

under any tentative final or final Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") standard or under any new drug application approved by the FDA.

Part IX allows the respondents to make representations for any product that are specifically permitted in labeling for that product by regulations issued by the FDA under the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990.

Parts X through XII and XIV require the respondents to keep copies of advertisements making representations covered by the order; to keep records concerning those representations, including materials that they relied upon when making the representations; to provide copies of the order to certain of the corporate respondents' personnel; to notify the Commission of changes in corporate structure; and to file compliance reports with the Commission. Part XV provides that the order will terminate after twenty (20) years under certain circumstances.

Part XIII requires that the Grubers notify the Commission of any change in their business or employment.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order, and it is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-13140 Filed 5-15-98; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 971-0039]

### **Fastline Publication, Inc., et al.; Analysis To Aid Public Comment**

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed consent agreement.

**SUMMARY:** The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before July 17, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office or the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., NW., Washington DC 20580.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Willian Baer or Willard Tom, FTC/H-375, Washington, D.C. 20580. (202) 326-2932 or 326-2786.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and Section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for May 11, 1998), on the World Wide Web, at "http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions97.htm." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-130, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627. Public comment is invited. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

### **Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment**

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement to a proposed consent order from Fastline Publications, Inc. ("Fastline") and Mid-America Equipment Retailers Association ("Mid-America"). The agreement would settle allegations that Fastline and Mid-America violated Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act by agreeing not to advertise or publish prices for new farm equipment in the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition*.

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty (60) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty (60) days, the Commission will review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement and take other appropriate action or make final the agreement's proposed order.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed consent order. The analysis is not intended to constitute an official

interpretation of the agreement and proposed order, or to modify in any way their terms. Further, the proposed consent order has been entered into for settlement purposes only, and does not constitute an admission by Fastline or Mid-America that the law has been violated as alleged in the complaint.

### **The Complaint**

Fastline publishes, among other things, picture buying guides for new and used farm equipment, which are mailed free to farmers and ranchers in over 40 states. Farm equipment advertised in Fastline's buying guides ranges from relatively inexpensive lawn mowers to heavy duty farm equipment such as tractors, plows, planters, cotton pickers, and combines costing tens of thousands of dollars. Fastline's principal source of revenue is the farm equipment dealers who advertise in its buying guides. Fastline currently publishes 20 monthly editions of its farm equipment buying guides, serving 41 states. Farm equipment dealers view the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition* as a key vehicle for advertising to farmers located in Kentucky.

Mid-America is a trade association for farm equipment dealers. It was formed in 1992 through the merger of the Indiana Implement Dealers Association, Inc., and the Kentucky Farm and Power Equipment Retailers Association (the "Kentucky Retailers Association"). About 90 percent of the farm equipment dealers in Kentucky and Indiana are members of Mid-America.

In early 1991, several Kentucky farm equipment dealers complained to Fastline about dealers advertising prices, including discount prices, for new farm equipment in the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition*. The price advertisements were, among other things, facilitating downward pressure on prices for new farm equipment. In protest, several dealers withheld their advertising from the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition* until Fastline agreed not to publish advertisements that included prices for new farm equipment.

Price advertisements for new farm equipment began to reappear in the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition* by the end of 1991. In early 1992, Fastline was invited to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Retailers Association, during which several of its members expressed their dislike for price advertising and threatened to withdraw or otherwise cancel their advertisements in the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition* if Fastline continued to publish advertisements that included prices for new equipment. Fastline, threatened with the loss of substantial advertising

revenue, acquiesced and stopped accepting advertisements that included prices for new equipment. Following the merger of the Kentucky and Indiana trade associations, Mid-America sought and obtained Fastline's reaffirmation of the agreement not to publish prices for new equipment in the *Fastline Kentucky Farm Edition*.

These agreements have injured consumers by: (1) reducing price competition among farm equipment dealers for new farm equipment; (2) depriving consumers of truthful and nondeceptive price information; and (3) depriving consumers of the benefits of competition.

### The Proposed Consent Order

Fastline and Mid-America have signed a consent agreement containing a proposed order. Part II of the proposed order would enjoin Mid-America from impeding the advertising of prices or other terms of sale for farm equipment or parts. Additionally, Mid-America would be enjoined from participating in or assisting in any boycott regarding the advertising or prices or other terms of sale for farm equipment or parts.

Part III of the proposed order would enjoin Fastline from agreeing to prohibit or restrict the advertising or prices or other terms of sale for farm equipment or parts. Notwithstanding this provision, however, the proposed order would not prevent Fastline from adopting and enforcing reasonable guidelines with respect to advertisements that Fastline reasonably believes would be false or deceptive within the meaning of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Part IV of the proposed order would require Mid-America to amend its by-laws to incorporate by reference Paragraph II of the order, and distribute a copy of the amended by-laws to each of its members. In addition, the proposed order would require Mid-America to distribute copies of the proposed order and accompanying complaint to: (a) Persons whose activities are affected by the order; or who have responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of the order, and (b) each of its members.

Part V of the proposed order would require Fastline to distribute copies of the order and accompanying complaint to persons whose activities are affected by the order, or who have responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of the order. In addition, the proposed order would require Fastline to publish annually for each of the next five years in each edition of its farm equipment buying guides a copy of the NOTICE attached to the order.

Parts VI, VII, and VIII of the proposed order impose certain reporting requirements in order to assist the Commission in monitoring compliance with the order.

The proposed consent order would terminate twenty (20) years after the date it is issued.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-13141 Filed 5-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 952-3235]

#### **Western Direct Marketing Group, Inc., et al.; Analysis To Aid Public Comment**

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed consent agreement.

**SUMMARY:** The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violation of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before July 17, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joel Winston, FTC/S-4002, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-3153.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and Section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for May 12, 1998), on the World Wide Web, at "<http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions97.htm>." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-

130, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627. Public comment is invited. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

#### **Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment**

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted an agreement to a proposed consent order from Western Direct Marketing Group ("WDMG") and Western Intentional Media Corporation ("WIMC").

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty (60) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty (60) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdrawn from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

This matter involves alleged deceptive representations for Cholestaway, a dietary supplement marketed by Bodgana Corporation, purported to lower serum cholesterol. Advertisements for the product included 30-minute television infomercials.

WDMG is the successor corporation to Television Marketing Group, the advertising agency for the Cholestaway television infomercials. MIMC is WDMG's corporate parent.

According to the FTC complaint, through the infomercials, the respondent made claims that Cholestaway: significantly lowers serum cholesterol levels; significantly lowers serum cholesterol levels without changes in diet; significantly lowers serum cholesterol levels and causes significantly weight loss even if users eat foods high in fat, including fried chicken and pizza; substantially reduces or eliminates the body's absorption of dietary fat; lowers low density lipoprotein cholesterol and improves the high density lipoprotein cholesterol ratio; is effective in the treatment of hardening of the arteries and heart diseases; causes significant weight loss; causes significant weight loss without changes in diet; significantly reduces blood triglyceride levels; significantly reduces elevated blood pressure; and is scientifically proven to lower serum cholesterol levels and reduce elevated blood pressure significantly; and that