



GIPSA News

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

September 2004

P&SP Responds to the BSE Threat

Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

The first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, found in the United States (U.S.) was in a Holstein cow from Canada that was located at a Washington State processing plant at a Washington State processing plant.

BSE is a fatal, neurological disease affecting cattle. Americans are concerned about the possibility of contaminated meat from a sickened cow entering the food supply. Beef industry leaders fear economic consequences both domestically and globally. The public's concern could diminish the consumption of beef. The United States exports approximately one million tons of beef annually (Meat Processing News, December 24, 2003).

After Secretary **Ann Veneman's** announcement about the sickened cow on December 23, 2003, **JoAnn Waterfield**, P&SP deputy administrator, created three BSE task forces – the Competition Task Force (CTF), Financial Task Forces (FTF), and Trade Practices Task Force (TPTF) – to provide protection to livestock

producers and members of the cattle industry. **John Barthel**, supervisor, Denver, oversees the activities of all three task forces.

The CTF is comprised of **Thomas Duggan** (leader); Denver's **Joan Danielson**, **Tod Kalous**, **Weylin Luciu**, **John Mott**, **Stephen Pollock**, and **Kraig Roesch**; **Ralph Bierlen**, Des Moines; Atlanta's **Enrique Ospina** and **Anna Smith**; and **Larry Haller**, **Martin Johnson**, and **Henry Wang**, Washington, DC.

Tom Duggan explained that the CTF examines markets and data characteristics, and monitors weekly fed cattle prices on a regional basis; identifies changes in industry behavior that may result in anti-competitive practices in violation of the Act; investigates any prices that appear to be significantly higher or lower than the expected regional average price for the week; and responds to complaints. Investigations focus on whether unlawful, unjust price preferences or disadvantages related to BSE may have caused the unexpectedly high or low prices. The CTF also

helps develop policies that result in improved practices for P&SP to use in enforcing the Act.

As of July 31, CTF completed 19 rapid response investigations, including 13 undue price preference/disadvantage investigations in the fed cattle markets, 4 investigations of apportionments of territory, one investigation into the discounts that packers report to Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for cattle over 30 months of age, and one collusion case. None of these investigations produced evidence of violations of the P&S Act, or that major packers are using packer-to-packer sales to apportion territory after the BSE incident. The CTF has two ongoing investigations, both of which are undue price advantage/disadvantage investigations in the fed cattle markets.

The FTF includes **Marlys Sahlin** (leader), Washington's **Jim Adams** and **Branard England**; **Susan Kleinman**, Atlanta; and **Matthew Bass**, Des Moines.

*Continued, see BSE
on page 8.*

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Brett Offutt is P&SP's new Director of the Office of Policy and Litigation Support (OPLS). Brett was P&SP's supervisory legal specialist for several years and had been acting director of OPLS for some time.

Steve Warrilow is the new resident agent in Nashville, TN. **Steve** recently returned from Iraq and will report to his new duty location once he is released from the military.

Regina Quimby is the new secretary for the Field Management Division. **Regina** comes to GIPSA from the Architect of the Capitol.

CONDOLENCES

Former Lutcher field office manager **Conrad Herndon** passed away on August 12, after an extended illness. **Conrad** was a World War II veteran, where he served in the Navy. His career with USDA took him to Nash-

ville, TN, Mobile, AL, Baton Rouge, LA, New Orleans, LA, and Washington DC, where he was chairman of the Board of Appeals and Review. His last assignment was in Lutcher, LA, where he opened FGIS' field office. He is survived by his wife, **Sue Armstrong Herndon**, two children, and three grandchildren. Cards or letters can be sent to: **Sue Herndon**, 2346 Laurelwood Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

AWARDS

Jaime Adams, economist, Economic/Statistical Support, Washington, DC, received a certificate of merit for planning and preparing material for the Assessment of the Cattle, Hog, Poultry, and Sheep Industries 2003 Report.

Mai Ho, Information Technology Staff, Washington, DC, received a time-off award for her prompt action that promoted customer satisfaction and saved the customer money by providing a solution to their operating system change.

Enrique Ospina, supervisory economist, Atlanta, received a time-off award for his prompt and accurate assistance in the development of the 2003 Assessment Report.

30-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Steven Bennett, Minneapolis
Joseph Carson, New Orleans
Thomas Hearon, Washington, DC
John Heidorn, New Orleans
Phillip Meachem, Stuttgart

Janina Milaknis, Montreal
Larry Rice, Stuttgart
John Shropshire, New Orleans
Larry Troutman, New Orleans
Thomas Wrenn, Grand Forks

25-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

John Barthel, Denver
Gerald Bromley, Washington, DC
Kim Harper, Portland
Terri Henry, Washington, DC
Roy Johnson, New Orleans
Robert Medley, New Orleans

20-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Lawrence Houston, Lancaster

15-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Amy Blechinger, Washington, DC
Cleve Ellis, Portland
Dorothy Grigsby, New Orleans
Mary Heisey, Lancaster
Harold Jackson, New Orleans
Susan Kleinman, Atlanta
Regina Landry, New Orleans
Joanna LeBlanc, New Orleans
Kathryn McCaw, Portland
Glenda Plautz, Des Moines
Nilsa Ramos Taylor, Tallahassee
James Vanderwielen, Des Moines

10-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Dana Stahl, Washington, DC

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Denver's 2004 Resident Agent Conference

Donna Wolf and Rhonda Williams, Denver

Denver's resident agent conference was held in the small mountain town of Frisco, CO.

Frisco was first traversed by Ute Indians who traveled the region now known as Summit County, and from 1810 to the 1840s, by "mountain men" who trapped in the high mountain lakes. The town itself was founded in 1873 thanks to "loads of mines" nearby. By 1882, the permanent population of 250 was served by two railroads, many businesses, hotels and saloons. The mining boome lasted until 1918. In 1930, in the midst of the Depression, Frisco's population had dropped to only 18 people, but it was still one of the few old mining towns to keep going. Frisco persevered and by 1946 the population had increased to 50. Today, Frisco has 2,800 full-time residents, thanks to a booming ski industry that now attracts some 3 million people a year to the area.

Milton Hansen, resident agent supervisor, opened the meeting by challenging the participants to be creative in our work, and to be "Master and Commander" of our ships. **John Barthel**, Denver regional supervisor, welcomed everyone and challenged attendees to see obstacles in our daily lives as opportunities.

Mr. Hansen then welcomed and introduced administrator **Donna Reifschneider**. **Ms. Reifschneider** updated participants on various GIPSA activities. She also reminded the audience that while we were enjoying the scenic, peaceful views, our fellow USDA employees were reporting to work under heightened security alerts.

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JoAnn Waterfield, deputy administrator, spoke about P&SP's current and futures priorities. Our mission is to educate, regulate and investigate. **Ms. Waterfield** detailed each mission point and answered the audience's questions. **Bruce Boor** and **Brett Offutt** also presented information about P&SP's current and futures priorities. A look into P&SP's future was presented by **Jim Vanderwielen**, program manager of Enterprise Architecture.

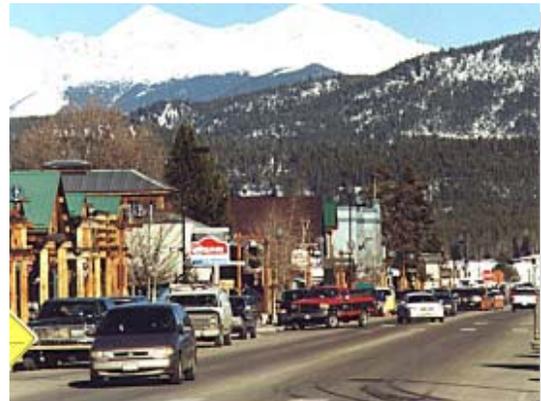
The 3-day conference provided an opportunity for the Trade Practices, Financial, and Competition Units, as well as the legal specialist from the regional office, to provide guidance and answer questions posed by attendees. While the training was intense, it was well appreciated.

The final day of the conference included a program called "Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines" that gave participants new tools to manage our demanding work days. **Betty Graham**, a SkillPath Seminar presenter, provided information on gaining control of the workday, identifying and setting priorities, time management, project management, and interpersonal communication.

All participants enjoyed the conference: the sharing of ideas, the information provided, and the evening get-togethers. Some even enjoyed bike rides around Frisco's lake and shopping districts. But, perhaps the best part of the conference was being able to get together with a "complete" regiment of the regional office's resident agents – old meeting the new for the first time, and conversing face to face with those who so often are only accessible by phone or e-mail.



Participants in the 2004 Resident Agent Cnoference



Frisco, CO, was a beautiful backdrop for the 2004 Resident Agent Conference.

My Internship at GIPSA

Tara Mattson

As the saying goes...if someone told me 5 years ago that during the summer of 2004, I would be interning with GIPSA's IT Staff in Washington, DC, I would have laughed. I always had an interest in computers and after high school, I knew I wanted to study IT. Y2K was approaching and IT was the field to be in. I chose to go to a small university (University of Minnesota Crookston) to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology Management.

The summer between my junior and senior years, I was looking for a summer internship. I was hired as an intern in the Grand Forks field office. I performed various computer tasks such as projects with Excel, troubleshooting, and data entry. I also helped

with remote certificates, travel vouchers, and T&As. I learned a great deal, and I was able to continue working part time as I finished my last year at UMC.

During my senior year of college, I was informed of the Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service program. I applied and received a scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to obtain a Master's in Information Technology with a concentration in Information Security and Privacy. After completing my first year of that program, I was once again looking for a summer internship opportunity. I again returned to GIPSA, but this time with the IT Staff in Washington, DC.

I was fortunate enough to be hired as an Information Systems Security Program summer intern. I was asked to organize the 2004 information systems security awareness training. I also attended meetings and shadowed my supervisor as he dealt with everyday computer security issues. I assisted with the FISMA and C&A process as well. This IT security internship was a great learning experience.

I enjoyed meeting GIPSA's Washington, DC, staff and I would like to extend a special thanks to **Tom Wrenn** and the Grand Forks field office, and to **Gerald Bromley** and the **IT Staff** for these two great opportunities with the USDA.

Cannons Complete Road Race

Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

On July 4, 2004, Atlanta's **James Cannon**, auditor, and his wife **Tekelia** completed their 14th year straight Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, GA. The annual 10K (6.2 mile) race draws over 50,000 participants.

During **James'** early years, he was active in various sports (baseball, basketball, and football). Later, **James** discovered he was getting out of shape. Many runners inspired him to enter the race. Since 1991, **James** has enjoyed the race and encouraged others to participate. He explains, "It does not matter about the size of your body, but the size of your heart that allows you to compete in the race."

Initially, runners that completed the 6.2 miles course in 45 minutes or less received the coveted "purple heart" Peachtree Road Race tee shirt. Over the years, the finishing time requirement was dropped — all runners and walkers now receive tee shirts for their participation.

In 2000, **James** started walking in the race because of a knee injury. He will have surgery in December to correct the problem.

James concludes, "The winners are those people like my wife and me. We feel that taking the time to condition our bodies to race also helps to condition our minds."



Atlanta's James Cannon knows what it takes to be a winner!

Great job **James** and **Takelia**!

Day of Caring

Joanne Nielsen, Technical Center

The “Day of Caring” is an historical success story for the Kansas City area. Federal, state, city, county, and private-sector employees join forces on this special day to help our community. The Federal component works closely with the Combined Federal Campaign and the Heart of America United Way.

The “Day of Caring” is intended to involve employees and their families in firsthand experience with area non-profits to raise awareness of community needs and services, and to better understand the impact of their donated dollars. In addition, these activities afford all participants a great opportunity to give a small portion back to a community that has helped them be a success.

2004 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Day of Caring in the Kansas City area. It has grown significantly over the years. Between 1995 and 2003, the Day of Caring brought together 35,384 volunteers from 1,073 companies and 519 Federal agencies to complete 1,778 projects. In total, volunteers donated 189,273 hours to these programs, and gave to their communities an estimated \$4,761,530 in value and benefits.

Saturday, June 26th turned out to be the most absolutely perfect day “weather-wise” we have had! Day of Caring 2004 was very successful - over 4,800 volunteers assisted with 264 projects across the metro area. But there’s more! Additional projects will be completed over the course of the summer; bringing the totals for 2004 to 5,315 volunteers completing 279 projects. What an incredible accomplishment for the community!

Many thanks to **Steve Tanner** for his leadership as chair for Day of Caring. Many more thanks to family, friends, and dedicated employees of Technical Services Division for their participation: **Brenda Evans, Joe Barney, Joanne Nielsen, Louis Bussjaeger, Tim Norden, Marsha Schwartz, Dave Funk, Luccile Clark, James Rampton, and Sheldon Wishna**. Your generosity and dedication to the Kansas City community are unsurpassed by none.

Help is within reach.

For confidential assistance,
call your Employee
Assistance Program

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

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

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

eTravel Will Be Here Soon. Electronic Data Systems (EDS) has been selected as the USDA vendor for eTravel. All agencies must meet the OMB deadline of implementing eTravel by September 30, 2006. However, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) has determined that GIPSA, along with AMS, will implement eTravel on June 30, 2005. eTravel will replace existing processes for making reservations, preparing authorizations, and vouchering for reimbursement. eTravel will allow GIPSA to better manage travel costs through the use of self-service functions at economical fees. Some of the self services will include online booking, vouchering, approvals, and split disbursements. The split disbursements will allow employees to directly pay what is owed to the Bank of America and receive the balance of the travel claim, if any, via their electronic funds transfer. Local, foreign, and domestic travel will all be paid through eTravel. When an authorization is completed, the money will be obligated, unlike the current process. It was suggested that GIPSA consider quarterly or trip-by-trip authorizations once eTravel is implemented. An implementation team will be set up in early 2005 that will include members from OCFO, EDS, and GIPSA travel, financial, and IT staffs. Current contracts with Travel Management Centers should be extended until June 30, 2005. As more information is gathered, it will be disbursed to everyone.

Claiming Reimbursement for Local Travel. If you perform official local travel and are only being reimbursed for mileage, telephone, and/or miscellaneous expenses, you **must** complete an SF-1164 (Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business) for reimbursement rather than an AD-616 (Travel Voucher). This policy went into effect on January 21, 2004.

Designation Renewals

Jan Hart, Washington, DC

GIPSA is granting authority to Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc.; Cairo Grain Inspection Agency, Inc.; Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; North Carolina Department of Agriculture; D.R. Schaal Agency; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to provide official grain inspection services at domestic locations under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Schaal also provides official domestic weighing services. Wisconsin is also delegated to provide mandatory export inspection and weighing services. We are granting five designation renewals for a full 3-year period; and Wisconsin's for 1 year.

In FY 2003, Amarillo provided 103,594 official inspections and weights; Cairo 1,784; Louisiana 2,621; North Carolina 364 and 20,568 official commercial inspections; Schaal 41,605; and Wisconsin 48,425 and 35,661 weights. Here's a profile about each agency's history.

AMARILLO dates back to the 1920s. **Cash Burris** owns and manages this official agency that serves North-central Texas and the Oklahoma panhandle. The agency is headquartered in Amarillo, TX, with an additional full-time laboratory in Guymon, OK. Enid Grain Inspection Company, Inc., recently was granted four western Oklahoma Counties which Amarillo previously served.

CAIRO originally opened in the 1930s. **Robert and Sandra**

Fronabarger are the present owners and son **Keith** is the manager. Cairo provides official inspection and weighing services in the southern tip of Illinois, the western portion of Kentucky, and the northwest portion of Tennessee. They have one full-time grain inspection laboratory and one



Cairo Designation. Pictured, left to right, Bob and Sandy Fronabarger, Administrator Donna Reifschneider, licensed inspector Jerry Basham, Keith Fronabarger, and Stuttgart Field Office Manager Clyde Steves.



Schaal Designation. Pictured, left to right, Ms. Reifschneider, D.R. "Russ" Schaal (Lew's father and the oldest licensed inspector in the country at 98 years young!), and Lew Schaal.

approved weighing location.

LOUISIANA began providing domestic grain inspection services about 1967. Louisiana provides inspection services within the entire State at three full-time laboratories. **Bob Odom** is Louisiana's Commissioner and **Terrel Castille**, a long-time grain inspector, has been Agriculture Assistant Division Director for the last year.

NORTH CAROLINA's grain-grading program began in early 1950s. North Carolina provides inspection services within the entire State at two full-time laboratories. **Britt Cobb** is North Carolina's Commissioner, and **Ben Honeycutt** is the Program Administrator for North Carolina's grain inspection program.

SCHAAL is owned and operated by the fourth generation active in grain-related businesses, **Lewis and Nancy Schaal**. Schaal serves the heart of North Central Iowa's corn and soybean growing region. Schaal's headquarters and laboratory are located in Belmond, IA, and they maintain four applicant-specific grain inspection laboratories, and one approved weighing location. They also provide service under a joint service agreement with other official agencies using two mobile laboratories.

WISCONSIN Grain and Warehouse Commission was created by State law in 1905.

Continued, see Designations on page 9.

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

Slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents. In the United States, they cause 15 percent of all accidental, job-related deaths and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

How can we all remain safe while at work? Some of the most frequently overlooked general safety precautions involve office housekeeping. Here are some suggestions from OSHA and the National Safety Council (NSC) for “Good Office Housekeeping”:

To maintain safe floor surfaces and walkways throughout the workplace:

- Keep all corridors, passageways, storerooms, and service areas clear of debris, boxes, and stored goods. Never block these areas, even temporarily. Emergencies don’t usually come with advanced warning and are not likely to give you time to clear cluttered escape paths.
- Keep stairwells clear at all times. Do not store boxes, files, or other debris in the stairwell or landings.
- Pick up dropped pencils, paper clips, and rubber bands that can cause you or a co-worker to skid.
- Contact building management if you see areas that are cluttered with rubbish.
- Wipe up spills immediately. If a spill is too large to clean up quickly, contact building management.

To keep filing areas safe, the National Safety Council suggests:

- Store the heaviest materials in the bottom drawer.
- Never leave the upper drawers of a file cabinet open.
- Open only one drawer at a time.
- Never open a drawer if someone is crouched below it.
- Shut a file drawer immediately after removing files.
- Use the handle when closing a drawer to help reduce pinch-point injuries.

You can reduce your risk of office injuries from slips, trips, and falls with a little vigilance over the common things many of us take for granted, such as the way we sit in a chair, walk up the stairs, or carry writing implements in our pockets.

- Never tilt backward in a chair, especially on a tile floor. The chair can give out under your weight if it is not used properly and you could land on your back.
- Take care when going from well-lit to dark areas. The better you can see, the less likely you are to trip over objects on the floor, or to slip on wet surfaces. So give your eyes time to adjust if you cannot see at first.
- Always carry pens and pencils in a pocket, with points facing down, and not in your hand. This is especially important on stairs where you should always have one hand free to hold onto the railing for balance.
- Look where you are going.
- Walk, don’t run.

Courtesy Environmental Health & Safety

FGIS to Use Artificial Neural Network Wheat Protein Calibration

FGIS will begin using an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) calibration for official wheat protein measurements on official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments effective May 1, 2005.

Currently, GIPSA maintains six discrete partial least squares (PLS) calibrations to determine protein content for each of the six major classes of wheat — Hard Red Winter, Soft Red Winter, Soft White, Hard Red Spring, Hard White, and Durum. The ANN technology allows use of a single calibration for protein determinations in all six classes.

According to GIPSA administrator **Donna Reifschneider**, the change from PLS to ANN is expected to improve the accuracy and consistency of official wheat protein results.

GIPSA’s comprehensive evaluation of ANN technology and other ANN-related information is available on GIPSA’s website at: <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/metheqp/ann/ann.htm>.

GIPSA provides protein content measurement in wheat as official criteria under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

For further information, contact Steven Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, (816) 891-0401.

BSE, from page 1.

Marlys Sahlin explained that the FTF covers the financial areas of the BSE situation. During December 2003 and January 2004, the FTF determined that packers were the most financially vulnerable, then dealers, and then markets. Rapid response investigations started with packers in the area where BSE was discovered. The initial audits at two proximate packers noted disruptions in operations and decreases in business. Both packers encountered problems in selling meat after the BSE outbreak. FTF has completed 47 investigations. Of those investigated, 9 percent had an increase in business, and 21 percent experienced no changes in operations, and 70 percent had a decrease in business or stopped operations. Most of that 70 percent is comprised of packers who are restructuring their businesses to adapt to the new regulations and policies. The FTF developed a questionnaire to help assess which market entities may not recover from the BSE situation. The FTF meets weekly to discuss audits, developments, and consider other entities impacted by BSE.

The main changes resulting from the discovery of BSE are the “no downer” policy, the closing of export markets, and how offal, bones, and questionable parts are handled. All non-ambulatory cattle, or downers, of any age are to be inspected by USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel and condemned prior to slaughter. The animals must be humanely killed and the carcasses disposed of without entering the slaughter facility. Packers and dealers have adjusted their practices and facilities to adapt to the new regulatory requirements. These handling changes caused additional costs. The new testing of animals will probably have long-term effects on the market.

The TPTF’s members are: **Harry Schaaf** (leader); **Brett Offutt**, **Dierdre Holder**, and **Ron Larson**, Washington, DC; **Janell Smalts**, Denver; **Bryice Wilke**, Des Moines; and **Joe Moore** and **John Rollins**, Atlanta.

Harry Schaff explained the TPTF investigates all BSE-related trade practices complaints. It investigated several complaints about specific dealers and packers who changed procurement contracts and agreements to compensate for the rapid decline in cattle prices. The task force’s job is also to investigate the impact of the new procedures and practices adopted by many firms.

According to **Harry Schaaf**, “The investigators accomplished informal settlements between the parties. Additionally, an investigation involving unilateral contract changes, which impacted many sellers, is still in progress.”

USDA is taking many steps to address the BSE problem. APHIS reports that since USDA’s surveillance program began on June 1, 2004, 37,742 cattle have been tested with no BSE cases found. The goal of the USDA surveillance program is to be able to detect BSE in the U.S. cattle population with a 99 percent degree of accuracy. GIPSA is proud to be part of these important USDA efforts.

Idea Hotline Update

*Norma Phelps,
Washington, DC*

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

Suggestor/Suggestion

Lynn Cain / Merge GIPSA Directives on the Webpage to One File to Determine Latest Directive

Keep those ideas coming in! Send your ideas to the GIPSA Idea Hotline via electronic mail to gipsa-ideas@gipsadc.usda.gov; FAX to 202-720-1015; or telephone 800-455-3447 or 202-720-1013.

We encourage you to send ideas via fax or e-mail to reduce the possibility of transcription errors; however, ideas will be accepted regardless of the method you choose to use.

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

Issuances

Fred Kelley, Washington, D.C.

New Issuances

- ❑ MRP Administrative Notice, MRP 04-01, "Directed Reassignment," dated July 20, 2004 (Distribution: AMS, APHIS, GIPSA).
- ❑ FGIS Directive 9180.61, "Official Calibrations For The Dickey-John GAC 2100 Moisture Meter," dated September 1, 2004 (Distribution: A, C, E, F, G, U, V).
- ❑ FGIS Grain Inspection Handbook, Book II, Change No. 97, "Grain Grading Procedures," dated August 9, 2004 (Distribution: A, C, E).

Cancellations

- ❑ FGIS Directive 9180.61, "Official Calibrations for the Dickey John GAC 2100 Moisture Meter," dated September 1, 2003.
- ❑ MRP Administrative Notice, MRP 00-3, "Spot Awards," dated April 27, 2000.
- ❑ MRP Administrative Notice, MRP 01-1, "Government Hiring Controls," dated July 5, 2001.
- ❑ MRP Administrative Notice, MRP 02-1, "Contracting Officer Representative Certification Program," dated October 11, 2001.
- ❑ MRP Administrative Notice, MRP 02-2, "Annual Reminder to High-Mileage Drivers," dated March 7, 2002.
- ❑ MRP Administrative Notice, MRP 02-3, "Frequent Flyer Benefits," dated June 7, 2002.
- ❑ FGIS Grain Inspection Handbook, Book II, dated June 1, 1997.

Please call me at 202-720-0259, fax to 202-690-2755, or e-mail to Fred.H.Kelley@usda.gov if you have concerns or suggestions.

Designations, from page 6.

Wisconsin has export markets in Superior and Milwaukee; and provides domestic inspection services within the entire State at six full-time laboratories, and at barge facilities on the Mississippi River. **Rod Nilsestuen** is Wisconsin's Secretary of Agriculture; **Jeremy McPherson** is Wisconsin's Director of the Bureau of Business Trade Practices; **Mike Granlund** is the Superior area manager; and **Jerry Nault** the Milwaukee area manager.

GIPSA administrator **Donna Reifschneider** visited with official agency representatives from Cairo and Schaal this month and will travel to Amarillo next month to personally present their designation renewals.

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:

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by September 25, 2003!

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