



GIPSA News

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

March 2005

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meets

Terri Henry, Washington, DC

GIPSA’s Grain Inspection Advisory Committee met in November 2004 in New Orleans. The Committee provides GIPSA with direct access to the expertise and counsel of a broad and unbiased cross-section of the U.S. grain industry, from producer to exporter. It is a valuable resource for the Agency in developing and implementing policies and programs that enhance the marketing of U.S. grain in domestic and international markets.

The members were joined by, among others, former administrator Donna Reifschneider and USDA deputy under secretary Chuck Lambert.

Reifschneider presented certificates of appreciation to the following Committee members and alternate whose terms to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee expired: David Ayers, Champaign Danville Grain Inspection; Lynn Clarkson, Clarkson Grain Company, Inc.; Mary Schuler, Schuler Lands, Inc.; Robert Smigelski, The Andersons, Inc.; and David Swinford, Dumas Co-op Elevators.

The committee heard presentations on a range of subjects, including an overview of GIPSA’s Application Modernization (GAM) effort; APHIS’ role in the grain market; containerized export shipments; enhanced soybean traits being developed; a financial update; the rice outsourcing program; an overview of the fact-finding mission to Brazil and Argentina; and a briefing on outsourcing inspection and weighing services at export.

The Committee adopted the following resolutions at the end of the meeting:

1. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA continue to develop and promote process verification in the grain and feed industry. Monitor demand and cost for ISO registration of the grading and inspection processes, but do not pursue at this time.
2. In light of the increased volume of grain being exported from the United States in containers, the Advisory Committee recommends GIPSA take the necessary action to ensure the

registration and mandatory inspection and weighing provisions of the U.S. Grain Standards Act are enforced equitably for all export grain.

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Names in the News

AWARDS

Martha Carver, John Godfrey, Donna Hillard, Philip Tate, Hannelore Vollmar, Toledo, received time-off awards for sustained productivity during the shipping season September 15-December 31, 2004, and for contributions significantly above and beyond normal job responsibilities.

John Contos, Jr., Margaret Glavin, Anthony Goodeman, Jayne Ludwikoski, Jeffrey Lyons, Lynn Thomas, Richard Tomarelli, Jr., Patrick Wright, Toledo, received time-off awards for exceptional performance during the shipping season September 15-December 31, 2004, for working beyond normal tour of duty to accomplish GIPSA's mission.

Kenneth Critchfield, Wichita, received a performance award for his exceptional leadership in managing the Wichita Field Office, thus contributing greatly to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of GIPSA's mission and the Wichita Field Office.

Greg Jan, Toledo, received a performance award for his continuous outstanding performance in all aspects of the assistant field office manager position.

Chuan Kao, physical scientist, Technical Services Division (TSD), received a certificate of merit in recognition of designing and assisting the Board of Appeals and Review to supply high oil and low oil NMR glass sunflower standardization cells to TSD and eight field offices.

Diane Palecek, Kansas City, re-

ceived a performance award for her exceptional leadership in managing the Kansas City Field Office, thus contributing greatly to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of GIPSA's mission and the Kansas City Field Office.

RETIREMENTS

Sam Brundage, agricultural commodity grader, Portland, retired on March 3, 2005. After 41 years of service with the official grain inspection and weighing system (14 years with the State of Oregon and 27 years with FGIS), **Sam** has decided that it is time for some well deserved rest and relaxation with his family.

Louis Bussjaeger, physical scientist, Technical Services Division, retired on February 25. He began his Federal career with the Department of the Interior, followed by the Veterans Administration, and completed his career with USDA. His dedication to government service and his consistent positive attitude with coworkers will truly be missed.

Ted Sakis, Atlanta, retired on March 3, 2005, with more than 26 years of outstanding service to P&SP. Ted began his government career in the U.S. Navy from 1967 through 1971, including a tour in Vietnam. He began his auditing career with P&SP's Atlanta office in 1978. During his time with P&SP, he served in the Naval Reserve, including active duty during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He retired from the Reserves in 1991 with the rank of Chief. Now,

Ted is ready for his Federal government retirement. In **Ted's** words, "It's time to retire and get on with some of the other things I'd like to do."

CONDOLENCES

On January 30, 2005, 98-year-old **D.R. Schaal** of the Schaal Agency died. He was the Cedar Rapids Field Office Circuit's oldest licensed inspector.

Robert (Rob) Probst, former assistant field office manager in the FGIS Mobile (Alabama) Field Office, died on February 25, 2005, at the age of 83. Rob was a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and long-time resident of Daphne, Alabama. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Rose Mary**.

35-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Raymond Lavine, League City

25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Michael Barnhart, New Orleans
Ray Hollis, New Orleans

15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Brian Burk, Denver
Christopher McClure, Roanoke
Margaret Glavin, Chicago
Wanda Jimenez, Washington, DC
Leon Ross, New Orleans
Glenn Terrill, Kansas City
Thomas Webb, Portland

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

e-Travel Update. GIPSA's E-Travel Kick Off meeting was held on February 16, 2004, in Washington, DC, and the first implementation meeting was held on February 23, 2005. There will be a weekly implementation teleconference with the GIPSA Implementation Team, which consists of field office, regional office, and Headquarters employees; staff from FedTraveler; and employees from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer until GIPSA fully implements e-Travel on June 30, 2005. In order to assist the Implementation Team, all employees must set up their profiles in FedTraveler.com as soon as possible.

Verifying Receipt of Your Travel Card. New cardholders and current cardholders receiving a renewal card must verify receipt of the card by calling the number on the back of the card. Your account may be active, but until you verify receipt of the card, you will not be able to use the card.

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

Regulatory Info

Tess Butler, Washington, DC

Federal Register Publications

- Opportunity to Comment on the Applicant for the Southwest Arizona Area – Published February 8, 2005
- Opportunity to Comment on the Applicants for the South Texas Area – Published February 8, 2005
- United States Standards for Wheat – Published February 18, 2005

Issuances

Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.

New Issuances

- Aflatoxin Handbook, Change No.10, dated January 31, 2005 (Distribution: A, C, E).
- FGIS Directive 9180.79, "Process Verification Service," dated January 31, 2005 (Distribution: A, E, R, G, H, J, T, X, Y).

Please call Terri Henry at (202) 205-8281, fax to (202) 690-2755, or e-mail to Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov if you have concerns or suggestions.

Outlook Training Plan

Outlook will be replacing GroupWise in the next few weeks.

To prepare you for this new email client, the Information Technology Staff (ITS) will provide training/orientation based on your geographical location. Headquarters employees will receive a 2-3 hour hands-on class room contractor instruction. At TSD, FGIS export offices, and PSP regional offices, the local ITS staff member received Outlook training and will participate in training his or her office customers. The FGIS non-export offices and the PSP resident agents will be offered remote training.

To minimize any transition impact, ITS is planning on installing Outlook so it has virtually the same basic layout and display as GroupWise. Once Outlook is installed, you can change the way it looks to best meet your personal needs, and preferences.

ITS will distribute an Outlook end-user reference guide to assist you.

As always, ITS Operations Branch will be available and ready to support, assist, or answer most any Outlook question you might have.

Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommends GIPSA take action to propose an exemption to the mandatory export inspection and weighing provisions of the Act for high value, niche market grains, when buyer and seller contractually agree to forego official inspection and weighing. The Advisory Committee also recommends GIPSA immediately implement revised inspection and weighing procedures to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of official inspection and weighing services for container shipments of grain.

3. The Advisory Committee recommends that FGIS not move forward with the development of DDG marketing standards. GIPSA should continue to support the industry in anyway possible.

4. The Advisory Committee opposes the establishment of new user fees to cover the costs of standardization activities. These activities benefit all consumers and, therefore, should be supported by appropriated funds.

5. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA immediately proceed with a competitive bidding process for rice inspection in accordance with OMB Circular A-76 if the final results of the current feasibility study conclude that the private sector can provide more cost-effective service to the rice industry.

6. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA look into consolidation of domestic field offices to maintain the financial viability of the Program 530 trust fund account. This is due to the recent financial losses in this account (despite reallocation of GIPSA overhead costs 2 years ago), and projections that losses will continue if left unchanged.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that FGIS continue to review options for outsourcing services at export and seriously consider contracting of services, direct oversight of delegated private agencies and expanded delegation to private providers as options to restructure. The status quo has been fiscally challenged and the South American model does not provide for an official certificate (integrity). The system needs to provide for integrity as well as less cost.

The next Committee meeting will be held May 3-4, 2005, in Kansas City, Missouri.

GIPSA to Revise Wheat Standards

GIPSA is revising the United States Standards for Wheat.

Specifically, GIPSA is amending the definition of contrasting classes in Hard Red Winter wheat and Hard Red Spring wheat so that Hard White wheat is not a contrasting class but is considered wheat of other classes. GIPSA also is adding to the standards the sample size used to determine sample grade factors. The changes become effective May 1, 2006.

“These actions,” said GIPSA deputy administrator David Shipman, “are necessary to ensure market-relevant standards and grades, and to facilitate the marketing of grain.”

For further information, contact Pat McCluskey at (202) 720-4684.

GIPSA Verifies Performance of Test Kit to Detect Aflatoxin in Corn

GIPSA verified the R-Biopharm Rhone Ltd. AFLACARD T20, Part # P57, a qualitative screening test kit for the detection of total aflatoxins. The screening test is a qualitative enzyme immunoassay that detects the presence of aflatoxin at a threshold of 20 parts per billion in corn in 5 minutes. The test was evaluated under GIPSA’s Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program.

GIPSA’s evaluation of test kits will help the U.S. grain market make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA’s Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA’s Biotechnology web page at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/biotech.htm>.

For technical information on test kit performance evaluation, contact Tim Norden, 816-891-0470.



GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

Norma Phelps, Washington, DC

Here are the ideas received on the GIPSA Idea Hotline during February 2005. If you have questions about any ideas or the Hotline, please call me at 202-720-1017.

Suggestor

Suggestion

Bart DiGiovanni, Atlanta, GA

Link *inGIPSA* to U.S. Treasury Approved List of Surety Livestock Bonds Companies

GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During February 2005

This list does not necessarily indicate that the idea was implemented as suggested or that it is currently in place (it could be in the development/implementation stage). To avoid the chance of misinterpretation, please call the Hotline if you have any concerns or questions regarding the following list of ideas.

- 👉 Create and Maintain a Compilation of Each Region's Registrants/Entities Data
- 👉 Establish Report Showing Number of Hours and Recovery Amounts for Investigations

Keep those ideas coming in! Send your ideas to the GIPSA Idea Hotline via e-mail: gipsa-ideas@gipsadc.usda.gov; FAX to 202-720-1015; or telephone 800-455-3447 or 202-720-1013. **We encourage you to send ideas via fax or e-mail to reduce the possibility of transcription errors; however, ideas will be accepted regardless of the method you choose to use.**

National Wear Red for Women Day

On February 4, personnel at the Technical Services Division showed their support for raising awareness of women's heart disease by wearing something "red." The day, officially known as "National Wear Red for Women Day," is sponsored by the American Heart Association. People across the country united in the national movement to give women a personal and urgent wake-up call about their risk of heart disease. Cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease, take the lives of nearly 500,000 each year with heart disease being the #1 killer of women. By promoting National Wear Red Day, women are encouraged to take charge of their heart health to lead stronger, healthier lives.



TSD's ladies and gents in their finest reds!



GIPSA Coordinates Two Sessions at the 2005 Agricultural Outlook Forum

Jaime Adams and Marianne Plaus, Washington, DC

USDA's Office of the Chief Economist coordinates an Agricultural Outlook Forum (Forum) each year. The theme for the 2005 Forum was "Science, Policy and Markets – What's Ahead?" The Forum was held February 24 – 25, 2005, in Arlington, Virginia. More than 1,300 individuals from all over the world registered to attend the conference.

Jaime Adams, economist, P&SP, and Marianne Plaus, chief, FGIS Market Analysis and Standards Branch, served as GIPSA session coordinators for the 2005 Forum. Jaime coordinated the session entitled, "Preparing For Food Chain Disruptions," and Marianne coordinated the session called "Biofuel Issues – Local Economic Benefits, Co-product Supplies, and Future Technologies." Speakers for each session are listed below. All speeches will be available for download after March 7 at: <http://www.usda.gov/oce>, click the Forum logo, then click "Read Forum Speeches" to view or download speech texts and slide presentations.

Food and Consumers: Preparing for Food Chain Disruptions

Moderator: Perfecto R. Santiago, DVM
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Food Security and Emergency
Preparedness, USDA Food Safety and Inspection
Service

How Prepared Are We? An Assessment of Current Preparedness

Mr. Mark Nelson, PhD
Vice President, Scientific and Regulatory Policy
Grocery Manufacturers of America

Bioterrorism and Food System Disruptions

Dr. David Franz
Chief Biological Scientist
Midwest Research Institute
Director, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center,
Kansas State University
Deputy Director, Center for Emergency Care and
Disaster Preparedness, UAB
Midwest Research Institute

Enhancing Visibility through Radio Frequency ID

Ashraf Eisa
WalMart Stores, Inc.

Food Chain Disruptions and Trade

Dr. C. Parr Rosson, III
Professor & Extension Economist
Director, Center for North American Studies
Department of Agricultural Economics,
Texas A&M University

Biofuel Issues – Local Economic Benefits, Co- product Supplies, and Future Technologies

Moderator: William F. Hagy III
Deputy Administrator, Business Programs
Rural Development, USDA

Biofuel Production: Implications for the Grain Industry and Consumers

Hosein Shapouri, PhD
Senior Agricultural Economist
Office of Energy Policy and New Uses
Office of the Chief Economic, USDA

The Effects of Biofuel Production on the Local Economy

Douglas A. Durante
Executive Director
Clean Fuels Development Coalition
Todd Sneller
Administrator, Nebraska Ethanol Board

Issues and Opportunities Related to the Pro- duction and Marketing of Ethanol Co-products

Gerald Shurson, PhD
Professor
Department of Animal Science
University of Minnesota

New Technologies in Biofuel Production

Rodney Bothast, PhD
Director of Research
National Corn-To-Ethanol Research Center
Southern Illinois University

Designation Renewals

Jan Hart, Washington, DC

GIPSA is granting designations to seven official agencies to provide official grain inspection, and in some cases weighing, services at domestic locations. J. W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc.; Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; Northern Plains Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; and Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. are being granted full 3-year designations under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is being designated for an 18-month period to allow Minnesota time to determine their future direction. Barton, Central Iowa, and Minnesota also provide official domestic weighing services. Minnesota is also delegated to provide mandatory export inspection and weighing services. Last year, Barton provided 4,843 official inspections and 156 weights; Central Illinois 11,431; Central Iowa 85,570 and 124 weights; Minnesota 69,393 and 22,995 weights; North Dakota 117,887 (91,881 in ND and 26,006 in IL); Northern Plains 39,752; and Plainview 52,653.

BARTON. **James W. Barton** is the president and official agency manager. Barton operates in southern Indiana, western Kentucky, and eastern Tennessee, with two full-service specified service points (SSP or grain inspection laboratory) in Owensboro, Kentucky, and Jeffersonville, Indiana. Barton also has an applicant-specific SSP and provides official weighing at one grain elevator.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS. **Gary R. Weirman**, is the president and official agency manager. Central Illinois operates in the central portion of Illinois, with two full-service SSPs in Bloomington and Pekin, and three applicant-specific SSPs.

CENTRAL IOWA. **Kevin D. Bredthauer** is the president and official agency manager. Central Iowa operates in the central and southern portion of Illinois, with two full-service SSPs in Des Moines and Iowa Falls, and six applicant-specific SSPs.

MINNESOTA. **Gene Hugoson** is the commissioner, **James Boerboom** is the assistant commissioner, and **Judith Wickham** is the assistant director for the Grain and Produce Inspection Division. Minnesota provides services throughout the State of Minnesota. The State provides export services to 3 export elevators in Duluth; and domestic inspection services at 6 full-time SSPs in Breckinridge, Granite Falls, Mankato, Minneapolis, Morris, and Windom and 21 applicant-specific SSP's. They also provide domestic weighing services at 17 approved weighing locations.

NORTH DAKOTA. **Steve J. Adams** is the president and son **Michael Adams** is the official agency manager. North Dakota provides service in the southeastern portion of the State of North Dakota and the southern portion of the State of Illinois. North Dakota has four full-service SSPs in Ayr, Enderlin, Fargo, and Hillsboro, North Dakota, and five applicant-specific SSP's. They have three full-service SSPs in Cahokia,

Teutopolis, and Wayne City, Illinois, and two applicant-specific SSPs.

NORTHERN PLAINS. **Paul B. Bethke** is the president and official agency manager. Northern Plains provides inspection services in the northeast portion of North Dakota. Northern Plains was first designated in 2003. Northern Plains has two full-service SSPs in Devils Lake and Grand Forks, and four applicant-specific SSPs.

PLAINVIEW. **William P. Davis** is the president and official agency manager of Plainview. Plainview provides grain inspection in west Texas, in the high plains of the panhandle. Their full-service SSP is located at their headquarters in Plainview.

**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

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

“Allergy season” can occur any time of the year. Many people, though, are only sensitive at certain times of the year to a specific allergen. If spring brings you a runny nose, itchy eyes, and sneezing, here are a few things you can do.

Start an allergy diary to help you analyze your allergies. Record the answers to the following questions: What happened right before your symptoms began? Where were you? What were you near?

- Watch pollen counts and adjust your activities accordingly. Stay indoors and keep windows shut when pollen levels are high.
 - Consider adding home air cleaners. You may wish to try an electrostatic air filter or a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter in your heating and air conditioning ducts. Vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters are also an option.
 - When outdoors, stay away from piles of grass and other debris where allergy-causing molds grow. Wear a lightweight facemask when you mow the lawn, or arrange for lawn mowing services at the height of the season.
 - Shower and wash your hair after being outdoors. Use a clothes dryer instead of a clothesline for drying bed linens.
 - Avoid smoke and other irritating fumes that can aggravate your allergies. Avoid alcohol, which causes nasal passages to swell and secrete more mucous.
 - Check with your physician about over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medications.
- Antihistamines are best for seasonal allergies but may cause drowsiness in some people. Ask your physician about non-drowsy options.
- Decongestants, which ease stuffiness and sinus pain from allergies, aren't as effective as antihistamines but do not have drowsiness side effects. Decongestants can raise blood pressure so check with your doctor. Note: If you use a nasal spray decongestant for more than 3 days it may cause ‘rebound’ congestion when you stop.

For more information on allergy and asthma, speak to your healthcare provider. You can also get information from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology at <http://www.aaaai.org>.

Courtesy Environmental, Health, and Safety Articles 2005

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:

Dana Stewart
USDA, GIPSA, Stop 3614
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3614
Phone (202) 720-5091
dana.b.stewart@usda.gov

by March 25, 2005!

TSD Celebrates Black History Month

Technical Services Division employees joined in observing Black History Month with a potluck luncheon on February 15. The featured speaker at the luncheon was Luke Shokere, physical scientist, at the Technical Services Division. He shared both personal and professional events from his life as it related to black history.



TSD's Luke Shokere leads a Black History Month discussion.

His presentation was insightful, inspiring, and well received by TSD employees. Other activities celebrating black history at TSD included daily facts concerning black history and milestones of people that made a monumental difference towards the equality and advancement of African Americans. There were also displays on both floors highlighting individuals throughout history and their accomplishments.

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1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-3601
