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Auditor Works with Prosecutor, Sheriff to Bring Charges in Consumer Fraud Case Involving Livestock Scales

HAMILTON, Ohio – Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds helped ensure that charges were filed against a Liberty Township man for two felony counts and two misdemeanor counts involving theft and deception for allegedly putting magnets on scales at an Oxford livestock store.

Fernand Lee Allart, 75, worked at Tri-State Livestock and is accused of intentionally attaching magnets on scales to reduce weights, cheating farmers for his benefit. The scam effectively changed the weight of cattle in favor of the defendant and his company. The company and owner have been dealt with separately through the Department of Agriculture and were not criminally charged.

Allart was formally charged Friday, July 2 in Area I Court in Oxford.

Auditor Reynolds worked closely with Butler County Prosecutor's Office, The Butler County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Agriculture on the case. Assistant Prosecutor Jason Phillabaum will be presenting the case on behalf of the county.

“Growing up in a farming family, I know firsthand how hard farmers work to prepare their products and livestock for sale,” said Auditor Roger Reynolds. “Ensuring an accurate weights and measures system is critical in protecting the livelihood of Butler County farmers. I am grateful as always to our Prosecutor Robin Piper and Sheriff Richard Jones for their diligent effort in putting this case together, and hopefully this will send a message to anyone who would even contemplate such an underhanded action in the future.”

Sheriff Richard K. Jones stated, “Farming is such a tough business to begin with, and during one of the worst recessions since then Great Depression, the farmer takes another hit at the market. This is just like an underhanded butcher sneaking a heavy thumb on the meat scale to take advantage of an unsuspecting customer.”