



GIPSA News

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

April 2008

GIPSA Bids Farewell to Dave Shipman

Jim Link, Washington, DC



Dave Shipman

Dave Shipman, deputy administrator of FGIS since 1994, will be leaving GIPSA in a few weeks to take a new position in USDA. After more than 32 years with FGIS, **Dave** will be leaving the agency to become associate administrator of the USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). As AMS associate administrator, he will be responsible for a wide range of the agency's programs that assist in the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural goods.

Dave has been a strong advocate for U.S. agriculture and for innovative change in the inspection process to further FGIS' achievement of its mission to facilitate the marketing of U.S. grains and oilseeds in today's evolving markets.

During his tenure with FGIS, **Dave** has served as acting administrator for the Agency, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs. He also was an alternate U.S. delegate to Codex, and a member of various USDA and Federal government trade and technology policy groups.

In recognition of his exemplary leadership and outstanding management of the nation's grain inspection and weighing system, **Dave** received a 2001 Presidential Distinguished Executive Award.

Upon **Dave's** departure, **John Giler**, director, FGIS Field Management Division, will become acting deputy administrator. In that capacity, **John** will manage the national grain inspection and weighing system, the development and maintenance of the Official Standards and methods for quality assessments, and enforcement of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. FGIS facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products for the benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

Now that I have covered all of the official data, I want to put in my personal thanks. **Dave** was the first person I talked to after accepting the appointment as administrator of GIPSA. **Dave**, being the professional he is, called me at my office in Fort Worth and gave me a very good briefing on what was going on in the Agency. He covered information on Hurricane Katrina and its effect on FGIS, and the OIG audit conducted on P&SP and many, many topics in between. Upon my arrival in Washington, DC, I found **Dave** gracious, intelligent, and professional.

He has been an outstanding deputy administrator, colleague, and I have looked to him for advice so many times that I can't count them. Our loss in AMS' gain. I know that he will be a great addition to their agency.

Good luck, **Dave**, and thanks for all you have done for me personally, for the Federal Grain Inspection Service, and for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Amy Goembel joined the Midwestern Regional Office on February 17, 2008, as the new marketing specialist stationed in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. **Amy** has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Dakota State University, and a background in livestock auction office management.

Steven Golus joined the Midwestern Regional Office on February 17, 2008, as the new Nebraska resident agent stationed in Kearney, Nebraska. **Steven** has a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management from the University of Nebraska, and previously worked as an agricultural inspection specialist for the State of Nebraska.

Kari McPherson joined the Midwestern Regional Office on March 16, 2008, as the new South Dakota/North Dakota resident agent stationed in Pierre, South Dakota. **Kari** has a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science

from South Dakota State, and previously worked with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

LEAVE DONATION

Vicki Lacefield, Office of the Director, Field Management Division (FMD), has been accepted into the Leave Transfer Program. **Vicki** has exhausted all of her leave as she is recovering from brain aneurysm surgery.

Regina Pankowski, Office of the Director, FMD, Washington, DC, has been accepted into the Leave Transfer Program. She gave birth to a son on March 3, 2008. Her annual and sick leave has been exhausted due to her recovery from a C-section and caring for her newborn.

If you would like to donate either annual or restored annual leave to **Vicki** or **Regina**, please complete form AD-1043 and either fax it or mail it (not both) to: USDA APHIS MRPBS HRD, Attn: LCT, Butler Square 5th Floor, 100 North 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403, FAX: 612-336-3544. Form AD-1043 and instructions are attached or the documents can be found on the web at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/forms/ad.shtml>.

AWARDS

Donald Ellis, League City, received a spot award for being attentive to an odor determination while grading soybeans at the Cargill FGIS Lab, Channelview, Texas.

Susan Fall, Field Operations and Support Staff (FOSS), FMD, received a certificate of appreciation for her leadership in developing the FGISonline Official Service Provider Licensing application.

Janine Goodson, FOSS, FMD, received an extra effort award for her outstanding support and customer service related to the deployment of FGISonline applications.

Karen Guagliardo, FGIS, received an extra effort award for her outstanding leadership as the project manager of FGISonline, FGIS' modernization effort that is improving internal business operations and better serving customers of the official grain inspection and weighing system.

Anita Heckenbach, Quality Assurance and Control Staff, FMD, received a certificate of appreciation for her leadership in developing the FGISonline Quality Assurance and Control application.

Doug Lacefield, Office of the Director, FMD, received a certificate of appreciation for his leadership in developing the FGISonline Inspection, Testing, and Weighing application.

Vicki Lacefield, Office of the Director, FMD, received an extra effort award for her outstanding leadership in the development and deployment of the FGISonline Certificates program, an integral part of FGIS' modernization effort.

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Terri Liberty, administrative services assistant, and **Sara Ludwig**, program assistant, Technical Services Division, each received spot awards for exemplary work efforts during a continued time of reduced staff where they displayed initiative, self-motivation, and positive attitudes in all areas.

Sherri Murphy, Office of the Director, FMD, received a spot award for providing administrative support to GIPSA when the administrative staff was shorthanded.

Diane Palecek, FOSS, FMD, received an extra effort award for outstanding leadership in the development and deployment of the *FGISonline* Inspection Data Warehouse application, an integral part of FGIS' modernization effort.

Marianne Plaus, Market and Program Analysis Staff, received an award for her outstanding performance contributing to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of FGIS.

Dana Stewart, Office of the Deputy Administrator, FGIS, received an award for her outstanding performance contributing to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of FGIS.

Mary Vick, Policies and Procedures Branch, FMD, received an extra effort award for outstanding leadership in the development of the *FGISonline* Equipment Capability Testing application, an integral part of FGIS' modernization effort.

Regulatory Info

Tess Butler, Washington, DC

Federal Register Publications

- Opportunity for Designation in Aberdeen (SD), Decatur (IL), Hastings (NE), Fulton (IL), Missouri, and South Carolina Areas, and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas – Published March 3, 2008
- Designation for the Owensboro (KY), Bloomington (IL), Iowa Falls (IA), Casa Grande (AZ), Fargo (ND), Grand Forks (ND), Plainview (TX), and Amarillo (TX) Areas – Published March 3, 2008
- Opportunity to Comment on the Applicants for the Cedar Rapids, IA, Area Consisting of Northeast Iowa, Southeast Minnesota, and East Texas – Published March 26, 2008
- Proposed Posting of Stockyards – Published March 26, 2008

Issuances

Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.

- FGIS Program Notice 08-04, "Certifying Falling Number Test Results," dated March 3, 2008
- Aflatoxin Handbook, Issuance Change No. 19, dated March 3, 2008
- FGIS Directive 9181.40, "Pesticide Residue Testing for Grain," dated March 10, 2008

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

Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)

John Giler, Washington, DC

Congress, through the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA), directed the Federal government to issue a biometric transportation security credential to any individual with unescorted access to secure areas of facilities and vessels, and all mariners holding Coast Guard-issued credentials or qualification documents. Controlling access to secure areas is a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to enhance port security. TWIC is a common identification credential for all personnel requiring unescorted access to secure areas of MTSA-regulated facilities and vessels, and all mariners holding Coast Guard-issued credentials. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issues TWIC as a tamper-resistant "Smart Card" containing the worker's biometric (fingerprint template) to allow for a positive link between the card itself and the individual.

DHS, through the TSA and the U.S. Coast Guard, issued their final rule on this matter on January 25, 2007. The final rule indicated all persons requiring unescorted access to secure areas of regulated facilities and vessels must possess a TWIC before such access is granted. There is an exception. Federal officials are not required to obtain or possess a TWIC. Except in cases of emergencies or other exigent circumstances, in order to gain unescorted access to a secure area of a vessel or regulated facility, a Federal official must present his/her agency issued, HSPD 12-compliant credential. Until each agency issues its HSPD 12-compliant identification cards, Federal officials may gain unescorted access by using their agency's official credential. While GIPSA employees do not need a TWIC, contractors and official agency personnel working at port facilities do.

TWIC will become fully implemented by September 25, 2008. Additionally, GIPSA is moving forward with USDA on issuing the LincPass, the new USDA employee identification card that is HSPD-12 compliant. For more information on the LincPass and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), please visit <http://hspd12.usda.gov/about.html>.

Outstanding Employees

Fannie J. Webb, New Orleans

Some are vocal; some are content.

Some, at first, would swear that they were going to quit... usually, these are the ones that will stay on forever...

Coming to work through all types of situations and weather.

They might not say it out loud; but the unspoken consensus... they like and value their job and tend to be very conscientious.

Travel Bits & Pieces

Monica Alexander, Washington, DC

Personnel. The MRP Business Services Division (MRPBS) informed the Agency that all official personnel files (OPF's) have been scanned! Last summer and fall, MRPBS submitted the paper versions of the official personnel files for all MRP employees, which were scanned into electronic files, now referred to as electronic OPFs (eOPF). The project was a success and the eOPFs are currently being accessed by the MRP personnel who service GIPSA.

The staff is currently conducting a 100 percent quality assurance check of the files to ensure that they contain all information submitted to the contractor for scanning. GIPSA employees will be informed when the QA checks are completed and when employees may access the documents. Prior to accessing the eOPF's, employees will receive notices and a tutorial.

One new feature of the eOPF system will be notifications that information has been added to employees official personnel file, such as SF-50B's (Notice of Personnel Actions). This means that SF-50s will no longer be mailed to the employee. Employees without regular access to a computer will have the option of calling a processing specialist to obtain the document.... Stay Tuned for more information on eOPFs!

New Mileage Rate! The POV mileage rate increased from \$.485 to \$.505 per mile, effective March 19, 2008.

Monorail Scale Training



GIPSA working with the State of Nebraska in educating the livestock industry. Pictured (left to right) Bryce Wilke, PSP Midwestern Regional Office Business Practices Unit Supervisor; Don Onwiler, Program Manager, Nebraska Division of Weights and Measures; Alan Christian, PSP Deputy Administrator.

P&SP and the State of Nebraska Division of Weights and Measures conducted a monorail scale and electronic evaluation device training course on February 26 - 28, 2008.

More than 90 individuals attended the training. Representatives of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and Agricultural Research Service, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), various State Departments of Weights and Measures, academia, the meat packing industry, and equipment manufacturers were in attendance.

The training provided a forum to discuss questions related to the use of monorail weighing and electronic carcass evaluation devices in the enforcement of State and Federal Government laws and regulations. The training encouraged and promoted the application of uniform inspection and testing methods used by Federal and State jurisdiction.

P&SP's Midwestern Regional Office would like to thank everyone associated with the training for their support and participation. It is essential for P&SP to be a leader in the industry in the application of weights and measures regulations in the livestock industry.

Workplace Violence Reminder

Albert Conerly, Washington, DC

GIPSA is concerned about and committed to employees' safety and health. GIPSA will make every effort to prevent violent incidents from occurring. Preventing workplace violence is a responsibility shared by all employees. Violence or the threat of violence by or against any GIPSA employee is unacceptable, and GIPSA will not tolerate:

- Violence, intimidation, or other threatening behavior
- Written or oral threats of violence
- Gestures or other action which communicate a direct or implied threat of physical harm
- Possession, use, or threat of use of a firearm or other deadly weapon

Violence, threatening, or intimidating behaviors are taken seriously, and may result in removal from the workplace, disciplinary action, or criminal action, depending on the nature of the offense. Any employee who observes such behavior must immediately report that behavior to a supervisor or manager for remedial action.

Managers and supervisors must inform employees of GIPSA workplace violence policies and procedures. Employees must know and understand GIPSA policy regarding workplace violence.

For information concerning the GIPSA policy and procedures for preventing workplace violence and responding to incidents of workplace violence, see GIPSA Directive 4790.2 Workplace Violence Prevention and Response at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/gipsa/GIPSA.shtml>.

The First Anniversary of **FGIS**online

Janine Goodson, Kansas City

Can you believe that it's been one year since we began using the FGISonline Certificate (CRT) program? To date, 134,780 certificates have been issued using the application. Over the year, we've made several enhancements/changes to CRT to make the program user friendly. I feel we have made a lot of progress in this arena. Look for more CRT enhancements in the very near future.

FGIS has demoed the application and provided training to approximately 40 official agencies and rice mills. Currently, 18 official agencies are using our CRT program.

We have been working closely with the official agencies' software providers and expect some of their official agency clients to begin transmitting results to IDW on or about April 1, 2008. We will keep you posted as the agencies transition from NQDB to IDW.

Another application will soon be coming online. The Equipment Check Testing application (ECT) has completed user acceptance testing (UAT) and we are in the process of making some enhancements to the program. ECT will record information on equipment used for the testing of grain quality, and its location, for the purposes of notifying, submitting, and capturing test results conducted to validate the equipment's capability to accurately test grain quality. You should be seeing information on ECT in early April.

The Inspection Testing and Weighing (ITW) application will soon be undergoing UAT. ITW will capture all testing and weighing results for grain, rice, pulses, graded commodities, and processed commodities, single and aggregate lot inspection. And, the FGIS Official Service Provider Licensing (FOL) and Quality Assurance and Control (QAC) programs are under development. FOL will be an online program bringing to the web study materials, examinations, and score sheets for official agency personnel to use for administering licensing exams. QAC will gather information to measure the performance of the official grain inspection and weighing system.

Stay tuned – more information will be coming soon.

FGISonline Project Leaders

Certificate Program – Vicki Lacefield

Inspection Data Warehouse – Diane Palecek

Inspection Testing and Weighing – Doug Lacefield/Vicki Lacefield

Equipment Check Testing – Mary Vick

FGIS Official Service Provider Licensing – Susan Fall

Quality Assurance and Control – Anita Heckenbach

Employee Assistance Program

Call for confidential help.

Washington, DC personnel, call...
1-800-222-0364

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

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

Don't Let Back Pain Ruin Your Spring. Spring is here and some weekend warriors may be looking forward to working in the garden. Now is the time to plan ahead. Along with deciding what seeds to buy and considering when to turn over your mulch pile, you might think about starting an exercise plan to strengthen your back BEFORE you start to work in the garden. If you have a history of back or other health problems, you should check with your doctor before exercising or performing manual labor tasks. Your health care provider can offer you recommendations on the safest and most effective back exercise.

Use proper lifting techniques when lifting in the garden:



- Get a firm grip
- Keep your back straight
- Center your body over your feet
- Pull the load close to you
- Grip with your whole hand
- Bend your knees and lift with your legs – not your back
- Look straight ahead – never down
- Move your feet to turn – don't twist your back

If you have a load of topsoil or other materials delivered, have the delivery truck get the load as close as possible to where you will be using it. (You may need to pay a little more for the aid of a forklift, but you could be saving a lot of money on doctor bills.) Move smaller loads with a wheelbarrow, handtruck, or pushcart.

Know your limits. Take frequent breaks. And remember to check with your doctor before doing a lot of exercise or manual labor.

Source: *The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Back Safety Course* – <http://www.free-training.com/osha/back/Backmenu.htm>.

IT Tidbit

David Will, Washington, DC

GIPSA soon will release Internet Explorer 7.0 to all GIPSA workstations. The installation will be automatic and you will not need to assist in its installation.

We are moving to IE 7 for two reasons. The new IE browser is more secure, and the browser must be on a machine in order for the Federal Desktop Core Configuration settings to be applied.

The main differences between Internet Explorer 6 and 7 are: a new streamlined look to maximize the size of the web page view; tabbed browsing allowing you to easily switch between web pages without losing your existing page; a toolbar with built-in search box (MSN search by default); automatic text size reduction when printing so everything fits on the page; increased security features protecting you from fraudulent websites and online phishing scams; increased safety with extended validation SSL certificate functionality; and a redesigned favorites center.

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, 2008!

Retiring? To be included on our email distribution list after you retire from GIPSA, please send your email address to dana.b.stewart@usda.gov.

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