



GIPSA *NEWS*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GRAIN
INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS
ADMINISTRATION

AUGUST 2012

INSIDE THIS

ISSUE:

- ◆ *Names in the News*
- ◆ *Shout-Out!*
- ◆ *Retired GIPSA Employee Promoted*
- ◆ *GIPSA Feeds Families in...*
- ◆ *P&SP CCWG*
- ◆ *Issuance Report*
- ◆ *Top 10 Facts About Hispanics*
- ◆ *South Korea, Wonderfully Unexpected!*
- ◆ *AAI Grain Grading Report*
- ◆ *During an Earthquake*

FGIS Matters...!

Randall Jones, Washington, DC

This past month, I had the pleasure of traveling to Portland with some fellow FGIS Managers and met with the exporters from Portland and Washington. Thanks to the North American Grain Export Association who worked with us to make this meeting happen. Representatives from the U.S. Wheat Associates (USWA) were there along with the U.S. Soybean Export Council. The work that you do each and every day was reflected in the glowing comments that I heard from our industry stakeholders. Steve Wirsching, who has been with USWA for more than 20 years, much of his time spent in foreign countries promoting U.S. wheat, explained in great detail to the crowd how FGIS services provide a marketing advantage and are used to leverage the sales of U.S. wheat to foreign buyers. Basically, Steve said that FGIS certification brings added value to U.S. wheat and foreign buyers are willing to pay for it.



A number of export elevators were asked to stand before the meeting and discuss issues relating to FGIS services that may need additional focus. Each and every exporter stood before the group and stated they are pleased with the services that FGIS provides. I could not have been prouder to be part of an organization that receives such glowing praise from the stakeholders that we serve. Each of you can take pride in this and feel confident that your services *matter* and are appreciated.

Speaking of pride, FGIS and GIPSA has shown an unbelievable generosity with the effort that has been put forth in the Feds Feed Families. It is possible that, when the initiative concludes, that we will lead USDA in our giving efforts. While I am hesitant to mention specific offices in fear that some will feel left out, the effort put forth by Grand Forks Field Office, the National Grain Center, the League City Field Office, and the Washington, DC staff stands out as exceptional. Your generosity is off the charts!

The Union recently held elections which, as elections tend to do, will bring about some changes. I want to publically thank the outgoing President, George Lewis, and his team for their cooperation and assistance this past year as we were able to accomplish many things on behalf of all FGIS staff. I very much look forward to working with the new Union leadership that will be taking office.

Until next time, keep up the good work and stay safe!

Names in the News

Retirements

Larry Bennett, Agricultural Commodity Grader, from the Crowley office is retiring on November 3, 2012, with 40 year of service. Larry served in the Air Force from 1967-1971. He attended McNeese State University and graduated with degrees in forestry and horticulture. He began his career with the Federal Grain Inspection Service in 1977 as an Agricultural Commodity Grader in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Larry plans on enjoying retirement by doing some hunting, fishing, and traveling.

Condolences

Lawrence "Larry" Bustrak died August 24 in Superior, Wisconsin. Larry worked for GIPSA in the 70's and then went to work for the private non-official inspection lab in Duluth/Superior.

USDA Secretary's Awards

Mark Kemp, Safety and Health Manager, received a 2012 Presidential Volunteerism Award for volunteering over 16,000 hours to his community. Some of his volunteering activities include the coordination of transportation and attendance of all of the original "Documented Tuskegee Airmen" (DOTA) residing in New Jersey who wanted to attend a Presidential Inauguration and the presentation ceremony where the Tuskegee Airmen were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George Bush. For the DOTA's that were unable to attend the ceremony, **Mark** traveled around the State of New Jersey with Congressional, State and local representatives presenting replicas of the medal at local, family, other special events.



Mark Kemp

Mark has also participated in the "Read Across America" campaign where he has traveled throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania reading to students at area schools. He has devoted many hours providing tours of New Jersey military bases showing high school and college students the various career opportunities in the military services and provided guidance on scholarships. Mark also provided transition assistance and resume preparation orientation to veterans and their families.

Kevin Smith, Civil Rights Director, and **Rita Bhanot**, former EEO Specialist, received the 2012 Secretary's Honor Award (Group) for serving on the USDA Diversity and Inclusion Team. This award recognized employees who demonstrate exceptional commitment to the value of diversity in USDA and furtherance of USDA workforce diversity objectives. The USDA Diversity and Inclusion Team demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, resourcefulness, and strategic decision to transform USDA into a model work place where diversity and inclusion is valued and employee satisfaction has increased. The team led and implemented initiatives to drive success in recruiting a diverse workforce transforming USDA into a better place to work.

Dr. David B. Funk, Chief Scientist, received 2012 Secretary's Award (Personal and Professional Excellence Award) for consistently demonstrating an exceptional level of accomplishment in furthering the mission of USDA. **Dr. Funk**, led a 10-year research and development initiative in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and private industry to design and develop a new generation of instruments to measure moisture in grains. Measuring moisture in the \$170 billion U.S. grain industry is a critical component of official grain inspection activities performed and supervised by GIPSA and non-Federal commercial grain inspection activities. The measurements are based on the Very High Frequency (VHF) Unified Grain Moisture Algorithm (UGMA), technology developed by GIPSA, adapted for commercial use by multiple manufacturers and approved for official grain inspection for the upcoming marketing year. UGMA-based moisture meters provide a significantly more accurate measurement of moisture in grain at significant savings to the entire U.S. grain industry, ensuring its global competitiveness.



Dr. Dave Funk

A Shout-Out Goes to...

- ◆ A special shout-out goes to **Judy Johnston** and **Roy Lyon** for their ongoing support to the Compliance team, by reviewing inspection and certification data, and preparing "areas of concern" reports. These reports are used during the reviews of official agencies and field offices, and provide GIPSA with information on areas where additional direction might be needed to avoid these errors in the future. Thank you **Judy** and **Roy** for your continuing assistance to the Compliance team.
- ◆ A Texan shout-out goes to **Morris Edwards**, whose idea to start a food drive in Corpus Christi spurred a one month challenge to other League City locations and Duty Points (from Beaumont to Harlingen) to match our CC, Texas food donations. The result of the First Annual League City Food Drive was 2553 lbs of food donated to help needy Texas families! Great idea, **Morris**!
- ◆ A timely shout-out goes to **Dexter Thomas, Tammi Lindsey**, and **Amber McDonald-Lake** for their help in providing financial data to the Chief Financial Officer's office on Friday, August 24. They promptly addressed this urgent request for a training decision memo. The training staff thanks you!
- ◆ An extraordinary shout-out goes to the staff in Kansas City, **Marsha Schwartz, Terri Liberty**, and **Sara Ludwig**, for supporting our FGIS mission by providing assistance in covering the FGIS phones. Also, thanks to our local team members, **Sherri Murphy, Julie Nelis**, and **Sylvia Midgett**, who are always so helpful! The FGIS ODA office is extremely proud and happy to be part of your team.

Retired GIPSA Employee Promoted to Brigadier General

Bryice Wilke, Des Moines, IA



Arlan M. DeBlieck

Col. Arlan M. DeBlieck was promoted to a Brigadier General during a ceremony on August 26, 2012. The U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination for promotion to Brigadier General and he was also selected to command the 103rd Sustainment Command which is a U.S. Army Reserve unit based in

Des Moines. **Arlan** recognized his eleven years of civilian work with Packers and Stockyards Program as playing a role in building him as the leader that he is today. He was presented with the first artillery shell that was shot off during the ceremony by his youngest son, Rory; a military standard flag by his oldest son, Elliot; a M-9 Baretta General's handgun by his second son, Haden; and a General's belt with a 18 carat gold eagle belt buckle by his third son Maverick.

Arlan is the first Iowan selected to command the 103rd ESC. He has 62 subordinate units and 5,300 soldiers located in seven States. He started his military career as a Marine and transferred to the Army Reserves in 2000.

In January of 2003, Arlan was deployed as the Transportation Branch Chief for Support Operations, 3rd Corps Support Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In March of 2004, he returned to reserve status where he served as the Highway Regulations Officer and then the Assistant Chief of Staff for the 3rd Corps Support Command in Des Moines, Iowa. In August of 2005, Arlan took command of the 450th Movement Control Battalion, out of Manhattan, Kansas City, and deployed with them from November 2006 until April 2008 while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Upon return from deployment, Arlan served as the G3 for the 89th Regional Support Command until October of 2008, when he assumed command of the 561st Regional Support Group (RSG). He deployed for the third time as Commander of the 561st RSG from September of 2009 until June of 2010 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq. His fellow employees called him THE MAYOR OF BAGHDAD during his final deployment. Arlan served as the Deputy Commanding Officer for the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prior to assuming command on April 22, 2012.

GIPSA Feeds Families in...

In DC, GIPSA Wins Gold Idelisse Rodriguez, Washington, DC

GIPSA Team Members, **Ana Alvarado, Regina Ware, Jennifer Hill, Candace Hildreth, and Idelisse Rodriguez**, represented GIPSA during the Feds Feed Families USDA Olympics on August 9. They participated in the canned Food Ring Toss, Food Mini Golf, and Grocery Bag Relay. After an exciting and heated competition, they brought home the Gold in the Grocery Bag Relay event. The GIPSA team collected donations from participants at the event and contributed to the Feeds Feed Families' goal for the Washington, DC offices. The team would like to thank **Mark Kemp** for his team spirit and support during the event.



From left to right: Candace Hildreth, Jennifer Hill, Regina Ware, Ana Alvarado, and Idelisse Rodriguez celebrating their victory.

HUNGER STATISTICS:

Houston¹: 865,000 individuals

Texas²: 4,700,000 individuals

US³: 5,600,000 households

World⁴: about one billion

¹Houston Food Bank, ²Baylor University; Texas Hunger Initiative, ³Feedingamerica.org. ⁴World Food Programme



feds feed families

In League City, More Than 2,200 lbs Collected

Dave Grady, League City, Texas

For millions, food banks and churches serve as their only source of nourishment. For millions more, access to a local food bank or church is impossible. Hunger has no discernment of ethnicity, location, religion, or age. It is not biased. It affects us all the same; *it hurts*. How do you tackle it? *One can at a time*.

The 4th Annual Feds Feed Families program which began in the League City Field Office (LCFO) circuit on July 28, after 17-successful days, has officially drawn to an end. League City Field Office's intern, Julian Biley, made a selfless commitment to promote the food drive in the League City Field Office and Beaumont location. With sub-offices in Corpus Christi and Harlingen, help with coordination would be necessary. **Morris Edwards** and **Jayne Ludwikoski**, both in Corpus Christi were equally as gracious to join in the Food Drive effort and gave of their time and commitment so as to help contribute to make this a huge success. With the participation of LCFO and Beaumont whose combined staff account for approximately 55-people; a combined total weight exceeding 2,200 pounds of food was collected for the Houston Food Bank and Southeast Texas Food Bank. Corpus Christi and Harlingen are still tallying their numbers and locating a food bank to make their contribution.



On behalf of the drive, **Jayne, Morris** and **Julian Biley** indicated that it was definitely a group effort. They would like to personally acknowledge the following: all employees in the USDA-GIPSA-FGIS circuit; i.e. ADM Galveston, ARI Freeport, Port Packing, Jacinto Port, LDC Houston, LDC Beaumont, Cargill, Gulf Rice, APM Terminal and the LCFO of League City. Extended FGIS family includes; Interstate Grain Corpus, ADM Corpus, all FGIS personnel of Harlingen and all other FGIS employees that have kindly contributed to this successful effort.

From left to right: Jorge Vazquez, Brittany Brown, Cheryl Taylor, Melanie Schdwemer, Julian Biley (coordinator), Venice Tony, Donald Ellis, Gary Erskine collecting donated goods. Not pictured: Morris Edwards and Jayne Ludwikoski (coordinators).

Change Request Submitted to P&SP CCWG Adds List of Suspended Registrants to Website

Kari McPherson, Pierre, SD, and Marilyn Gallagher, Longview, TX

Change Request (CR) #6719111, submitted by **Weylin Lucius** of the Western Regional Office, pointed out that the Packers and Stockyards Program (P&SP) did not provide a list of our suspended registrants to the public. Section 201.81 of the P&SP regulations prohibits packers, dealers, and market agencies from employing suspended registrants. However, it was difficult to find out who was suspended among the enforcement action entries on www.gipsa.usda.gov. **Weylin** suggested posting a list of suspended registrants on the GIPSA website to allow the public to search for those who are under suspension orders.

The P&SP Change Control Working Group (CCWG) approved Weylin's CR after a few discussions and clarifications on how the list would appear. The Packers and Stockyards Management Team also approved the CR. While the Policy and Litigation Division (PLD) was preparing the suspension list to implement this CR, the USDA General Counsel, Ramona E. Romero, also recommended that P&SP post a list of suspended registrants on GIPSA's public website to deter industry members from doing business with or hiring suspended registrants. Counsel Romero made the recommendation during a briefing to the MRP Under Secretary about a high profile failure to pay for livestock and fraud case.

The list of suspended registrants is now available on the Enforcement Actions page of the GIPSA website (<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/psp/enforcement.html#suspend>). The suspensions list can be viewed and downloaded in PDF or Excel format and users have the tools available in either format to search and/or sort the information on how they want it listed. Please direct anyone inquiring about registered entities or suspensions to the website for up-to-date information.

This CR led us to enhance the useful information already available on GIPSA's public website by providing a list of suspended registrants. It also enabled P&SP to quickly respond to Counsel Romero's recommendation, which supports our ongoing partnership with the USDA Office of the General Counsel. Thank you **Weylin** for a great CR!

Issuance Report

Terri Henry, Washington, DC

- ◆ FGIS Directive 9180.47, Examination of Grain for the Presence of TCK Smut Spores, dated July 24, 2012
- ◆ FGIS Policy Memorandum Reference No. 249, Romer Fluoroquant Afla Supplemental Analysis, dated August 2, 2012
- ◆ FGIS Program Notice 12-06, "ReVeal Q+ for DON Test Method" dated August 13, 2012
- ◆ MRP Directive 5003.1, "Appropriations Restrictions for Financial Transactions with Felons and Tax Delinquent Corporations", dated August 15, 2012
- ◆ FGIS Program Notice 12-08, "Transition to New Moisture Measurement Technology" dated August 24, 2012

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 Civil Rights Staff at 202-720-0216

Top 10 Facts About Hispanics

Idelisse Rodríguez, Washington, DC, and Anna Trujillo, League City, TX

We invite you to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15! September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

As of July 1, 2011, the Hispanic population of the United States is 52.0 million (*Source: 2011 Census Population Estimates*) making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 16.7 percent of the nation's total population. In addition, there are 3.7 million residents of Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory.

GIPSA employs **26 Hispanics**; please join us in celebrating our heritage with these top 10 facts!

1. **1.2 million:** The number of Hispanics or Latinos 18 and older who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces.
2. **2.7 percent:** The percentage of Hispanic voters in the 2010 congressional election. This is the highest percentage of Hispanics for a nonpresidential election. Hispanics comprised 6 percent of voters in 2006.
3. **3.6 million:** The number of Hispanics 25 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree in 2010.
4. **37.0 million:** The number of U.S. residents 5 and older who spoke Spanish at home in 2010. Those who hablan español constituted 12.8 percent of U.S. residents 5 and older. More than half of these Spanish speakers spoke English "very well."
5. **2.3 million:** The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2007, up 43.6 percent from 2002.
6. **\$350.7 billion:** Receipts generated by Hispanic-owned businesses in 2007, up 58.0 percent from 2002.
7. **2nd:** Ranking of the size of the U.S. Hispanic population worldwide, as of 2010. Only Mexico (112 million) had a larger Hispanic population than the United States (50.5 million).
8. **63 percent:** The percentage of Hispanic-origin people in the United States who were of Mexican background in 2010. Another 9.2 percent were of Puerto Rican background, 3.5 percent Cuban, 3.3 percent Salvadoran and 2.8 percent Dominican. The remainder was of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic/Latino origin.
9. **25:** Number of states in which Hispanics were the largest minority group. These states were Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming.
10. **67.8 percent:** Percentage of Hispanics or Latinos 16 and older who were in the civilian labor force in 2010



Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey: Table B21001, Table: S0201 (Hispanic), Table B15002I, and Table B16001

News Release: Census Bureau Reports Hispanic Voter Turnout Reaches Record High for Congressional Election Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties, and Places: 2007, Table SB0700CSA01

International Data Base

The Hispanic Population: 2010 American FactFinder: United States DP-1

South Korea, Wonderfully Unexpected!

Joseph Han, Washington, DC

I was asked by **John Pitchford**, Departmental Initiatives and International Affairs (DIIA), about the possibility of traveling to Seoul, South Korea, on July 20-27, and participating in the 2012 Korea-U.S. Corn Quality Assessment. Knowing that the North had just wrapped up their Intercontinental Ballistic missile testing, I figured there wouldn't be anything to worry about.

The main purpose of the 2012 Korean-U.S. Corn Quality Assessment Project is to develop data useful for comparing the different sampling and analytical methods of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) with the importing country's methods of sampling and analysis. The trip consisted of sampling the first of three nominated vessels participating in the assessment project. The first nominated vessel for the project was the M/V VOGUE CHALLENGER, which was loaded and sampled at the Temco facility in the Pacific Northwest.

The vessel would be discharged and sampled at the South Korean ports of Pyeontaek and Gunsan where the samples were to be collected and shipped to the USDA/FGIS Technology and Science Division (TSD) Kansas City, Missouri, for analysis. They will analyze the samples for changes in condition and quality focusing on Broken Corn and Foreign Material (BCFM) and the Stress Cracked Kernel Index from the point of origin (loading) to the point of unloading (discharge).

The main collaborators working together on the assessment were FGIS, U.S. Grains Council (USGC), Korean Feed Association (KFA), and Global Agricultural Consulting LLC. (GAC, LLC.) Upon my arrival, Mr. Arvid Hawk, Global Agricultural Consulting LLC, and I arranged for a meeting with Mr. Dong-Hwan, Kim, Director/Purchasing Division, Korean Feed Association (KFA) to discuss the vessel discharging protocol. The vessel's stability would play a factor in lengthening the sampling timeframe, due to the fact that the vessel would be discharging at multiple ports involving multiple ship holds (3, 5, 6) as well as multiple sampling depths (top of holds and midpoint of holds). Our sampling plan would have to coincide with the captain of



Inspection personnel, sampling aboard the M/V Vogue Challenger at the Port of Pyeontaek, South Korea.

the vessel's discharge stability protocol. This means, that certain amounts of grain need to be unloaded incrementally out of each respective ship hold to maintain the stability of the vessel while being unloaded. This was one of the main concerns Mr. Hawk (GAC, LLC), and I expressed to Mr. Kim (KFA).

The other main concerns discussed were the sampling, personnel needs, and the logistical obstacles of bringing all participants and stakeholders to the discharge sampling locations simultaneously. Mr. Kim (KFA), as well as our contact Mr. Min (USCG), deserve much credit for



Taeyoung Grain Terminal, Port of Pyeoungtaek, South Korea

arranging the inspection services with People to People Inspections Co. (P&P) who handled the sampling duties for both ports (Pyeoungtaek and Gunsan). The transportation services also arranged by Mr. Kim (KFA) and Mr. Min (USGC) made traveling from our hotel to the multiple port locations a smooth transition. I would also like to credit our driver, Mr. Bong, a man with driving skills that would rival those of a race car driver. If you have driven or ridden in Seoul; then you know what I mean.

The first day of sampling, Mr. Hawk, (GAC, LLC.), Mr. Min (USGC), and I arrived at the Taeyoung Grain Terminal and were greeted by Moon, Hong-Sik (KFA) Lee Young-Suk, Sales Manager for Taeyoung Grain, and Yulli Kim (P&P). The Taeyoung terminal is a short hold distribution elevator that houses large shipments of grain for short periods of time for the purpose of distributing to smaller processing facilities in the South Korean interior. The Taeyoung facility was very new and modern having finished construction in August 2011. It has temporary storage capacity in the 320,000 m/t range, and a facility ship unloading rate in the 1,200 bph range. What was most interesting was the way the storage silos were decorated with elaborate agricultural landscapes. I have never thought of a grain elevator as being both functional as well as being appealing to the eyes, but in the case of the Taeyoung facility, it was.

After sampling the tops of holds No. 3, 5, and 6 the previous day, the captain and first mate of the M/V VOGUE

South Korea, from page 7

CHALLENGER informed Mr. Hawk and I that due to the unloading stability protocol the only hold that would be accessible for midpoint sampling for the afternoon would be hold No. 6. We were informed by the captain and first mate that the midpoint sampling for holds No. 3 and 5 would take place in the Port of Gunsan.

We were not discouraged by these news, and started on the midpoint sampling of hold No. 6. This would require the use of a weighted throwing sampler, basically a large cup with a weighted point at the end. The throwing sampler is "thrown" over the side of a hold and when coming in contact with the sampling material, it penetrates to a depth of approximately 8-10 inches. The sampler then hoists the sample back to deck level where the sample can be secured. The throwing sampler provided by Mr. Yulli Kim (P&P) is used to sample a hold that has been discharged or unloaded from. Due to accessibility and safety concerns, it is usually not permissible to be in a ship hold at a midpoint depth. After collecting the midpoint samples for hold No. 6, Mr. Hawk (GAC, LLC) and I traveled back to Seoul to await the transition of the vessel from the port of Peyoungtaek to the port of Gunsan.



Throwing Cup Sampler

Mr. Hawk, Mr. Kim (KFA), and I arrived at the port of Gunsan accompanied by Mr. Hyeong-Sik, Won (KFA), and Mr. K.H. Cho (P&P Gunsan office). Mr. Cho handled the throwing sampler duties for the remaining hold Nos. 3 and 5. The last remaining samples from holds No. 3 and 5 were collected without a hitch giving Mr. Hawk and I ample time to return to Seoul and prepare the samples for their long flight back to the United States in hopes of safe arrival for their new caretakers at TSD.

All and all this trip was a wonderfully, unexpected journey. The worst part was the long flight to and from Korea. Seoul was a beautiful modern city with a lot of architectural aesthetics much like the cities familiar to us here. Last, but most certainly not least, I would like to thank **John Pitchford** and his staff in the Departmental Initiatives and International Affairs (DIIA): **Byron Reilly**, **Andrew Ping**, and **Julia Nelis** for the opportunity to be involved with such an important project. I would also like to thank them for the support needed to successfully complete my trip and return home safely. It was an honor to represent DIIA and the agency as a whole.

This new experience is coming soon.... Wait until you see the new AgLearn!

The new **AgLearn** is coming soon and with it, a new user experience. With a new layout, an easier interface, and many other exciting enhancements, AgLearn continues to be designed to make it better for you.

Some of the benefits you can expect:

- ◆ New, dynamic layouts that are even more eye-catching than before
- ◆ Quick links that you can create for the tasks you perform the most
- ◆ A workspace that you can customize in more innovative ways

GIPSA Idea Hotline

The GIPSA Idea Hotline is open for business. Please send your suggestions or ideas to GIPSA-Ideas@usda.gov; fax them to 202-690-2173; or telephone them to 1-800-455-3447 or 202-720-7045. It is best to send them via fax or email to reduce the possibility of transcription errors; however, ideas will be accepted regardless of the method of transmission.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

(800) 222-0364

(888) 262-7848 (TTY)

<http://www.FOH4You.com>

Confidential toll-free number 24 hours a day/7 days a week

2012 Agribusiness Association of Iowa Grain Grading Report

Jacob Thein, Cedar Rapids, IA

This year, I was again given the opportunity to participate as the lead instructor for the Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI) Grain Grading Seminar held in Altoona, Iowa, at the Ziegler Caterpillar Company. I was assisted by **Rodney Bell** from Grading Services Lab and Gene Rochholz from Eastern Iowa Grain Inspection. Mike Peterson from Central Iowa Grain Inspection also came and assisted during the afternoon soybean session of our first day. Mr. Reilly Vaughan, representative of AAI gave the introductions and attended both sessions.

During training, I spoke about the many different ways the official grain inspection system regulates uniformity, referring to FGIS requirements for standardized lighting, picking surfaces, proper use of equipment and check-testing, visual reference images, and a nationalized inspection monitoring system (SIMS). We then introduced the students to the tools they would be using during the seminar which included, corn and soybean grain grading mats, the Practical Procedures for Grain Handlers publication, and the Corn & Soybean Seminar Workbooks published by Domestic Inspection Operations Office (DIOO) in Cedar Rapids. The workbooks contain all kinds of information relevant to corn and soybean grading from exams to crosswords, and insect identification media.



Rodney Bell (on right), assists a seminar student with his Corn germ damage interpretive line.

I presented on corn and soybean grading which gave students a background on how to grade each grain using FGIS procedures from sample processing to specific factor analysis. Students were also instructed on the math and rounding procedures used by FGIS for each of the different factors analyzed. Afterwards, students were given reference materials to pass around the room which included corn and soybean kernel set boxes with interpretive line separations for different grain damages.

During the hands-on portion of the seminar, students were able to take a look at actual portions of Blue-Eye Mold Damage, Germ Damage, and Heat Damage in Corn, and with the assistance from the instructors, students were given an opportunity to see how precise and attentive to detail one must be to inspect grain. Students were also given the op-

portunity to make separations on portions of soybeans for Green Damage, Damaged by Heat, Heat Damage, and Soybeans of Other Colors. Instructors assisted students with these interpretive exercises by checking separations and giving demonstrations on the correct way of determining damage and cutting kernels.

Students participated in a ten-sample odor examination for each of the grains. They were then asked to report their findings by show of hands and every vote was counted and recorded by the instructors. This exercise helped them learn how to classify odors and to show that, in most cases, the majority of inspectors will correctly identify an odor. I then explained FGIS' policy on odors and what our definition of a "clear majority" is, when dealing with an odor consensus using multiple inspectors.

Seminar attendees finished the sessions by completing corn and soybean assignment of Grades exercises, a corn and soybean chapter written exam, crossword, and an insect identification exam.

Other high points of interest to the students were aflatoxin testing and seed sizing were also due to the uncertainty of this year's crop condition and harvest. Food and Drug Administration's limits regarding aflatoxin were also discussed. At the end of each day, AAI representative, Reilly Vaughan awarded completion certificates and thanked all for attending.

I would like to thank **Carla Kania** from DIOO Cedar Rapids for editing and producing the Corn & Soybean Grading Seminar Workbooks and all the behind-the-scenes work to help put this seminar together. Also, thanks to **Rodney Bell** for assisting me with this year's seminar. I would also like to thank Dave Slater, Eastern Iowa Grain Inspection official agency manager; Gene Rochholz, licensed inspector; Kevin Bredthauer, Central Iowa Grain Inspection official agency manager; and Mike Peterson, licensed inspector, for continuous support and assistance.



Students take turns determining odors using a ten-sample Corn Odor examination to determine if the applicant can correctly identify Musty, Sour, or Commercially Objectionable Foreign Odors in grain.



During an Earthquake

Amber McDonald-Lake, Washington, DC

This month marks the one-year anniversary of the unexpected earthquake that was felt in DC and the east coast. Here are some important tips on what to do during an earthquake. When you feel an earthquake, duck under a desk or sturdy table. Stay away from windows, bookcases, file cabinets, heavy mirrors, hanging plants, and other heavy objects that could fall. Watch out for falling plaster and ceiling tiles. Stay under cover until the shaking stops. Hold onto your cover. If it moves, move with it. Here are some additional tips for specific locations:

If you're in a

- ◆ HIGH-RISE BUILDING and you are not near a desk or table, move against an interior wall, and protect your head with your arms. Do not use the elevators. Do not be surprised if the alarm or sprinkler systems come on. Stay indoors, glass windows can dislodge during the quake and sail for hundreds of feet.
- ◆ SIDEWALK NEAR BUILDINGS, duck into a doorway to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass, plaster, and other debris.
- ◆ CROWDED STORE OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACE, do not rush for exits. Move away from display shelves containing objects that could fall.
- ◆ WHEELCHAIR, stay in it. Move to cover, if possible, lock your wheels, and protect your head with your arms.
- ◆ STADIUM OR THEATER, stay in your seat and protect your head with your arms. Do not try to leave until the shaking is over. Then leave in a calm, orderly manner. Avoid rushing toward exits.

If you're

- ◆ OUTDOORS, move to a clear area, away from trees, signs, buildings, or electrical wires and poles.
- ◆ DRIVING, pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses, power lines, and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over.

If you're in the

- ◆ KITCHEN, move away from the refrigerator, stove, and overhead cupboards. (Take time NOW to anchor appliances and install security latches on cupboard doors to reduce hazards.) *Source:1800prepare.com*

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE QUICK CHECK LIST

- ⇒ Be prepared for aftershocks, and plan where you will take cover when they occur.
- ⇒ Check for injuries. Give first aid as necessary.
- ⇒ Remain calm and reassure others.
- ⇒ Avoid broken glass.
- ⇒ Check for fire. Take appropriate actions and precautions.
- ⇒ Check gas, water, and electric lines. If damaged, shut off service. If gas is leaking, don't use matches, flashlights, appliances or electric switches. Open windows, leave building and report to Gas Company.
- ⇒ Replace all telephone receivers and use for emergency calls only.
- ⇒ Tune to the emergency broadcast station on radio or television. Listen for emergency bulletins.
- ⇒ Stay out of damaged buildings.

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:

Idelisse Rodríguez
 USDA, GIPSA, Stop 3649
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-3649
 Phone (202) 720-5688
 FAX (202) 690-2173
 Idelisse.Rodriguez@usda.gov

by September 25, 2012

Retiring? To be included on our email distribution list after you retire from GIPSA, please send your email address to Idelisse.Rodriguez@usda.gov.



USDA, GIPSA, Stop 3649
Management and Budget Services
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3649
Phone (202) 720-5688