



# GIPSA News

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

*July 2009*

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## John Giler Retires

*Randall Jones, Washington, DC*



*John Giler*

After 31 years of serving U.S. agriculture, **John Giler**, Director, Field Management Division, has decided to open a new chapter in his life.

**John** has been with FGIS and the grain inspection business for over three decades and has gained the recognition and respect of those of us within FGIS, USDA, and our stakeholders within the industry. **John's** hard work and dedication leave a legacy that will be hard to match.

**John** is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in agriculture. On April 23, 1978, he joined FGIS as an agricultural commodity grader in the Philadelphia field office, which is now closed. In September 1978, **John** moved to the Mobile, Alabama, field office as an agricultural commodity grader and stayed in Mobile until September 1984, when he moved to Savannah, Georgia, as the officer-in-charge, where he stayed until December 8, 1985. **John** spent 7 years working in the field as an agricultural commodity grader learning the trade, probing cars, and grading grain. The experience

gained at these various field offices provided **John** with firsthand knowledge of the challenges encountered by our field office staff and managers, and the foundation upon which he built his career.

On December 9, 1985, he moved to Washington, DC, as an agricultural marketing specialist with the Standards and Procedures Branch, Inspection Division (which is now the Policies and Procedures Branch, Field Management Division). He became chief of the branch on November 29, 1992, where he served until May 16, 2004, when he was selected as deputy director of the Field Management Division. On September 30, 2007, **John** joined the ranks of the Senior Executive Service when he was selected as director of the Field Management Division.

Over the years, **John** has been very influential in FGIS and has many accomplishments, including: working with the Technical Services Division and the California rice industry to phase-in use of the Dickey-john moisture instruments into the rice program in California; coordinating with APHIS-PPQ officials to develop the agreement to provide phytosanitary inspection services to applicants on grain exported from the United States and on U.S. grain shipped from Canadian ports; providing critical leadership in the 2-year study exploring the use of private contractors for providing export inspection and weighing services; was instrumental in the development and classification of an apprentice agricultural commodity grader, GS-7, position description that has allowed FGIS team members to advance from agricultural commodity technicians to agricultural commodity graders; and providing the leadership to develop and implement a career ladder position for agricultural commodity technicians which are critical to the success of the export field offices.

We will miss **John** and wish him much success and happiness in the future.

# Names in the News

## PERSONNEL

**Frank Bowen**, northern California resident agent, will become the new senior marketing specialist in the Western Regional Office (WRO) on July 5. **Frank** brings to the position a great depth of experience.

**Christina Der** has joined WRO as a financial assistant this summer through the Student Temporary Employment Program. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and is enrolled at Colorado State University in a Master's program, where she is pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine.

**Justin Ham**, WRO marketing specialist, has been selected as the resident agent in eastern Oklahoma. Justin joined WRO in June 2008, using the depth of his livestock industry experience in the feedlot industry to

hit the ground running with P&SP.

**Charles (Chip) Isaccson**, legal specialist intern, has joined the Midwestern Regional Office (MRO) for the summer. Chip is a third-year law student at Drake University. He worked as an intern for Rural Development last summer and continues to work weekends for the Buy Fresh Buy Local initiative.

**Juan Ramon Luevano** is the newest member of the Board of Appeals and Review. **Ramon's** experience with FGIS, both in the field and more recently in the Grading Services Laboratory, and in the private sector, make him an excellent addition to the BAR.

**William McCune** is the new resident auditor in Kansas under the WRO.

**Russell Simon** joined the MRO on May 26, 2009, as a summer resident agent intern based in Indianapolis, IN. **Russell** is a junior accounting major at South Carolina State University and is a participant in USDA's 1890 Scholar Program. He worked as an intern in the Eastern Regional Office (ERO) last summer.

investigation file compilation and review, and contributed to reduction in paper usage.

**Earl Bradford**, New Orleans, received a time-off award for providing exemplary aid and guidance quickly to his fellow FGIS employees in a time of urgent need.

**Rufus Campbell, Garey Holmes, Horace Robinson, Clinton Brinkley, and John McCann**, New Orleans, received time-off awards for providing high quality services to our customers during at time of personnel shortage.

**Wanny Carter, Martin Davis, Kaleena Arnold, and Stephen Mattison**, New Orleans, received time-off awards for providing exemplary services to our field office customers.

**Constance Grows**, New Orleans, received a time-off award for providing high quality services to the New Orleans field office's customers and employees while acting as a shift supervisor.

**Justin Ham**, WRO, received an extra effort award for significant contribution in completing six formal case files in the first 7 months of fiscal year 2009.

**Milt Hansen**, WRO, received an award for his outstanding performance and sustained extra effort in conducting his official duties in fiscal year 2009.

*Continued, see Names on page 3.*

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## AWARDS

**Rene Acosta**, Portland, received a spot award for his enthusiasm, effort, and productivity in archiving several years' records, which significantly contributed to the efficiency of the field office's clerical section.

**Matthew Bass**, MRO, received a spot award for his development of electronic investigation case file format, which streamlined time spent on

## In Appreciation to the Grand Forks Field Office

*To date in fiscal year 2009, the Grand Forks Field Office has donated 24,036 pounds of edible peas, beans, and lentils to the Great Plains Food Bank.*

June 15, 2009

Dear Tom Wrenn,

Thank you for your recent food donations to the Great Plains Food Bank. They have truly been a blessing for those we serve.

Across the country, the number of people showing up hungry at food pantries and soup kitchens has surged and we've seen similar things happening throughout our statewide network of charitable feeding programs here in North Dakota.

A number of our food shelves across the state have experienced an increased usage and if the job market continues to contract, as expected, the need will only continue to grow in 2009. This is very concerning; individuals across our state were already struggling to feed their families and the flood has only intensified the situation. Due to the recent flooding more people have lost wages and incurred extra, unforeseen costs - devastating an already tightly-stretched budget.

That is why your donations, the food you provide, are so very much appreciated now - possibly more than ever. You have played an important role in ensuring that food shelves throughout the state have enough supplies and we thank you for reaching out and lending a helping hand in Fargo-Moorhead and the almost eighty other North Dakota communities we serve. Your support provides real help. Thank you for being a partner in our fight against hunger.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Ask*

Food Resource and Member Relations Manager  
Great Plains Food Bank-LSSND

**Names, from page 2.**

**Khristan Kaufman**, MRO, received a spot award for her development of electronic investigation case file format, which streamlined time spent on investigation file compilation and review, and contributed to reduction in paper usage.

**Jacqueline LaCour** and **Rufus Dundy**, New Orleans, received time-off awards for providing high quality services to our external customers in the New Orleans field office.

**Lewis Newman**, **Anne Bullard**, and **Robert Evans**, New Orleans, received time-off awards for continually providing excellent service to our customers.

**Gilbert Sanchez**, ITS, received a time-off award for his outstanding support to the *FGISonline* applications.

**David Will**, ITS, received an extra effort award for his technical skills as GIPSA's Operations Branch Chief and knowledge of Microsoft Desktop and Help Desk issues, which benefitted the Agency.

### Employee Assistance Program

Call for confidential help.

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

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

## Issuances

*Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.*

- FGIS Directive 9180.38, “Falling Number Determination for Wheat,” dated May 26, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.64, “Inspection of Popcorn,” dated June 1, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.82, “Inspection of Specialty Type Corn,” dated June 1, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.72, “Inspection of Millet Seed,” dated June 12, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.42, “Inspection of Rapeseed,” dated June 15, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.53, “Inspection of Safflower Seed,” dated June 15, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.51, “Inspection of Confectionary Sunflower Seeds,” dated June 19, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.65, “Inspection of Hulless Barley,” dated June 22, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.52, “Inspection of Mustard Seed,” dated June 22, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.60, “Inspection of Khorasan,” dated June 22, 2009
- FGIS Directive 9180.63, “Inspection of Hulless Oats,” dated June 22, 2009

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## New Advisory Committee Members and Alternates

Secretary **Tom Vilsack** appointed six members and four alternates to serve 3-year terms on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

The new members are: **Tammy Basel**, vice president, Women Involved in Farm Economics, Union Center, SD; **Theresa Cogswell**, consultant/president, BakerCogs, Inc., Olathe, KS; **Jerry Cope**, commodity manager, South Dakota Wheat Growers; Aberdeen, SD; **Thomas Dahl**, vice president, Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company, Sioux City, IA; **Warren Duffy**, vice president, ADM Grain, Ama, LA; and **Mark Hodges**, executive director, Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma City, OK.

The new alternate members are: **Paul Coppin**, general manager, Reynolds United Co-op, Reynolds, ND; **Godfrey Friedt**, director of elevator operations, Omaha, NE; **Brian King**, manager, Ritter Grain Service, Marked Tree, AR; and **Gene McEntee**, senior management, Colusa Elevator, Co., Nauvoo, IL

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.

## Regulatory Info

*Tess Butler, Washington, DC*

### Federal Register Publications

- Opportunity for Designation in the California; Frankfort, IN; Indianapolis, IN; and Virginia Areas and Request for Comments on the Official Agencies Serving These Areas – Published June 1, 2009
- Designation for Topeka, KS; Cedar Rapids, IA; Minot, ND; and Cincinnati, OH – Published June 1, 2009
- United States Standards for Whole Dry Peas and Split Peas – Published June 22, 2009
- Designation in the Northeast Texas Region – Published June 23, 2009
- United States Standards for Rough Rice, Brown Rice for Processing, and Milled Rice – Published June 24, 2009
- Advisory Committee Meeting – Published June 24, 2009

# FGIS Matters... !

*Randall Jones, Washington, DC*

June has been an extremely busy month that included two very critical meetings. First however, we began the month on June 2, with the annual Field Management Division (FMD) hot dog lunch in Washington, DC. We enjoyed an excellent lunch that was filled with much camaraderie. It is significant to note that 2 of our newer FMD team members, **Rob Dorman** and **Andy Greenfield**, played a major role by taking on the responsibility of grilling the hotdogs. I understand that **Bob Lijewski**, FMD, has for a number of years handled this chore. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend are indebted to FMD for a wonderful lunch and opportunity for some team building. Thanks to all in FMD and to all FGIS team members who provided the delicious food that made this happen!

On June 9, **John Giler**, FMD Director, **John Good**, Management Support Staff, and I met with Union Officials **Ron Hill**, National Council President, and area presidents **Niles Reed**, Local 3157, **Kim Harper**, Local 3781, and **Emad Ibrahim**, Local 3769. We discussed a number of issues of critical importance to all FGIS team members. They included a proposed ACG Productivity Award; upgrading the ACG, GS-9; participating in the Organizational Assessment Survey; changes in the ACT GS-5 duties; mandatory training and letters of caution for those who fail to complete the training; overtime coding and WebTA; performance appraisal Memorandum of Understanding and revisions to Directive 9000.1; the pi-

lot project that studied the impact of using contractors to perform inspections for exports; field office staffing plans; the Agency's future direction; and contract law, grievances, and research. If you would like more details on any of these topics, please feel free to contact me, your supervisor, or one of the Union officials.

On June 24 and 25, we met with the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee in St. Louis, MO. Administrator **Dudley Butler** opened the meeting and provided brief remarks. Then, I made a presentation regarding GIPSA's Strategic Plan and program initiatives which included FGIS' Core Business Practices which are: provide the market with terms, standards and methods; protect the integrity of the U.S. grain and related markets; provide official grain inspection and weighing services; and optimize operational efficiency.

**Eric Jabs**, acting chief, Market and Program Analysis Staff, followed with an overview of the revised sorghum standards that went into effect in 2008.

Sorghum odor continues to be a key topic. **John Sharpe**, director, Technical Services Division, provided a lengthy presentation regarding the work that FGIS has done and continues to do on this issue. The Committee showed a great amount of interest in this issue. An extended discussion followed **John's** presentation. It is clear that addressing the application of the sorghum odor line is a primary issue facing FGIS in the coming year. We are committed to working with **Dr. Edgar Chambers**, sensory ex-

pert, Kansas State University, to explore the possibility of creating reference materials that can be used to define the line for sorghum musty odor. Additionally, we will work with **Dr. Chambers** to develop a training plan that will utilize the reference materials and train all FGIS staff and official agency staff that make sorghum odor determinations.

**Bob Lijewski**, Field Management Division, made a presentation regarding upcoming potential changes to the container regulations. In the very near future, FGIS will propose changes to the regulations to address issues concerning uniformity of grade within bookings, weighing of grain in multiple units, average quality on shiplots of grain, and certification procedures of container lots.

**John Pitchford**, director, Office of International Affairs, gave a presentation on international trade and outreach issues that included discussions related to a Chinese soybean project, long-term assignments to Asia, a Mexican update, and a StarLink corn update. As you probably know, StarLink was first detected in the U.S. food supply in 2000. We are pleased to report that on April 14, 2009, Japan's feed ministry issued a letter ending testing requirements for U.S. feed corn exports.

**Tom O'Connor**, director, Compliance Division, gave an overview of the FGIS Contract Review Program.

*Continued, see FGIS Matters, on page 6.*

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee passed the following resolutions:

1. The Committee recommends to GIPSA, to ensure a smooth transition when replacing FGIS personnel, that GIPSA look within current staffing with the experience to continue the facilitation of new programs being implemented.
2. The Committee applauds GIPSA on being a leader of governmental agencies by developing a Quality Management Program, conducting strategic planning, and developing *FGISonline*. Furthermore, we encourage GIPSA to continue setting positive examples and continue to be a leader of governmental agencies and recommends continuing work to develop an updated strategic plan, which focuses on current and future needs of the Agency, industry, and producers.
3. The Committee recommends that GIPSA report the future 520 Program accounting information to the Committee in a manner that reflects revenue and direct costs by field office location.
4. The Committee recommends that GIPSA reconvene the Sorghum Odor Task Force. The Task Force would work with Dr. Chambers to establish a definitive odor line, that through proper training, would be consistently interpreted and applied system wide.
5. The Committee recommends that the Chairperson work with GIPSA and FGIS to write a meeting summary containing pertinent information from the meetings in the 2 weeks following the meeting. This meeting summary shall be given to the Committee members, trade associations (e.g., GEAPS, NAEGA, etc.), trade publications (e.g., Grain Journal) and producer publications (e.g., Successful Farming) for publication/distribution.

We can all be very proud that Resolution 2 recognizes the tremendous customer service provided by FGIS on a daily basis. To be recognized and commended by our industry stakeholders is certainly encouraging and is a testament to the excellent work that you do.

Until next month, be safe and remember that we define ourselves daily by the service that we provide.

## Great Green Ideas



Thanks to all for sending suggestions and taking steps to make GIPSA greener and more energy efficient.

**Cara McCarthy**, Washington, DC, suggested that GIPSA printers be set to automatically print double sided. "The user can always go in and change it to single sided," Cara noted, "but it would help if double sided was the default. This would save paper, cutting down on the energy used to manufacture and transport paper."

In response to **Cara's** suggestion, the IT Help Desk opened a ticket to make any supported printers double sided.

Please continue to send in your green ideas to the GIPSA Idea Hotline at telephone 800-455-3447 or 202-720-1013; fax to 202-720-1015; or via email to [gipsa-ideas@usda.gov](mailto:gipsa-ideas@usda.gov).

**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

# Ryan and Mark Graduate from ELP

*Rosemary Mayne, Washington, DC*

On June 19, 2009, **Ryan Montgomery**, Western Regional Office, and **Mark Wooden**, Compliance Division, graduated from the Graduate School's Executive Leadership Program (ELP) in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The ELP provides training and developmental experiences for high-potential GS 11-13 individuals from across the Government. The purpose of this program is to develop more effective leaders through a series of learning experiences and to instill the realization that learning should be a continual process.

During the past 9 months, **Ryan** and **Mark** wrote many papers, attended residential training sessions, and completed interviews and detail assignments. At the same time, they were working with their ELP teams to strengthen their leadership and interpersonal skills and to explore a current issue facing Federal leaders and develop a course of action. This was all concurrent with completing their job functions. It was a busy time for **Ryan** and **Mark**.

**Ryan** did a 60-day detail with the Environmental Protection Agency. He worked with senior attorneys in the EPA's Region 8 Legal Enforcement Program to litigate cases for ensuring compliance with environmental laws and regulations; managed technical personnel involved in the enforcement cases and sat in on Management and Strategic Planning Meetings.

In his program impact paper, **Mark** summed up his experiences: "I have learned and experienced so much in the last few months. I have learned about management of people and how they perceive tasks and work. I have learned about myself and how to better interact with others. I have learned how projects can be organized and completed as a team. I have experienced teamwork and how other agencies organize and complete various tasks. I can use this knowledge in executing tasks for my agency. I learned the importance of time management and organization."

Congratulations to **Ryan** and **Mark** on successfully completing the Executive Leadership Program!



*Executive Leadership Program graduates Ryan Montgomery and Mark Wooden.*

# GIPSA's 1890 Scholar Heads to Fort Valley State U.

*Dawn Cowan, Washington, DC*

**Candice Harvey**, GIPSA's 1890 National Scholar, is graduating from high school this year. She received scholarship offers from many universities, but once she was selected as a recipient of the USDA 1890 National Scholar Program at Fort Valley State University, this 18-year-old knew where she was headed this fall.

**Candice**, the Pike County High School 2009 valedictorian, received a certificate for academic accomplishment on May 22 from **Neal Leonard**, the USDA/1980 Scholars program agricultural liaison at FVSU. She received 26 of her high schools' 52 total Senior Class Day awards.

GIPSA will pay for **Candice**'s tuition fees, books, supplies, room and board, and summer internships. She also will receive a laptop computer, and upon graduating, a USDA job.

**Candice** plans to major in agriculture economics and minor in accounting.



*Senior Class Day Awards Ceremony. (left to right) Peter Jackson, GIPSA; Candice Harvey, USDA 1890 National Scholar; and Neal Leonard, liaison for USDA 1890 scholars.*

# IT Tidbit

*Brian Hughes, Washington, DC*



While it sometimes seems that increased computer security makes our jobs more difficult, it is a necessary evil as threats to the .gov space increase. Normally, this article is filled with do's and don'ts to help improve security, but today I'd like to take a little time to explain why security measures are important. Hopefully, a little explanation will help take a little bit of the sting out of the security mandates we face daily.

Something that might possibly come to mind is, "Wait a minute, we're the Department of Agriculture. What do we have that anybody would try to steal or alter?" The answer comes directly from our mission statement:

"We provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management."

In other words, what we do affects not only our nation's food supply, but that of other nations as well. Can anyone come up with a better reason to keep our information safe?

Another reason we need to keep our network as secure as possible is that we don't want it to be used as a conduit to attack other government networks. A successful compromise of one of our machines could potentially give a would-be attacker a foothold to use in infiltrating other USDA or Federal agencies.

You might think that security personnel are paranoid (which of course is actually true), but there are valid reasons to be concerned about the security of government networks. Just a few examples include:

- 🔒 "Marine One details leaked from P2P net" -- see <http://government.zdnet.com/?p=4387>
- 🔒 "Attacks on U.S. government computer networks are on the rise" -- see <http://www.communities.hp.com/securitysoftware/blogs/spilabs/archive/2009/02/18/attacks-on-u-s-government-computer-networks-are-on-the-rise.aspx>
- 🔒 "Information Warfare: Congress Hacked Again" -- see <http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htiw/articles/20081228.aspx?comments=Y>
- 🔒 "Obama, McCain campaigns' - computers hacked for policy data" -- see <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/11/06/campaign.computers.hacked/>

How do we defend against these attacks? A multi-layer approach protects the network against attacks. This approach includes firewalls at the perimeter, spam filters as email enters the network, virus protection at the workstation, workstation patching, workstation firewalls, and enhanced security settings on the workstations. Is this a perfect approach that will always keep the network safe? No. There isn't a perfect approach.

While defenders of a network have to find and mitigate every vulnerability, an attacker need only find one to be successful. This, of course, puts the defense at a huge disadvantage.

The last and most critical layer in network defense may also be the most effective piece with the most intelligence built in. It's the layer that connects the keyboard to the chair. You are the most crucial part of security. Care and vigilance on all of our parts greatly enhances our chances to maintain a secure network.

There is a balance between security and actually doing business, and I realize that sometime it feels like the scales have been tipped toward the security side. Hopefully, I've explained why there are so many security mandates we're required to implement. The next time your computer slows down a little while it's downloading updates or new antivirus signatures, please remember why it's so important and view it as an automated reminder that it's time to grab a cup of coffee.

# Going Green in the People's Garden

*Cara McCarthy, Washington, DC*

Green is USDA's color! Why, you ask? Because Secretary Vilsack wants to show people how to grow fruits and vegetables in a way that is healthy for the environment. Under his People's Garden initiative, he has a goal of creating and maintaining gardens at USDA offices and facilities worldwide. I am GIPSA's People's Garden representative.

The Secretary has established a People's Garden at the USDA building in Washington, DC. It is an organic garden that is growing veggies in the ground, containers, and raised beds.

To help realize the Secretary's vision of having many People's Gardens, agencies are being encouraged to plant gardens around their buildings, help out at school or other community gardens, or even bring in vegetables to share. This is where GIPSA comes in.

How can we help USDA go green? Can you plant a rooftop garden at your office? Plant a potted tomato plant? Support a community garden? In headquarters, we are considering container gardening on an outdoor patio space, putting window boxes in offices, and sponsoring a GIPSA plot in a local community garden. The Midwestern Regional Office (MRO) has started a garden share initiative where folks in the MRO who have extra fruits and vegetables bring them in to the office to share. In addition, MRO has started a People's Garden in a window, where they are growing fruit trees in containers.

Please consider starting a People's Garden or similar green initiative in your office. The People's Garden website at [www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden](http://www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden) has resources and ideas you can use. You can even follow the People's Garden on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/peoplesgarden>.

Please let us know about your gardening ideas and initiatives. Send me your ideas, accomplishments, and photos! If you need help in getting started, call me at 202-720-4367 or email [Cara.M.McCarthy@usda.gov](mailto:Cara.M.McCarthy@usda.gov).



*William Arce and Gary May plant fruit trees in containers at MRO.*



*Raised beds and container gardens in the People's Garden at USDA headquarters in Washington, DC.*



*The People's Garden at USDA headquarters in Washington DC.*

# IDPs — Your Opportunity to Grow

Caroline Thorpe, Washington, DC



Why would you want to do an Individual Development Plan (IDP)? There are many good reasons to start. An *Individual* Development Plan meets your needs and is tailored specifically to you. The IDP, a document signed by you and your supervisor, helps ensure agreement to a plan of action; your development is not left up to chance.

Are you planning on any job changes, retirement, or other activities? It may help you with your next move. The IDP process stresses competencies or traits that are professional attributes associated with success. If you have done the IDP process, it may give you a clearer sense of the competencies required

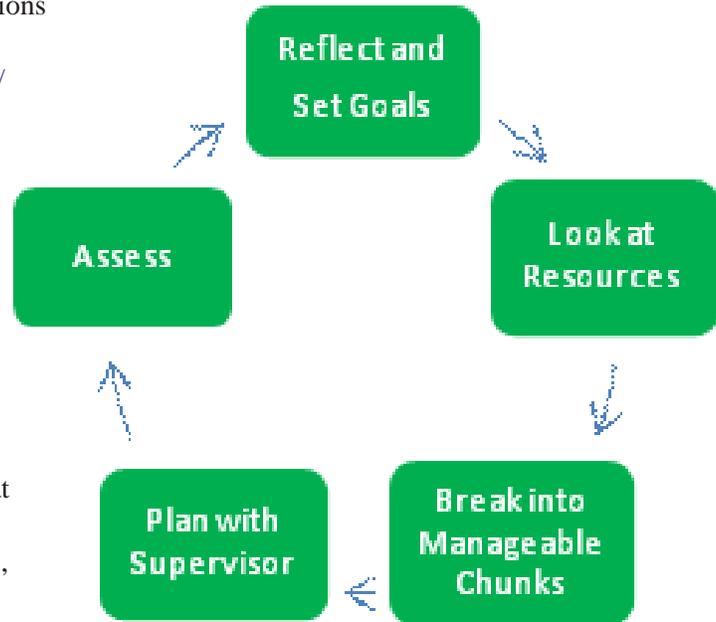
for your job or other Federal positions. Federal job openings reference these competencies.

The IDP may increase the likelihood of your own personal success in meeting your goals. Studies have shown that written goals are more likely to be accomplished. Goal setting requires some reflection to clarify what matters most to you and is needed for your continual development to ensure that your actions are focused in the direction you want to grow.

Visit the new inGIPSA website. Go to <http://ingipsa.usda.gov/> and click on the *Employee Re-sources* tab. Scroll to the bottom and click *Training*, then *IDP Resources* tab in the left-hand column of the page.

Consider taking advantage of the IDP process. This is an opportunity grow and develop the way you want in your job, your career, retirement, or other activities. This year, IDPs are due **July 31, 2009**. However, your office has set an internal due date and procedure for submitting the IDPs.

If you have further questions please contact me at (202) 690-2332, [caroline.c.thorpe@usda.gov](mailto:caroline.c.thorpe@usda.gov) or Rosemary Mayne at telephone (202) 720-6242, [rosemary.k.mayne@usda.gov](mailto:rosemary.k.mayne@usda.gov).



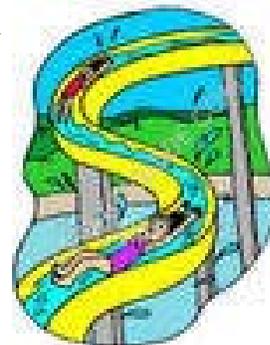
# For Your Health

*Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC*

As summer approaches, people take advantage of the sunny weather to do outdoor projects, take their families to fun locations such as amusement parks and beaches, and try to find ways to relax and keep cool. It is the season when most people take time off from work because their kids are on summer vacation. For criminals and predators, it also is a very active time of year.

**Be Observant In Public.** When you load the family into the car and head out to a fun-filled destination, always keep in mind that criminals may be sharing your day with you. By following a few simple outdoor safety tips, you can do everything possible to avoid being victimized by predators who might be watching. Lawbreakers are always on the lookout for an easy target, so make sure you do not give them one.

Always lock your doors and roll up the windows when you leave your car. Car thieves regularly patrol parking lots and try door handles to see if they will open. They are hoping for an unlocked vehicle that they can get into quickly and take anything that was left inside. You should always store valuable items in the trunk so that a criminal does not see them and become tempted to break in.



While enjoying your day, keep a close eye on your entire family and everyone around you. Look for strangers who seem to be watching you or getting too close. They may be trying to determine if you have something they can take. Protect your loved ones and personal items carefully and make sure no predator has a chance to steal from you.

**Summer Safety at Home.** All summer long, people are outdoors working on projects like lawn care, hosting barbecues, or relaxing by a pool. It can be easy to forget to close a door or window. But, if they are left open, it creates an easy opportunity for a burglar. Garage doors, in particular, are regularly used by criminals to gain access to a home during the warmer months.

People go outside to do yard work and forget to close the garage door. Criminals may steal items from the garage itself, which usually contains tools and other valuable belongings, or use it as an easy way to get into your home. Once inside, the lawbreaker can grab an armful of things quickly, and run off without ever being noticed.

Some criminals will work together during the summer months. One will come to your door and distract you while the other sneaks into your garage, backyard, or home to take whatever they can grab. Be wary of anyone who approaches your front door and do not let them take up too much of your time. Every year, thousands of burglaries occur all over the United States. Teach your family how to guard themselves and their property and do what you can to ensure a safe and happy summer for everyone.

*Courtesy: [www.crimepreventiontips.org](http://www.crimepreventiontips.org)*

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

**by July 25, 2009!**

**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  
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AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION  
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