



# GIPSA News

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

July 2008

## Regulated Entities Listings Now on the Web

*Alan Christian, Washington, DC*

Each year, GIPSA receives nearly 100 requests for information about those who market livestock, meat, and poultry under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. To make this important information about “regulated entities” readily available to our stakeholders – and to save our regional office staff and our Freedom of Information Act Officer a whole lot of work – we recently posted the current listings of regulated entities on our public web site, [www.gipsa.usda.gov](http://www.gipsa.usda.gov).

Regulated entities include stockyard owners, market agencies, dealers, packers, swine contractors, and live poultry dealers. Under the P&S Act, dealers, market agencies and certain packers are required to maintain a bond. Bonded packers and live poultry dealers are subject to the statutory trust provisions under the P&S Act.

By going to our home page and clicking on Regulated Entities in the Hot Links box, our customers can get immediate access to current listings of:

- Registered and bonded market agencies selling livestock on commission;
- Registered and bonded market agencies buying on commission and dealers;
- Bonded packers; and
- Live poultry dealers.

The posted information includes the name, address, and telephone number of the regulated entities and the amount of their current bond coverage, if any. This is the first step in providing more information to the public about the industry we regulate through the GIPSA website.

In the future, we expect to post the tariff or rates that are charged for stockyard services; another document that is frequently requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Finally, once the Packers and Stockyards Automated System is fully functional, we will be posting the summary compliance data from our regulatory reviews to help producers, contract growers, and livestock sellers make sound decisions when doing business with regulated entities.

### In This Issue

Names in the News .....	2
Issuances .....	3
Regulatory Info .....	4
Cedar Rapids Flooding .....	4
GIPSA Distance Ed Course ..	5
Egg on Their Faces .....	6
Wild Rice Isn't Rice .....	7
Capturing Wisdom .....	7
Facilitating Performance .....	8
IT Tidbit .....	8
What's Your Plan .....	9
Advisory Committee .....	9
For Your Health .....	10
NGC Update .....	10

# Names in the News

## PERSONNEL

**Myron Hall**, League City, has been selected to be a supervisory agricultural commodity grader in the field office. During his FGIS career, **Myron** has also worked in the Mobile and New Orleans field offices.

**Jeana Harbison**, legal specialist, joined the Policy and Litigation Division (PLD) in June. **Jeana** earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science



*Jeana Harbison*

and Concentration in Business Administration from North Carolina Central University. After receiving

her BA, **Jeana** attended Ohio Northern University College of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctorate in 2007. While in school, **Jeana** interned and clerked with various organizations including the Durham County District Attorney's office, Ohio and West Virginia Public Defender's office and the Center for Death Penalty Litigation. Prior to joining PLD, **Jeana** clerked for the 23rd Judicial Circuit of West Virginia Public Defenders in Martinsburg, West Virginia. **Jeana** is currently an adjunct professor at Mountain State University and enrolled in the West Virginia University PhD program.

**Ricky Millerd** is the new rice specialist with the Board of Appeals and Review at the Technical Services Division. **Ricky** brings many years of experience working with the rice industry, and as a quality assurance specialist in the Stuttgart field office.

**Emily Staudacher**, intern/office automation clerk, joined the Program Support Unit of the Midwestern Regional Office in Des Moines, Iowa. She comes to PS&P with a strong agriculture background and interest. **Emily** is currently the Iowa Premier Pork Youth Ambassador that promotes pork throughout the State and will require her to travel to Washington, DC, and Florida. **Emily** will attend Iowa State University in the fall, majoring in agricultural business and hopes to attend law school after the completion of her undergraduate degree. **Emily** lives on a farm, and raises cattle, pigs, sheep, and horses.

**Candice Stewart**, summer intern, has joined the Civil Rights Staff for the summer. She is currently attending Prince George's Community College and is studying Business Management.

## RETIREMENTS

**Sandy Lockridge**, Physical Science Technician, retired from GIPSA at the end of June 2008 after a Federal career spanning 20 years. She began with the Commodity Testing Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, and moved to Kansas City when that lab relocated. For the past several years, Sandy conducted the sample registration process for the protein monitoring program. We thank **Sandy** for her many years of service to GIPSA and the American grain industry, and we wish her a healthy and satisfying retirement as she moves back east to be near her family.

**Janet Walton**, training officer, New Orleans, retired on June 2, 2008, with 33 years of service. **Janet** and her husband are settling into a retirement home in Kentwood, Louisiana, and have many projects planned ahead. We wish **Janet** all the best.

## AWARDS

**Carl Beckwith** and **Danny Williams**, New Orleans, received time-off awards for their collaborative efforts working as a supervisory team to provide superior services to our internal and external customers.

**Wendal Dillon**, New Orleans, received a spot award for his outstanding work performance contributing to the mission of the Agency.

**Tyhisa Luckey**, Washington, DC, received a spot award for her dedication and outstanding administrative support to the P&SP Deputy Administrator and Assistant Deputy Administrator.

**Robert Merritt**, Des Moines, received a spot award for extra effort in covering additional geographic territory in support of P&SP's Business Plan.

**Glenn Plumley**, Des Moines, received a spot award for extra effort in assisting resident agents in another geographic territory in support of P&SP's Business Plan.

**Creig Stephens**, Atlanta, received a spot award for his help in setting up the P&SP PSAS training.

*Continued, see Names  
on page 4.*

# Issuances

*Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.*

- USDA Departmental Manual 2300-001, "Agriculture Travel Regulations," dated May 1, 2008
- GIPSA Issuance Change No. 108 to the Grain Inspection Handbook, Book II, Chapter 9, Sorghum; and Book III, Chapter 1, Table 15, (page 1-46) dated June 1, 2008

The following Program Notices-Bulletins were deleted from the GIPSA Website, Directives and Notices and are no longer valid:

- FGIS PB 95-16 - Permissive Issuance of Certificates, 10-31-95
- FGIS PB 95-14 - Official Agency Certificate Approval, 9-20-95
- FGIS PN 96-10 - Subsample Checks and Online Odor Analysis, 12-23-96
- FGIS PN 97-24 - Certificating Submitted Sample Weights, 7-31-97
- FGIS PN 97-23 - Certification of Ergot in Sorghum, 7-7-97
- FGIS PN 97-08 - Qualifying Official Commercial Inspection Service Certificates, 3-25-97
- FGIS PN 98-20 - Licensing and Moisture Testing, 9-1-98
- FGIS PN 99-17 - Glucosinolate Screen Made Optional, 9-30-99
- FGIS PN 99-20 - Certification of TCK Smut For Shipments to India, 10-13-99
- FGIS PN 99-03 - Determining Other Damaged Kernels in Oats, 2-12-99
- FGIS PN 00-11 - Information Sharing Capabilities of The Automated CuSum Plan, 9-29-00
- FGIS PN 02-06 - Hard White Wheat Classification, 6-28-02
- FGIS PN 03-05 - Moisture Adjustment for Western Production Medium Grain Brown Rice, 9-1-03
- FGIS PN 03-02 - Alkali Test to Detect Hard White/Red Wheat Kernels, 6-1-03
- FGIS PN 04-17 - NMR Calibration, 9-13-04
- FGIS PN 04-14 - NIRT Monitoring Program, 6-2-04
- FGIS PN 04-13 - Moisture Meter Approval, 5-1-04
- FGIS PN 04-02 - Review Inspection Regulatory Change, 11-13-03
- FGIS PN 05-10 - National Wheat Sample Collection Plan for the Pesticide Residue Program, 9-26-05
- FGIS PN 05-09 - National Soybean Sample Collection Plan for the Pesticide Residue Program, 9-19-05
- FGIS PN 05-07 - Discontinuance of Specific Qualitative Mycotoxin Test Kits, 8-1-05
- FGIS PN 05-05 - Sample Collection Responsibilities For Verifying the Accuracy of Moisture Meter Calibrations, Crop Year 2005, 5-1-05
- FGIS PN 05-04 - Hard White Wheat Classification, 4-11-05
- FGIS PN 06-04 - Ethylene Dibromide Residue Testing for Grain, 5-1-06
- FGIS PN 07-04 - Optional Method for Detecting White/Red Wheat Kernels, 4-2-07
- FGIS PN 07-03 - Alternate Method for Determining Internal Mold in Sorghum, 3-27-07
- FGIS PN 07-02 - Pesticide Residue Letterhead Statement for Export Wheat Cargoes, 11-27-06
- FGIS PN 07-01 - National Corn Sample Collection Plan for the Pesticide Residue Program, 11-06-06

# Regulatory Info

*Tess Butler, Washington, DC*

## Federal Register Publications

- Designation for the Georgia, Montana, and Cedar Rapids (IA) Areas – Published June 2, 2008
- Opportunity for Designation in Alabama, Essex (IL), Springfield (IL), Savage (MN), and Washington Areas, and Request

---

## Cedar Rapids Field Office Flood of 2008

*Ron Metz, Cedar Rapids*

The Governor of Iowa is calling the flooding in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, area the worst natural disaster in the State's history. On Friday, June 13, 2008, the Cedar River crested at a record 20 feet above flood stage in downtown Cedar Rapids. The previous flood record was 8 feet above flood stage set in 1929.

More than 9 square miles, or 1,500 city blocks, in downtown Cedar Rapids flooded. Water from the Cedar River went beyond the 500-year flood plain. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authorities expect that 2,000 of the 4,000 affected homes will have to be demolished. Homes floated off foundations and basements collapsed. Over 800 commercial properties, including major grain processors such as Quaker Oats, Cargill, and ADM, are flooded.

Health officials are reporting flood waters contain industrial chemicals, raw sewage, and diesel fuel. Air quality is also unhealthful.

Travel in the area 2 weeks later continues to be difficult. Many bridges and roads are destroyed. For a time, all major highways including I-80 and I-380 were closed.

Luckily, the FGIS Cedar Rapids Field Office moved out of the 500-year flood plain in 2004. The previous office location was six blocks from the river and was flooded with eight feet of water. No current employees are directly affected by flood damage. Most have friends and relatives without homes and/or jobs.

*Names, from page 2.*

### AWARDS, continued

**Gerald Thibodeaux**, New Orleans, received a spot award for his constant professionalism and for providing quality work.

**Regina Ware**, Washington, DC, received a spot award for her help in setting up the P&SP PSAS training.

### 30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Tess Butler, Washington, D.C.  
Robert Moses, New Orleans, LA  
Albert Snelson, Stuttgart, AR  
Thomas Steele, Portland, OR

### 20-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Karen Guagliardo, Washington, D.C.  
James Whalen, Wichita, KS  
Marianne Plaus, Washington, D.C.

### 10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Ryan Heath, Portland, OR  
Jerold Montgomery, Destrehan, LA  
Nancy Speer, Aurora, CO  
Gayle Pounds Barnett, Des Moines, IA

# GIPSA Collaborating on Distance Education Course

GIPSA, the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS), and Kansas State University (KSU) are jointly developing a basic distance-education course on the U.S. grain inspection system. The project will capitalize on GIPSA's grain-inspection expertise and the existing GEAPS-Purdue distance-education program, which will soon move to Kansas State.

The course is being designed as an introduction to the U.S. grain inspection system, and will provide useful information to anyone planning to pursue grain grading work for grain companies or other grain grading entities. The target audience includes industry professionals in operations, merchandising, and a wide variety of other capacities. Tentatively called "Grain Inspection 101," the course will likely include segments on:

- Grain markets
- U.S. grain standards
- U.S. official and unofficial grain inspection systems
- GIPSA's duties
- Factors that define grain quality
- Sampling
- Grain inspection procedures, and
- A virtual tour of a GIPSA grain inspection laboratory and the technology that it uses.

GIPSA will provide much of the lecture material, and the GEAPS-KSU partnership will help shape it into a discrete, goal-oriented program. The partnership will also set up a dedicated course website, market the program, handle registration, and help

students while they're enrolled. GIPSA representatives will be on hand to answer student questions.

**John Sharpe**, Director of GIPSA's Technical Services Division, said GIPSA's primary purpose in the collaboration is to make information about the official grain inspection system as accessible to the industry as possible.

"GIPSA's mission is to facilitate the marketing of U.S. grain," **Sharpe** said. "Educating grain purchasers and receivers about the roles and services of the official inspection system promotes confidence in the quality of U.S. grain and reduces market disruptions resulting from differing inspection procedures used at destination. This new partnership will greatly expand the U.S. grain industry's and international customers' access to information about America's national grain inspection system."

Sharpe noted that the impetus for the collaboration came from GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee, a board comprised of representatives of all segments of the grain production and marketing chain. The committee specifically recommended that GIPSA join forces in a distance-education program.

"The collaboration with GIPSA is going to open up new opportunities for our members and many others in the grain industry," said GEAPS international president **Mark Daniels**. "It's going to allow us to package a lot of very relevant information and provide it in a new, useful, and inexpensive way."

**Mike Kiel** of The Andersons, chairman of GEAPS' distance education oversight committee, said GIPSA's participation gives the project "instant credibility."

"The expertise and authority that GIPSA brings to the table are unparalleled," he said. "We could not have a better partner for this project."

The GEAPS-Purdue distance-education program has offered five courses multiple times during the past 3 years, and has five new courses scheduled for 2009. The program's university affiliation will soon switch from Purdue to KSU, along with program leader **Dr. Dirk Maier**. **Maier**, who was a professor at Purdue, was recently named head of the KSU Grain Sciences and Industry Department.

GEAPS-KSU distance-education courses do not require travel. Lectures come on CDs that are mailed to students. A dedicated course website includes the course syllabus, quizzes, links to additional reading material and ways to interact with other students and faculty members. Students who successfully finish the courses receive one continuing education unit from KSU and a certificate of completion.

The new grain inspection course could be offered as soon as April 2009.

# Egg on Their Faces

*Idelisse Rodriguez and Danielle Carter, Washington, DC*

In a letter dated September 20, 1979, the State Deputy Director of Measurements Standards of Hawaii's Department of Agriculture declares:

*"We gather that, collectively, the hope is that FGIS will fall on its face and fail to accomplish its assigned mission!"*

The Director's statement was in reaction to the opposition of the Western Weights and Measures Association (Western), the National Conference of Weights and Measures (NCWM), and the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) against the existence of a grain weighing and hopper scale prototype quality program, specifically the one created by the then 3-year-old FGIS. The Director warned these organizations that they might be hit by an "egg on their faces" because existing processes covered in "Handbook 44" were not sufficient and such programs would have prevented or minimized the grain scandals of 1976. In 1985, FGIS adopted Handbook 44 in our regulations after the NCWM incorporated an automatic bulk weighing system code, an FGIS requirement before we would adopt the handbook. Handbook 44 describes specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for weighing and measuring devices; it is published in its entirety each year following the Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures

(NCWM).

Today, FGIS collaborates closely with NCWM and NBS to better provide inspection services, but some of our current employees still remember feeling unwelcome.

While this controversy over quality programs and handbooks took

*"...FGIS will fall on its face and fail to accomplish its assigned mission!"*

place, the newly created FGIS was seducing college graduates into the agency with the promise of a long-term career in the Federal government. One of these graduates was 22-year old Purdue University alumnus **Martin Begley**. **Marty** started working at the Portland Field Office

on February 9, 1976, shortly after FGIS was created. **Marty** and the other newly hired Federal employees dealt with cramped work environments at the office. **Marty** recalls with a smile, "we ran out of seats, there was no place to sit." In addition, the State employees did not always welcome the more inexperienced Federal inspectors at the elevators, forcing them to settle their differences on the basketball court in the Battle of

the Feds vs. the State. **Marty** offers no comment as to which team was better.

*Continued, see Egg on page 7.*



*Can you find Marty Begley?? This is the class photo of Instructor Training Course, July 16-20, 1979. The participants were: (standing, left to right) James McLaurin, Eugene Bass, Dan Friedly, Nancy Bascom, Robert Spellmeimer, Martin Begley, Willie McLaurin, Phil Donehower, Marvin Jones, Jerry Wadley, Bob Pope, Willie Larry, Albert Tripp, John Blake, Assad Bastawrous, Carlos Moura (kneeling), Greg Tomas, Harry Booker, John Pitchford, and Clinton Brinkley; (seated, left to right) instructors Jack Kramer, Paul "Hondo" Pendley, Tim Scullin, Donnell Keith, and John Downs.*

**Egg**, from page 6.

Not long after joining FGIS, **Marty** went through the most difficult time in his career when he lost a very close friend in the Galveston grain elevator explosion on December 27, 1977.

A traveler at heart, his career highlights were his international trips to the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Marty** preserved the letter from Hawaii's State Deputy Director in part because of its unintentional humor and as evidence of the struggles they faced in the good old days. Looking back at FGIS history, **Marty** reflects, "We seem to be going full circle. We were really tough and we were watching them all the time, everything they did, and now we are giving less and less supervision." He adds that, above all, "we accomplished our mission."

Thirty-two years later, **Marty** is gearing up for his retirement on August 1, 2008. He plans to eventually return to Oregon, where it all started. **Marty** recalls how starting in Portland, his third choice for an employment venue, changed his life. "I wouldn't have met my wife if I had gone to my first choice of Denver!"

We congratulate **Marty** on his retirement and thank him for all his hard work. We're going to miss you!

## Wild Rice is Not Really Rice

*Henry Greenwood, Washington, DC*

Despite its name, wild rice isn't really rice. It is the hulled and unmilled grain of an aquatic grass, and is more like barley than rice. Wild rice got its name the same way that American Indians, who aren't from India and chile peppers, which aren't related to true pepper, got their names. When the English and French explorers came to this country, they found that wild rice was prevalent in the Native Americans' diet. They related it to grains they had eaten in their own country. The French called it "crazy oats." The English called it "wild rice" because it grew in water like the Asian rice they ate back home. The name "wild rice" stuck. Other names include Canada rice, Indian rice, and water oats.

For official inspection purposes, wild rice does not meet the definition of Rough Rice, Brown Rice for Processing, or Milled Rice. While we can inspect wild rice, all statements in the remarks section of a certificate must clearly reference wild rice instead of rice, and show the grade designation "Not Standardized Rice" or "Not Standardized Rice: Does not meet the United States Standards for Rough Rice, Brown Rice for Processing, or Milled Rice."

---

## Capturing Wisdom: The OIA Files

*Jennifer Hill, USDA 1890 Scholar, Washington, DC*

Over the years, there have been some changes in GIPSA that you may or may not be aware of. As GIPSA gets older, more and more of the employees who started with the organization will be eligible to retire. While we say farewell and good luck to these very deserving people, we are also saying goodbye to the knowledge and skills that they have acquired while working with GIPSA. Luckily, we still have time and technology to archive information that will be valuable to others after seasoned employees are no longer readily available for questions and assistance. With great enthusiasm, GIPSA's Office of International Affairs is taking small steps towards developing a way to 'capture' and preserve the knowledge of Collateral Duty Officers that have been stationed in Southeast Asia. "Capturing Wisdom: OIA Files" will be an interactive PowerPoint which includes profiles and audio interviews of present and past Southeast Asia Collateral Duty Officers explaining their role and activities in the program. We will keep you updated as the project reaches completion. Until then, share useful information with someone who may need it later.

# Facilitating Performance Training

*Rosemary Mayne, Washington, DC*

GIPSA recently provided supervisory training that responded to the recommendations of our Organizational Assessment Survey (OAS) action planning team. The OAS team recommended that GIPSA train supervisors and managers in conducting meaningful, fair performance appraisals and to inform them of their responsibilities in the process.

The GIPSA Management Support Services Training Staff collaborated with the APHIS Training and Development Staff to design and deliver a 3-day workshop called "Facilitating Performance." The training was delivered by APHIS and GIPSA trainers in Covington, LA, June 10-12, 2008, to 30 supervisors and managers. The program was originally presented to headquarters and field supervisors in Riverdale, MD, in October 2007.

The training included modules on supervisory roles and responsibilities; communication tools; performance plans, including developing performance elements with measurable standards; monitoring performance; conducting reviews; and rewards and recognition.

The participants were overwhelmingly favorable to the training, and commented that they were able to learn a great deal through participation, feedback, and the classroom materials.



*NOLA and LC managers and supervisors attend training on facilitating performance*

---

## IT Tidbit

*Robin Rother, Kansas City*

GIPSA's Information Systems Security Program Manager (ISSPM) **Joe Garrity** has left GIPSA to take a position with the Library of Congress. I will be filling in as ISSPM until a permanent replacement is named. **Joe** left us with some big shoes to fill. Besides providing security awareness and training, we are preparing for the upcoming Office of Personnel Management-mandated Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC), which has to be on all workstations by July 31, 2008. The FDCC is a stricter set of policies for all Federal workstations than we have been used to for the past few years (and we thought they couldn't get any stricter!). FDCC affects all Federal government computers nationwide, not just workstations in USDA. The ISSPM also handles Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) requirements, the Program Review for Information Security Management Assistance (PRISMA) program, Cyber Security Assessment and Management (CSAM), Certification and Accreditation (C&A), security clearances, waivers, inter-agency agreements, and more.

**Joe**, we know you will be great in your new security training position. Best wishes and continued success.

**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**

## What's Your Plan?

*Rosemary Mayne, Washington, DC*

The Individual Development Plan (IDP) process is your vehicle for reflecting on your job competencies and developing specific learning activities to build your knowledge and skills. By identifying and planning to address areas that you and your supervisor identify as needs for your current and future success, you are on the path to meeting your career goals. Research shows that people with a written plan are more successful than those without one.

So get out the IDP form and draft your plan now. Consider a variety of learning options -- details, cross-training, special projects, community volunteer activities, reading, meetings and conferences, and of course, classroom training. When selecting training courses, be mindful of the recent new USDA policy regarding online training.

Effective June 2008, USDA requires that agencies first review the online training in AgLearn to verify that the course is not already available prior to buying equivalent classroom training or other online instruction. Additionally, all information technology (IT) training must be taken using previously purchased AgLearn online courses, including end-user desktop training. The objective is to greatly reduce expense and increase knowledge through the use of online training.



So, check out the more than 3,000 courses available to you 24/7 with an Internet connection. If you need help in identifying specific courses, check with your Collateral Duty Training Officer or call the GIPSA training office at (202) 720-0094. Then list the learning activities you plan on the IDP form under the competencies you are developing during FY 2009.

Continue to learn every day of every year!

### Employee Assistance Program

Call for confidential help.

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

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

## New Advisory Committee Members and Alternates

FGIS has appointed four members and three alternate members to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The appointees will serve 3-year terms.

The new members are: Thomas Bressner, general manager, Assumption Cooperative Grain Company, Assumption, IL.; Bennie Lackey, Jr., management director of commodity operations, Riceland Foods, Inc., Stuttgart, AR.; Marvin Paulsen, professor emeritus, University of Illinois; Urbana, IL; and Jon Stoner, president, Stoner and Sons, Inc., Havre, MT.

The new alternate members are: Randall Deike, grain inspection program manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Olympia, WA.; Cassie Eigenmann, marketing product manager/analytical laboratory, Auburn, IL; and Paul Lautenschlager, general manager, Beach Coop. Grain Company, Beach, ND.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members and 15 alternate members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise USDA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

# For Your Health

*Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC*

**Summer Safety Tips.** Schools are out, pools are open, and people across the country are looking for fun ways to cool down as summer temperatures heat up. As you head to the beach, to the pool, or to the mountains, the American Red Cross encourages you and your family to keep safety in mind.

**Water Safety.** The Red Cross offers swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability. To enroll in a swim course, contact your local Red Cross chapter.

- Swim in supervised areas only.
- Obey all rules and posted signs.
- Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

**Boating Safety.** Whether you are the captain of a schooner or a passenger on a ski boat, following safety guidelines ensures your safety and that of other seafarers.

- Be weather wise. Sudden wind shift, lightning flashes and choppy water can mean a storm is brewing. Take a portable radio to check weather reports.
- Take extra gear that you may need such as a flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map of where you are, flares, sunscreen, a first-aid kit, and extra sunglasses. Put those that need to be protected in a water tight pouch or container that floats.
- Tell someone where you are going, who is with you, and how long you will be away.
- Check your boat equipment, boat balance, engine, and fuel supply before leaving.

**Sun Safety.** Summer means fun in the sun. But, be safe. Don't let a heat-related illness ruin your day. Always drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks when working or playing in the hot weather.

**Hiking and Camping Safety.** Many families will head to national parks and forests this summer to enjoy the great outdoors. But, if you are not prepared to rough it in the woods, hiking or camping can be a rough experience. The best way to help guarantee a good time for all is to plan ahead carefully and follow commonsense safety precautions.

*Courtesy of the American Red Cross.*

---

## National Grain Center Construction Update

*Construction continues on the GIPSA National Grain Center in Kansas City, Mo. The contractors are working the driveways and parking areas. Current Technical Center residents are challenged to finding parking and receive deliveries.*



**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 3614  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3614  
Phone (202) 720-5091  
FAX (202) 690-2333  
dana.b.stewart@usda.gov

**by July 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](mailto:dana.b.stewart@usda.gov).

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

---