Christopher Nicholas Smith, the Judge noted that under the federal sentencing guidelines, the Smith was eligible for what is referred to as a "safety valve" reduction in his advisory sentence due to his lack of criminal history and the presence of other factors contained in the federal sentencing guidelines.

Previously sentenced in this case were: Kirk Jason Hardman (120 months imprisonment), Trent James Fisher (90 months imprisonment), and Jennifer Mae Biggerstaff (80 months imprisonment). Previously sentenced in associated cases regarding the same conspiracy were: Timothy Earl Bendt (48 months imprisonment) and Paul Leon Foster (157 months imprisonment). Andru Alan Fisher is pending sentencing in the case.

This case was investigated by the Mills County, Iowa, Sheriff's Department, the SouthWest Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force, and the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and was prosecuted by the United States Attorneys Office for the Southern District of Iowa.