



GIPSA News

A newsletter for the employees of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

February 2005

Roger Schneider Named USDA Economist of the Year

Gary McBryde, Washington, DC

On January 13, 2005, **Roger Schneider**, Economics and Statistical Support (ESS) Staff, was awarded the “USDA Economist of the Year” by the USDA Economist’s Group. The award highlighted Roger’s “Professional Excellence as Contracting Officer’s Representative with primary responsibilities for administering a Congressionally mandated \$4.5 million study pertaining to marketing arrangements in the livestock and meat industry.” The Group makes its annual award to individuals who make “contributions in better informing the program and policy decisionmaking process in USDA.” In making the award, the committee reviews accomplishments of the nominees that extend beyond just the past year.

Roger’s history and significant accomplishments with GIPSA go way back. He was first interviewed by GIPSA’s first economist, **Gerald Engleman**, while completing his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. After a 2-year post-graduate position at the University of Illinois, **Roger** joined P&SP in 1979. Since joining GIPSA, **Roger** has been a factor in the changing importance of economists in the Agency. Once, he was

the only economist in P&SP; today economists are located in P&SP headquarters and all regional offices.

During his time with GIPSA, **Roger** has worn many hats. In 1982, he took on GIPSA’s data processing capabilities. A little later, **Roger** coordinated P&SP’s information technology development until a professional staff was hired. Between December 1989 to September 1990, he served as acting director of ESS. Along the way, he has accumulated a bucket full of merit awards and certificates of appreciation for his work. **Roger**, with his characteristic modesty, emphasized these achievements were made possible by working with others in the Agency as a team.

As background for his work with the current study, **Roger** had major responsibilities managing agreements with independent researchers and conducting research projects. The first major work was a 1982 study of beef packer procurement and pricing. In 1987, he participated in a study of slaughter lamb procurement and marketing practices. In 1990, these procurement studies were followed with a study of hog packer procurement practices. And then in 1996,

Roger worked with others in a comprehensive study that resulted in a series of publications collectively called the *Concentration in the Red Meat Packing Industry* books.

Recognition of **Roger’s** achievement by a group outside GIPSA, and which includes members from all of USDA, is a major accomplishment. It is all the more significant, given those in ESS and P&SP who work daily with **Roger** share in an equal sense of pride for his deserved recognition.

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Names in the News

PERSONNEL

On January 2, 2005, the Kansas City field office was officially closed and merged into the Wichita field office operations. **Ken Critchfield** remains manager of the Wichita office. Ken Weaver is now the assistant field office manager. Jim Whalen will serve as the quality assurance specialist and agricultural commodity graders **Mitch Doak**, **Mary Vick**, **Rex Moore**, and agricultural commodity aid **Karl Schuele** all bring special skills and knowledge that will further the objectives of our office and agency.

Terri Henry is the new GIPSA Issuance Program Coordinator, replacing **Fred Kelley**, who retired at the beginning of this year.

Bill Crutchfield is the director of P&SP's Office of Field Operations. Prior to joining GIPSA, **Bill** was the regional director of the USDA National Appeals Division (NAD) in Indianapolis, where he was responsible for the adjudication of administrative appeals for 6 different USDA agencies in 22 states. **Bill** holds a bachelor degree in Agricultural Education at Virginia State University where he graduated with honors. **Bill** is a native of Boydton, Virginia, where he grew up on a tobacco, cattle, and small grain farm.

Bill Ashley is now the assistant director, compliance, Office of Field Operations. Prior to joining the Office of Field Operations, **Bill** worked in the Packers and Stockyards Administration from 1976 until the reor-

ganization in 1994, when he became the deputy director for GIPSA's Executive Resources Staff. He has over 30 years experience in auditing, accounting, and budgeting, and has been involved in countless financial, trade practice, and compliance investigations.

Desmond Coker is a program analyst with the Office of Field Operations. A native Texan, **Desmond** is a former summer intern under USDA 1890 Scholars Program. Prior to joining OFO, **Desmond** did a 1-year summer internship in P&SP's Des Moines regional office and spent 2 years with P&SP's Office of Economic and Statistical Support, Washington, DC. **Desmond** has a bachelor degree in Agricultural Economics from Prairie A&M University, Prairie View, TX, and a master degree in Human Resource Training from Amberton University, Dallas, TX.

RETIREMENTS

Nina Milaknis retired on February 2, 2005, with 30 years of government service, 22 years of which were with FGIS. Representatives from FGIS, the Canadian Grain Commission, and local industry officials hosted a retirement lunch in her honor. **Nina** received gifts, along with a certificate of appreciation from GIPSA. **Nina** also was honored at the official residence of the U.S. Consul General.

CONDOLENCES

Bill Boucher, former manager of the Indianapolis field office, passed away unexpectedly on January 25, 2004. **Bill** worked many years for FGIS and prior to that with Louisville Grain Inspection.

AWARDS

Greg Andrews and **Becky Janssen**, Des Moines; **Donna Brown-Hardnett** and **Steve Dow**, Atlanta; and **Janell Smalts**, Denver, legal specialists, received time off awards for their extra effort in reviewing investigative files.

Kathy Boyd, marketing specialist, and **Carol Carter**, administrative assistant, Denver, received time off awards in recognition of their successful efforts in assisting with the Denver office's 2004 Combined Federal Campaign.

Nancy Chasse and **Angela Fore**, legal instruments examiners, Atlanta, received time off awards in recognition of their dedication and hard work with the bonding instrument verification project for all bonding instruments on auto-renewals and trust fund agreements.

*Continued, see Names
on page 3.*

On The Move – South Building Modernization

Phase III of the USDA South Building Modernization Process is complete. Phase I of the USDA process didn't involve GIPSA. Phase II was completed when, in January 2003, GIPSA's Information Technology Staff, P&SP's Office of Policy and Litigation Support, and FGIS's Field Management Division moved into renovated space. On January 28, 2005, GIPSA's Office of the Administrator, GIPSA's Executive Resources Staff, P&SP and FGIS's Offices of the Deputy Administrator moved into their newly renovated offices parallel to Independence Avenue. The offices are located on the second floor between wings 4 and 5. Phase IV, expected completion 2007, will complete GIPSA's move as all of the remaining GIPSA offices will relocate to renovated spaces. The GIPSA directory on the GIPSA web site now reflects all telephone and mail stop number changes.

Tom Wrenn, manager, Grand Forks Field Office, received the following letter from **Ron Graham**, Executive Director, North Country Food Bank, Inc., Crookston, Minnesota:

January 12, 2005

Thomas J. Wrenn
FGIS
Box 13427
Grand Forks, ND 58208-34327

Dear Tom,

This is to express our appreciation to you and your staff for the donations of edible beans over the past year. You will be pleased to know that we received 15,679 pounds of this highly nutritious food from FGIS in 2004.

And, I so much appreciate the friendliness and helpfulness of you and your staff. The beautifully framed newspaper article about North Country Food Bank was a great surprise. We have it prominently displayed and plan to show it off at the next board meeting.

Thank you so much for your help in meeting hunger needs in our region.

Sincerely,

Ron Graham
Executive Director

Names, from page 2.

Karen Guagliardo, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received a performance award for her sustained superior performance contributing to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of the Field Management Division and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Janina Milaknis, Field Management Division, Montreal, Canada, received an extra effort award for her sustained outstanding performance to the effectiveness of the Montreal Field Office and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Regina Quimby and **Danielle Smith**, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received spot awards for providing outstanding administrative support to the Field Management Division, thus contributing to the increased effectiveness of the GIPSA.

Help is within reach.

For confidential assistance,
call your Employee
Assistance Program

Washington, DC personnel, call...
301-570-3900
or 1-800-222-0364

Field personnel, call...
1-800-222-0364

Steve Warrilow Serves with Honors

Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

Army Reservist **Colonel Stephen Warrilow**, Atlanta regional office resident agent, received one of the United States Army's second highest meritorious honors, the Army Commendation Medal, for participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). **Colonel Warrilow** also received other prestigious honors, the Global War on Terror (GWOT) Expeditionary and GWOT Service Medal, September 29, 2004, and the Iraq Campaign Medal, May 28, 2004.

Colonel Warrilow is a commissioned officer. He is currently a support operations transportation officer in the Army reserves. He is also an ex-airman with 4 years of active duty and over 20 years of service in the reserves.

From 1966 to 1970, **Colonel Warrilow** served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, and later worked in farming and manufacturing. He also earned a bachelor degree in Business Administration while attending the University of Tennessee. After graduation, he accepted a bank examiner position in the State of Tennessee. He later attended the U.S. Army's Transportation School in Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

In 1985, **Steve** began his career with P&SP's former Memphis regional office, working with **Jack Bellew**. From 1987 to 1990, he worked for the Farm Credit Administration in Louisville, KY, and later returned to the P&SP Memphis regional office. During **Steve's** tenure in Memphis, he was called for active duty in the Persian Gulf War. There he served as Company Commander of a Medium Truck Petroleum unit and supported the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One).

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, February 2003 to June 2004, he served as Chief of the Highway Regulation Division (HRD), 3rd Transportation Agency Movement Control, in Anniston, AL. Steve monitored the military supplies that were transported daily to the combat forces throughout Iraq.

From December 2003 to April 2004, **Colonel Warrilow** helped provide humanitarian relief to sustain the forces in Iraq. He coordinated the air and ground movement of 180,000 troops. This required numerous trips to Corps bases near Baghdad. **Colonel Warrilow** mentioned tracking the daily movement of logistics was not an easy job. It included the vast distances covered by the support convoys, harsh environments, and communication/information flows. He also helped the future operations planners structure the force rotation of 225,000 troops and their equipment scheduled for the latter part of 2004.

Colonel Warrilow believes the real heroes are the young soldiers who are on patrols, operating checkpoints, driving trucks, and rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure. GIPSA appreciates **Colonel Warrilow** for his great leadership for our country.

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

eTravel Update. GIPSA's first implementation meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2005. We are still on schedule to fully implement eTravel on June 30, 2005.

Many employees have already set up their profile in www.Fedtraveler.com. It's been a frustrating time due to many glitches at the beginning. However, the glitches are slowly being worked out. Here are the latest tips:

When logging on, be sure to go to www.Fedtraveler.com. It's been reported that employees are going to www.Fedtravel.com which takes you to the wrong website. When setting up your profile, **do not** enter your financial information. A profile needs to be set up no matter if you will be using the online booking engine or calling the reservations desk.

M&IE Allowances. When travel is more than 12 hours, but less than 24 hours, you will only receive 75 percent of the applicable M&IE rate. This rate applies even if the 12-hour period spans two days, i.e., travel begins at 5:00 p.m. on one day and ends at 6:00 a.m. the following day. If your travel is 24 hours or more, you will receive 75 percent of applicable M&IE rate on the day of departure; 100 percent of the applicable M&IE rate on all full days of travel; and 75 percent of the applicable M&IE rate on the last day of travel.

Regulatory Info

Tess Butler, Washington, DC

Federal Register Publications

- Opportunity to Comment on the Applicants for the Minnesota Area - Published December 1, 2004
- Opportunity for Designation in the Georgia, Cedar Rapids (IA), Montana, and Lake Village (IN) Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas – Published December 1, 2004
- Designation for the Columbus (OH), Farwell (TX), and Northeast Indiana (IN) Areas – Published December 1, 2004
- Posting of Stockyards – Published December 2, 2004
- Opportunity for Designation to Provide Official Services in the Southwest Arizona Region – Published December 8, 2004
- Designation of Kansas to Provide Class X or Class Y Weighing Services – Published December 8, 2004
- Opportunity for Designation in South Texas – Published December 8, 2004
- Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection Published December 8, 2004
- United States Standards for Beans – Published December 17, 2004
- Cancellation of California’s Delegation and Designation and the Opportunity for Designation in the California Area – Published January 18, 2005

Issuances

*Terri Henry,
Washington, D.C.*

New Issuances

- FGIS Program Notice PN-05-02, “Short Voyage Ship Fumigation Procedures,” dated January 7, 2005 (Distribution: A, C, E).
- FGIS Directive 9180.67, “Transgenic Statements for Grain and Graded Commodities,” dated January 24, 2005 (Distribution: A, C, E).

Cancellations

- FGIS Directive 9180.34, “Condition Inspection of Processed Commodities Sold to Egypt Under Title I, Public Law 480,” dated May 1, 1997 (Distribution: A)
- FGIS Directive 9180.67, “Statement for Non-Transgenic Grain and Graded Commodities,” dated October 11, 2000 (Distribution: A, C, E).

Please call **Terri Henry** at 202-205-8281, fax to 202-720-4628, or e-mail to Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov if you have concerns or suggestions.

Are EEO/CR issues or concerns affecting your employment with GIPSA? Do you have questions? Need help? Then let your voice be heard.

Call the EEO Advisory Committee at...

1-800-639-5167

Civil Rights Hotline



Black History Month

February 2005



Office of Policy and Litigation Support's Financial Branch

Jim Adams, Washington, DC

The Financial Branch in P&SP's Office of Policy and Litigation Support consists of Branard England, Gunnard Eskilsen, and Jim Adams (Branch Chief). Branard spent 3 years in the Lancaster, PA, regional office, and has been in headquarters for more than 9 years. Gunnard spent over 5 years in the Sacramento regional office and has been in headquarters for nearly 8 years. I spent nearly 12 years in the Bedford regional office and am working on my 15th year in headquarters.

In 1998, P&SP went through a reorganization. Before that, there were two financial-type branches in headquarters. One, the Financial Branch, was in the Packer and Poultry Division; the second, the Financial Protection Branch, was in the Livestock Marketing Division. The Packer and Poultry Division was designated as Title II because most of the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) covering the packer and poultry industries are in Title II of the Act. Title II covers the livestock slaughtering, meat and live poultry dealer industries. The Livestock Marketing Division was designated as Title III because most of the provisions of the Act covering the marketing of livestock are in Title III of the Act. Title III contains provisions that cover market agencies that sell livestock on commission, market agencies that buy livestock on commission, and livestock dealers that buy for their own account. The current Financial Branch deals with both Titles II and Title III of the Act.

The Financial Branch handles cases received from the regional offices that involve insolvencies, failure to pay for livestock, failure to pay, when due, for livestock, insufficient funds checks issued for livestock, custodial account shortages, and packer and poultry trusts. Authority for the Packers and Stockyards Programs to take action in these situations is included in the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder. A company is said to be insolvent if its current liabilities exceed its current assets. Custodial account shortages arise when a market agency does not carry out its fiduciary responsibility by not putting the required funds in the custodial account by a specific time. Packer and poultry trusts are failure to pay situations involving livestock slaughtering packers and live poultry dealers. A live poultry dealer is one who obtains live poultry by purchase or under a poultry growing arrangement for the purpose of either slaughtering it or selling it to another for slaughter. The slaughtering packer or live poultry dealer is required by the Act to hold in trust for the benefit of the unpaid sellers or growers all livestock, live poultry, inventories of products from the slaughter of livestock or poultry, proceeds, or receivables derived from the slaughter and sale.

The Financial Branch's duties are wide and varied. Some of the activities in which the Financial Branch is involved include: (1) answering policy questions from the regional offices and recommend new or changes to existing policy; (2) reviewing investigative reports for adequacy of documentation to support the allegations contained in the report; (3) through conference calls with the regional offices, discussing questions regarding investigation reports or perceived shortcomings of reports; (4) calculating and making sanction recommendations based on investigation reports; (5) sending forward transmittals to the Office of the General Counsel along with the investigation reports and recommended sanctions; (6) acting as the liaison between the Office of the General Counsel and the regional offices regarding investigation reports; (7) reviewing drafts of administrative complaints prepared by the Office of the General Counsel's attorneys and make edits, corrections or suggestions regarding the complaints and return to the attorney to be put in final form; (8) reviewing the "Final" version of complaints to be sure errors were not overlooked; (9) when cases get to the negotiation stage, providing guidance to the Office of the General Counsel's attorney regarding case settlement parameters; (10) maintaining a database of civil penalty assessments, collections, and civil penalty balances remaining to be paid; (11) giving presentations at training sessions; (12) providing input for the Status of Programs report; (13) providing input for the GIPSA Annual report; and (14) will soon be resuming bi-weekly teleconferences with the regional offices to discuss matters of mutual concern and mini training sessions.

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

Aching, Swelling Joints? The Arthritis Connection. There are over 100 forms of arthritis, but 90 percent involve five disorders: osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus and gout. Let's take a look at the most common disorders and their signs and symptoms.

The most common is **osteoarthritis**. It primarily occurs in weight-bearing joints of the hip and knee and often affects the hand and spine. Cartilage normally covers and cushions the ends of the bones, but when it breaks down from normal wear and tear, bone rubs against bone and the joint loses shape and alignment. The ends of the bone thicken and form bony "spurs" which may break off and float within the joint space. The result is stiff, achy, and swollen joints.

Rheumatoid arthritis occurs when the lining at joints (the synovial membrane) becomes inflamed due to the body's immune system reacting against itself. The thickened membrane spreads to the bone and cartilage, causing swelling. Enzymes are also released that gradually digest bone, cartilage, ligament, and muscle tissue. The joints lose shape and alignment, which results in considerable pain, stiffness, warmth, redness, and swelling of joints. The most disabling form can result in deformed and loose joints, loss of mobility, and diminished strength, and may affect other organs such as eyes, lungs, and heart.

Fibromyalgia does not directly affect joints or cause inflammation. Pain, burning, or aching sensations will appear in muscles, ligaments and tendons, especially where muscles

are attached by tendons to bones—at the front of the elbow, at the hip joints, at the rear of the knee or shoulder, at the base of the neck, and along the vertebrae. Symptoms tend to be diffuse and often resemble those related to other conditions ranging from flu to depression, from irritable bowel syndrome to tension headaches. The condition can be frustratingly difficult to diagnose.

Lupus is a chronic connective tissue disorder that commonly affects women from age 15–35. It affects the synovial membrane of the joints causing inflammation and, over time, damages joints and connective tissue. Symptoms include achy, swollen joints, fatigue, inflammation of the lining of the lungs and heart, anemia, skin rashes, sun or light sensitivity, hair loss, seizures, mouth and nose ulcers, kidney diseases, and neurological problems. For most people, lupus is a mild disease affecting only a few organs. For some, it may lead to serious, even life-threatening problems

Diagnosis is not always easy, but a review of your symptoms and medical history and a thorough medical examination are the first steps. Blood and urine tests, X-rays and possibly imaging procedures such as a computerized axial tomography (CAT scan) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) provide various levels of diagnostic information.

With early diagnosis, most arthritic conditions can be managed sufficiently to minimize both the pain and the disruption to your daily life. In many instances, early diagnosis and treatment can also work to curtail the

actual damage that the condition can inflict on your system.

Treatment options for most forms of arthritis include medications to reduce pain and swelling, exercise and diet adjustments, as well as other lifestyle modifications and supportive procedures.

Most forms of arthritis are chronic, life-long diseases. Whether the symptoms are episodic or get progressively worse, they can result in considerable pain and affect your daily life. There are many things you can do to manage the pain and maintain an active life. It is important that you work with your physician as you develop your way of living with arthritis.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/art-aag.htm and the Arthritis Foundation at www.arthritis.org.

GIPSA News is the employee newsletter of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Send your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, or thoughts for the next issue to:

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by February 25, 2005!

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
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