



# GIPSA News

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

June 2000

## From My Desk

*Jim R. Baker, Washington, DC*

Some 450 people participated in GIPSA's "Visions for the Millennium Conference" on structural changes facing livestock and grain markets in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The conference was held May 9 and 10, 2000, at the Kansas City Airport Marriott Hotel.

The Conference was well attended by farmers, ranchers, industry people, academia, and Federal and State representatives. The event celebrated the accomplishments of American agriculture over the past 100 years, discussed current forces for change and debated the merits of innovation and structural changes. A variety of speakers addressed the major challenges and opportunities that have faced and will face farmers and ranchers as a result of changes in technology, international forces, consumer demand, concentration, consolidation and mergers, vertical coordination, changing marketing institutions and other forces. Some of the speakers focused on technological and market forces for change, others on the need to adapt, while other speakers spoke of the effects on rural America and the emotional impacts of change. The final session,

a debate hosted by Deputy Secretary Rominger on concentration, was very popular with the audience.

One of the principal objectives of the conference was to encourage sharing of diverse views about the impacts and implications of structural change in agriculture and associated public policies. The conference did this very effectively. Several participants commented that it was "one of the best conferences they ever attended." They appreciated the balanced approach, expertise, and care given to the selection of panelists. Others requested that the conference become an annual event for producers and growers to understand the dynamics of change affecting the industry and their livelihoods.

GIPSA sponsored scholarships for students of 1890s schools and minority producers to enable their participation, and to have a better understanding of the unique challenges facing farmers in the new century.

At a special luncheon on the final day of the conference, GIPSA recognized and awarded certificates to eight agricultural pioneers and their families. Their achievements, how-

ever, go far beyond their roles as farmers to include: public service, veterinary medicine, banking and finance, minority representation, education, conservation, broadcast journalism, and community service.

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# Names in the News

## Personnel

P&S welcomes **Lynn Lancaster**, marketing specialist, Des Moines; **Pamela Rodrigues** and **Vanette Stewart**, legal instruments examiners, Denver; **Nicole Carter**, summer intern, P&S Office of the Deputy Administrator; **Anselmo (Sam) Linares**, summer intern, Atlanta; **Brent Lawrence**, **Nicholas Miller**, and **Holly Miyazawa**, summer interns, Denver; and **Iessha Moore**, summer intern, Des Moines; and **Desmond Coker**, Economic/Statistical Support Staff, **Michael Dattner**, Information Resources Management, and **Wing-Hang Grace Leung** and **Wilfred Cromartie**, Office of Policy Litigation Support, Washington, DC. GIPSA bids farewell to **Jesse Booth**, industrial specialist, Atlanta, who has taken a position with the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Office of Product & Industry Standards.

**Gerald Bromley** was selected to be GIPSA's Chief Information Officer, effective 5/21/00.

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 third quarter of fiscal year 2000. **Leslie Maddox**, agricultural commodity grader (ACG), Greenville, helped evaluate the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. **Bill Ashley**, deputy director, Executive Resources Staff, helped us evaluate this State's finances. **Bill** later helped us evaluate the Utah Department of

Agriculture's finances. **Don Akers**, quality assurance specialist, Corpus Christi; **Terrell Bailey**, ACG, New Orleans; **Bob Krouse**, protein coordinator, Kansas City; **Ted Respet**, officer in charge, Duluth; and **Merle Russelburg**, shift supervisor, New Orleans; helped evaluate Kansas Grain Inspection Service, Inc. **Bill Ashley** also helped us to evaluate this conflict-of-interest agency's finances. **Anne Bullard**, ACG, New Orleans; **Dave Skallerud**, ACG, Cedar Rapids; and **Don Wray**, ACG, Portland, helped evaluate two official agencies in the Toledo Field Office circuit. **Don Akers** also helped this quarter with the onsite compliance review of two official agencies in the Wichita Field Office circuit. **Tom Steele**, ACG, Portland, will help with the review of three official agencies in the Cedar Rapids Field Office circuit during the last 2 weeks of June. This was the first onsite compliance review for **Leslie** and **Tom**, so each completed (or will complete!) a detail to Washington, DC, after the onsite portion of the review. Many thanks to these folks for helping us to continue to succeed in our mission.

## Condolences

**Harold Wierman**, founder of the Central Illinois Grain Inspection Service, and father of current agency owner **Gary Wierman**, passed away in May. **Mr. Wierman** had 64 years of grain inspection experience.

## Awards

**Don Akers**, quality assurance specialist, Corpus Christi and **Don Wray**, ACG, Portland, each earned spot awards for their contributions as team leaders during onsite compliance reviews while on detail to the Compliance Division.

**Karen Guagliardo**, **Joe McNeil**, and **Virginia Roseberry**, compliance officers, and **Susan Martin**, secretary, Review Branch, earned Certificates of Merit and cash awards for their high level of contributions when full staffing was unavailable.

**Ray Hart**, Washington, D.C. received a time-off award for his assistance in developing and preparing presentations for the GIPSA Millennium Meeting and the FGIS Advisory Committee Meeting.

**Jeannene Henehan**, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for her outstanding secretarial support to the Information Technology Staff (formerly the Automation and Program Services Branch) during FY 2000.

**Vicki Lacefield**, Standards and Procedures Branch, earned a spot award for honoring a commitment to provide support to the Compliance Division's Review Branch by serving as a team coordinator during an onsite compliance review.

**Carmen Nordlund**, on detail to the International Monitoring Staff from the Food and Nutrition Service, received a spot award for volunteering to help IMS translate brochures and presentations from English to Spanish to benefit our outreach activities.

Their lives represent a rich tradition of service and commitment to both agriculture and their communities.

Media coverage included a live broadcast from USDA radio, several taped and live television and radio interviews with agency representatives, and print media.

A video of highlights of the conference will be available for sale in the very near future. Conference presentations and speaker biographies are on GIPSA's web site at [www.usda.gov/gipsa/millennium/proceedings.htm](http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/millennium/proceedings.htm).

The conference was successful

due to a lot of hard work by many people, including speakers and moderators. GIPSA and Farm Service Agency staff coalesced as a team that worked extremely hard over the past 12 weeks to get the job done.

We are very proud of the conference. We believe that the event was well received and contributed to improving dialogue on the important issues associated with structural changes in agriculture. The conference served as an excellent vehicle for outreach to the public, from the small producer to representatives of large-scale agribusiness. It addressed

issues facing both grain and livestock markets and represented USDA in a positive and proactive manner. The conference contributed to our initiatives to work cooperatively with state agricultural representatives and attorneys general. Having conducted town hall meetings with pork producers in 1998 and 1999, the conference also served as a valuable platform for future town hall meetings with poultry producers. The Conference allowed us to focus attention on the scope of the work we do and how it serves agriculture and the American people.

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## Control High Blood Pressure

*Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC*

Many people think hypertension refers to tension or anxiety. But for as many as 50 million Americans, hypertension – or high blood pressure – is a much more serious and potentially deadly condition.

Hypertension means that the blood coursing through the arteries is exerting too much force against the artery walls. This force strains the heart and the arteries and it is one of the major risk factors for heart attack, stroke and kidney damage.

Hypertension contributes to nearly 900,000 deaths each year. Yet, it is often called the “silent killer” because many people with hypertension have no symptoms. In fact, it is estimated that up to 10 million Americans may have high blood pressure and don't know it.

Fortunately, hypertension is easily detected with a blood pressure read-

ing that produces two numbers. The first, or top, number is your systolic pressure, which indicates the pressure in your arteries when your heart is pumping. The bottom number is your diastolic pressure, which measures the pressure when your heart relaxes between beats.

People have high blood pressure or hypertension if their blood pressure is 140/90 mm Hg or higher. In most cases, the causes of hypertension are unknown, but it is linked to the following risk factors: a family history of hypertension, heart disease or stroke; age – more in men over 35 and women over 45; gender – men are more likely to have hypertension than women; race – African American or native Americans have a higher incidence of hypertension; and excess weight – excessive drinking, smoking, diabetes, and lack of

exercise.

If your blood pressure is consistently high, healthy lifestyle choices may help prevent as well as control it. These include:

- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Reducing salt intake
- Limiting alcohol to one or two drinks a day
- Exercising 30 to 45 minutes on most days
- Eating a low-fat diet rich in fruits, vegetables, dairy products, whole grains, fish, and lean meats
- Getting enough calcium and other minerals
- Not smoking

If lifestyle change alone doesn't control your high blood pressure, your doctor may recommend medications.

## Training Needs

*Rosemary Mayne,  
Washington, DC*

Employees frequently ask the question, "What training is available to me?" Usually there is no direct answer. The answer relates to the availability of funding, an employee's willingness to learn, to performance and, most importantly, to need. A discussion between employees and their supervisors should identify each employee's training and developmental needs.

The Agency offers and encourages a variety of developmental training. The first priority for the use of training funds, however, is for training directly related to job performance. Employees must communicate their training and developmental needs to their supervisors, and supervisors should prioritize these requests against present and future funding. Assistance in identifying training needs is available from several online network programs, your supervisor, your Collateral Duty Training Specialist, and the Agency Training Staff.

Keep in mind that Federal regulations require that training have an identified benefit to the Government. The training must be related to the accomplishment of the Agency's mission, regeneration of the Agency organization, or job performance.

## GIPSA to Validate Tests for Biotech Grains & Accredit Labs

GIPSA will help standardize the identification of biotechnology-derived grains by accrediting labs and evaluating tests used to detect the presence of genetically modified grains. As part of a new set of Clinton Administration biotechnology initiatives, GIPSA also will lead the Department's efforts to seek public comment later this year on other steps that could be taken to help validate voluntary non-bioengineered claims, according to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

"We want to provide consumers, farmers, and industry with more information about biotechnology-derived foods and we want to ensure that information is accurate and reliable," said Glickman.

GIPSA will review, upon request, laboratories testing grains for the presence of biotechnology-derived grains and will accredit those laboratories that meet performance standards.

In addition, GIPSA will evaluate test kits against the manufacturer's performance specifications for determining the presence of biotechnology-derived grains in bulk grain to ensure that these tests are accurate and reliable.

Testing laboratories in the United States and manufacturers of commercially available test kits marketed and sold in the United States were invited in a Commerce Business Daily announcement to participate in these voluntary efforts. The new services will be provided for a fee and tests will be conducted at GIPSA's Technical Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

USDA intends to issue an advance notice of proposed rulemaking this summer to solicit public comment on other possible steps to help meet the needs of the marketplace.

**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 Idea Hotline Update

*Norma Phelps, Washington, DC*



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

*Suggestor*

*Suggestion*

Nina Milaknis, Montreal, Canada	Change GroupWise to Include the Posting Date of Messages
Ahmad B. Gorabi, Des Moines, IA	Create A Software Library That Is Current
Martin Davis, New Orleans, LA	Provide a Database of Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Inspection/Weighing
Margaret R. Cummings, Des Moines, IA	Incorporate in GroupWise the Ability to Scan an Attachment Before It's Opened

May's tee-shirt winner: **Nina Milaknis**, Montreal Field Office!

## GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During May 2000

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.

-  GIPSA Should Consider Hiring Under the Worker/Trainee Program
-  Safety Policy Aboard Ships
-  Develop Temperature Correction Chart for Volume Testing on Test Weight Kettle

Keep those ideas coming in! Send your ideas to the GIPSA Idea Hotline via e-mail: [gipsa-ideas@gipsadc.usda.gov](mailto: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.**

## Fullerton Farmers Elevator Pays \$10,500 Penalty

Fullerton Farmers Elevator, Fullerton, North Dakota, agreed to pay a \$10,500 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by GIPSA. GIPSA administrator James R. Baker said that the firm was charged with causing the issuance of false official grain inspection certificates by deceptively handling grain presented for official inspection. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act. The complaint filed against Fullerton Farmers Elevator was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.



# Security Reps

*Carol Remmers,  
Information Systems Security Program Manager,  
Washington, DC*

The following list contains the Security Representatives for GIPSA. Their duties include: ensuring compliance with established GIPSA security policies, responding to requests for information, responding to and reporting security threats, informing the Information Systems Security Program Manager (ISSPM) of any deficiencies at their location and security awareness and procedures at their location.

## **Packers & Stockyards Programs**

Atlanta Field Office	Jill Ainsworth	(404) 562-5840	Jill_M.Ainsworth@usda.gov
Denver Field Office	Robert Clemans	(303) 375-4240	Robert_J.Clemans@usda.gov
Des Moines Field Office	Margaret Cummings	(515) 323-2579	Margaret_R.Cummings@usda.gov

## **Federal Grain Inspection Service**

Technical Services Division	Robin Rother	(816) 891-0411	rrother@gipsakc.usda.gov
Baltimore Field Office	Lanita Ford	(410) 590-2259	lrford@gipsadc.usda.gov
Toledo Field Office	Kaye Burnep	(419) 259-6276	kburnep@gipsadc.usda.gov
Kansas City Field Office	Michelle Bosley	(816) 241-4031	fmkan@gipsadc.usda.gov
Wichita Field Office	Judy Johnston	(316) 722-6370	jjjohnston@gipsadc.usda.gov
Cedar Rapids	Denise Ruggles	(319) 364-0047	fmced@gipsadc.usda.gov
Stuttgart Field Office	Mary Hill	(870) 673-2508	mjhill@gipsadc.usda.gov
(also covering Greenville and Jonesboro area offices)			
New Orleans Field Office	Yohanna Lorio	(504) 764-2324	ylorio@gipsadc.usda.gov
(also covering Port Allen and Crowley Area offices)			
League City Field Office	Adel Ibrahim	(281) 338-2787	aibrahim@gipsadc.usda.gov
(also covering Corpus Christi and Beaumont Area offices)			
Minneapolis Field Office	Jan Roehler	(612) 335-4095	fmmin@gipsadc.usda.gov
(also covering Duluth Area office)			
Montreal Field Office	Janina Milaknis	(514) 392-9798	fmcan@gipsadc.usda.gov
Grand Forks Field Office	Penny Kilbride	(701) 772-3371	pkilbride@gipsadc.usda.gov
Moscow Field Office	Vicki Kottke	(208) 882-4833	vlkottke@gipsadc.usda.gov
Olympia Field Office	John Flemm	(360) 753-9072	jflemm@gipsadc.usda.gov
Portland Field Office	Marsha Morehouse	(503) 326-7887	mmorehouse@gipsadc.usda.gov
Sacramento Field Office	Mike Johnson	(916) 654-0743	mikejohnson-fgis@gipsadc.usda.gov

## School Days

*Diane Palecek, Kansas City*

**Mary Vick**, Kansas City, recently made a presentation on grain inspection to fourth graders at Davidson Elementary School in Kansas City, MO. The kids were really impressed with the samples of grain, live weevils, and probe that **Mary** brought along. Here's some fan mail **Mary** received from the students:

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Dear Mrs. Vick,

Thank you for coming to talk to the fourth grade. I think your job of being a grain inspector is awesome! You taught me a lot of new stuff. I never knew that there are so many kinds of corn, wheat, and soybeans. I also didn't know there was such a thing as a weevil.

Sincerely,

Reid Mason

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Dear Mrs. Vick,

Thank you for coming. I really enjoyed when you showed what lives in corn. Now I know they are called weevils. I never knew that grain inspectors had fun jobs using metal sticks. Thank you for coming.

Sincerely,

Robert Arnemann

## Travel Bits & Pieces

*Peggy Smith, Washington, DC*

Amendment 87 to the Federal Travel Regulations was published in the Federal Register. This amendment made corrections to the M&IE rates and/or locations for Aspen, Colorado, and for the cities of New Orleans, Plaquemine, and St. Bernard, Louisiana. Please go to the per diem rates section in [www.policyworks.gov](http://www.policyworks.gov) for a copy of this amendment.

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## May Issuances

*Charlie Turner,  
Washington, DC*

- FGIS PN 00-7, "Smut Ball Analysis for Wheat Shipments to China" dated 5-5-00.
- Directive 9180.61, "Official Calibration for the Dickey-John GAC2100 Moisture Meter" dated 5-7-00.
- Change No. 96, Revision to Grain Inspection Handbook, Book III, Inspection Procedures, Chapter 2, Inspection of Shiplots, Unit Trains, and Lash Barges. dated 6-12-00 (becomes effective on 6/12/00).

**Your Employee  
Assistance  
Program is there  
for 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

# Password Guidelines

Carol Remmers, Washington, DC

User ID's and passwords provide unique identifiers that enable a system to identify authorized users. Passwords are the first line of defense against system intruders. GIPSA Directive 3140.2 states "All passwords are to be kept confidential and changed on a regular basis. Since passwords are used as keys to critical data and systems, they should be protected. Do not give out your password for others to use. Passwords must not be posted on the computer terminal, bulletin boards, partitions, walls, etc."

User ID's can be used in audit trails throughout the system to identify activity and match the action to the person performing it. Strong passwords can prevent someone from assuming your identity and accessing information. Strong passwords are eight or more characters with a combination of uppercase, lowercase, numeric and special characters. The following are guidelines for creating a secure password.

## Things NOT to do:

- 1) Don't choose words that can be found in any dictionary, whether English or any language (hackers use password dictionaries).
- 2) Don't reverse the spelling of a dictionary word.
- 3) Don't choose a name associated with you in any way (middle initials, spouse's, child's or pet's name, your favorite team's name, films, etc.)
- 4) Don't use words from the King James Bible.
- 5) Don't use biological terms.

## Things to do:

- 1) Make your password at least 8 characters long.
- 2) Use a mixture of letters, numbers, and characters. (Example: \*JaFe90+)
- 3) Use an acronym from an easy to remember phrase. (!A stitch in time saves nine!-can translate to !AsItS9!)

It is very important that every employee of GIPSA understand that protecting your password can keep our data safe. Here are some guidelines for protecting your password:

- 1) Don't write down your password.
- 2) Don't give anyone your password. Social Engineering is a common way for unauthorized person to gain access to information.
- 3) NO, NO, NO one should need to know your password. No one!

**When leaving for the day, TURN your computer off!!** Or, if leaving your office for any length of time, log off the network. Screensaver passwords are also a good way of protecting your data and access to the network. (Please use **ONLY** the screensavers that were provided with YOUR version of Windows!)

# Flag Day

June 14, 2000, marks the 223rd birthday of the U.S. Flag. In 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes pattern for the national flag. This followed almost one year after the Declaration of Independence and more than a decade before the U.S. Constitution was finalized. Flag Day was first celebrated in 1877, the centennial of the U.S. flag's existence. After that many citizens and organizations advocated the adoption of a national day of commemoration for the U.S. Flag. It was not until 1949, that President Harry Truman signed legislation making Flag Day a day of national observance.

*I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

Francis Bellamy, 1892

**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 3601  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601  
Phone (202) 720-5091  
FAX (202) 205-9237  
dstewart@gipsadc.usda.gov

**by June 26, 1999!**

# Professional Liability Insurance

**What is Professional Liability Insurance (PLI)?** Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) provides coverage for damages and legal expenses incurred by employees who are sued personally for actions taken which relate to their official duties. This insurance is not needed in cases where the Justice Department determines that the employee acted within the scope of the his/her duties and it is in the interest of the Government to provide representation.

**Who Can Apply for PLI?** Any Federal employee can apply for PLI.

**Who is Eligible for 50% Reimbursement of Premium Costs?** Public Law 104-208 provides for 50 percent reimbursement of the annual insurance premium cost for supervisors or management, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 7103(a)(10) and (11) below. Administrative fees do not qualify for reimbursement.

Supervisor - an individual employed by an agency having authority in the interest of the agency to hire, direct, assign, promote, reward, transfer, furlough, layoff, recall, suspend, discipline, or remove employees, to adjust their grievances, or to effectively recommend such action, if the exercise of the authority is not merely routine or clerical in nature but requires the consistent exercise of independent judgment.

Management Official - an individual employed by an agency in a position,

the duties and responsibilities of which require or authorize him/her to formulate, determine, or influence the policies of the agency.

Each program managers will determine who in their organization meets the management official definition by reviewing each individual's situation and based on the knowledge of the work performed.

**Is the 50% Reimbursement Taxable Income?** The Internal Revenue Service has advised that if proper documentation is provided by the employee, the partial reimbursement of the cost of the premium for professional liability insurance may be excluded from gross income under Section 132(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from the withholding and payment of employment taxes. Consult your individual tax advisor if you need more specific information.

**How Do I Apply for Reimbursement of My PLI Premium Costs?** If you pay through payroll deduction, you will need to submit documentation showing completion of payment for the annual premium. If your office has an Imprest Fund Cashier *or* Purchase Card holder (with convenience check authority, authorized to pay miscellaneous expenses), you may apply for reimbursement by submitting an SF-1164, "Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business," and attaching the insurance premium payment/state-

ment, or other acceptable proof of payment.

If the above two options are **not** available at your work site, GIPSA personnel should submit an SF-1164 and attach the insurance premium payment statement, or other acceptable proof of payment to:

USDA, APHIS, BASE, WFSB  
14th & Independence Ave., SW  
Stop 3439 Attn.: Herb Callands  
Washington, DC 20250-3439

## What Are Some Sources of Professional Liability Insurance?

USDA-Employee Services and Recreation Association (ESRA)  
Room SM-10 South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-9902  
Phone: (800) 626-ESRA  
DC area (202) 720-ESRA

Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture (OPEDA)  
PO Box 381  
Washington, DC 20044  
Phone: (202) 720-4898

Senior Executives Association (SEA)  
PO Box 44808  
Washington, DC 20026  
Phone: (202) 927-7000

Wright and Co.,  
1400 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005-2285  
Phone: (202) 289-0200

# Stuttgart Agency Meeting 2000

*Mary Hill, Stuttgart*

In April, the Stuttgart Field Office held its annual Agency Meeting in St. Louis, MO. Each year, representatives from Field Management Division, field office manager **Clyde Steves**, and agency representatives come together to discuss topics of mutual concern within our circuit.

This year, topics on the agenda included QA/QC charts, the Missouri law requiring grain companies to honor official grades, fumigation procedures for land carriers and river barges, the Food and Drug Administration, updates on latest changes from the Board of Appeals and Review, single-factor reinspections; official versus unofficial stowage examinations; commercial agreements, and an update on current GIPSA issues.

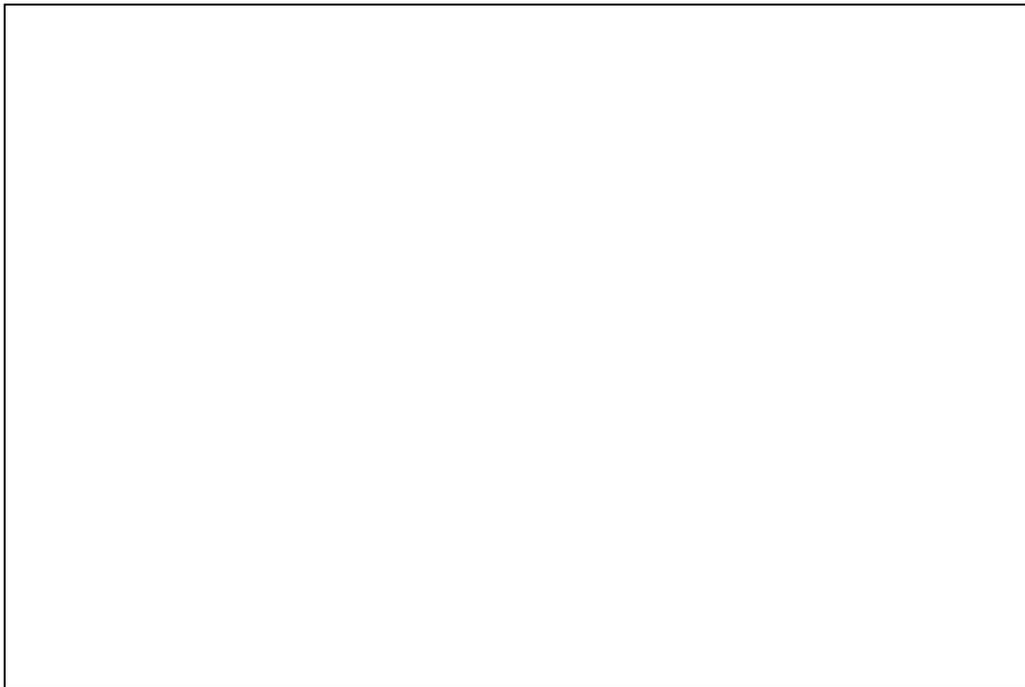
GIPSA administrator **Jim Baker** presented a number of awards. Outstanding Grader Awards were presented to those inspectors in the field office circuit with the lowest standard deviation, based on quality assurance results. Awards were presented for corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, and overall for all grains. The award winners were **Tim Adams**, Memphis Grain Inspection; **Robert Fronabarger**, Cairo Grain Inspection; **Susan Moore**, Memphis Grain Inspection; **Carmen McKinley II**, Missouri Department of Agriculture; and **Jimmy Nesselroad**, Memphis Grain Inspection, respectively.

On behalf of Cairo Grain Inspection, **Robert Fronabarger** took home the award for the agency that has

done the best and most consistent job of sending in STEP samples for the QA/QC program. Cairo also won the award for the agency that increased the number of inspections, and revenue, over last year's levels.

Ohio Valley Grain Inspection, represented by **Mark Elpers**, was recognized as the agency that has done the best job of supervising samplers and documenting that supervision.

Finally, the Best Business Practices Award, which recognizes the agency that has shown the most initiative in customer service, and in demonstrating innovative and creative thinking to promote good business practices that help GIPSA achieve its mission, was presented to **Jim Barton**, J.W. Barton Grain Inspection.



*Administrator Jim Baker (left) joined GIPSA and official agency participants at the Stuttgart Field Office's annual Agency Meeting.*

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
USDA, GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS  
AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION  
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1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW  
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