



# GIPSA News

---

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

*December 2010*

---

## Holiday Greetings

*J. Dudley Butler*



*Administrator Butler*

As the year comes to a close, I'd like to take a moment from what has been an exceptionally busy and productive year to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.

This year, each of you continued to show the dedication, commitment, and perseverance that I saw on my first day at GIPSA and have seen each day since. We handled record levels of exports, with offices working around the clock to move America's grain into markets worldwide. We wrote and implemented much-needed regulations, and are now working to finalize a regulatory proposal intended to level the playing field in the livestock and poultry markets that garnered upwards of 57,000 comments.

Everything that we have accomplished to date, and all that we will do from here on out, is due to you. This agency has always recognized that its people are its most valuable asset. Each of you expended tremendous efforts on behalf of this agency this year. We'll need your continued

energy and enthusiasm in the upcoming year as well.

But, as the holidays near, I hope each of you will take the opportunity to relax, enjoy family and friends, and enjoy the peace of the season.

Best wishes for happy holidays.

## Names in the News

### PERSONNEL

**Walter “Wally” Alves** is the new shift supervisor (quality assurance specialist) position for the New Orleans Field Office. Wally brings more than 33 years of grading and weighing expertise, experience as an assistant QAS, and knowledge from special projects to his new position.

**Steve Patoray**, agriculture engineer, WRO, was recently appointed as the Director of the International Bureau of Legal Metrology (BIML), for the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML). The OIML was formed by a treaty signed by 57 member countries, which pay yearly dues to OIML to support its operations. This is a very prestigious position working for an international treaty organization. **Steve** is the first U.S. citizen selected as BIML Director in the 55-year history of the OIML. As Director of the BIML, **Steve** will be the head staff person of the organization and Secretariat to the International Committee of Legal Metrology. He will be based in Paris, France, where he will run BIML’s daily operations and manage the staff. BIML develops international written standard recommendations related to legal metrology. Currently, GIPSA recognizes National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) HB 44 which is adopted by the National Confer-

ence of Weights & Measures (which is a U.S.-only standards development association). The National Conference on Weights and Measures does not adopt OIML recommendations, but has signed a Mutual Acceptance Agreement Arrangement for Load Cells with OIML.

**Levi Perkins** is the new South Carolina and Eastern Georgia Resident Agent. He will be based in Greenville, SC.

### RETIREMENT

**John Carlson**, agricultural commodity grader, will retire December 31, 2010. **John** started his career in the U.S. Army, and then worked for the Cotton Exchange and Board of Trade in Galveston from 1972 to 1977. On July 1977, he joined FGIS’ Galveston Field Office as an agricultural commodity technician. For 35 years he was instrumental in delivering great customer service. His retirement plans include traveling often to Austin, TX, to be with his family and to enjoy catching lots of shrimp on warm, sunny days.

**Diane Palecek** retired as Assistant Director, Field Operations and Support Staff, a position she has held since 2007. For the past 5 years, she also served as the project manager for the Inspection Data Warehouse, the national database of official inspection and weighing records. **Diane**

graduated from South Dakota State University with Bachelor of Science and Arts degrees in botany and French. While at the university, she worked as a seed analyst in the seed testing laboratory. **Diane** began her career with FGIS as an agricultural commodity grader in Wichita, KS. From there she moved to Kansas City, where she held a number of positions, including 16 years as manager of the Kansas City Field Office. **Diane’s** immediate plans are to remain in the Kansas City area, and spend more time skiing, hiking, biking, and taking advantage of the many volunteer opportunities available in the Kansas City area. We are grateful to Diane for her dedicated and outstanding service to the Agency, and extend our very best wishes to her for an enjoyable retirement.

### LEAVE DONATION

**Robert Moses**, agricultural commodity grader, New Orleans, has been approved as a recipient under the Leave Transfer Program. **Robert** will be out of the office for an extended period of time due to a serious medical condition. He has exhausted all of his available leave.

*Continued, see Names on page 3.*

**Names, from page 2.**

Donations of annual leave or restored annual leave would be appreciated. If you would like to donate either annual or restored annual leave to the employee, please complete form AD-1043 and either fax it or mail it (not both) to: USDA APHIS MRPBS HRD, Attn: LCT, Butler Square 5th Floor, 100 North 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403, Fax: 612- 336-3544. Form AD-1043 can be found on the web at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/forms/ad.shtml>.

**AWARDS**

**John Flemm**, Olympia, received an extra effort award for temporarily assuming responsibilities as the field office manager in the Portland Field Office. Thanks for a job well done.

**Gary May**, Des Moines, received a time-off award for exemplary performance in coordinating and completing a multi-regional investigation.

**Larry Mosloff**, Grand Forks, received a time-off award for dedication and great work throughout the year.

**Travis Nelsen**, Grand Forks, received a time-off award for dedication and great work throughout the year.

**Julie Shamblin**, Des Moines, received a time-off award for exemplary performance in coordinating and completing a multi-regional investigation.

**Kevin Smith**, Washington, DC, received a spot award for extra effort with working on an EEO case.

**Phillip Tate**, Toledo, received an extra effort award for successfully assisting the Stuttgart Field Office transition to a new management team.

**Ken Weaver**, Olympia, received an extra effort award for successfully assisting the Stuttgart Field Office transition to a new management team. Thank you for a job well done.

**40-YEAR SERVICE AWARD**

Henry Farley, New Orleans, LA

**35-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS**

Donald Atley, Greenville, MS  
Clinton Brinkley, Belle Chasse, LA  
Ronald Hill, Reserve, LA  
Yohanna Lorio, New Orleans, LA  
David Mundwiler, Toledo, OH

**30-YEAR SERVICE AWARD**

Randy Cooks, Reserve, LA

**20-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS**

Glennon Diket, League City  
Kristen Pirtle, Des Moines  
James Rhodes, Kansas City

**15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS**

William Arce, Des Moines, IA  
Carnell Barrett, Washington, DC  
Herple Ellis, Atlanta, GA  
Kennedy Green, Destrehan, LA  
Joann Perrilloux, Reserve, LA  
Cheryl Taylor, League City, TX

**10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS**

Bart Di Giovanni, Atlanta, GA  
Steven Mason, Atlanta, GA  
Stephen Mattison, Belle Chasse, LA  
Ryan Rudder, Kansas City, MO

**Employee Assistance Program**

Call for confidential help.

1-800-222-0364

# FGISonline

*Janine Goodson, Kansas City*

All of the FGISonline applications are up and running and, best of all, all of the applications are “ talking” to each other successfully. It’s not that we don’t have a little bickering going on from time to time, but for the most part all applications are playing nicely with each other. FGISonline is one massive program that is used not only by all of our official agencies, but also around the world. All of our official agencies are either using our certificate program or they are sending their data directly to the warehouse, this is quite an accomplishment.

Below are the applications and the program managers for each application. Just to let you know, we have a number of individuals behind the scenes who keep FGISonline up and running. They are coming up with new ideas to make FGISonline run more smoothly and to become one of the most powerful tools you will have to do your job – okay some of your jobs....ok my job. ☺☺ All kidding aside, FGISonline is one powerful tool that has a lot, and I do mean a lot, of data available for your use.

- ☞ Inspection Data Warehouse (IDW) – **Janine Goodson, Judy Johnston**
- ☞ Certificates (CRT) – **Janine Goodson, Judy Johnston**
- ☞ Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) – **Vicki Lacefield, Karen Guagliardo**
- ☞ Equipment Capability Testing (ECT) – **Mary Vick**
- ☞ Inspection, Testing, and Weighing (ITW) – **Wade Berteau, Mary Vick, your office’s IT person**
- ☞ FGIS Official Service Provider Licensing (FOL) – **Susan Fall, Judy Johnston, Janine Goodson**
- ☞ Quality Assurance and Control (QAC) – **Anita Heckenbach, Ken Critchfield**
- ☞ Agricultural Product Standards (APS) – **Janine Goodson, Judy Johnston**
- ☞ Organization and Personnel (OPA) – **Vicki Lacefield, Janine Goodson**
- ☞ IDW, CRT, APS and granting access to FGISonline applications – **Janine Goodson, Judy Johnston**. For these applications, we ask that you send emails to both **Judy** and me – so if one or the other of us is out of the office the other one can handle your request.

Be sure and keep your eyes and ears open – you never know when FGISonline might add another program. Just because we have FGISonline up and running, doesn’t mean we have stopped improving or adding more applications to the program.

**Judy** and **I** are here to support any/all of the applications except DDR, ECT and QAC. I will admit that we are better at some applications than others, but we will do our best to help you or find someone to help you in your hour of need.

If you should have any questions, please contact **Judy** or me.

---

## Issuances

*Terri Henry, Washington, DC*

- ❑ MRP Directive 4030.1, Category Rating and Selection Policy, dated October 29, 2010
- ❑ FGIS Program Notice 11-02, National Soybean Export Assessment Sample Collection Plan for Interior Offices, dated November 4, 2010
- ❑ FGIS Directive 9180.66, Zearalenone Testing, dated November 4, 2010

# FGIS Matters...!

*Randall Jones, Washington, DC*



*Randall Jones*

November was a busy travel month as I visited our staff in Harlingen, Texas. A special thank you to **Ray Hollis**, supervisor, Brownsville, who provided **Dave Grady**, manager, League City Field Office, and me a tour of our operations in Brownsville and Harlingen, where FGIS exclusively inspects trucks transporting grain across the Mexican border. Based on FGIS inspection data, APHIS issues phytosanitary certificates which are required for export of grain into Mexico.

Following our visit to Brownsville, **Dave Grady** and I traveled to Corpus Christi, TX, and met **David Lowe**, BAR chairperson, and attended a meeting held by the National Sorghum Producers and the National Sorghum Checkoff Program to address concerns related to the 2010 sorghum crop in south Texas. **Dave Grady** gave a presentation on FGIS grading procedures and **David Lowe** provided information comparing official inspection to unofficial inspection. The meeting was well attended by producers, farmers, and elevator managers. ADM is the sole export facility in Corpus Christi and is a primary exporter of grain sorghum. In response to concerns raised by many at the meeting, the League City Field Office has agreed to provide ADM services for inbound trucks on the

factor odor. Thanks to the League City Field Office Staff and the BAR for their support and collaboration with this issue.

Also this month, **Administrator Butler, Bob Lijewski, Eugene Bass, Kerry Petit**, and I met with employees at the New Orleans Field Office on November 15 and 16, 2010, for a series listening sessions designed to give employees the opportunity to speak about pertinent issues and voice concerns relevant to them. See **Andrew Greenfield's** article for more detailed information. Thanks to all those employees who attended and participated in these sessions. I look forward to holding similar meetings with the rest of our field offices.

On December 7, **Tom O'Connor, Bob Lijewski**, and I will meet in Portland with Union officials from New Orleans, League City, and Portland in the first labor-management forum. The goal of the first forum is to create a working document that will delineate processes that will facilitate better consultation between management and the Union prior implementation, expand the pool of ideas on how to improve labor/management relations, and obtain greater buy-in from Union members. We also plan to develop metrics that will measure our progress in meeting the President's objective.

We also had a meeting of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. See the meeting recap on page 6.

In December, I am looking forward to attending the final week of the Leadership Development Program (LDP) in Shepherdstown, WV. Participants will make presentations of the year-long projects that will be followed by graduation ceremonies. Congratulations to the LDP graduates as we anticipate that they will be assuming leadership roles within GIPSA in the coming years.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

# Advisory Committee Meeting

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee met on November 17-18, 2010, in New Orleans. The Committee includes 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all segments of the grain industry, including producers, processors, merchandisers, handlers, exporters, consumers, grain inspection agencies, and scientists. Recommendations by the Advisory Committee help us better meet the needs of our customers who operate in a dynamic and changing marketplace. The following resolutions were introduced and passed by the Committee:

1. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA continue the current sorghum odor project with Dr. Chambers and Kansas State University (KSU) through September 2011. It is also recommended that GIPSA work with Dr. Chambers to identify potential companies that could have an interest in biosensor development for identifying chemical compounds that are believed to produce odors in sorghum or other grains. The goal is to determine if chemical biosensor technology has advanced far enough to provide any assistance to odor inspection capabilities. Moving forward, it is recommended that GIPSA determine if sorghum industry partners want to continue the sorghum odor project.
2. The Advisory Committee recommends the continuation / completion of the evaluation of rice shellers, in conjunction with the industry stakeholders.
3. The Advisory Committee requests that when reviewing and selecting new moisture testing technology that GIPSA include in its analysis parameters for “Green” rough rice during the harvest season, August - September.
4. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Advisory Committee agenda (books) be transmitted electronically to members before the Advisory Committee in lieu of mailing unless otherwise notified that a hard copy is needed. Each Advisory Committee member would be responsible for printing and bringing the material to the meeting. This would cut down on the cost of shipping.
5. The Advisory Committee proposes that GIPSA review its allocation of Export oversight fees. GIPSA currently is assigning revenue derived from supervision of export loadings by Delegated States and Designated Agencies to the Domestic Service Official Agency account #530. The Advisory Committee resolves that oversight fees charged for export supervision be applied to the export Inspection and Weighing account #520.
6. The Advisory Committee requests that the GIPSA staff do a formal review of the current GIPSA headquarters tonnage assessment. This review would establish an equitable headquarters tonnage oversight fee for all export tonnage loaded utilizing the official system.

# EEO Listening Sessions

*Andrew Greenfield, Washington, DC*

The GIPSA leadership team recently conducted a series of listening sessions for the employees of the New Orleans Field Office. This was in response to a survey administered by GIPSA's EEO Advisory Committee (EEOAC) and Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) this past summer to all employees in the New Orleans Field Office circuit. Members of GIPSA's leadership, including administrator **Dudley Butler**, FGIS deputy administrator **Randall Jones**, FMD director **Bob Lijewski**, Civil Rights director **Eugene Bass**, and New Orleans Field Office manager **Kerry Petit**, gathered with employees at the New Orleans Field Office on November 15 and 16, 2010, for a series of EEO listening sessions designed to give employees the opportunity to speak about pertinent issues and voice concerns relevant to them.

Multiple topics were discussed, including, but not limited to: FGIS staffing into the future via the Federal Career Internship Program (FCIP), compressed work schedules, the HR hiring process, EEO/Civil Rights issues, locality pay, light duty, diversity training, employee development, safety standards, and laboratory conditions. This was the first time in a long time that field office employees had the opportunity to sit down and speak face-to-face with their administrator in a formal setting.

Currently, members of leadership and the EEOAC/SEPMs are reviewing some of the issues brought forward and will inform staff of the steps taken to address their concerns as a result of the listening sessions.

The EEOAC and Special Emphasis Program Managers would like to thank GIPSA leadership and all participants for their attendance and for sharing their thoughts on how we can best improve our agency. The EEOAC/SEPMs look forward to hosting more listening sessions at other GIPSA offices in the future.

---

## AgLearn Update

AgLearn will be down December 10, and the new system will be up-loaded by December 19. Also around that time the new staging site will be made available for people to try out the new system. Stay tuned. Keep this in mind if you have not completed mandatory training requirements. If you have done them, thank you. If not, please complete them soon. Records Retention training is scheduled to be added to your learning plan also with specified due dates.

Ethics (3 prescribed courses)  
Information Security  
and Rules of Behavior  
No Fear Act

Due Date: December 31, 2010

Due Date: January 31, 2011

Due Date: February 28, 2011

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

# For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC



**Holiday Health and Safety Tips.** The holidays are a time to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.

- ❖ **Wash your hands often.** Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.
- ❖ **Stay warm.** Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry and dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing.
- ❖ **Manage stress.** The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Keep a check on over-commitment and over-spending. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Practice time management. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook.
- ❖ **Travel safely.** Whether you are traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to his/her height, weight, and age.
- ❖ **Get check-ups and vaccinations.** Exams and screenings can help find problems before they start. They can also help find problems early, when the chances for treatment and cure are better. Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for a yearly exam. Ask what vaccinations and tests you should get based on your age, life-style, travel plans, medical history, and family history.
- ❖ **Prevent injuries.** Injuries can occur anywhere and some occur often around the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Most residential fires occur during winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended. Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test them once a month and follow the instructed timeframe for replacing batteries.
- ❖ **Handle and prepare food safely.** Prevent food-related illness. Wash hands and cooking surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than 2 hours.
- ❖ **Eat healthy, and be active.** With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays a healthy way. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute for candy. Select just one or two of your favorites from the host of tempting foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week.

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  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3614  
Phone (202) 720-5091  
FAX (202) 205-9237  
[dana.b.stewart@usda.gov](mailto:dana.b.stewart@usda.gov)

by December 25, 2010!

**Retiring?** To be included on our email distribution list after you retire from GIPSA, please send your email address to [dana.b.stewart@usda.gov](mailto:dana.b.stewart@usda.gov).

*Courtesy: United States Centers for Disease Control*

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
USDA, GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS  
AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION  
STOP 3601  
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-3601

---