



# GIPSA News

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

*July 2001*

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## Update from DC

*Dave Shipman, Washington, DC*

There has been a lot of activity in Washington in recent weeks — from budget news to the transition of the new Administration to changes in GIPSA. Here's a brief recap of what's going on.

**FY 2002 Budget.** The House Appropriations Committee recently approved GIPSA's entire budget as submitted, with the exception of rejecting proposed legislation to move user fees from trust to appropriations funding, and adding \$210,000 for full funding of the proposed 4.6% pay raise next year, making a total budget authority of \$33,117,000. The House Committee approved the following increases: \$200,000 to support GIPSA's increased role in international trade services and trade activities, \$500,000 to develop an ISO-9000 certification program, \$100,000 to process comments on a biotechnology rule, and \$400,000 to develop and refine technology to detect the presence of biotechnology derived grain and genetic traits expressed in grain. Proposed legislation of \$3.8 million in new user fees to cover the costs of grain standardization activities was eliminated. The budget includes an

increase of \$976,000 for pay costs. The Senate's mark up of the budget legislation will take place after their July 4 recess.

**New Administration.** To date, Secretary Veneman has appointed the following subcabinet officials: Bill Hawks, Marketing and Regulatory Programs; J.B. Penn, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; Eric Bost, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; Mary Waters, Congressional Relations; and Lou Gallegos, Administration. There is still no word about a new GIPSA administrator.

**New GIPSA IT Staff.** It's been nearly 7 years since former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy combined FGIS and P&S to create GIPSA. Since that time, both program areas have greatly improved their programs and services, thanks to the dedication and professionalism of all GIPSA employees. I am especially pleased with the progress made in the information technology (IT) area. Every aspect of GIPSA has been touched positively, in one way or another, over the past 7 years by the effective application of information technology advances to our work. Credit for the

improvements we enjoy today — better networks, communications, and tools — goes to our IT professionals, both in headquarters and the field.

It goes without saying that GIPSA's future success depends on our continued ability to identify and harness emerging technological advances. Government legislation, such as the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), increased customer and stakeholder demands, and the never-ending need to improve service efficiency will drive our IT program. To meet this future demand for IT leadership and support within GIPSA, and to maximize our existing resources, we have decided to combine the FGIS and P&S IT staffs. The new, consolidated Information Technology Staff will be led by the Chief Information Officer and report to the Administrator. Final planning is underway and we anticipate officially enacting the new structure by the beginning of August.

That's the news from Washington. I'll keep you posted of further developments in upcoming newsletters.

# Names in the News

## PERSONNEL

Farewell to **Mary Miller**, auditor, Denver, who accepted a position with the Internal Revenue Service.

Welcome to **Julie Nelis**, who reported on July 2, 2001, as the secretary to the FGIS deputy administrator. **Julie**, an FGIS employee until 1988, returns to GISPA from the Department of Justice in Jacksonville, FL.

**Mark Wooden** assumed his new position as agricultural commodity grader in the Technical Services Division's (TSD) Physical Properties Laboratory on July 1.

## AWARDS

**Sossina Asfaw**, TSD, received an extra effort award for her creative solution to the identification of corn event E176 for the preparation of reference materials and challenge samples for the DNA-Based Laboratory Accreditation Program.

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**Louis Bussjaeger**, TSD, received an extra effort award for his creative solution to the identification of corn event E176 for the preparation of reference materials and challenge samples for the DNA-Based laboratory Accreditation Program.

**Larry Haller**, economist, Washington, DC, received an extra effort award for significant extra effort to complete a Congressionally-mandated report on the cattle and hog industries.

**George Jenkins**, TSD, received an extra effort award for successful implementation of technology that provides the Biotechnology Branch with the ability to test for all commercially available corn biotechnology events and to expedite the implementation of the DNA-Based laboratory Accreditation Program. Application of these technologies is critical to the development of reference materials and evaluation of labs providing DNA-Based testing to the industry.

**Sandra Lockridge**, TSD, received an extra effort award for successful development and implementation of a sample login system for the Biotechnology Laboratory.

**Roger Schneider**, economist, Washington, DC, received an extra effort award for significant extra effort on a Congressionally-mandated report on the cattle and hog industry and for developing plans for a captive supply study.

## CONDOLENCES

**Richard Gardiner**, shift supervisor, Portland, died June 11, 2001, after a 4-month battle with cancer. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to his memory may contribute to the David Douglas High School Athletics, the Richard Gardiner Education Foundation, 1500 SE 130th, Portland, Oregon 97233. Richard's wit and wisdom will be missed by all.

**Henry Joyce**, former chief of the Compliance Division's Regulatory Branch, passed away May 28, 2001. Anyone wishing to make contributions in his memory may do so to the Henry Louis Joyce Scholarship Fund of Zeta Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., P.O. Box 82342, Reston, Virginia 20190-8234.

**David Mangum**, former assistant to the deputy administrator for the Federal Grain Inspection, passed away on June 24, 2001. Since his retirement 15 years ago, **Mr. Mangum** had been active in his local county government and owned and operated several local antique businesses.

## June Issuances

*Charlie Turner, Washington, DC*

- ❑ FGIS Directive 9180.61, "Official Calibrations for The Dickeyjohn GAC2100 Moisture Meter," dated 6/15/01.

# Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meets

*Jill Thomas, Washington, D.C.*

*Summer Intern, FGIS Office of the Deputy Administrator*

GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee met May 8-9, 2001, in Kansas City, MO. The agenda included discussions on various programs.

**Steve Tanner**, director, Technical Service Division (TSD), talked about the agency's biotechnology program, and efforts to contain StarLink corn. GIPSA's Biotechnology Reference Laboratory, which certifies the performance of test kits for biotech grains, became fully operational in January 2001.

**Marianne Plaus**, assistant to the deputy administrator, discussed international biotechnology-related activities. USDA and other Federal agencies continue to work with U.S. trading partners to keep the world's markets open to U.S. grain and with Codex to ensure food safety standards. In 1996, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity began developing a Biosafety Protocol, a legal agreement to protect the environment from risks posed by the transport of living modified organisms. Although the United States did not sign the Protocol, it can influence its development as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, which focuses on the protocol's implementation. She provided the updates on biotech policies in a number of countries: Japan implemented new biotech labeling laws, and requires pre-market approval for biotech events and monitoring for unapproved events; Korea will implement a labeling plan for processed foods if the product contains three percent or more biotech

material; European Union biotech policies are unstable as the EU continues to push for more stringent labeling requirements and new traceability regulations; Taiwan plans to implement regulations on biotech registration and food labeling; and Mexico has been very supportive of biotechnology, although their Senate has passed a mandatory labeling law, which is opposed by U.S. and Mexican grain industries.

**Marianne** also updated the Committee on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking that asked for public comment on the USDA's role in facilitating the marketing of grains, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, and nuts in today's marketplace characterized by biotech and non-biotech crops as well as value-added crops. USDA received about 3,000 comments from a wide range of respondents. Food labeling was the most prevalent theme of the comments. Other comments recommended that USDA work with international organizations to encourage the use of science-based biotech evaluation procedures. Many commentors concurred that USDA should let the market handle "marketing issues, and, when necessary, as in the case of StarLink, USDA should step into help resolve "sticky situations." Most who commented on GIPSA's forthcoming laboratory accreditation program favored it.

**Dave Orr**, director, Field Management Division, spoke about Agency initiatives related to wheat dockage and Hard White wheat. GIPSA plans to publish an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking in July

2001 seeking input on the need for grade limits for dockage, export only standards, appropriate grade limits, and potential positive and negative impacts of the various options. In May 1999, GIPSA developed a new color line and classification policy for Hard White wheat.

**Dave** also discussed GIPSA's commodity program. Effective May 4, 2001, GIPSA implemented a 3.7 percent fee increase for all hourly rates and certain unit rates for rice and commodities to cover additional operational costs resulting from the mandated January 2001 Federal pay increase.

An extended summary of the meeting minutes can be found at GIPSA's website: <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/advcommittee/ac0501.htm>.

Following discussions of these and other topics, the Committee offered three resolutions: (1) The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee recommends against taking funds away from appropriated funds and changing them to user fees; (2) GIPSA should review and establish an overhead calculation for all applicable Washington, D.C. cost for the inspection and weighing account; and (3) The committee recommends that GIPSA/FGIS do all they can to accelerate the 5-year plan for potential implementation of the new moisture measurement technology.

The Committee elected **Timothy Paurus**, Cenex Harvest States, as the new Vice-Chairperson. **Mr. Paurus** will assume the role of Chairperson at the spring 2002 meeting.

# EAP Financial Service Program: *Helping You Achieve Financial Success*

*Mack Manis, Washington, DC*

We all strive to eliminate debt and obtain financial security. Sound information and financial planning are critical to achieving financial success. To help you reach your financial goals, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) recently announced the development of a new Financial Service Program.

This new EAP program offers you objective, targeted information on a wide range of issues such as retirement planning, education funding, estate planning, savings, and investment strategies.

The Financial Service Program is free and easy to access. Simply call your EAP toll-free telephone number (1-800-222-0364). Financial counselors will help you identify your needs and explore your options on a variety of topics including:

- ⇒ Buying or leasing your next car
- ⇒ Selecting which credit card to pay off first
- ⇒ Family budgeting
- ⇒ The basics of financial planning
- ⇒ Savings and investment strategies
- ⇒ Determining how much you will need to save to retire comfortably
- ⇒ How to identify a financial planner in your community

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can use the service?** This service is available to you, your household members, and dependents.

**Is there a charge for this service?** No. This is a benefit offered to

you by GIPSA at no charge. However, if you are referred to a resource outside of the Financial Service Program, there may be charges for which you will be responsible.

**When can I call for financial advice?** Financial representatives are available during regular business hours. However, you can call any time, day or night, leave a message, and your call will be returned the next business day.

**How often can I call?** You can call as many times as you need until your questions are answered or your problems are resolved.

**What kind of information will I receive?** The program offers practical financial information and financial planning tools. When available, relevant material can be sent to you

via fax, email, or U.S. mail. If your issue involves debt management, you will be referred to a consumer credit counseling service. *Please note, the Financial Service Program is unavailable to arrange for loans or direct payment of bills.*

**Will the representative recommend or endorse specific programs or financial products?** No. You will be given information that will help you evaluate your options and make sound financial and consumer decisions. The responsibility for making those decisions lies solely with you.

The EAP is available to assist you with financial concerns and much more. Call today at:

**1-800-222-0364**  
**1-888-262-7848 (TTY).**

**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



# Stuttgart Annual Agency Meeting

*Phillip Meachem, Stuttgart*

Our sixth Annual Agency Meeting was held on April 4-5, 2001, in Owensboro, KY. Again, this year's gathering with the agencies proved to be a big success. A number of speakers addressed a variety of issues:

**Jim Barton**, agency manager, J.W. Barton Grain Inspection, hosted this year's meeting and welcomed us to the city.

**Dave Shipman**, acting administrator, began with highlights on FGIS initiatives, and the agency's move forward into the e-commerce and e-business arenas.

**Tim Adams**, AAGIWA's president and manager of Memphis Grain Inspection, highlighted AAGIWA initiatives.

**Gary Zella**, assistant quality assurance specialist, and **I**, quality assurance specialist, Stuttgart, demonstrated how e-business was becoming a big part of our everyday workplace by using checktest forms, and e-mailing test results to the field office and receiving e-mail approvals within a few minutes.

**Larry Kitchen**, compliance coord-

inator, Missouri Department of Agriculture, spoke about land carrier and river barge fumigation policies, scope, procedures, and certification.

**Jim Barton** elaborated on semi-annual D/T sampling system examinations.

**Sandra Metheny**, industrial specialist, Stuttgart, gave an overview of GIPSA's Railroad Track Scale Testing Program's origin, mission, and operations.

**Eurvin Williams**, chairman, Board of Appeals and Review, gave highlights on the Technical Services Division and grading support, including an overview of their accomplishments, training services, and future direction.

**Keith Fronabarger**, computer specialist and grader at Cairo Grain Inspection, spoke about computer usage and FGIS' and agencies' needs.

**Mark Elpers**, Ohio Valley Grain Inspection, talked about supervision of samplers — how he uses the program and how it works for his agency.

**Bob Lijewski**, Policy and Procedures Branch, discussed the licensing

program. He reviewed all changes in testing procedures, and discussed general information and instructions for issuing licenses. **Bob** also discussed biotechnology and Starlink testing services.

In addition, several certificates were presented by **Clyde Steves** and **Dave Shipman** in an awards ceremony:

★ **Corn**: the most outstanding grader is **Jim Barton**, J.W. Barton Grain Inspection. Honorable mention: **Robert Fronabarger**, Cairo.

★ **Soybeans**: the most outstanding grader is **Arron Roberson**, Missouri Department of Agriculture. Honorable mention: **Linda Meny**, Ohio Valley Grain Inspection.

★ **Wheat**: the most outstanding grader is **Susan Moore**, Memphis Grain Inspection (Little Rock). Honorable mention: **Arron Roberson**, Missouri Department of Agriculture.

★ **All Grains**: **Arron Roberson**. Honorable mention: **Jim Barton**.



*Attendees at the sixth annual Stuttgart Agency Meeting included: (left to right) Gary Zella, Susan Moore, Larry Kitchen, Phil Tate, Bill Strickland, David Mundwiler, Clyde Steves, Keith Fronabarger, Linda Meny, Jason Barton, Gary Wheeler, Jim Barton, Mark Elpers, Jimmy Nesselroad, Tim Adams, Dave Shipman, Sandra Metheny, Eurvin Williams, Phil Meachem, and (front row) Bob Lijewski.*



## GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

*Norma Phelps, Washington, DC*



Here are the ideas received on the GIPSA Idea Hotline during June 2001. If you have questions about any ideas or the Hotline, please call me at 202-720-1017.

*Suggestor*

*Suggestion*

Nancy Morris, Atlanta

Make the TA LOC Relation Field Mandatory When You Enter a LOC

Fred Kelley, Baltimore

Provide Computer Disks for Issuances in Lieu of Hard Copies

Mitchell Matherne, New Orleans

Weight Computer at Export Elevators Need to Retain More Than One Ship in Memory

March's tee-shirt winner: **Nancy Morris!**

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.**

## Travel Bits & Pieces

*Peggy Smith, Washington, DC*

**Energy Surcharge.** Just a reminder that lodging facilities in many States are adding an energy surcharge to their daily lodging rates. The energy surcharge is fully reimbursable as a miscellaneous expense.

**Collection of Undisputed Delinquent Amounts Owed to Bank of America on the Individually Billed Travel Charge Card.** In case you haven't read Federal Travel Regulations Amendment 92, available at [www.policyworks.gov](http://www.policyworks.gov), check it out. Part 301.54 deals with the collection of undisputed delinquent amounts that are owed to the Government travel charge card contractor. USDA may collect any undisputed delinquent amounts that you owe to a Government travel charge card contractor from up to 15% of your disposable pay if you have been reimbursed under the applicable travel regulations and in accordance with a proper travel claim.

## GIPSA Approves Two Quantitative Fumonisin Tests

GIPSA has approved the RIDASCREEN® FAST Fumonisin test kit, manufactured by r-Biopharm Inc., and the Veratox Quantitative Fumonisin Test (kit), manufactured by Neogen Corporation, for official testing of fumonisins in the national grain inspection system.

Fumonisin are toxins produced by molds that commonly infect corn and rice.

GIPSA authorizes the use of the Veratox Quantitative Fumonisin Test kit to determine fumonisin in corn, corn meal, popcorn, rough rice, corn/soy blend, and wheat; and RIDASCREEN® FAST for fumonisin in corn, corn meal, sorghum, corn gluten meal, corn germ meal, and corn/soy blend.

Approval of these test kits will allow quantitative fumonisin test kits to be made available to the national inspection system.

For technical information, contact: Ron Bicsak, GIPSA Technical Services Divisions, 816-891-0431, or by e-mail at [rbicsak@gipsakc.usda.gov](mailto:rbicsak@gipsakc.usda.gov).

### 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

# Public Service Recognition Week

*Sam Basile, Peoria*

On May 11, 2001, for the sixth consecutive year, several Federal, State, County, and City agencies came together to kick off this year's Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) at the North Woods Mall "Awareness Fair" in Peoria, Illinois.

I represented GIPSA at this event, explaining our services that are available under the United States Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act. In addition, I discussed how the official system is a unique public-private



*Sam Basile, Peoria, representing GIPSA for the sixth consecutive year at Public Service Recognition Week in Peoria, IL.*

partnership overseen by GIPSA.

My exhibit at the event included miniature samples of edible beans, corn, soybeans, sorghum, wheat, and rice for participants to view. My booth also had pictures from the early 1900s depicting the history of grain inspection, the Kansas City Board of Trade, and the State of Illinois specified service point. I passed out pamphlets and brochures describing GIPSA's programs and responsibilities.

The Public Service Recognition Week included a Job Awareness Fair which allowed students to apply for challenging careers with various government entities, and the private sector.

Visitors at this year's event included Illinois farmers, students, live-stock producers, brokers, and retirees from the private sector. As in past years, the Public Service Recognition Week helped inform participants about what GIPSA and other Federal, State and local agencies do for the public.

# Classing 2001 Hard White Wheat

The Hard White Wheat currently being harvested is darker in color than the interpretive color line print developed for Hard White Wheat. The wheat exhibits the typical milling and baking traits and characteristics of Hard White Wheat except for color. The market is accepting the darker-colored Hard White Wheat varieties and is segregating it from Hard Red Winter Wheat. This is causing problems in the market.

After consultation with members of Congress, wheat producer and marketing associations in Kansas, and other national trade associations, we have decided to amend the official wheat classification policy to conform to current wheat marketing practice in order to help facilitate trade.

Effective June 30, 2001 all Hard White Wheat varieties will be considered Hard White regardless of color. Upon request, a statement will be included on the official certificate indicating that the sample is darker than the interpretive color line print.

Consider the invention of the zipper. The metal fastener originally was designed for sealing up large and unwieldy bales of grain for shipment around the world. The zipper proved to be a total bust for its original intention, but turned out to be perfectly wonderful for sealing up pants, jackets, and other necessities.

*From **Truth and Consequences** by James Daly, Business 2.0 magazine.*

# For Your Health

*Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC*

**Heed the Warnings of Stroke: Time is Critical.** Stroke is the third leading cause of death and the major cause of severe disability in the United States. A stroke occurs when a vessel that supplies blood to the brain bursts or becomes clogged, depriving the brain of oxygen. The brain tissue affected can die within minutes, causing death or serious disability.

“Where stroke is concerned, time is critical. There is a small window of opportunity during which we can minimize brain injury from stroke,” says James Grim, MD, neurology section chief at Inova Fairfax Hospital. “It is crucial for people to learn about stroke so they can reduce their risk and know when to seek emergency medical care.”

One warning sign of an impending major stroke are mini-strokes called “transient ischemic attacks” or TIAs. These occur when a blood clot briefly clogs an artery that supplies blood to the brain. TIAs produce the same symptoms as a full-blown stroke, but only last from 15 minutes to 24 hours.

“Because the symptoms go away and no permanent damage is caused, people don’t realize they need medical care,” says Martin Brown, MD, chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Inova Alexandria Hospital. “But TIAs are considered ‘warning strokes’ because people who have them can suffer a major stroke within days, weeks or months”

Others have what are called “silent strokes” that don’t produce clas-

sic stroke symptoms. A rupture or blockage in small blood vessels that affect regions of the brain and don’t produce noticeable symptoms causes these strokes. People who have silent strokes also are at greater risk for future strokes.

Because strokes often occur unexpectedly, it is important to reduce your risk for stroke. Experts recommend that you: stop smoking; control blood pressure; control diabetes; lose excess weight; exercise regularly; and eat a low-fat, low-salt diet.

If you experience any of these symptoms of a stroke, even for a brief period, immediately call 911: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; or sudden trouble walking.

When a stroke occurs, every minute counts. Clot-dissolving drugs can halt and in some cases reverse damage, but too many people seek help after it is too late.

**Safety Tips for the Do-it-Yourselfer.** It is smart to know as much about safety as you do about tools, carpentry, painting, and plumbing. If you want your home improvement to be successful and safe, take precautions.

**Use Equipment Properly.** Falls from ladders can cause serious injury. To reduce your risk, put the ladder on a stable, level surface, and have someone hold it while you use it.

Avoid overreaching or stepping on the top rung of a ladder. Keep tools and equipment in safe condition and check them regularly for defects.

**Wear safety gear.** Wear safety glasses when sawing, nailing, using power tools, or working with concrete. Add a mask and gloves when using chemicals or other harmful materials. Sturdy shoes or boots protect your feet from nails and sharp objects. Put on a hard hat if you could fall or if something could fall on you.

**Create a Safe Work Environment.** Make sure the area has adequate lighting. Keep walkways and stairways clear to prevent tripping. Avoid using paint and other flammable materials in poorly ventilated rooms. Fumes can make you sick or build up and cause explosions.

**Use Caution with Dangerous Materials.** Keep saws, paint thinner, and other dangerous products locked up so young children cannot get them. If your home was built before the 1970s, it may contain asbestos in the building materials or insulation. Breathing in asbestos fibers may cause lung cancer and other health problems. Call an asbestos professional before beginning any major repair project. If your home was built before the 1970s, ask your local health department how to test for lead. Renovations can kick up dust that contains lead, which can affect development and growth in children.

# 10 (Easy) Steps to Better Security

*Carol Remmers, Washington, DC*

- 1) Choose a good password and then protect diligently. Don't share your password with anyone. Change your password often. Learn more about what makes a good password .
- 2) Guard information resources as you would any valuable asset, such as money. GIPSA's information is an asset.
- 3) Check for computer viruses. Your system should do a virus check automatically. It is up to you to check files as you receive them on diskette, via e-mail attachments, or by other means. Each GIPSA user must take responsibility for protecting GIPSA data.
- 4) Control access to your computer equipment. Don't leave your terminal unattended while it is signed on. Use a password in conjunction with a screen saver (set to activate after only a few minutes) to help protect your terminal when you must leave unexpectedly.
- 5) Prevent access to data for which others have no valid need. Sharing information widely — when appropriate — is a key to GIPSA success. There is some information for which some people don't have a legitimate need, such as personnel, contractual, financial, etc.
- 6) Erase unneeded files. Simply deleting a file doesn't actually remove the information from a disk.
- 7) Ensure that you have backup copies of essential data and programs — and that those backups are stored in a safe location away from the primary copies.
- 8) Implement good physical security. Where possible, lock your computer, desk drawers, and office doors when you aren't present.
- 9) Prohibit unauthorized software on your system. Don't use pirated software. Be certain that all software comes from a trusted source to avoid computer viruses.
- 10) Report actual or suspected violations to your security representative.

# GIPSA Releases Congressional Report

GIPSA has released a report entitled "Assessment of the Cattle and Hog Industries, Calendar Year 2000." The report describes the general economic state of the cattle and hog industries, changing business practices in those industries, and activities that appear to raise concerns under the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (P&S Act).

The report responds to a requirement in the Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. No. 106-472), enacted on November 9, 2000, which amended the P&S Act.

The report is available for downloading or browsing from GIPSA's web site <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/pubs/packers/assessment2000.pdf>. Hard copies are available in limited quantities from **Leah Akbar**, 202-720-4998.

*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](mailto:dstewart@gipsadc.usda.gov)

**by July 25, 2001!**

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
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AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION  
STOP 3601  
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-3601

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