



GIPSA News

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

August 2001

Nebraska Joint Service Agreement

Jan Hart, Washington, DC

GIPSA recently approved a “joint service agreement” for four designated official agencies to provide service on a joint basis to a new entity, United Farmers Cooperative (UFC) of Shelby, Nebraska. UFC is the product of a March 1, 2001, merger of Farmers Cooperative Business Association, Shelby, Nebraska; Farmers Cooperative Association, York, Nebraska; and United Coop, Inc., Hampton, Nebraska.

The four agencies are **Fremont** Grain Inspection Department, Inc., **Hastings** Grain Inspection, Inc., **Lincoln** Inspection Service, Inc., and **Omaha** Grain Inspection Service, Inc. Each agency will provide service on an as-needed basis to the elevators located in their assigned geographic areas in Nebraska. The new company has a total of 12 rail-loading facilities. The result of this combined effort: the official system will provide UFC uniform service and fees.

The four agencies worked closely with **Mike Peery**, UFC’s grain merchandising manager, to develop a uniform fee agreement. **Mike** said

that the new arrangement has simplified his cost tracking process and is meeting the needs of his new company.

There will be more opportunities in the future for the four agencies to

improve and consolidate services as UFC continues to grow and evolve.

Congratulations to UFC and their official inspection providers for working out this innovative joint service agreement!

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

Rule 240: Don’t Leave Home Without It. Here’s your secret weapon for fighting airline delays, cancellations, and missed connections – Rule 240. Before airline deregulation in 1978, Rule 240 was literally a Federal requirement. Nowadays, it’s a term describing what individual airlines will do for late or stranded passengers. In fact, the major airlines have filed “conditions of carriage” with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) guaranteeing their respective Rules 240s.

If your flight is delayed or cancelled, or if you’ve missed your flight connection, these policies may give you free meal vouchers, hotel accommodations, phone calls, and other amenities. You may be booked on a substitute flight – even on another airline – and you may be compensated or given a full refund if the flight problems persist.

Always carry a printed copy of your airline’s Rule 240. You can get this from the major airline’s web sites. Though DOT requires airlines to keep a Rule 240 copy available for passengers at every ticket counter, don’t count on that. Read Rule 240 carefully before you use it. Many airline ticket agents do not know these policies, so *you* should be the expert.

*Continued, see **Travel** on page 4.*

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Welcome back to **Brett Offutt** who returned to Washington, DC, as a supervisory legal specialist on the Office of the Deputy Administrator's staff. **Brett** was previously a legal specialist in the Des Moines regional office.

Farewell to **Denise Johnson**, economist, Washington, DC, who has accepted a position with the Department of Transportation.

Kim Jorae retired on July 31, 2001, with over 25 years of government service. **Kim** began his federal career in 1976 as a marketing specialist in Indianapolis. In 1984, he moved to South St. Paul as the supervisory marketing specialist, and was reassigned to the industrial specialist

position in 1987. **Kim** became a resident agent for Wisconsin in 1999. **Kim** was an excellent investigator and will be missed.

The Compliance Division's Review Branch thanks several field-based people who assisted a Branch team coordinator in conducting the remaining official agency reviews during fourth quarter FY 2001. **Donnell Keith**, agricultural commodity grader (ACG), Portland Field Office (F/O), **Dave Skallerud**, ACG, Cedar Rapids F/O, and **Jim Tullous**, assistant manager, Grand Forks F/O, helped evaluate Aberdeen Grain Inspection, Inc., and Grand Forks Grain Inspection Department, Inc., located in the Grand Forks circuit.

Tim Lawrence, program administrator, Missouri Department of Agriculture, will retire on August 31, 2001, with over 33 years of service. **Tim** personally contributed to a successful partnership between GIPSA and Missouri. On behalf of acting GIPSA administrator **Dave Shipman**, **Bob Krouse**, Compliance Division's Kansas City satellite office, presented **Tim** with a certificate of appreciation at the conclusion of the compliance review of Missouri.

AWARDS

Linda Alston, Civil Rights Staff, Washington, D.C., received a time-off award for her excellent contribution in organizing and supporting GIPSA's Special Emphasis Program.

Sam Basile, senior compliance officer, Peoria, received a certificate

of merit for his many years of tireless service and leadership to the FGIS safety and health program.

Dale Berteau, ACG-9, New Orleans, received a spot award for performing stowage examinations, reinspections, and fumigation conferences during the week of June 11.

Dawn Cowan, Civil Rights Staff, Washington, DC, received time-off awards for providing support and assistance in coordinating the arrangements for the 2001 summer interns and for her excellent coordination and submission of GIPSA Honor Awards nominations to the USDA Coordinator, resulting in the selection of one group award for the Agency.

Edward Duncan, ACG-9, New Orleans, received a spot award for performing extra duties such as taking care of elevator personnel concerns which could have caused a problem with final certification.

Allen Duplechin, ACT-5, New Orleans, received a spot award for always volunteering for the undesirable jobs and to work at other locations.

Karen Guagliardo, Compliance Division, Washington, D.C., received a spot award from the Field Management Division for willingly accepting the assignment to develop a database for the Starlink™ Program, which is used by USDA and FDA management to monitor the testing of Starlink™ in the United States.

*Continued, see Names
on page 3.*

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Names, from page 2.

Paul Hadyka, Field Management Division, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for providing excellent service support by fixing the Policies and Procedures Branch's fax machine, thus eliminating the need for placing a service call.

Jeannene Henehan, Field Management Division, Washington, D.C., received an extra effort award for providing outstanding secretarial support to the Policies and Procedures Branch while the Branch was without secretarial services from January to June 2001.

Terry McDuffie, ACT-6, New Orleans, received a time-off award for correcting several weight certification errors on the inbound and outbound documents when other weighers could not figure out where the error was made.

Janina Milaknis, Montreal, Canada, received a performance award for outstanding performance contributing to the Montreal Field Office and GIPSA.

Carl Provenzano, ACT-6, New Orleans, received a spot award for eagerly pitching in and displaying his typical team effort to help with the renovation of the Cargill Westwego lab.

Lynette Scalise, agricultural commodity technician, Moscow, received a certificate of merit for her continuing efforts to provide a safe and healthy work environment to the staff of the Moscow Sub-Office.

Anna Smith, economist, Atlanta,

received a time off award for her outstanding performance in writing and publishing the Atlanta office newsletter. Her extra effort contributed to improved communications.

Larry Smith, shift supervisor, New Orleans, received a certificate of merit for his exemplary service and leadership in dealing with and resolving a number of serious safety problems and concerns in the New Orleans Field Office.

Alvin Sumler, ACT-6, New Orleans, received a time-off award for noticing a couple of potential grading problems while performing his lab technician duties (i.e., odor, high BCFM, etc.).

Sarah Welch-Hill, ACG-9, New Orleans, received a spot award for initiating EEO discussions on June 8 while performing additional duties. She also participated in safety discussions and other topics of employee concerns.

Clarence West, Toledo, Ohio, received a time-off award for accepting a detail to the Chicago duty point on a moment's notice to replace another supervisor who was suddenly hospitalized. Due to his assistance, we did not have to delay providing service to our customers for export loading.

Carroll Wilson, ACT-5, New Orleans, received a spot award for eagerly pitching in and helping with the renovation of the Cargill Westwego lab. Carroll encourages enthusiasm and a positive attitude on the job.

July Issuances

*Charlie Turner,
Washington, DC*

- PN01-07, Alkali Test to Detect Hard White/Red Wheat Kernels, 7/18/01
- PN01-08, Revised Sample Collection Responsibilities For Verifying The Accuracy of Moisture Meter Calibration Crop Year 2001, 7/24/01

Advance Notice for Leaders

Look for a full notice of application procedures for the New Leader and Aspiring Leader programs in the September issue of *GIPSA News*. These two six-month developmental programs will begin in February 2002.

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

Travel, from page 1.

Rule 240s generally apply only to delays that are absolutely the airline's fault, such as mechanical delays. They do not apply to what the airlines call "acts of God," weather, strikes, or other occurrences that the airlines say they cannot control.

You'll win most battles at ticket counters when you say the phrase "Rule 240" and show the agent your printed copy of the airline's policies. However, don't hesitate to keep going up the chain to supervisors if you're not satisfied.

If you need to be booked on another airline because of delays, cancellations, or missed flight connections, be sure to get a voucher from your original airline. Otherwise you may be asked to purchase another ticket from the substitute airline.

Amendment to Section 301-10.310 of the Federal Travel Regulations. When GSA issued Amendment 95 to the Federal Travel Regulations increasing the POV (privately owned vehicle) mileage rate, it failed to mention that the mileage reimbursement rate for a high-mileage driver who has made a written commitment to drive his/her own POV in lieu of being furnished a GOV (Government Owned Vehicle) has been increased to **28.5 cents per mile**. It was previously 23.5 cents per mile. This change was effective January 22, 2001.

This rate applies only when no GOV is available and it is more economical and advantageous to the Government to allow the employee to drive his/her own POV than to purchase/furnish a GOV for the employee's use. This rate also applies when the use of a POV is

authorized when the use of a GOV would be most advantageous to the Government. When you are committed to using a GOV or would not ordinarily be authorized to use a POV due to the availability of a GOV, but nevertheless request to use a POV, you will be reimbursed 10.5 cents per mile. This rate has not increased.

A BIG Thank You!

Ray Hart, Washington, DC

I have received so many e-mails, cards, and telephone messages from GIPSA staff and official agencies that I would have to spend the rest of my recuperation time replying to them individually. Instead, Dr. Jan is making me concentrate on the neat things I have to do, like morning and evening walks and afternoon naps.

Seriously, your messages offering encouragement and wishing me a speedy recovery have been overwhelming. This was one of the big factors in my being able to keep my spirits up during this ordeal. We (Jan and I) are extremely fortunate to work with such an incredible bunch of people.

Despite everything, my situation turned out well. By the grace of God and receiving quick and competent medical care, the doctors expect that with some lifestyle changes I will have a long, healthy, and full life. Thanks to each of you who were in touch with us during this difficult time.

Ray Hart is at home recovering from a heart attack and bypass surgery.

**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...

800-639-5167

Civil Rights Hotline



6.1% USGSA Fee Increase

Effective August 8, 2001, GIPSA is increasing fees by approximately 6.1 percent for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. The increase applies to contract and noncontract hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee.

The increase is needed to cover cost-of-living increases and revenue declines due to decreased exports. Under the USGSA, GIPSA fees collected must cover, as nearly as practicable, the agency's costs for performing inspection and weighing services, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

FGIS - Official Agency Meeting

Jan Hart, Washington, DC, and Tim Adams, Memphis, TN

A combined official agency and FGIS meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri, for the second consecutive year. This year, FGIS and the American Association of Grain Inspection and Weighing Agencies (AAGIWA) developed an agenda that would provide "an opportunity to share, interact, and improve our programs."

The day prior to the meeting, FGIS managers were invited to attend AAGIWA's programs which included a number of presentations by industry personnel and an evening reception held at the Kansas City Board of Trade.

The meeting was kicked off by **Peter Hofherr**, Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, who welcomed everyone with an overview of agriculture in his state.

The first day's session gave those in attendance a good chance to hear things from the customer's perspective. **Marvin Hachmeister**, DeBruce Grain Company, shared his views on trends in the U.S. grain industry, particularly with respect to consolidation, which he feels will continue. His views were echoed by **Jerald Kemmerer**, Harvest States Cooperative, who spoke of his company's work with official grain inspection. **Tom Tunnell**, president of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, told of his experiences in the grain business, all the way from farming, trucking, and running an elevator, to presiding over the operations of his association, emphasizing customer outreach at every level.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at the offices of the Kansas City Board of Trade, hosted by Board of Trade president **Bob Peterson**.

Those in attendance were treated to a view from the gallery of the closing of the day's trading, which resembled a battle royale.

The group reassembled after lunch to listen to **William Hawks**, undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. **Undersecretary Hawks** filled us in on upcoming initiatives within the USDA, and on his open and common-sense approach to the operation of the agencies under his direction.

Deanne Hackman, Director of Ag Innovations for the Missouri Department of Agriculture, told us of her office's work in putting together value-added products and cooperative groups within Missouri agriculture.

She was followed by **Andrea Rodriguez**, Director of Mexican Markets for the Scoular Company. Ms Rodriguez gave us her insights into grain sales and shipments to Mexico.

Tim Adams, AAGIWA's president and the Memphis agency's official agency manager, and **Dave Shipman**, acting administrator, GIPSA, welcomed us to day two of the meeting. **Dave Orr**, director, Field Management Division (FMD), moderated the day-long session.

John Giler, chief, Policies and Procedures Branch, FMD, spoke about the clean Wheat initiative, hard white Wheat, reinspections, and provided an update on the Automated Sampling and Inspection System Team. Then **Dave Orr** and **Dr. Surak**, professor, Clemson University, discussed **Dr. Surak's** study on FGIS' current quality assurance/quality control and oversight systems.

Dr. Surak will visit a number of FGIS offices and official agencies this summer during the study to interview pertinent people about these systems.

Steve Tanner, director, Technical Services Division (TSD), provided an overview of TSD programs. **Eurvin Williams**, chairman, Board of Appeals and Review, TSD, spoke about the interpretive line print program and TSD educational initiatives. **Dave Funk**, chief, Inspection Systems Engineering Branch, and the leader of FGIS' Research Coordination Team, provided an update on current FGIS research. **Dave** is getting ready to go on a teaching sabbatical to Budapest, Hungary, sometime later this year. We wish him well!

Kendall Keith, president, National Grain and Feed Association, presented a talk to the group about e-business and how it relates to the official system.

Neil Porter, director, Compliance Division, and **Jan Hart**, chief, Review Branch, discussed the pilot programs changing to exceptions to geographic area, joint service agreements, fees, the review program, and FGIS' December 2000 customer survey.

Marianne Plaus, assistant to Dave Shipman, and **Don Kendall**, chief of TSD's new Biotechnology Branch, discussed a myriad of subjects, including trends on the international front, StarLink™, the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, lab accreditation, and test kit verification.

Continued, see Joint Meeting on page 6.



GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

Norma Phelps, Washington, DC



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

Suggestor

Suggestion

Stephanie Osterman, Des Moines, IA
Janet Walton, New Orleans, LA
Ahmad B. Gorabi, Des Moines, IA
Kristi Pirtle, Jeani Plautz,
Lori Warner, Des Moines, IA

Develop A Tracking System for Personnel Forms Received from the Field Office
Issue An Updated Version of the GIPSA/FGIS Employee Handbook
Establish A Monthly Agency Award for a "Good Job"
Expand E-Mail Services to Include Financial and Registration Documents

July's tee-shirt winner: **Stephanie Osterman!**

GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During July 2001

This list does not necessarily indicate that the idea was implemented as suggested or that it is currently in place (it could be in the development/implementation stage). To avoid the chance of misinterpretation, please call the Hotline if you have any concerns or questions regarding the following list of ideas.

- ☛ Make Available A Choice of the Moisture Basis Formulas on Cu-Sum Drop Down Menu
- ☛ Issue An Updated Version of the GIPSA/FGIS Employee Handbook

Keep those ideas coming in! Send your ideas to the GIPSA Idea Hotline via e-mail: 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.**

Joint Meeting, from page 5.

Anita Heckenbach, computer specialist, Information Technology Staff, talked about the National Quality Database, and the ADM certification project.

We had an information-filled day, and visited with many of the people

from the 29 official agencies that were present at the meeting. All in all, a very worthwhile endeavor. A lot of folks are already discussing next year's meeting!

In closing, a special thanks goes to FGIS' **Rosemary Mayne, Larry**

McDonald, and **Norma Phelps** for a lot of the behind-the-scenes planning for this meeting and the FGIS managers conference that took place over the subsequent days. Without their assistance, neither meeting would have been nearly as effective.

E-Mail Attachments

Carol Remmers, Washington, DC

In light of a recent rash of malicious code in e-mail attachments, this is a good time provide some reminders.

- Do not open files attached to e-mail from unknown, suspicious, or untrustworthy sources. With few exceptions, no GIPSA employee should ever click on an attachment from an **unknown** source. Disregarding this warning means you can compromise not only your PC, but the entire network to which you are attached.
- Do not open files attached to an e-mail if the subject line is questionable or unexpected.
- Do not open files attached to an e-mail unless you know what it is, even if it appears to come from someone you know. Some viruses replicate themselves and spread through e-mail. Confirm who really sent it. Better safe than sorry.
- Delete chain and junk e-mail. Do not forward or reply to them. These types of e-mail are spam -- unsolicited, intrusive mail that clogs up the network. This includes jokes.
- Do not download files from strangers.
- Do not install games onto GIPSA computers; they have been known to contain Trojans.
- Back up your files regularly. If a virus destroys your files, at least you can replace them with back-up copies. Store all important files to your network drive. The network server is backed-up nightly.

FGIS Only: Keep your Norton Anti-Virus updated and let it run full scans at least once a week. Don't rely on the software to "just do its thing."

Take responsibility and make sure you are updated and a full scan has recently run.

7th Annual Day of Caring

Joanne Nielsen, Technical Center

On a Saturday in June 2001, the **Day of Caring Program** in Kansas City drew 4,498 volunteers (over 1,500 of whom were government employees) who donated their time and energy in the Heart of America United Way event. The Day of Caring Program this year drew volunteers from 152 companies and 43 Federal agencies.

Along with volunteers from the American Red Cross (ARC), Kansas Fire Department, and the Wyandotte County United Way, Technical Services Division (TSD) volunteers **Steve Tanner, Joanne Nielsen, Luccile Clarke, Ganga Murthy, James Rampton, Joe Barney, and Louis Bussjaeger** installed 100 smoke detectors and replaced dead batteries in a neighborhood that has had a lot of fires. Among the volunteers was a family that survived a 3:00 a.m. fire thanks to their smoke detector. A network news anchor and cameraman were on the scene interviewing volunteers about their reasons for participating in the smoke detector program.



Day of Caring attendees:ARC's Shelly Johnson, Stan Severance, GIPSA's Steve Tanner, Duane Allen, the fire survivor couple, GIPSA's Jim Rampton, Luccile Clark, Joanne Nielsen, Joe Barney, Ganga Murthy, Jesse Meador, Anna Nielsen, and ARC's Chris Stephens. (Louis Bussjaeger, Vinny Murthy, and Cynthia Allen are not pictured.)

More than 224 projects were completed in the Kansas City metro area in what has grown to be one of the largest single-day volunteer efforts teaming public and private sector volunteers anywhere in the country.

TSD has been accepted into the Heartland Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) **Circle of Caring**, recognizing TSD employees' profound involvement in community activities. I thank TSD employees for their support during **Heart of America United Way/Heartland CFC** activities.

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

HERE COMES THE SUN.

Groovy sunglasses, hip hat, the latest sunscreen.....These are just some of the things you need to bask in summer's warmth safely. And, don't leave home without remembering your summer mantra: There is no such thing as a safe tan. A tan is your skin's attempt to protect itself from the effects of the sun. Exposure to the sun puts you at risk for skin cancer, even if you have dark skin.

Many people receive up to 80 percent of their life's total exposure to the damaging rays of the sun by the time they are 18. About 80 percent of skin cancers could be prevented with proper sun protection. Here are some tips that will help you to do this:

⚙ **Limit your time in the sun** especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun's rays are strongest.

⚙ **Use a sunscreen that says "broad-spectrum"** on the label and has a SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15. A broad-spectrum sunscreen will protect you from UVA and UVB rays.

⚙ **Apply sunscreen to all exposed areas of your body** about 20 minutes before going outside. This will give your skin time to absorb the sunscreen. Don't skimp. You need at least two tablespoons to cover your body. Reapply sunscreen often, especially after swimming, perspiring, or drying off with a towel.

⚙ **Wear sunscreen every time you go outside**, even if you are only taking a walk at lunch. Sun damage

adds up. Also, the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays reflect off water, sand, snow, and other light-colored surfaces, such as concrete. The sun's rays can also penetrate water and glass, including car windows. And, you need sunscreen even on cloudy days, since clouds offer no protection from the sun.

⚙ **Use zinc oxide** for almost total protection on sensitive areas, such as the nose, ears, cheeks, and shoulders.

⚙ **Wear a wide-brimmed hat** to shade as much of your face as possible. Also, wear clothing made of tightly woven fabrics. You shouldn't be able to see through the fabric when you hold it up to the light. Dark colors provide more protection than light colors.

⚙ **Never use sunlamps or tanning booths.** Both are dangerous and can damage your skin.

Better late than never is a saying that is especially true of protecting your skin from the sun. Start today!

More information: American Cancer Society, 1-800-227-2345, www.cancer.org.

GRILL HAPPY. When you are standing around the grill wearing your best "kiss the cook" apron, the last thing you are probably thinking about is food safety. Grilling can be fun, healthy, and easy. But, if you are not careful, there is danger too. For example, it is important to protect yourself and your guest from E. coli, which can cause death. This bacterium often causes symptoms such as stomach cramps and bloody diarrhea.

But, sometimes it causes no symptoms. Also, charring foods can produce chemicals that may cause some cancers. It sounds serious, but you can grill without putting anyone at risk. Here are some tips to keep your barbecue safe:

🔪 **Whenever you have a cook-out**, start with a clean grill. Wash the grill thoroughly before each use. Also, heat the grill to destroy bacteria before you put food on it.

🔪 **Defrost meat fully** before you grill it. Frozen meat can stay cold on the inside, even though it gets charred on the outside.

🔪 **Use one plate** to carry raw meat to the grill and a different plate to carry cooked meat to the table. This keeps juice from raw meat, which may be contaminated, away from the food you are ready to eat.

🔪 **Cook all meat thoroughly.** To minimize the risk for E. coli, there should be no pink at all. If you have a hard time getting meat to cook evenly all the way through, raise the rack so that it cooks more slowly.

🔪 **Cut away any blackened parts** of grilled food so that you won't be serving up carcinogens.

Since meat can pose more of a safety threat, you may want to grill vegetables instead. Marinate and grill chunks of bell peppers, sweet onions, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, and summer squash for a light and delicious dish.

More information: Mayo Clinic, www.mayohealth.org.

Information Systems Security Training

Carol Remmers, Washington, DC

GIPSA held its first training class for its Security Representatives in Washington, D.C. on June 19-21, 2001. Nearly all of GIPSA's field locations participated. Also in attendance were several members of the Information Technology Staff.

In the past year, GIPSA and APHIS have worked closely together on security initiatives. **Harlan Crouse**, Information Systems Security Program Manager (ISSPM) for APHIS, had devised a 3-day training program for APHIS's field security personnel. I attended this training in September 2000 and thought it would be advantageous for GIPSA. **Harlan** generously volunteered to provide this training for GIPSA!

Harlan has considerable experience in IT security both in the military and civilian government. He has been a security practitioner and manager for nearly 20 years, holding positions of increasing responsibility in a

number of Federal organizations. His background also includes computer programming, application analysis and design, and information classification review and release. Last year, he received a joint USDA/Government Computer News honor for his leadership of the APHIS information systems security program.

Topics for the training included: information system security laws and regulations, information valuation, hardware and software security, physical and environmental security, risk management and how to administer a security program-to name a few.

This training is the first step in providing GIPSA's security representatives with the knowledge they need to help the Agency build a successful information technology security program.

On behalf of GIPSA, thank you **Harlan!**

Web Update

The Tech Service/Support portion of GIPSA's website has been completely revised.

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/nutzbolts.htm>

The changes include:

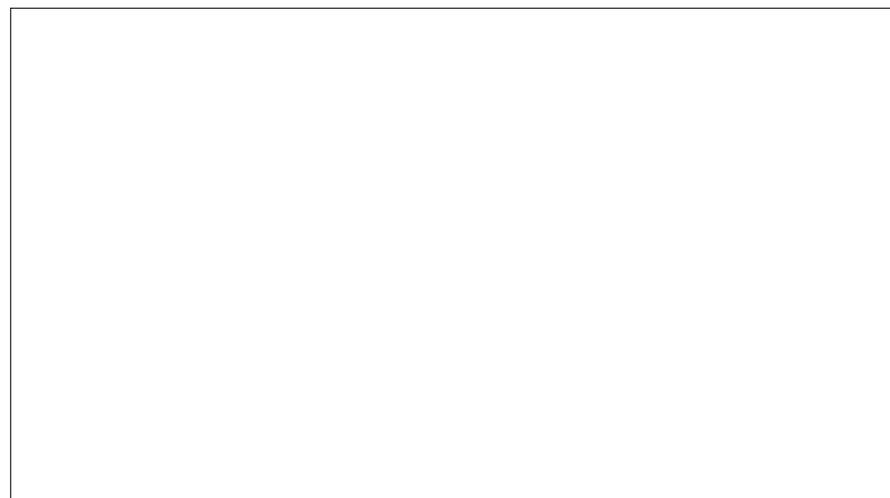
☞ The Interpretive Line Print (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/visualref/ilp.htm>) and Interpretive Line Slide (accessed from <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/nutzbolts.htm>) catalog now includes images of the slide/print and summaries of caption card information.

☞ The Reference Methods and Laboratories information has been updated and now includes images of the methods (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/metheqp/refmeths.htm>).

☞ The Methods Development and Standardization information has been updated and now includes images (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/metheqp/methdev.htm>).

☞ A new "GIPSA Approved Test Kits" page was added which lists all currently approved tests for Biotechnology Derived Grains and Mycotoxins (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/metheqp/testkit.htm>).

☞ The Technical Training (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/consulting/tech-train.htm>) and Educational Materials (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/reference-library/brochures/education.htm>) pages were updated and linked to the Tech Services/Support information.



Attendees included: (left to right) Adel Ibrahim, Brian Teer, Marsha Moorhouse, Judy Johnston, Penny Kilbride, Robin Rother, Jill Ainsworth (hiding behind Robin), Anita Heckenbach, John Flemm, Vicki Kottke, Chuck Britton, Jan Roehler, Michelle Bosley, Kaye Burnep, Lanita Hill, Harlan Crouse, Yohanna Lorio, Carol Remmers and Donna Wolf.

EAP Legal Service Program

Mack Manis, Washington, DC

Occasionally, most of us face a legal issue or have questions on legal matters that require the help of an attorney. Your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is here to help. EAP now provides consultation and referral services for a wide range of legal issues.

You can easily access this legal service by calling the toll-free EAP telephone number **(1-800-222-0364)**. You will be connected to a licensed attorney for a telephone consultation. This attorney, who practices in the applicable state, will listen to your concerns and discuss your options under the laws that apply. The telephone consultation is offered at no charge. Office visits or services from a participating attorney at discounted rates are also available.

Legal services include: healthcare power of attorney; living wills; housing or real estate matters; estate planning; family law, such as divorce, child custody and child support; car accidents and related matters; financial concerns; consumer concerns; and criminal matters.

Call your EAP today at 1-800-222-0364 (1-888-262-7848 TTY) to learn more about our Legal Service Program.

The Legal Service Program does not provide advice on issues regarding the EAP, its employees or other providers or attorneys associated with the program, or on matters relating to your job. The legal service program does not provide advice on any matter that is frivolous, harassing, or otherwise a violation of ethical rules.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can use the Legal Service Program? This service is offered as a benefit to you, your household members, and dependents.

Is there a charge for legal consultation? The telephone consultation is offered at no charge. If it is determined that you need advice from an attorney beyond the telephone consultation, office visits and services will be provided at discounted rates. It is recommended that you get a written statement for the cost of an office consultation or services in advance.

I have a legal question about a matter in a state in which I do not reside. Can I receive assistance? Yes, you will receive a telephone consultation from an attorney in the state applicable to your question. If subsequent services are required, you will be referred to a local attorney that you may retain at the discounted rate.

Is the service confidential? Yes. All communications regarding legal concerns are confidential, except where disclosure is required by law.

NOTE: Legal referrals given are not endorsements or recommendations of any specific attorney or law firm. The responsibility for selecting and employing an attorney lies solely with you.

Goetz to Comply with P&S Act

On April 13, 2001, the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas issued a Consent Journal Entry and permanent injunction against Jerome Goetz of Park, Kansas.

Under the terms of the Consent Journal Entry, Goetz is permanently enjoined from engaging in business in any capacity for which registration and bonding are required according to the Packers and Stockyards Act without being registered with the Secretary of Agriculture and furnishing a bond of at least \$80,000.

Goetz also agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 plus \$150 for the cost of this action.

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
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