USDA

GIPSA News

A newsletter for the employees of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration *August 2002*

Status of Our FY 2003 Appropriations

Bob Fitzgerald, Washington, DC

Appropriations for USDA agencies go through a lengthy, 10-step process before they are finalized. To pass, the FY 2003 Agriculture Appropriations Bill must go through the following steps:

1. House Appropriations Subcommittee markup
2. House Appropriations Committee markup
3. Full House Approval = House Report
4. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee markup
5. Senate Appropriations Committee markup
6. Full Senate Approval = Senate Report
7. Conference Committee Report
8. Full House Approval of Conference Committee Report
9. Full Senate Approval of Conference Committee Report
10. Presidential Signature = Public Law

On July 11, 2002, we reached step 2 of the process. The House Appropriations Committee marked up the Agriculture Appropriations Bill for FY 2003. The Committee appropriated to us the full amounts we asked for in our FY 2003 budget request, plus funding for several additional items:

Appropriations for items we requested in our FY 2003 budget:

Pay Costs	$ 733,000
Web Server Farm	790,000
Improve IT Security	565,000
Establish Unified Data Warehouse	850,000
Anti-competitive provisions of the P&S Act	1,000,000
Web Application for P&S	1,200,000
Carcass Evaluation Technologies	1,000,000
Biotechnology Testing	450,000

The Committee also included $4,500,000 for a Livestock and Meat Marketing Study; and $500,000 to develop production protocols.

Remember, this is only stage 2 out of a possible 10 stages that the budget has to go through before it becomes an actual appropriation. We'll share more info as we move through the process.

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Names in the News

PERSONNEL

The Compliance Division's Review Branch would like to thank these field-based people who are scheduled to assist Branch team coordinators in conducting official agency reviews during the fourth and final quarter of fiscal year 2002. **Myron Hall**, agricultural commodity grader, New Orleans Field Office, and **Sammie Lewis**, agricultural commodity grader, Jonesboro Suboffice, will help us evaluate a State agency, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. **Vicki Kottke,** office support assistant, Moscow Suboffice, and **Larry Giles**, shift supervisor, New Orleans Field Office, will help us evaluate the Grand Forks, North Dakota, FGIS Field Office. **Dave Fulks,** shift supervisor, Portland Field Office, and **Angela Marine**, program support clerk, New Orleans Field Office, will help us evaluate the Minneapolis, Minnesota, FGIS Field Office. **Lynette Scalise**, agricultural commodity technician, Moscow Suboffice, will help us evaluate a private agency, Lewiston Grain Inspection Service, Inc., located in the Portland Field Office circuit. **Gary Zella**, quality assurance specialist, Stuttgart Field Office, will help us evaluate two private agencies, Ohio Valley Grain Inspection, Inc., and Tri-State Grain Inspection Service, Inc. A big thanks to these employees and the others we have mentioned previously for helping the review program's success during this fiscal year.

AWARDS

Krimy Almodovar, marketing specialist; **James Cannon**, auditor; and **Barbara McKee**, administrative assistant, Atlanta regional office, received extra effort awards in recognition of their sustained effort, dedication, and professional attitude in promoting diversity in the Atlanta regional office.

Terry Baron, administrative assistant, Denver, received a time off award for resolving long-standing e-mail problems for Future Beef Operations in communicating weekly trust asset information.

Chris Gray, marketing specialist, Denver regional office, received an extra effort award for providing significant amounts of training to numerous staff members and mentoring new employees.

Karen Guagliardo, grain marketing specialist, Field Management Division, and **Doug Lacefield**, computer specialist, Information Technology Staff, were presented with time-off awards from the Compliance Division, Review Branch for assisting the Branch in getting their new San Antonio, Texas, satellite office established.

Judy Johnston, office support assistant, Wichita Field Office, Field Management Division, was presented with a spot award from the Compliance Division, Review Branch for assisting the Branch in training compliance officers about administrative procedures.

Donna Melton, program analyst, and **Peggy Smith**, management analyst, Washington, DC, received extra effort awards in recognition of their sustained dedication and professional attitude that contributed greatly to the efficiency of the Atlanta regional office.

James Morcaldi, **Nancy Speer**, and **Jack Ver Linder**, auditors, Denver regional office, received spot awards for their dedication to duty during a particularly difficult time involving bankruptcy proceedings of Future Beef Operations. Such dedication significantly benefited unpaid livestock sellers.

35-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Julian Chappa III, League City, TX
Claudia McGrady, Washington, DC

Continued, see **Names** *on page 3.*

Names, *from page 2.*

25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Walter Alves, New Orleans, LA
Raymond Andrews, Crowley, LA
William Ashley, Washington, DC
Sam Basile, Peoria, IL
Carl Beckwith, New Orleans, LA
Martin Begley, Washington, DC
Dale Berteau, New Orleans, LA
Wade Berteau, New Orleans, LA
Willie Bickham, New Orleans, LA
Bruce Boor, Washington, DC
Water Briley, Jr., New Orleans, LA
Alfred Broussard, Jr., Beaumont, TX
James Brown, New Orleans, LA
Shelton Buckley, New Orleans, LA
R. Bula, Cedar Rapids, IA
Rufus Campbell, New Orleans, LA
Martha Carver, Toledo, OH
Michael Caughlin, Jr., Washington, DC
Harold Chiasson, New Orleans, LA
Jacky Clements, Stuttgart, AR
Benjamin Cotton, New Orleans, LA
Alonzo Craighton, New Orleans, LA
Frank Culotta, New Orleans, LA
James Doak, Kansas City, MO
Robert Doged, Baltimore, MD
Mark Doane, Beaumont, TX
Donald Ellis, League City, TX
Gary Erskine, League City, TX
Henry Fallon III, New Orleans, LA
Larry Freese, Kansas City, MO
Roger Friedrich, Kansas City, MO
Amelia Gautreau, New Orleans, LA
Walter Gilbert, League City, TX
Larry Giles, New Orleans, LA
Sabri Gerguis, League City, TX
Dave Grady, Montreal, Canada
Mack Hall, New Orleans, LA
Milton Hansen, Aurora, CO
Walter Harness, New Orleans, LA
Danny Harpole, Jonesboro, AR
Evert Hastie, Jr., Wichita, KS
Garey Holmes, New Orleans, LA
James Holmes, New Orleans, LA
Roy Hughes, Wichita, KS
Frank Jackson, New Orleans, LA
Aarion Johnson, Kansas City, MO
Craig Johnson, Wichita, KS
Michael Johnson, Sacramento, CA
Judy Johnston, Wichita, KS
Raymond Kirkpatrick, Jr., Portland, OR
Roy Landry, New Orleans, LA
Ronald Laporte, New Orleans, LA
Dempsey Lewis, Kansas City, MO
Sammie Lewis, Jonesboro, AR
David Lowe, Kansas City, MO
Randy Lunning, Moscow, ID
Roy Lyon, Wichita, KS
Joanne Matherne, New Orleans, LA
Mitchell Matherne, New Orleans, LA
John McCann, New Orleans, LA
James McLaurin, New Orleans, LA
Terry McDuffie, New Orleans, LA
Ron Metz, Cedar Rapids, IA
Raymond Minks, Washington, DC
Earl Monroe, New Orleans, LA
David Newlyn, Portland, OR
Diane Palecek, New Orleans, LA
Elkin Parker, Atlanta, GA
Dale Phetteplace, Kansas City, MO
John Pitchford, Washington, DC
Diane Reeves, Washington, DC
Byron Reilly, Washington, DC
Ted Respet, Duluth, MN
William Shelby, New Orleans, LA
Willard Shilling, New Orleans, LA
Cathey Smith, Portland, OR
Clemmie Smith, Jr., League City, TX
Peggy Smith, Washington, DC
Perry Smith, Jr., Beaumont, TX
William Strickland, Jonesboro, AR
Steven Tanner, Kansas City, MO
Philip Tate, Toledo, OH
Charles Trevillion, New Orleans, LA
Mary Vick, Kansas City, MO
Willie Washington, Crowley, LA
Bobby Webb, New Orleans, LA
Daniel White, Portland, OR
Danny Whitten, League City, TX
James Woodard, New Orleans, LA
James Ray Woodman, League City, TX
J. Wooley, League City, TX
Mohsen Younes, Toledo, OH

15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Cindy Bertoli, Syracuse, NY
Ron Bicsak, Kansas City, MO
Steven Conger, New Orleans, LA
Gerald Crawford, New Orleans, LA
Tanika Harris, Washington, DC
Emad Ibrahim, League City, TX
Pamela Lake, Atlanta, GA
George Lewis, New Orleans, LA
Thomas Livings, New Orleans, LA
Inez Mosley, Kansas City, MO
Amanda Roussell, New Orleans, LA
Terry Ryno, Springfield, MO
Alvin Sumler, Jr., New Orleans, LA
Ronald Taylor, League City, TX
Donna Wolf, Aurora, CO

Note: This listing reflects the service awards given since January 2001.

May Advisory Committee Meeting

Joanne Peterson, Washington, DC

GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee met May 15-16, 2002, in Memphis, TN. GIPSA administrator **Donna Reifschneider** introduced herself and provided a synopsis of her background in agriculture.

Deputy administrator **Dave Shipman** talked about the FGIS of the future. **Dave** opened his presentation, "A Look to the Future," with a look at the current uses of the inspection system, changing market practices, and the impact of those changes on the system; and closed his presentation by laying out a framework of how FGIS can become a flexible, responsive organization in the future. He believes, "The highly professional GIPSA employees and licensed inspectors of the official inspection system recognize the changing needs of American agriculture, and are ready to ensure the delivery of future inspection services meet the new needs of the marketplace." He explained to the Committee, "the Agency must better utilize technology, improve internal business practices, implement system-wide quality controls, enhance customer service delivery, centralize monitoring of the system, reduce the impact of the current geographical restrictions placed on official agencies, and emphasize international outreach."

Other presentations included: Financial Review of Field Offices and Fee Rate and Structural Changes; Biotechnology Program Issues and International Uniformity of Grain Quality Measurement; An Update on U.S. Standards for Grain; Implementing Digital Media Technology; and Artificial Neural Networking (ANN).

The Committee adopted the following resolutions at the end of the meeting:

· The Committee supports GIPSA's moving forward with the key policy issues as discussed in David Shipman's presentation, "A Look to the Future."
· GIPSA should thoroughly evaluate the technical, operational, and business aspects of the ANN calibration system in order to better understand the benefits and consequences of changing the calibration process.
· Before eliminating the boundaries of official agencies, GIPSA should place safeguards to ensure the integrity of the official system.
· GIPSA should evaluate the role of foreign material in soybean grades, including the effect on overall quality, cost, and uniformity with other countries.
· GIPSA should commission or conduct an additional study to determine the importance and appropriate placement of test weight in grades and standards for soybeans.

The Committee elected **Robert Smigelski** of The Andersons, Inc., as the new Vice Chairperson. **Mr. Smigelski** will assume the role of Chairperson in the spring of 2003.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in late October-early November 2002.

A summary of the May 2002 meeting can be found at http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/advcommittee/ac0502.htm.

GIPSA Proposes Exceptions to Geographic Areas

GIPSA published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* seeking comment on allowing more than one designated official agency to provide official inspection services within a single geographic area.

Currently, each official agency designated by GIPSA to provide official inspection services on the Agency's behalf in domestic markets operates in its own assigned geographic area. In 2000, the U.S. Grain Standards Act was amended to give USDA discretion, under certain circumstances, to allow more than one designated official agency to inspect or weigh grain within a single geographic area.

The proposed rule would allow exceptions to geographic boundary regulations for specific situations related to nonuse of service, timely service, and barge probing. The proposal is designed to enhance the orderly marketing of grain by providing segments of the grain industry with more cost-effective and responsive official grain inspection and weighing services while maintaining the integrity of the official grain inspection and weighing system.

Written comments are being accepted until September 3, 2002.

Directives Info

Mack Manis, Washington, DC

ISSUANCES

- **FGIS Program Notice 02-06,** Hard White Wheat Classification, dated June 28, 2002. (Distribution: A, C, E)
- **MRP Directive 4550.2,** Premium Pay, Issuance Change 1, dated June 12, 2002. (Distribution: AMS, APHIS,GIPSA)
- **Aflatoxin Handbook,** Issuance Change 6, dated June 24, 2002. (Distribution: A, C, E)
- **FGIS Directive 9180.74,** Service Fees and Billing Codes, Issuance Change 1, dated May 29, 2002. (Distribution: A, C, E)
- **FGIS Directive 9180.61,** Official Calibrations for the Dickey-john GAC 2100 Moisture Meter, dated July 1, 2002. (Distribution: A,C,E,F,G,U,V)

CANCELLATIONS

- **FGIS Program Notice 01-06,** Hard White Wheat Classification for 2001 Crop Year, dated June 30, 2001.
- **FGIS Directive 9180.61,** Official Calibrations for the Dickey-john GAC 2100 Moisture Meter, dated May 6, 2002

Please call (202-720-0244), fax (202-720-4628), or e-mail me (j.mack.manis@usda.gov) if you have any concerns or suggestions.

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

Going Out? Apply Your Sunscreen. Summertime. Hours at the beach. Because you only spend weekends in the sun, you don't need to worry about sunscreen, right? Wrong! Researchers say weekend sun worshippers are at greater risk for melanoma, the deadly form of skin cancer, than are those who spend most days outside. So before you head outdoors, pick up some sunscreen to protect your skin.

Sunscreens absorb and reflect the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays so they don't penetrate the skin. These rays can damage the skin, alter DNA, and lead to cancer. "The longer the skin is exposed to sun, the greater the risk of developing skin problems and cancers," says Paul H. Kravitz, MD, dermatology section chief at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

No sunscreen blocks 100 percent of UV rays. Sunscreens with an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) greater than 30 stop at least 97.5 percent of UV rays. SPF 30 sunscreens block 96.7 percent of these rays while SPF 15 sunscreens stop about 92 percent.

Sun Protection Tips.

- Stay out of the sun, or limit your time in the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Use sunscreens with an SPF of 15 or higher. All children over the age of 6 months and all adults should use sunscreen.
- Keep infants in the shade and protected with clothes. Use an umbrella over strollers. Sunscreen isn't recommended for those under 6 months of age.
- Use at least an ounce of sunscreen each time you apply it. Apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Reapply sunscreen every few hours and after swimming or profuse sweating.
- Buy sunscreen and sunglasses that protect against both UVA and UVB rays (two types of ultraviolet rays).
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to protect your face, head, neck, and ears.
- Wear sunscreen even on cloudy days because clouds block only about 20 percent of UV rays.

Dr. Kravtiz, backed by the American Academy of Dermatology, also urges people to avoid tanning parlors. He said "The ultraviolet light given off by these tanning booths can cause sunburn, premature aging, and increase your risk of developing skin cancer."

Stay Hydrated This Summer. When you head outdoors, take along plenty of fluids and follow this advice:

- Drink at least eight glasses of fluid (water, fruit juice or sports drinks) daily.
- Drink even more if you sweat excessively or if the weather is hot and humid.
- Drink at least one glass of fluid a half-hour before exercise; drink a half to one glass every 10 to 20 minutes during workouts; drink afterward to replenish. For workouts longer than an hour, drink juices or sports drinks that contain six to seven percent carbohydrates.

Courtesy: Inova Health Source Newsletter

Special Emphasis Program Managers

Dawn Cowan, Washington, DC

Twelve members were selected to serve as GIPSA's Special Emphasis Program Manager's. The appointees began serving 3-year terms on June 3, 2002. Here are GIPSA's Special Emphasis Program Managers:

AFRICAN AMERICAN PROGRAM MANAGER

Co-Managers

Sharon Williams, Regulatory Branch
(202) 720-8536 (202) 690-2755 (fax)

Vanette Stewart, Denver, CO
(303) 375-4240 (303) 371-4609 (fax)

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM MANAGER

Co-Managers

Chuan Kao, Technical Services Division
(816) 891-0452 (816) 891-8070 (fax)

Ellie Speelman, Office of International Affairs
(202) 720-0226 (202) 720-1015 (fax)

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

Co-Manager

Duane Putnam, Regulatory Branch
(202) 720-7786 (202) 690-2755 (fax)

Jeannette Semon, Executive Resources Staff
(202) 720-0273 (202) 720-4628 (fax)

FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Co-Manager

Linda Alston, Civil Rights Staff
(202) 720-1736 (202) 690-0609 (fax)

Stephanie Osterman, Des Moines, IA
(515) 323-2579 (515) 323-2590 (fax)

HISPANIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

Co-Manager

Dennis Murray, Washington, DC
(202) 720-7456 (202) 205-3941 (fax)

William Arce, Des Moines, IA
(515) 323-2579 (515) 323-2590 (fax)

Pesticides in Our Food?

Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

Today there is great concern about potential dietary exposure to pesticide residues in our drinking water, whole milk, grains, vegetables, meats, and fresh, canned, and frozen fruits. Reliable data are needed to provide consumers with the information they want about pesticide residues.

To accomplish this, the Pesticide Data Program (PDP) was implemented by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in 1991 to collect statistically reliable data on pesticide residues in domestically produced and imported foods. The PDP is a critical component of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, which directs the Secretary of Agriculture to collect pesticide residue data on foods consumed by infants and children. PDP is also mandated by Congress to provide reliable information on pesticide residue issues.

Under the program, various foods are sampled for insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, and growth regulator residues. The data are valuable to consumers, food processors, pesticide producers, and American farmers. Additional information on the program is available at: www.ams.usda.gov/science/pdp/quick.htm.

Continued, see **PDP** *on page 8.*

2003 NAACP Convention

Sharon L. Williams, Black Emphasis Program Manager, Washington, DC

It was my first NAACP convention. And, oh, what a convention it was.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held its 93rd Annual Convention in July in Houston, TX. Lee Brown, the Mayor of Houston, proudly welcomed the organization to his city. Houston is known for its diversity.

NAACP board of directors and staff, lifetime and regular members, delegates, youth, corporate sponsors and observers from across the country came to Houston to participate in this important event.

The convention kicked off with worship, songs, and a reception. This year's theme was "Freedom Under Fire," which is meant to remind us that our freedom has taken fire from abroad and is under fire here at home as well.

During the opening ceremony, distinguished officials such as **Julian Bond**, Chairman, NAACP; **Kweisi Mfume**, President and CEO, NAACP; Reverend **Jesse L. Jackson**, Founder and President, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; **Sheila Jackson Lee**, Representative, U.S. Congress, and other notables addressed an audience filled with great expectation and hope.

Mr. Bond set the tone for the week by assuring the listeners that the NAACP is empowered with new vitality in its fight for social justice and equal opportunity for all. He said that the energy and interest shall continue, and when we walk hand in hand, we will go forward and accomplish our mission.

Mr. Mfume remarked that through the NAACP, progress has been made, history continues to be made, and challenges have been won. He also said that the NAACP's goal is to make things better than ever for everyone, and that the task at hand is a task for all of us.

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson enlightened us with eloquent poetry in his speech about "crime in the corporate suites vs. crime in the streets." He wants to know who is protecting us from those improprieties in our major businesses and corporations because crimes there have always been and continue to be on the rise.

Later, both Mssrs. **Bond** and **Mfume** were presented a flag that flew over the U.S. Capital by **Congresswoman Lee** as a symbol of the fight for freedom.

All week, the NAACP held award luncheons, youth activities, regional meetings, exhibits, health, education and membership workshops, a job fair, entertainment and more. I attended most of these activities and found them very interesting and informative.

Toward the end of the week, the NAACP presented its 5-year strategic plan which includes initiatives such as a public ad campaign to assure that the organization is alive and well, improving its image, strengthening its commitment to speak out for justice, voter empowerment, and strengthening youth programs. Some of its civil rights legislative priorities include election reform, racial profiling, criminal justice, education, the plight of black farmers, and community development.

The NAACP officially closed the 93rd session with a dinner at which **Earl Graves**, founder and publisher, Black Enterprise Magazine, presented **Congressman John Lewis** with the Spingarn Medal Award for his courageous efforts in the civil rights struggle and for his commitment to the cause. The Spingarn Medal Award is awarded annually by the NAACP for the highest achievement of an African American.

I was very impressed and pleased to have attended the convention. I have been a member of the NAACP for 3 years. Attending the convention reaffirmed my commitment to become a more active member in the organization.

My Summer at GIPSA

Idelisse Rodriguez, Summer Intern, Washington, DC

Mutagenic blue gels and claustrophobic elevators, three feet in width, encompass just part of my internship experience this summer. Almost 3 months ago, when I first found out about the opportunity to work in the Review Branch of the Compliance Division, I did not imagine what I was I going to encounter in the world of grain inspection. During my first weeks as a member of the technical staff, I was introduced to the employees, managers, and the working atmosphere of GIPSA headquarters. After this encouraging period, I put aside the skirts and high heels and went behind the scenes.

During her internship, Idelisse did a bit of everything, from office work to probing a railcar with Stuttgart's Gary Zella.

A job well done!

At the Technical Center at Kansas City, I participated in training for the compliance officers. I took part in the developing technology and exhaustive grain testing and quality verification that occurs in the laboratories. Later, as a member of a review team, I went to Tri-State Grain Inspection, Inc., in Cincinnati, OH. Here, I had the opportunity to see how sampling, inspection, and grading took place efficiently in both the agency and in the grain elevators. Joining the compliance team in meetings and interviews with the managers and personnel at both locations gave me a better perspective of what they do in the field offices. I have never been closely exposed to the procedures and equipment; therefore, I was excited when **Dr. Chuan Kao**, TSD, let me perform a protein strip test in his biotechnology lab. Moreover, I was thrilled when **Mark Fulmer**, Tri-State licensed inspector, asked me to probe an outbound railcar of corn at the grain elevator in Winchester, OH!

My rather naïve concept of the grain inspection processes in DC and in the field offices has expanded into a better understanding. This understanding, combined with caring co-workers and friends, engaging travel partners, and my technical contribution, made this summer a remarkable experience. Thanks to the unique GIPSA employees at DC, to all my traveling companions, to all the personnel in the Technical Center and Tri-State agency, and special thanks to **Janet Hart** for giving me this opportunity.

PDP, *from page 6.*

Sharon Lathrop, quality assurance officer, Technical Services Division (TSD), reports that GIPSA became involved in the PDP in 1995. Since then, TSD has developed testing methods for wheat, soybeans, oats, peanut butter, rice, and barley; analyzed over 4,400 samples; and reported over 175,000 individual pesticides results.

Sharon noted that TSD's Trace Analysis Lab recently developed two analytical methods to analyze more than 50 different pesticides residues in barley. One method, Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), isolates and identifies the residues. High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) identifies residues that cannot be analyzed by GC/MS. The Trace Analysis Lab completed its first batch of barley samples in June. In 2003, the lab will analyze 1,500 rice and barley samples.

Under the 1990 Farm Bill, private applicators must maintain records of their usage of federally restricted use of pesticides. To regulate these applicators, Federal agencies investigate their records. GIPSA's Wichita Field Office employees have done an excellent job as pesticide records reviewers. According to **Ken Critchfield**, Wichita field office manager, our employees track vital information about applicators in various states (Georgia, Missouri, Colorado, and Wyoming) under strict deadlines.

GIPSA's involvement in the PDP has provided American consumers and agricultural interests with a comprehensive and reliable database of actual residue levels of pesticides in our food supply. We are grateful for their hard work.

Getting to Know Your ISSMs

Carol Remmers, Washington, DC

I gave a security talk to a group of GIPSA employees, most of whom were from our field locations. At one point in the discussion I mentioned the role of the ISSM. Many asked, "what is an ISSM?" I was only too happy to explain but also thought perhaps I should remind ALL employees about the who, what, where of our Information Systems Security Managers, or ISSMs.

First and foremost, all of GIPSA's ISSMs are volunteers. When the call went out over 2 years ago for IT security volunteers, these employees stepped forward. They all share a strong commitment to information systems security within their units and our Agency. GIPSA's security program would not be a success without these highly dedicated employees.

ISSM stands for "Information Systems Security Manager." USDA's Office of Cyber Security requires GIPSA to have a representative at each of our locations. ISSMs:

· Are the lead Information Systems Security (ISS) specialists for their location, managing ISS efforts and serving as the unit's authority on these issues. For ISS matters, they represent and report directly to program/business unit heads.

· Advise management on policies, standards, procedures, and specific safeguards to ensure data and application system confidentiality, integrity, and availability. They provide advice about unit compliance with Federal laws, requirements, and standards as well as USDA/GIPSA policies.

· Establish and maintain a positive working relationship with the ISSPM to collaborate and cooperate in maintaining and improving the GIPSA ISS program.

· Help establish controls to ensure that employee access to sensitive data is appropriately limited, to provide proper operational control of the flow of sensitive data through the organization.

· Coordinate or conduct ISS awareness, training, and education activities for all employees in their organization, including functional managers and users. They answer questions regarding ISS policies and procedures.

Please visit the Information Systems Security section of inGIPSA for more information.

Remember, next time you see your ISSM, remember to say "Thanks" to let them know how much we all appreciate their efforts!

GIPSA's ISSM's

P&S Regional Offices

Denver	Donna Wolf
Des Moines	Margaret Cummings
Atlanta	Jill Ainsworth

FGIS Field Offices/Circuits and Technical Services Division

Grand Forks	Penny Kilbride
Baltimore	Lanita Hill
Stuttgart	Brian Teer
New Orleans	Yohanna Lorio
Wichita	Judy Johnston
TSD	Robin Rother
Montreal	Nina Milaknis
Moscow	Vicki Kottke
Portland	Marsha Morehouse
Toledo	Kaye Burnep
Minneapolis	Jan Roehler
League City	Adel Ibrahim
Kansas City	Michelle Bosley
Cedar Rapids	Denise Ruggles
Olympia	John Flemm
Sacramento	Mike Johnson
	Chuck Britton

Gays and Lesbians in American History

Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

The gays and lesbians are in every culture, and their struggle for equal rights is part of American history. While this group has made significant contributions in our society, they have also suffered major setbacks.

Here is a list of notable events in gay history. Additional information can be obtained from http://edweb.sdsu.edu/people/cmathison/gay_les/menu9096.html.

1924 Henry Gerber founded the "Society for Human Rights," the first formally organized homosexual rights organization in the United States. Mr. Gerber described his organization as an advocacy group for people with "mental abnormalities."

1934 Gay people in German-occupied countries were sent to Nazi concentration camps during World War II. In many camps, the prisoners wore colored based badges to signify the reason for imprisonment. Men convicted for sexual deviance, including homosexuality wore a pink triangle. The icon has become the gay rights movement's symbol for empowerment. Others use it in remembrance of others' suffering during a tragic time in history. Historians believe the lesbians in Hitler's concentration camps wore the black triangle.

1948 The Kinsey Report surprised almost everyone with its findings that 4 percent of men identified themselves as exclusively homosexual while 37 percent had had sexual relations with other men in their adult lives.

1990 Gay men and lesbians were accepted as Rabbis at the 101st Annual Conference of American Rabbis.

1991 An appeals court recognized a homosexual's partner's rights as tantamount to those of a spouse.

1992 President Bill Clinton is the first president to recognize gay and lesbian rights.

1992 Massachusetts Governor William Weld created the first commission "Governor's Commission for Gay and Lesbian Youth" in the nation. The purpose was to make recommendations to the Governor concerning the alarming number of suicides among gay youth, and other related problems of homelessness and victimization.

1993 The Grammy Awards featured many openly gay and lesbian performers (k.d. lang, Elton John, the B-52's, Fred Schneider, Keith Strickland, and the late lyricist Howard Ashman ("Beauty and the Beast").

1993 More than one million people participated in the April 26th, March on Washington D.C. The march lasted for over 6 hours and was reported to be the largest march in the Capitol's history.

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

Are EEO/CR issues or concerns affecting your employment with GIPSA? Do you have questions? Need help? Then let your voice be heard.

Call the EEO Advisory Committee at...

1-800-639-5167

Civil Rights Hotline

GIPSA News is the employee newsletter of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Send your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, or thoughts for the next issue to:

Dana Stewart
USDA, GIPSA, Stop 3601
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Phone (202) 720-5091
FAX (202) 205-9237
Dana.B.Stewart@usda.gov

by August 25, 2002!

Office of the Administrator
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