



GIPSA News

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

April 2000

In Appreciation *Dave Shipman, Washington, DC*

Each and every day, we at GIPSA do vitally important work in service of American agriculture. And, occasionally, we have the opportunity to stand out and make an even bigger contribution. **Roger Friedrich**, Technical Services Division, recently did just that. We received the following letter of appreciation from the chief of the United States' TDY Mission to the Republic of Montenegro for **Roger's** outstanding contributions to a recent mission to Montenegro. Many thanks to you all for jobs well done, and special thanks to **Roger** for your exceptional representation of GIPSA.

Dear Administrator Baker:

I am writing to thank you for the assistance provided by Mr. Roger Friedrich of your agency to the State Department's U.S. TDY mission to the Republic of Montenegro. Mr. Friedrich was a key member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's corn quality team which visited Podgorica, Niksic, and the port of Bar, Montenegro.

The team had a challenging schedule and a sometimes hostile reception. To support USDA's assertion that the U.S. corn was not toxic or harmful to animals, Mr. Friedrich worked closely and successfully with his Montenegrin counterparts. In the end — with Mr. Friedrich's professional intervention — we were able to establish that the U.S. corn was of good quality and fully fit for livestock feeding.

Mr. Friedrich helped save a 15,000 metric ton USDA donation valued at more than \$1.0 million. This corn is now being sold in Montenegro to support the purchase of much needed medical supplies and to develop the agricultural sector. In the end, both the United States and the Republic of Montenegro will benefit from USDA's successful mission. Thank you for sharing Mr. Friedrich's expertise. He is a first class diplomat and I was proud to be working alongside him.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun M. Byrnes, Chief
U.S. TDY Mission to the
Republic of Montenegro

Names in the News

Personnel

Welcome to **Krimy Almodova**, who joined the Atlanta Regional Office as a marketing specialist on January 31, 2000. **Krimy**, who is originally from Puerto Rico, is finishing her Masters degree in agricultural economics.

Welcome also to **Eric Harris**, legal specialist, Atlanta, and **Gregory Andrews**, legal specialist, Des Moines.

Barbara Fielder, formerly in Atlanta, reported on March 27, 2000, as the new secretary for the Office of Field Operations, Washington, DC.

Catherine Grasso has been selected for the budget analyst position in the Office of the Deputy Administrator for the P&S Program.

Vicki Lacefield, compliance officer, Review Branch, Compliance Division, has accepted a position in the Standards and Procedures Branch, Field Management Division, where she will be responsible for the rice program. She had been with the Compliance Division since 1992, where she was in charge of the reviews program. **Vicki's** background has prepared her well for this new challenge. She spent 4 years as a member of the Board of Appeals and Review, specializing in rice. She started her career with FGIS in the Stuttgart Field Office in 1983, first as a part-time GS-4, and then as an agricultural commodity grader. Before coming to work with FGIS, **Vicki** worked for

Riceland Foods in Stuttgart for 12 years.

Ronald Larson, Washington, DC, has been reassigned to the Trade Practices Branch as a marketing specialist.

Eddie Roseberry, ACG, Baltimore Field Office, has left GIPSA to take a new position (and promotion!) as a traffic management specialist in the Vessel Approval Branch, CCC Operations Division, FAS. **Eddie** had been with FGIS since 1977, working in the (former) Lutcher and Baltimore field offices, and had been on a number of details to headquarters. **Eddie** was also a graduate of USDA's New Leader Program.

The Compliance Division's Review Branch thanks a number of field-based people who assisted Branch team coordinators in conducting reviews of field offices and official agencies during the second quarter. **Danny Harpole**, agricultural commodity grader (ACG), Jonesboro Suboffice, helped evalu-

ate the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce; **Jimmy Cadle**, ACG, Jonesboro Suboffice, **Larry Giles**, shift supervisor, New Orleans Field Office, **Dave Fulks**, shift supervisor, Portland Field Office, and **Judy Johnston**, office support assistant, Wichita Field Office, helped evaluate FGIS' League City Field Office. During that same trip, **Bob Crook**, assistant manager, Cedar Rapids Field Office, helped evaluate League City's Beaumont and Corpus Christi Suboffices; **Cleve Ellis**, ACG, Portland Field Office, helped evaluate the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and **Shane Minden**, agricultural commodity technician, Moscow Field Office, helped with the review of Idaho Grain Inspection, Inc., and is scheduled to help with a review of Lewiston Grain Inspection, Inc., next quarter. This was the first onsite compliance review for **Danny, Jimmy, Cleve, and Shane**, so each completed a detail to Washington, DC, after the onsite portion of the review. Also helping with the financial evaluations during these reviews was **Bill Ashley**, deputy director, Executive Resources Staff, from headquarters. **Bill** traveled to Mississippi, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, League City, Virginia, and the Utah Department of Agriculture to assist us. Many thanks to all of these folks for helping us to succeed in our mission.

*Continued, see Names
on page 3.*

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Awards

Bill Ashley, deputy director, Executive Resources Staff, earned a Certificate of Merit and cash award for contributions during onsite compliance reviews to help the Compliance Division evaluate the financial programs of FGIS field offices and official agencies.

Berlinda Baca, compliance officer, Foreign Agricultural Service, received a Certificate of Appreciation from GIPSA for her contributions in the Equal Employment Opportunity arena on behalf of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Wesley Blake received a spot award for timely suggestions and assistance leading to the remedy of an instrumental problem which threatened to unduly interrupt the aflatoxin program.

Carey Cook received a spot award for suggesting alternate methodology which ultimately saved significant time and effort in processing the Pesticide Data Program.

Henry Greenwood, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for his role in working with FSA to enhance the revenue of the Agency for Vessel Loading Observation activities.

Karen Guagliardo and **Virginia Roseberry**, Review Branch, Compliance Division, earned a time-off award for continued enhancements to Review Branch publications increasing efficiency of the process and professionalism of the products.

Mary Long received an extra effort award for providing valuable support to the planning, carrying out, and follow up activities related to the February 24-25 joint meeting of the AEIC and Technical Services Division.

Paul Manol, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for providing staff work in support of the USDA wheat cleaning initiative.

Tracey Paugh, Washington, DC, received a quality step increase for outstanding performance in performing her duties as a computer specialist.

Norma Phelps, Washington, D.C., received a performance award for exceptional leadership in managing Field Management Division's administrative functions at headquarters and supporting field offices nationwide.

Eddie Roseberry, Baltimore, earned a spot award for his contributions to program activities while on detail to the Review Branch, Compliance Division.

Denise Ruggles, Cedar Rapids, received a spot award for her assistance in helping keep the GIPSA Table of Contents for directives organized and up to date.

John Sharpe, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for assisting GIPSA in discussions with the Risk Management Agency, National Sunflower Association, and Congress regarding confection sunflower seed.

Edward Stallman, Grand Forks, received an extra effort award for taking the lead to develop and implement a dark roast test for confection sunflower seed.

Barbara Van Til, **Larry McDonald**, and **Donald Kendall**, TSD, received extra effort awards for tirelessly arranging, planning, facilitating, and executing the February 24-25 joint meeting of the AEIC and Technical Services Division.

Tom Wrenn, Grand Forks, received a spot award for his assistance in the development and implementation of the dark roast test for sunflower seed.

35-Year Service Award

Larry Buchanan, Washington, DC

30-Year Service Award

Dean Alexander, Denver

25-Year Service Award

Harry Schaaf, Denver

15-Year Service Award

Margaret Cummings, Des Moines

10-Year Service Award

Brian Burk, Denver
Christopher McClure, Roanoke, VA
Glen Terrill, Technical Center

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

Ticket Transaction Fees. In the January issue of *GIPSA News*, I mentioned travel management centers (TMC). The General Services Administration is providing the opportunity for each government agency to customize the services provided by a travel management center.

Due to this customized service, TMCs may have already begun or will soon begin to charge a transaction fee for airline tickets. Most TMCs are charging a transaction fee each time a reservation is made and for any changes made to a reservation. Please be sure to check with your TMC to see what transactions involve a fee and the amount of that fee. Originally, this fee was going to be charged to the agency, but in many cases, the fees are now being charged to the individual traveler. Please check your monthly VISA statement so that you are aware of these transaction fees. These fees are reimbursable and should be added to the cost of the ticket.

Also, please use e-tickets whenever possible. Paper tickets involve a much higher fee than e-tickets.

Vintage Photo Op



Here's a vintage FGIS photo. Can you identify anyone in the picture? Can you tell us where the photo was taken and on what occasion? If you think you know some or all of the answers, contact **John Sharpe** via e-mail at jsharpe@gipsadc.usda.gov or **Ray Hart** at rhart@gipsadc.usda.gov by April 20. We will share the results in the next newsletter.

**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



USDA Accuses Perdue of Unfair and Deceptive Practices

On March 7, 2000, the Department of Justice filed a complaint in the District of Maryland, United States District Court on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture against Perdue Farms, Inc. The complaint alleges that Perdue, Inc. engaged in unfair and deceptive practices in its dealings with poultry growers and failed to abide by the terms and provisions of an agreement entered into with its poultry growers.

The filing of the complaint is the result of a year-long investigation conducted by GIPSA. The primary focus of the investigation involved Perdue's placement of poultry growers on a rider contract which was allegedly instituted by Perdue to improve the performance of those growers who had unacceptably high production costs. The investigation also focused on the alleged failure of Perdue to abide by the terms of a signed agreement with one of its poultry growers.

At issue in the complaint is Perdue's alleged violation of sections 202(a) and 202(b) of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The complaint alleges that Perdue engaged in an unfair practice and subjected two of its poultry growers to an undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage by using less than six flocks to determine those growers' eligibility for placement on a rider contract. The complaint also alleges that Perdue engaged in an unfair practice and subjected one of its growers to an unfair or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage by its failure to honor the terms of a signed agreement between Perdue and the grower.

"This case goes to the heart of concerns that every small and medium-sized producer and grower have about production contracting in the poultry and livestock industry," said **Michael V. Dunn**, USDA under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "Producers expect companies to abide fairly and comply with the terms in those contracts and agreements."

"GIPSA seeks to vigilantly enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act and carefully investigate all potential violations of the Act," added GIPSA administrator **Jim Baker**. "The agency has made it easier for producers and growers to contact us. Those with concerns can now contact GIPSA at our toll-free telephone hotline, 1-800-998-3447, to register a complaint."

Export Quality Report Available

The "1999 U.S. Grain Exports: Quality Report" is now available. The report, published annually, summarizes the quality of export wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum, barley, sunflower seeds, and canola. It is based on data collected during the official inspection of export grain shipments in calendar year 1999.

The report is available electronically on GIPSA's web site at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/newsinfo/pubs/export/99export.htm>. Hard copies are available in limited quantities from **Dana Stewart**, 202-720-5091, dstewart@gipsa.usda.gov.

Inspection and Weighing and Rice Fees to Increase

On March 30, 2000, GIPSA announced a 2.4 percent increase in fees for official inspection and weighing services, and a 4.8 percent increase in the fee for Federal rice inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. Both increases become effective May 1, 2000.

The inspection and weighing program increase affects all hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee for inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the United States Grain Standards Act. The rice increase applies to all hourly rates and certain unit rates.

The fee increases stem directly from a January 2000 mandated 4.8 percent Federal pay increase. While GIPSA has implemented numerous cost-saving measures, the fee increases are needed to ensure that the Agency generates sufficient revenues to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance.

According to GIPSA administrator **James R. Baker**, "Current program improvements and efficiency enhancements have helped us contain costs. Similar efforts will continue in the future, including the introduction of new technology that improves program efficiencies."



GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

Norma Phelps, Washington, DC



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

Suggestor

Suggestion

David H. Gorabi, Des Moines, IA	Place a GroupWise Mail Button On GIPSA's Home Web Site
David Lowe, Kansas City, MO	Place a Button for Ideas on GIPSA's Home Web Site
Ruth Goff, Kansas City, MO	Change Procedure for Determining Dockage and Foreign Material in Sorghum
Don Folk, Cedar Rapids, IA	Change Basis of Determination for Factors for Barley
Lynn Bolte, Portland, OR	Post Listing of Hotels—Kansas City, Field Offices, and Washington—on HomePage
	Initiate an Exercise Program for all GIPSA Offices
	Have a Small U.S. Flag on the Right Shoulder of FGIS Coveralls

March's tee-shirt winner: **David Gorabi**, Des Moines Regional Office!

GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During Month 1999

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.



Approve the Purchase of Rainsuits or Ponchos in the FGIS Clothing Program



Place a GroupWise Mail Button on GIPSA's Home Web Site



Place a Button on GIPSA's Home Web Site for Ideas

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.**

March 2000 - National Women's History Month

*Shelli Lopez, Technical Center,
Federal Women's Program Co-manager.*

Women's History Month is about highlighting the extraordinary achievements of women throughout our history. It's also about recognizing the equally significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success. It's learning about the perseverance and pioneering spirit of women in 1848, who had the outlandish idea of citizenship for women. This was the first step toward passage of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920, giving women the right to vote.

Last spring, three women astronauts paused during a shuttle mission to honor women in American history. They raised a women's suffrage banner and posed for a picture. One of these astronauts, Ellen Ochoa, said, "We wanted to show how far women have come in this century and to honor the people who fought for our rights."

Women's history month is really about taking the time to recognize, that many people working together have helped to bring positive changes and opportunities for women in the past century. It is a celebration of the contributions of all women, whose work and achievements have improved the quality of life in their families and communities.



This year, I was honored to take part in the greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board Federal Women's Program Managers Council's annual creative writing contest in honor

of Women's History Month. The theme for this year's 13th Annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest was "An Extraordinary Century for Women: Now Imagine the Future."

The competition is advertised in the Kansas City Star, and is open to all kids grades kindergarten through 12 in all school districts in the greater Kansas City area, including home school students, and all public and private schools in both Kansas and Missouri.

Students write short essays about women who have impacted their lives, women who demonstrate leadership and admirable qualities, and who have made significant differences in the lives of children and their communities. The student winners from each grade category, and their featured woman, school principal, and teachers receive awards and special recognition at a ceremony held each year at the Truman Library. The program also includes "A Visit from Harry." Dr. Neil Johnson, a retired archivist and oral historian at the Truman Library, dresses like Harry Truman and shares highlights of the President's life and career. Following the Awards, everyone is treated to a tour of Truman Presidential Library.

This year, I chaired the Essay Contest Awards Committee and conducted the awards ceremony at the Truman Library. At the ceremony, all winners read their essays, after which the featured woman received a red rose and a copy of the essay. Next, the U.S. Department of Labor's

Women's Bureau awarded the school principal with women's history month books for the school library. The ceremony is video taped and photographed, copies of which are provided to each winner. Each also has his/her photo and essay published in the Kansas City Star.

This year's awards were presented by the U.S. Postal Service. Winners received a framed commemorative stamp featuring Patricia Roberts Harris, the first African-American woman to serve as a member of a presidential cabinet.

This is truly and excellent program for children, and one that touches the lives of many students, people, and schools. The kids write about a woman who has been a positive influence in their lives. When the woman is honored at the Truman Library, you can see the joy and pride she feels by hearing the words of the child reading the essay. The schools benefit by receiving books for their libraries, and public recognition of the achievements of their students in the Kansas City Star.

I have chaired the FEB's Federal Women's Program Managers Committee for the past 2 years. Being a part of community outreach programs and working on a special emphasis committee has been an excellent experience for me. I would like to thank management for the opportunity to serve as a Federal Women's Program co-manager. I would highly recommend that each of you become involved in Women's History Month activities in your community.

Reaching Out

International Poultry Expo Amy Van Skiver, Atlanta

GIPSA made an encore performance this year at the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, GA, in January. The International Poultry Exposition is the largest poultry industry show held in the United States.

Nearly all Atlanta region employees participated in staffing the GIPSA booth at the Expo. In addition, **John Rollins**, trade practice supervisor, and **I**, regional manager, gave two presentations about GIPSA and our enforcement role in the poultry industry during the course of the show.

As with previous years, GIPSA's participation in the Expo was productive and successful. We look forward to taking part in next year's event!



GIPSA's team at the Poultry Expo included (left to right): John Sharpe, Washington, DC; Tim Brennan, resident agent, Jackson, MS; Buddy Taylor, resident agent, Jacksonville, FL; and Steve Warrilow, resident agent, Birmingham, AL.

Pennsylvania Farm Show Fred Kelley, Baltimore

photo A3

Larry Poss, P&S, and **I** participated in the 84th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA, from January 8-13, 2000. Over 600,000 people attended the 6-day exposition.

Visits to our booth by Chinese, Czech, and Mongolian delegations were highlights of the week for us. Larry and I gave presentations on our respective GIPSA programs. The Chinese delegation was very interested in grain, and especially soybeans.

Many local school groups also came to our booth to see samples of grain. I was even in a photo taken by a group of 6th grade students from Susquehanna Township Elementary School.

Another great Farm Show!

Baltimore's Fred Kelly is joined by a "small" crowd at GIPSA's booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

More Reaching Out

2000 Commodity Classic Moheb Bashandi

During the first week of March 2000, GIPSA participated in the annual Commodity Classic, a joint convention and trade show sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA). This year's convention was held in Orlando, FL, and boasted 654 booths representing 156 companies and organizations. The Commodity Classic is considered to be one of the biggest and best trade shows.

Participating in the convention offered me an excellent opportunity to interface directly with decision-makers



GIPSA's Moheb Bashandi has GIPSA's booth set up and is ready to welcome visitors at the 2000 Commodity Classic.

ers from the Nation's leading agricultural companies as well as farmers. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to learn about the latest in technology through the many educational sessions, a new feature this year.

During the general session many topics relating to the future of U.S. agriculture, including marketing and pricing, were addressed. Secretary of Agriculture **Dan Glickman** spoke about the important of opening China's markets to U.S. farmers, biotechnology, the important steps that need to be taken to assure the survival of the family farm, and ethanol-

enhanced fuels.

Next year, the Classic will be held in San Antonio, TX, March 25-27, 2001, and GIPSA is already planning to attend!

Your Employee Assistance Program is ready to help you.

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

March Issuances

Charlie Turner, Washington, DC

- ❑ FGIS PN00-1, Optional Statement for Export Wheat Shipments, dated 2-10-00
- ❑ FGIS PN00-2, Adjustment Factor Tables for High-Oleic-Type Sunflower Seed, dated 2-21-00
- ❑ FGIS PN00-3, Dark Roast Analysis For Confectionary Sunflower Seed, dated 2-29-00

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 April 25, 2000!

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
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AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION
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