



# GIPSA News

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

*August 2006*

## Action Teams Get to Work

*Jim Link*

On July 18 and 19, the action planning teams that resulted from our Organizational Assessment Survey met for the first time in Washington, DC. The teams kicked off with a welcome and words of appreciation and encouragement from deputy administrators Dave Shipman and Alan Christian, and myself. I thanked them for their willingness to participate in the process to come up with methods to improve GIPSA. Management is committed to improving our organization and we are looking forward to receiving the recommendations from the Innovation and Use of Resources Team and the Supervision Team.

Over the next 10 weeks, the teams will take on the important challenge of researching, and then developing recommendations for management that address these two critically important issues in our organization. You have a central role to play in this process. Please support our team members by providing them with your thoughts and suggestions as they do their research, identify the specific issues, and develop their solutions.

These are “virtual teams,” which means that team members will be participating in team activities via conference calls, NetMeetings, and other available means from their regular duty stations across the country. That provides our members with an additional challenge both for the members and their supervisors and colleagues. Team members will need time away from their regularly assigned duties to attend these virtual meetings, and to talk with you and other GIPSA colleagues. They will need your support to be successful team members over the next few months.

We are fortunate to have team members who are talented, motivated, and enthusiastic. I am confident that GIPSA will be a better organization thanks to their efforts to develop real-life, effective, and workable recommendations.

### Slogan Contest Winner

**Cheryl A. Taylor**

*League City, TX*



Goal Oriented  
Independent  
People  
Soaring  
Ahead

# Names in the News

## PERSONNEL

**Mark Wooden** became the newest compliance officer for the Review Branch, effective July 9, 2006. **Mark** will be stationed in Kansas City, Missouri. He formerly was with the Technical Services Division.

Two Market Analysis and Standards Branch members have relocated from Washington, DC, headquarters to Kansas City, Missouri. **Eric Jabs**, who will remain responsible for providing economic and standards support, can be reached at (816) 823-4635. **Pat McCluskey** will be responsible for the wheat, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, and triticale standards. **Pat** can be reached at (816) 823-4639. Both are located at: Suite 180, Stop 1404, 6501 Beacon Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64133.

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## AWARDS

**Bill Bates**, Field Management Division, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for his significant role in helping the Agency better understand the magnitude of containerized shipments of bulk grain being exported from various areas of the United States without receiving the mandatory official inspection/weighing services required by the U.S. Grain Standards Act and regulations.

**Nelson Buck**, Field Management Division, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for performing extensive research on fumigation procedures and providing detailed data on equipment specifications required for the recirculation method of fumigation for bulk carriers.

**Gary May**, economist, Midwestern regional office, received a spot award for his excellence in performance on the Cow and Bull Monitoring Program, the Hog Packer Compliance Program, and for assisting with recommendations to change Agricultural Marketing Services packer reporting requirements.

## 35-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Robert Petersen, Moscow, ID  
Clarence West, Maumee, OH

## 30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

William Ashley, Washington, DC  
Bruce Boor, Washington, DC

Alfred Broussard, Jr., Beaumont, TX  
Shelton Buckley, New Orleans, LA  
Milton Hansen, Denver, CO  
James Holmes, New Orleans, LA  
Roy Hughes, Wichita, KS  
Aarion Johnson, Kansas City, MO  
Michael Johnson, Sacramento, CA  
Joanne Matherne, New Orleans, LA  
James McLaurin, New Orleans, LA  
Raymond Minks, Washington, DC  
Theodore Respect, Duluth, MN  
Cathey Smith, Portland, OR  
Perry Smith, Jr., Beaumont, TX  
Steven Tanner, Kansas City, MO  
Willie Washington, Crowley, LA

## 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Earl Bradford, New Orleans, LA

## 20-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Carolyn Cooper, League City, TX  
Larry Engebretson, Kansas City, MO  
Ferriel Gregory, Portland, OR  
Charles Guidry II, New Orleans, LA  
Flavin Keller, New Orleans, LA  
Marlys Sahlin, Denver, CO  
Creig Stephens, Atlanta, GA  
Dana Stewart, Washington, DC  
Sherrie Waite, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Darrell Washington, New Orleans, LA

*Continued, see Names on page 3.*

Names, from page 2.

## Note of Appreciation

*Sharon Lathrop, Technical Center*

### 15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Charles Burden, Kansas City, MO  
John Godfrey, Toledo, OH  
Jacques Meadows, Atlanta, GA  
Lynn Polston, Kansas City, MO

### 10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Steven Burton, Kansas City, MO  
Tracy Gerke, Washington, DC  
Patricia Gustin, Moscow, ID  
John Rollins, Atlanta, GA

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## Travel Bits & Pieces

*Peggy Smith, Washington, DC*

**Travel Update.** Northrop Grumman has been selected as the new eTravel vendor. A pilot USDA agency will be selected in the near future and all agencies will be using the Northrop Grumman travel system (GovTrip) by early 2008. Local travel will continue to be processed through the SF-1164 or through STAR (details on this will be issued in the near future) rather than through GovTrip. Until GIPSA begins using Northrop Grumman, we will continue to book reservations online through [www.fedtraveler.com](http://www.fedtraveler.com) or by calling Duluth Travel at 1-888-813-9895.

Recently, Dr. Kateryna Gubina, head of Agrotest Laboratory in Kieve, Ukraine, visited the Technical Center on a self-sponsored tour. Dr. Gubina wanted to learn about grain grading, test methods, and equipment specifically focusing on canola, soybeans, wheat, barley, and corn. Her purpose was to gather information that would help her organize a grain analytical lab in the Ukraine. Dr. Gubina was not previously familiar with GIPSA, but had been referred to us as a leading grain quality program by Mr. Floyd Dowell of the Agricultural Research Service. After her visit, Dr. Gubina sent us the following note of appreciation.

Thank you very much for such a useful and highly professional seminar and visit to the USDA GIPSA Technical Services Division.

All of the information about standards and grading are very important for Ukrainian grain companies. The levels of your laboratories are very high. So I'm glad that I had the opportunity to visit the example of high management and modern chemistry laboratory.

Sincerely,  
Kateryna Gubina

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## USPS Flat Rate Priority Mail Box

*Doug Lacefield, Washington, DC*

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has a Flat Rate Priority Mail Box service available. There are two sizes available: 11" x 8.5" x 5.5" and 11-7/8" x 3-3/8" x 13-5/8". The charge is \$8.10 regardless of weight or destination (domestic locations). Additionally, there are Pickup Options available by following a link on the pages below.

Information about this USPS service is available on the web at: <http://www.usps.com/shop/flatrateboxes.htm>.

Please consider this option when you are mailing samples and other items similar in size and weight.

If you need further information, please call me at 202-720-0228.

## New Feed Pea Standards

*Marianne Plaus, Washington, DC*

Effective July 7, 2006, GIPSA established U.S. Standards for Feed Peas under the authority of the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (AMA). The AMA directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and improve standards for agricultural products (7 U.S.C. 1622). These are standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging. The intent of such standards is to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices.

The U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council and other dry pea industry representatives asked GIPSA to establish standards for dry peas used as feed for animals (feed peas) due to an increasing demand for peas used in animal feed. The quality and standards for the edible dry pea market differ from the feed pea market. GIPSA worked with the U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council and others in the pea industry to develop the standards for feed peas.

The standards include definitions, the basic principles governing application of standards (e.g., the type of sample used for a particular quality analysis), reporting requirements for analytical results, the actual quality grade specifications, and the format for the grade for certification purposes. The standards include specifications for both U.S. Grade No. 1 Feed Peas and for U.S. Sample Grade Feed Peas. Feed peas that do not meet the requirements for U.S. Grade No. 1 Feed Peas are classified as U.S. Sample Grade Feed Peas.

To read, print, or download the U.S. Standards for Peas, including the new Standards for Feed Peas, to GIPSA's web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov> and click on "See the Official U.S. Grain Standards."

## Employee Assistance Program

Washington, DC personnel, call...  
301-570-3900  
or 1-800-222-0364

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

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## Contracting Update

*Henry Greenwood, Washington, DC*

In the June issue of *GIPSA News*, we reported that California Agri Inspection Company, Ltd. qualified to provide services at export port locations in California; and Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection Departments, Inc. and Eastern Iowa Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. (Eastern Iowa) both qualified to provide services at the export port location in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On May 24, Eastern Iowa started export inspection and weighing services in Milwaukee. As of July 25, Eastern Iowa has loaded 5 vessels with approximately 68,447 metric tons of yellow corn and 16,378 metric tons of soybeans for a total of 84,825 metric tons.

On June 27 and 29, we posted the contract synopsis on the Federal Business Opportunity website ([www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)) notifying the public of our intent to contract for grain inspection and weighing services at export port locations in the Toledo Field Office circuit and the Corpus Christi sub-office area of the League City Field Office. Both Toledo and Corpus Christi are divided into two contracts. For the Toledo circuit, one contract is for the Chicago, Illinois, and Portage Indiana areas and the second contract is for the Toledo, Ohio, Huron, Ohio, and the Albany New York areas. The two contracts for the Toledo circuit has the same requirements as those for the California and Milwaukee contracts. The contractor must provide export services at all export port locations in the Toledo circuit under direct oversight of FGIS. However, the two contracts for Corpus Christi are different than those for California, Milwaukee, and Toledo. Even the two contracts for Corpus Christi are different from each other. One contract requires the contractor to provide all non-export inspection and weighing services of land carriers in the areas serviced by Corpus Christi. These areas may include but are not limited to Corpus Christi, Brownsville, and Victoria Texas. Under this contract FGIS will not provide direct oversight. The second contract for Corpus Christi requires the contractor to provide us, when requested, with qualified personnel (samplers, technicians, and weighers) to assist us in providing mandatory export inspection and weighing services of waterborne carriers. This type of contract is intended to help supplement our workforce which will allow us to respond to unpredictable export workloads. About fifteen days after posting the contract synopsis for Toledo and Corpus Christi, we will post the Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking interested contractors. Interested parties will have 30 days to respond to the RFP.

# GIPSA participa en LULAC

*Idelisse Rodriguez,  
Washington, DC*

From June 26 to July 1, 2006, League City's **Ana Trujillo** and I participated in the 77th Annual League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Convention & Exposition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as part of our training as Special Emphasis Program Managers.

During the convention, we attended diverse seminars from the Federal Training Institute and a summit tailored for Hispanic Employment Managers. All activities highlighted this year's theme, "Latinos Impacting Las Americas". Lunches and dinners were dedicated to sponsors and outstanding keynote speakers such as U.S. Treasurer Anna Cabral; Jesse Jackson, founder and president of Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and Jim Doyle, Governor of Wisconsin.

Merengue and mariachi rhythms inundated Thursday night in a concert dedicated to la gente, the people. Music was also present in the National Exposition where GIPSA's booth featured hip sunglasses, coin holders, and spatulas among other giveaways. This grand exposition brings together private companies, Federal agencies and non-profit organizations showcasing services to the Hispanic community. The exposition, seminars, and concert were evidence of the efforts and compromise that many organizations have with the Hispanic community. They also raised awareness about issues impacting our community such as current immigration policies and low employment rates for Hispanics in the Federal Government. The spirit of camaraderie and amity that prevailed among attendees from all nationalities made this a successful and remarkable event. Thanks to the Civil Rights Office for giving us this opportunity.

# Teleworking

*Peggy Smith, Washington, DC*

Teleworking can have a positive impact in the recruitment of potential applicants and retention of current employees. Teleworking reduces the cost of office space, sick leave usage, and workers compensation. Teleworking helps employees manage their work and family responsibilities, can accommodate a medical condition, and can improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion.

Employees, including managers and supervisors, who perform duties that are suitable for teleworking, and are on permanent appointments or appointments of more than 1 year; were rated at least Fully Successful or higher on their most recent performance appraisal; have work assignments that are portable and can be performed effectively at an alternate duty station; are able to participate without adversely affecting customers or the workload of other employees; and have completed a Flexible Workplace Work Agreement (MRP-210-R) with the signature of the appropriate approving official and the Telework Coordinator.

Teleworking is a management option rather than an employee benefit. Accomplishment of GIPSA's mission takes precedence over telework participation. Participants must be available for onsite meetings, training, and conferences as directed by the supervisor. Participants must adhere to guidelines on tours of duty, and absence and leave. Managers and supervisors can terminate an employee's participation at any time if his/her participation will adversely affect customers and achieving GIPSA's mission.

Participants in this program generally alternate days up to 3 days per week. Program participants and their supervisors will agree upon a telework schedule for reporting to work at the official duty station and their private residence and/or designated telework center in their local area. Supervisors reserve the right to review the work accomplished during each telework day.

Each Agency is required to file an annual report to USDA's Office of Human Capital Management and to the Office of Personnel Management regarding the number of employees who participate in this program. All telework agreements should be based on a calendar year basis.

For more information on this program, please give me a call at 202-720-7045 or go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/hr.html>, click on HR Guides and Directives, click on Human Resources Desk Guide, and click on Chapter 4368.

# Back From an Assignment in Asia: Thoughts & Reflections

*Edward C. Durgin, Washington, DC*

In FY 2002, GIPSA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) initiated a program to place representatives in Asia on long-term (3 to 4-month) assignments to conduct international activities and work with our overseas customers and/or their Governments in a more proactive manner. I was selected to complete this first assignment; this is an accounting of the most recently-completed assignment (my second) under this program. Since my initial 3½ -month assignment in FY 2002, we have increased our presence in the region. At the end of this September, GIPSA will have placed representatives in Asia for more than 8 months under this program during FY 2006 (Jerry Kuseck, Portland Field Office, is currently on assignment in Hong Kong).

We continue to receive many positive comments from USDA Cooperators (e.g., U.S. Wheat Associates, U.S. Grains Council, and American Soybean Association), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and others about our representatives' ability to foster relationships with customers, promote a greater understanding of the official inspection system, and address both immediate and long-term issues. Representatives completing assignments are often asked when they (or their replacement) will return, and it is also common for Cooperators and customers to convey their belief that our assignments should be longer than 3-4 months. "Home" during my February-June assignment was Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (KL). I maintained a long-term apartment there, and as with my first assignment, FAS/KL provided office

space and administrative support at the American Embassy.

Prior to my departure for KL, I contacted USDA Cooperators and FAS offices in the region to announce my upcoming assignment and solicit input regarding possible projects which



*GIPSA's Ed Durgin attending the discharge of a shipment of U.S. soybeans at the port of Chigading, Indonesia.*

I might initiate or complete during my assignment. As a result of these contacts, I planned to address ongoing soybean quality issues in South Asia, participate in pesticide residue workshops in Japan, attend a wheat marketing seminar in India and continue to build relationships with our counterparts from China's State Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). Other projects and activities developed after my assignment began.

I visited 9 countries during the 4-month assignment: China, Hong Kong,

India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam. While each assignment in our program has been unique, the activities I completed are characteristic for this program and included the following:

- Participating in educational seminars for importers and end users to explain the role and responsibilities of GIPSA/FGIS.
- Investigating receivers' alleged quality discrepancies for grain shipments that were inspected and weighed by FGIS at the time of loading.
- Participating in FAS-directed Government-to-Government discussions concerning import restrictions or conditions/specifications that restrict U.S. trade.
- Attending the arrival and discharge of U.S. grain cargoes to observe sampling and inspection procedures and discuss quality issues with receivers.

As you might surmise, I spent what seemed like countless hours queued up at airport immigration desks waiting to obtain visa stamps in my passport. And during a few long multi-country trips, I awoke in the mornings asking myself which country I was visiting and reflecting on whether I had the luxury of staying another night or whether I needed to pack my bags and check out of the hotel. After these trips, I always welcomed the opportunity to travel "home" to my apartment in Kuala Lumpur.

*Continued, see Asia on page 7.*

# Farm Gate and First-Point-Of-Sale Surveys

*Pat McCluskey and Marianne Plaus, Washington, DC*

GIPSA's Market Analysis and Standards Branch (MASB) is designing and will execute statistically sound surveys to capture farm gate/first-point-of-sale inspection data for all major grains. These surveys will provide extensive baseline data about grain as it enters the marketing chain. The data, combined with our own inspection data, will help us better understand the impact both of grain entering the market on proposed standards and of the standards on the entire market.

We're beginning the surveying process with the 2006 sorghum harvest, which is already underway in southern Texas. **Pat McCluskey**, MASB, is leading the sorghum survey with the help of **Susan Fall**, Minneapolis Field Office, **Bill Bates**, Policies and Procedures Branch, and MASB's **Eric Jabs** and **Becca Riese**. **Pat**, **Bill** and **Becca** have already contacted many elevators in the 11 largest sorghum producing states, seeking their help in collecting and mailing 1,000 to 1,500 samples to a specified office for grading. That office is Lincoln Inspection Service, Inc., (LIS) which competitively bid on this project and was awarded the sorghum survey contract on June 30, 2006. MASB will mail supply kits to the participating elevators, pay for postage, and keep individual elevators' identities confidential. In turn, the elevators will mail samples to LIS, which will grade the samples, and provide a thorough analysis of the foreign material and damaged other grains.

Grading data for sorghum samples will be posted on GIPSA's public website. Participating elevators will be able to identify data for their specific samples by referencing the unique serial numbers on the mailing tags they received in their supply kit. Our intention is to post a more thorough report approximately 4 weeks after all data has been collected. We will also thoroughly critique the process and incorporate "lessons learned" into the next two surveys (i.e., sorghum in summer/fall 2007 and soybeans in fall 2007). Resources permitting, and assuming the surveys prove valuable, we'll expand the process to include all major grains. Our goal is to survey each grain for 5 years. Eventually, we'd like to include in the surveys factor analyses for attributes not currently included in the grading standards, such as starch in sorghum and linolenic acid in soybeans.

If you would like to learn more about the sorghum survey or the process in general, please contact **Pat McCluskey** at (816) 823-4639 or **Marianne Plaus** at (202) 690-3460.

**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

Asia, from page 6.

Although my travels seemed tiring and grueling at times, my assignment was to maximize my contacts in the region, and a few days back in KL were sufficient to prepare me for new activities in another country. I must admit, however, that I was ready to return to my "permanent home" in Virginia in June.

When travel conditions permitted, I took opportunities to explore local points of interest in the various countries I visited. I was fortunate to spend a weekend in Beijing and visit and walk on the Great Wall. I also toured the Forbidden City. A trip to the historic Malaysian city of Melaka and boat cruises on the Singapore River and harbor in Hong Kong were other enjoyable diversions during my assignment.

This Asia assignment afforded opportunities to start new projects and continue work on ongoing projects initiated by others under this program. FGIS' continued presence in the region is paying dividends as we build and nurture relationships with our customers and their Governments in the region. I had many opportunities to discuss the quality of U.S. grain exports with receivers, processors, and government officials. Our customers are showing more interest in "health and safety" issues as well. Questions about pesticide residues, mycotoxins, and weed seeds are becoming more common and frequent. And these questions are accompanied by increased requests for testing, certification, and documentation of these conditions. In the future, I suspect that FGIS will need to consider new ways to address our customers' needs in these areas as we work to facilitate the marketing of grain.

# My Trip to East Africa

*Brian McKee, Washington, DC*

Hungry people, varied political views, phytosanitary food concerns, grain quality, religion- quite a mixture for the three countries – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania – known as East Africa! In the 5 years since I was last in these countries some noticeable changes have taken place. There is a lot of new commercial and residential construction taking place; there are many more vehicles and pedestrians; and the traffic jams are just as bad as here in the States. There are few traffic lights. Since they drive on the “wrong” side of the road, navigating through the roundabouts (traffic circles) at major intersections is a challenge. This is a very interesting part of the world!

So what prompted my return trip? Well recently, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) toughened their import regulations for food aid shipments from the United States, making it nearly impossible for APHIS’ Plant Protection and Quarantine agency (PPQ) to meet the new plant import permit (PIP) requirements. Although KEPHIS allowed two wheat shipments that failed to meet the PIP requirement to discharge in Mombasa, Kenya, KEPHIS said it would not allow any future food aid shipments to discharge in Mombasa. Bulk grain shipments for distribution throughout Kenya are first unloaded and then bagged in Mombasa. Complicating the issue is the fact that Uganda, which is landlocked, relies almost entirely on their imports being transhipped through the port of Mombasa. Tanzania, which receives some commodities

through their port at Dar es Salaam, also receives some food aid imports through Mombasa. KEPHIS stated that not only food aid for Kenya but shipments bound for any other country that transits through Kenya must also comply with Kenya’s phytosanitary requirements regardless of the receiving country’s own import phyto requirements.

Since earlier discussions about this issue had not been fruitful, it was determined that face-to-face meetings might be more productive. The major issues were phytosanitary issues and the issuance of a “phyto” certificate by APHIS/PPQ. However, some of KEPHIS’ concerns crossed over to the quality arena. To address these quality questions, I was selected to accompany PPQ’s Karen Bedigian to East Africa.

Last minute personnel availability changes in Kenya dictated that we meet with government phytosanitary officials in Kampala and Entebbe, Uganda, and then in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, before going to Nairobi, Kenya. Although they have almost the same restrictions as Kenya, officials in Uganda and Tanzania expressed their concerns about not being able to get their food aid shipments because the commodities might not meet Kenyan phytosanitary standards.

Specific issues of concern were (1) “freedom from” specific diseases, molds, flag smut, karnal bunt, weed seeds, soil, and plant debris; (2) a maximum 13.5 moisture percentage; (3) cargo fumigation before leaving the United States; (4) the grain must

be “clean”; and (5) a certificate statement as to whether or not the commodity contains any genetically modified material.

Discussions of what we considered phytosanitary and quality issues were held with each country and satisfactory alternative wording, where necessary, was developed. We explained that clean, zero or “free from” soil (dirt) and some soil borne diseases would never be able to be determined and certificated. Their joint concern was that during transit the “identity preserved” cargo status may be lost due to carrier accidents or pilferage for local planting, thereby contaminating their limited and fragile local crops. This point is still under discussion. Weed seeds and plant debris were part of our foreign material and dockage quality certification. A maximum of 13.5 percent moisture would be specified in the load order document. We told them we could not address the GMO question since that is under consideration at the department level.

Fumigation and infestation are interesting problems. FGIS will log its insect findings by number and kind on a form that is submitted to PPQ at the completion of loading. Although the number and kind of insects will not exceed our limits, if we show four granary weevils and/or two larger grain borers, for example, PPQ will not be able to issue a phyto because the PIP has a zero tolerance specifically for these two insects.

*Continued, see Africa on page 9.*

# For Your Health

*Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC*

There is nothing more American than the picnic. Picnics can take any form, such as the community picnic, friends and neighbors, tailgate parties, or ball games. There is also one sure thing at every picnic – lots of good food. The important point is to have safe and healthy food, not food that can cause food borne illness. Always prepare and store food properly.

- As always, wash hands and work areas before preparing food.
- Cook foods in plenty of time to thoroughly chill them in shallow containers in the refrigerator.
- Have enough coolers with ice or frozen gel packs in which to store the perishable foods like meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and salads. You want to keep the food at 40 degrees F. Pack foods right from the refrigerator into the coolers.
- Don't put the cooler in the car trunk. Carry it inside an air conditioned car. At picnics, keep the cooler in the shade and keep the lid closed. Replenish the ice if it melts.
- Use a separate cooler for drinks so the one containing the food won't constantly be opened and closed.
- Find out if there is a source of safe drinking water at your destination. If not, bring water for preparation and cleaning or pack clean, wet, disposable cloths or moist towelettes and paper towels for cleaning hands and surfaces. Cross contamination during preparation, grilling, and serving food is a prime cause of foodborne illness.
- Pack raw meats, poultry, or seafood on the bottom of the cooler. This will reduce the risk of them dripping on other foods. Pack coolers until they are full. A full cooler will stay cold longer than one that is partially full.
- If you plan on getting takeout foods such as fried chicken, eat them within an hour of pick up.
- Do not partially grill extra meat or poultry to use later. Once you begin, cook until completely done to assure bacteria is destroyed. Grill raw poultry until the juices run clear and there is no pink. Hamburger should not be pink in the center.
- When taking food off the grill, don't put the cooked items on the same platter which held the raw meat unless you have washed the platter in between uses.
- Two Hour Rule. Don't leave perishable food unrefrigerated for more than two hours. Put perishable foods back in the cooler while you go for a swim or a hike, and don't leave them out all afternoon to nibble on.
- If picnic leftovers have been sitting out for more than an hour or two. Discard these leftover. Cold food that was kept in a cooler that still has ice may be safe. If the ice has melted, the food should be discarded.

Courtesy: What's Cooking America

## *Africa, from page 8.*

Cargoes are fumigated at completion of loading due to the commodity tender requirements.

However, after the 28-day voyage from the Gulf, Kenya says there are usually live insects found upon arrival. Although the emphasis of the new PIP restrictions was on wheat, others commodities affected were corn, sorghum, rice, soybeans, edible beans, and peas.

A week after our return to the United States, Kenya reissued tenders for wheat, corn, and sorghum. The PIPs were revised to the extent PPQ should be able to issue the phytos. Apparently our face-to-face meetings were successful!

**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  
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dana.b.stewart@usda.gov

**by August 25, 2006!**

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AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION  
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