United States Department of Agriculture
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration
Stop 3614
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-3601

March 15, 2012

Notice ODA-2012-2

TO: FGIS Headquarters and NGC Employees

FROM: Randall Jones
Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: Corn Grading Seminar for WDC and National Grain Center Employees

1. PURPOSE

FGIS is committed to providing quality services that facilitate the marketing of U.S. grain, oilseeds, and related products. As part of the FGIS initiative to become the employer of choice with a focus on quality, the program is identifying development opportunities to increase the business acumen of staff. It is important that headquarters staff have a good understanding and knowledge of critical operational functions of our program.

2. BACKGROUND

A vital part of the FGIS mission involves inspecting grain. Currently there are 284 licensed inspectors in FGIS and over 788 active licensed inspectors in the Official Agencies. These inspectors complete months of training to fulfill the proficiency requirements to grade grain.

A class has been designed for FGIS employees who have limited experience performing original grain inspection. This class will provide FGIS employees an opportunity to better understand the processes and procedures of inspecting grain. As a majority of the work FGIS performs on a daily basis incorporates these processes and procedures, this class is intended to promote greater understanding of the work performed on a daily basis throughout FGIS.

3. PROGRAM DETAILS

FGIS will offer two seminars for interested employees in WDC and NGC. The classes will be taught by current and former grain inspectors who have firsthand experience grading at FGIS labs throughout the official system. The class will be a full day session in each respective location. The course will focus on corn grading and will include a test that emulates that which potential inspectors complete to become licensed inspectors. This course will not result in proficiency sufficient to pass a licensing exam, but it will serve as a good foundation to understand what it takes to become a grader in the field.

As a prerequisite for the course, participants will be required to review the Regulations under the USGSA and the Corn chapter of the Grain Inspection Handbook, Book II, Grain Grading Procedures.

4. HOW TO REGISTER

Contact your supervisor for approval to attend the class. After obtaining supervisory approval, email Tony Goodeman at Anthony.T.Goodeman@usda.gov to notify him of your interest in the course. A date will be established to accommodate as many people as possible.