



GIPSA News

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

March 2006

Secretary Johanns Visits WRO

James Morcaldi, Western Regional Office

Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Johanns** stopped by the Western Regional Office on a recent trip to Denver to attend the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Winter Convention. The Secretary spent about 40 minutes at the regional office and shared with us some inspiring remarks. He expressed his confidence in and support for the work of P&SP employees. We were encouraged to look to the future to make GIPSA a better agency. We very much enjoyed the Secretary's visit and hope he will stop by again when he's back in town.



Secretary Mike Johanns visiting P&SP's Janell Smalts, legal specialist; Tom Duggan, Competition Unit supervisor; and Brian Burk, senior auditor, at GIPSA's booth at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show.

The Western Regional Office was delighted to host a visit from Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and Administrator Jim Link.

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Tarah Murphy has agreed to a detail with the Compliance Division. **Tarah** is a recent graduate of the Operation Jumpstart Program. She will be working in the Director's office providing administrative support.

Julia Nelis has accepted a new position as Program Analyst with the Office of International Affairs. She formerly served as the secretary to the Deputy Administrator, FGIS.

Mary Vick, formerly with the Wichita Field Office, has joined the Field Management Division's Policies and Procedures Branch as an agricultural marketing specialist. **Mary's** duty location will remain in Kansas City at 6501 Beacon Drive, Suite 180.

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AWARDS

Carol Carter, administrative assistant, Western Regional Office, received a time off award for her extra effort and strong leadership as coordinator of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Tom Duggan, Competition Unit supervisor, Western Regional Office, received a time off award for his outstanding leadership and extra effort in leading the P&SP Competition Task Force.

Michael Eustrom, grain marketing specialist, received a spot award for his leadership and ability to bring people together to accomplish the task.

Henry Greenwood, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received an extra effort award for his excellent performance in preparing cooperative agreements for commodity inspection services under the Agricultural Marketing Act, and statements of work regarding contracting services for official grain inspection and weighing services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Milt Hansen, Trade Practice Unit supervisor, Western Regional Office, received a time off award for his extra effort and outstanding leadership in assembling PART data for the Western Regional Office.

Anita Heckenbach, Field Management Division, Kansas City, MO, received a spot award for expediting the preparation of the annual export quality report with information and graphs that accurately reported the information to the public.

Mark Leppert, physical scientist, received a spot award for his management skill that enabled him to provide assistance to other programs to help QS&S effectively meet work demands.

Lynn Polston, chemist, received a spot award for her willingness to work across Division boundaries and assist the Policies and Procedures Branch in developing and/or revising important documents and handbooks.

Robin Rother, computer specialist, received a spot award for her excellent customer service and willingness to tackle difficult problems and provide solutions.

Jason Vanfossan and **Dan Rundle**, physical scientists, each received a spot award for volunteering to grind Board Appeal samples during an extremely busy period. Thanks to their efforts, the samples were completed in the required time frame.

Gretchen Van Walbeek, administrative assistant, Midwestern Regional Office, received a time off award for her extra effort in helping prepare the Midwestern Regional Office for the Administrator's visit while continuing to accomplish normal responsibilities.

Donna Wolf, IT specialist, Western Regional Office, received a time off award for her extra effort in providing customer service for the Western Regional Office during the P&SP National Conference.

*Continued, see Names
on page 3.*

CONDOLENCES

Kenneth Carter, agricultural commodity grader, Greenville, Mississippi, suboffice, passed away on February 26, 2006. He began his career with USDA in April 1978 as an agricultural commodity aid in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and was reassigned to the Greenville Suboffice in 1987. Survivors include his wife, **Jean**, and two daughters. **Ken** will be greatly missed by his family and coworkers.

E. Douglas Pichard, a retired P&SP Scales and Weighing (Industrial) Specialist, passed away on February 16, in Snellville, GA, after a lingering fight with cancer. **Doug** was born May 9, 1934. He came to P&S from Florida's Office of Weights & Measures and worked in the Atlanta Regional Office, prior to transferring to Washington, where he worked in P&SP's former Scales and Weighing Branch, serving as Assistant Branch Chief. **Doug** was well known for the quality and complexity of his many weighing investigations. One of his investigations was of particular note and was lauded by the USDA Office of the General Counsel. In that investigation, **Doug** sold a single weighing of several hogs to an Alabama meat packer. While normally a practice or pattern of evidence is needed, this packer was found guilty based on short-weighing one weighing. The guilty decision was upheld even after an appeal. **Doug** was 71, and is survived by his wife, **Marjory**, three children, and seven grandchildren. Cards and letters may be sent to **Margie** at 331 Old Loganville Rd. Loganville, GA 30052.

Appreciation

Tom Wrenn and Staff
Federal Grain Inspection
PO Box 13427
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58208

Dear Tom:

We appreciate all the donations of excess dried beans over the past year. These donations are distributed to nonprofit agencies serving the needy. In 2005, the North Country Food Bank received a total of 25,125 pounds of this nutritious food from Federal Grain Inspection. This is a substantial increase over past years. Thank you so much for donating this excess product to feed the hungry in our region.

You and your staff are the greatest. I always enjoy stopping by for the donations. Thanks for a job well done and your help in meeting hunger needs.

Sincerely,

Ron Graham
Executive Director
North Country Food Bank, Inc.

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

Credit Worthiness for New Travel Card Applicants. Beginning March 1, 2006, any new travel card applicants are subject to credit scoring before a travel credit card is issued. On the application, applicants will have the option of authorizing Bank of America to obtain a credit report or not authorizing the report. If they authorize the Bank to obtain a report and receive a score of less than 660 or if they do not authorize the Bank to obtain a credit report, they will receive a card with only a \$1,500 cycle limit. This is mandated by OMB Circular A-123.

2006 International Poultry Expo

James Cannon, Atlanta, GA

The 2006 International Poultry Expo was held in Atlanta, Georgia, January 25 through January 27, 2006. This was the largest trade show for the poultry and egg industry in the world. More than 800 exhibitors filled over 16 acres in the World Congress Center.

Approximately 18,800 leaders of the U.S. and international poultry industries attend this Expo each year. Over 15,000 of these leaders are from the United States and 3,000 from outside of the United States. The Eastern Regional Office was proud to be one of 800 exhibitors. Funds derived from all exhibitors are funneled back to the industry in the form of research grants, educational programs, and promotional activities.

The Eastern Regional Office played a very important role in this Expo. Two staff members working in 3-hour shifts took turns staffing the exhibit booth from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many visitors stopped by to talk about the poultry and egg industry. To ensure that we continue to hire only the best students, a Job Fair was held during the Expo. Forty-five ambitious college students from universities in Texas, Kansas, Mississippi, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky met with Eastern Regional Office employees **Susan Kleinman**, **Kevin Smith**, **Craig Stephens**, and **Joe Moore**. The students' majors included poultry science, agricultural economics, and feed science, to name a few. All of our interviewers agreed that these students were interested in future openings with USDA.

The International Poultry Exposition also included a number of educational seminars on a range of issues facing the poultry industry presented by industry experts. Avian influenza received special emphasis this year with a full-day presentation devoted to it at the beginning of the Expo, as well as several shorter sessions during the week. Avian influenza topics ranged from risks to consumers to the disease risks related to free-range poultry. Other educational seminars attended by GIPSA staff included a discussion of the Brazilian poultry industry as an emerging competitor in the global export market and a forum on animal welfare issues in the poultry market.

The Eastern Regional Office was very proud that Administrator **James Link**; **Amanda Taylor**, confidential assistant to the administrator; and **William Crutchfield**, director of the Regional Operations Division, attended the Expo.



*Elkin Parker, Bill Crutchfield, and Herple Ellis
Visit the P&SP Booth at the PoultryExpo.*

Issuances

Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.

New Issuances

- FGIS Program Directive 9180.37, "Visual Inspections" dated February 27, 2006

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.

Regulatory Info

Tess Butler, Washington, DC

Federal Register Publications

- Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection – Published February 1, 2006
- Voluntary Cancellation of Global's Designation – Published February 1, 2

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

National Wear Red for Women Day

During the week of January 30, several GIPSA locations participated in events to support the “Go Red for Women” campaign supported by the American Heart Association. The campaign helps raise awareness that heart disease is the Number 1 killer of women and empowers women to reduce their risk of heart disease.

The Technical Center in Kansas City, Missouri, held a brown bag seminar with speaker Linda Buntin, nurse clinician. She emphasized the importance of diet and exercise to promote a healthy heart and healthier lives. TSD employees also supported the “Go Red for Women” movement by wearing red on February 2. Red is the color of a pulsing, vibrant life, and if everyone can make a promise to be heart-healthy, heart disease can be defeated.



The Grand Forks Field Office also took part in the campaign. Mary Knutson, safety officer, organized the office’s participation, which included all employees wearing red on February 3.

All in Red at the Grand Forks Field Office: (back row, left to right) Ed Stallman, Fred Lindseth, Penny Kilbride, Mary Knutson; (front row, left to right) Duane Evenson, Tom Wrenn, Valerie Lunde, Carmon Lindblad

**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

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 March 25, 2006!

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