USDA

GIPSA news

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

APRIL 2013

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FGIS Matters...!

Randall Jones, Washington, DC

"I want to thank each of you for your efforts during the first six months of this fiscal year…"

Good news – Congress passed the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, that was signed by the President on March 26 that provides us funding through September 30 of this year. Our Management and Budget Services staff is working diligently to craft the allocation for the Administrator's signature. I would anticipate that within the next couple of weeks each office should have their allocations which will allow us to return to a more normal state and again provide the level of services that our stakeholders demand and have come to expect. One last word on the budget – I want to thank each of you for your efforts during the first six months of this fiscal year that allowed us to save a significant amount of money during the time when it was not entirely clear what our budget situation would be. Our funding level for this year will be slightly less than what we had in FY 2012 so we need to continue to look for ways to create efficiencies and reduce costs. My goal is to continue to focus on service delivery and to allocate resources accordingly. From October 2012 to date, the senior managers have reduced traveled to almost zero and now I look forward to being able to travel to our field offices and the National Grain Center to once again, gain your input and insight as to how we can improve our services and reduce operational costs. My goal is to visit a number of field offices in the coming months.

The first trip on my calendar is to New Orleans to participate in a meeting with the regional exporters and the North American Export Grain Association. We hold this meeting annually as an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interests with the exporters and to build strong relationships with our critical stakeholders. While in New Orleans, I plan to meet with field office staff and Union leaders and discuss a number of issues including the budget and 2013 priorities for the Program. This will also provide an opportunity for me to hear what is on the minds of our FGIS Team Members. It has been my experience that the best way for me to gain input from team members is to interact on a personal level. Relying exclusively on e-mails and other electronic communications as a means to interact with team members is incomplete at best. I very much look forward to my trip to New Orleans Field Office and to other field offices as the year progresses.

Continued, see **FGIS Matters...!** *on page 2.*

FGIS Matters…! *from cover page*

As reported in last month's news article, we are in the process of modifying the fees that we charge for export inspection and weighing services. I anticipate that the Final Rule will be published in the Federal Register by mid-April which will allow us to make the changes effective June 1. Annually, we generate in the neighborhood of $28-35 million in revenue from these services which is more than 75 percent of all user-fee revenue and over 50 percent of all funds when you consider user-fees and appropriations from Congress. The last time we modified these rates was in 2004. As you can imagine, we have had many changes since 2004 and it is time that our rates are modified to reflect these changes. I want to thank all of the staff that spent a huge amount of time and expended a tremendous amount of effort in creating the Final Rule. In particular, **Denise Ruggles**, Field Management Division, and **Eric Jabs**, Quality Assurance and Compliance Division, play critical roles and their input and skill were invaluable in this endeavor. Thank you Denise and Eric!

Our grain exports this year continue to lag substantially as compared to 2012 and appear to be headed toward historically low levels. Currently we are more than 13 percent behind last year's very slow pace and reports from our field office managers indicate that we cannot expect to see any substantial improvement before the harvest of the new crops. Let's hope this year brings a plentiful harvest for our grain producers.

A couple of years back, the U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council (USCPLC), headquartered in Moscow, Idaho, approached us and asked that we consider opening an inspection lab in Western Montana in anticipation of increased pea and lentil acreage in this area. The USCPLC indicated that delays in delivering samples from this area to our Grand Forks Field Office caused untenable delays for their members. We agreed to analyze the feasibility of establishing a grading lab in Minot and for the past couple years **Ed Stallman**, Grand Forks Field Office Manger, has worked with the APHIS realtor specialist to procure the needed lab space. Little did we know how difficult this would prove to be. For the past few years the oil and gas industry in western Montana has been booming and the local economies are thriving to the extent that there is literally not any space available for an inspection lab. Moreover, we cannot find anyone that is willing to build a lab for our use. Ed came up with a very innovative idea that we hope will meet the needs of the industry while simultaneously reducing costs. Just this last week, we have proposed to the USDPLC that we utilize the Amtrak train to deliver daily the samples taken in western North Dakota. The Amtrak train runs daily and stops in Minot at 7:00 pm and arrives in Grand Forks at 1:00 am which should allow for a sample to be drawn and delivered to the Grand Forks Field Office for inspection the next day. We plan to run a four week pilot program to determine if this is a feasible method of collecting samples in western North Dakota and delivering them to the Grand Forks Field Office. Check back next month in my column for an update. I am hopeful to have a positive report regarding this pilot program.

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

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 202-690-3640

Names in the News

Retirements

Judith Johnston, Program Analyst, retired on January 3, 2013, with 37 years of federal service. Judy began her career with the Federal Government in 1973. She worked as a Psychiatric Nursing Assistant for the Veterans Administration in Topeka, Kansas, for 4 years. In October 1979, she started working for the FGIS as an Agricultural Commodity Aid in Wichita, Kansas. She then held a series of administrative positions in the Wichita Field Office. Later she transferred to the Field Operations Support Staff. She has worked with the FGISonline applications for several years. In her retirement, Judy has many plans, great and small.

Phillip Miller, Agricultural Commodity Grader of the Domestic Inspection Operations Office (DIOO), will be retiring June 1, 2013, with 35 years of USDA service. Phil grew up on a farm in Eastern Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1976 and worked briefly for a private fertilizer suppler before joining USDA in 1977. Phil was affected by an FGIS reduction in force in 1983 and moved to Missouri to become a USDA Egg Products Inspector and later Poultry Inspector. In 1993, he rejoined USDA-FGIS in Cedar Rapids. During his career Phil proudly answered the call for assistance in our export markets. He spent time in New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Minnesota. Phil volunteered for the toughest assignments and graded the most difficult samples. Phil is a valued employee of DIOO and the Federal Grain Inspection Service. His commitment to service and work ethic strengthened USDA's food safety and grain marketing.

Lynn Bolte, Agricultural Commodity Grader in the Portland Field Office, is retiring on June 28, 2013, after 37 years with FGIS. Prior to coming to work for FGIS, Lynn served two tours in Vietnam as a member of the Marine Corps, went to college, and worked as an inspector for Grain Terminal Association and Pillsbury. Lynn began his career with FGIS in July of 1976 in Denver, Colorado. After a year in Denver, he transferred to Beaumont, Texas, where he spent the next three years. Lynn then transferred to Baie Comeau, Canada for three years before coming to work in Portland in 1983. Lynn's plans for retirement include volunteering for the American Legion, Veterans Hospital, and Marine Corps League along with spending time with his wife Jeanette and watching his grandkids grow up.

A Shout-Out Goes to...

- A very special shout-out goes to **Susan Fall**. The Domestic Inspections Operations Office (DIOO) reviewed the Licensing (FOL) records of all of their agencies and found numerous problems. Susan has been working very hard this month trying to help the agencies correct these problems, on top of her regular work. THANK YOU SUSAN.
- An extraordinary shout-out goes to **Kaye Burnep** She is featured in this month's **Toledo Field Office Employee Spotlight.**

Meet Kaye Burnep
Hired: October 18, 1993
Position: IT Specialist
Maumee, Ohio

Before Kaye became the IT Specialist for the Toledo Field Office she was an Agricultural Commodity Technician (ACT) and Agricultural Commodity Grader (ACG). As an ACT she quickly became very proficient on Mycotoxin testing. She then obtained a license to grade corn, as part of the ACG position, before she applied for and was selected to be IT Specialist. Along with taking care of all the computers in the Toledo Field Office, Kaye also oversees the IT duties for the Grand Forks Field Office. With recent retirements in the Toledo Field Office Kaye has taken on some additional assignments including : Timekeeper, Office GOV trip coordinator, Billing, and Data entry into the Operating Plan. Kaye's expertise, willing to learn new things, and constant professionalism helps to keep the front office running smoothly.

The most important thing in Kaye's life is spending time with her family. She enjoys playing games, reading, and taking relaxing motorcycle rides with her husband. We are proud to recognize Kaye Burnep as one of the excellent employees of the Toledo Field Office.

National Grain Center Achieves LEED® Silver Accreditation

Charles Burden, Kansas City, MO

GIPSA's National Grain Center (NGC) building in Kansas City, Missouri, has been awarded LEED® Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED®, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized system for certifying green building practices. The General Services Administration (GSA) uses LEED® as a tool to evaluate and measure achievements towards fulfilling the design philosophy behind their Sustainable Design Program.

At the time construction of the NGC began, GSA required newly constructed and renovated buildings to meet the LEED® Silver certification, where possible. Although the building is privately owned, LEED® accreditation supports the intent of Executive Orders 13423, *"Strengthening Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management"*, and 13514, "*Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*". LEED® accreditation also supports USDA's commitment to high performance buildings and sustainable design as promoted through the USDA Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan.

The NGC building was able to achieve LEED® certification by incorporating such green features as high efficiency Heating Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) and control systems, low-flow plumbing fixtures and water efficient landscaping for reduced water consumption, energy efficient light fixtures and occupancy sensors for reduced electrical use, storm water management, day lighting, and designated parking for low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles.

Buildings certified by LEED® are recognized as creating a more productive, healthier work environment in addition to conserving energy. To improve indoor air quality, all of the paint, carpeting, furniture, and construction adhesives used in the project contain low to no volatile organic compounds. In addition, new recycled building materials were used where practical, and all of the old building materials from the demolition of the former space were kept out of the landfill by recycling.

You can find out more about LEED® at http://www.usgbc.org/.

For more information on the GSA's Sustainable Design Program, see http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104462.

Information on the USDA Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan is available at http://greening.usda.gov/USDA_SBIP_Final_Aug13.pdf.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

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http://www.FOH4You.com

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FGIS Presents in Nairobi, Kenya

Marc Marullo, New Orleans, LA

From left to right: Marc Marullo, GIPSA; Francis Nang'ayo, African Agricultural Technology Foundation; and Andrew Slate, North Carolina State University

From January 31– February 1, 2013, I was given the honor and pleasure of representing the Federal Grain Inspection Service at two workshops that were held in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of FGIS' presence at these conferences was to meet with stakeholders, country representatives and other involved/interested parties in the region of South/East Africa to speak to them about GIPSA approved sampling and testing methods pertaining to aflatoxin in corn and peanuts. I delivered several presentations, which included an overview of FGIS and its vast set of performance functions associated with the agency's core mission of the facilitation and marketing of U.S. grain. I also discussed the many roles of the National Grain Center and its system of reference methods specifically regarding mycotoxins in corn. I participated in group presentations and round table discussions with other representatives aimed at streamlining inspection standards and "harmonization" efforts in the partner nations of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, and Kenya.

Marc Marullo speaking to the audience about grain particle segregation.

During the first workshop, we talked about deliberating and consolidating approaches for developing commodity sampling and testing protocols. In my presentations, I covered topics ranging from proper representative sample selection; to approved devices and equipment FGIS utilizes to obtain representative samples; to how to design sampling plans to minimize risks to both buyers and sellers. Together with Andrew Slate, a mycotoxin expert and professor at North Carolina State University, I fielded questions pertaining to decontamination and removal of "high risk" components in maize (corn) and peanuts.

The second workshop concerned itself with reviewing a "zero draft" of a registration guidance document for registering bio-pesticides within the region. The partner nations seek to steam-line not only their sampling and testing protocols, but also the regulation of these relatively new and largely unregulated technologically advanced bio-pesticide products.

The experience was quite educational and informative, and the USDA's presence from several different agencies including the Foreign Agriculture Service, United States Agency for International Development and GIPSA lent a very positive chemistry to the over-all dynamic of both conferences.

Travel TidBits

Rose Alexander, Washington, DC

USDA is pleased to announce a new one-stop website designed specifically for USDA travelers, preparers, approvers, and travel administrators/managers. The USDA Travel Express site (http://www.ocfo.usda.gov/travel/) can help you plan, conduct, voucher, and manage travel. And it provides tips, such as:

- How to access airfare at least 50 percent less than standard government rates. Yes, that includes fares like those you see on commercial booking sites.
- What new USDA travelers need to do to set up GovTrip accounts.
- What authorization and voucher approving officials are accountable for under federal travel policy.
- How to create an authorization or voucher in GovTrip.
- What are the Dos and Don'ts for the USDA Travel Card.
- What is that $15 charge that appears on your travel card after you've vouchered.

Ethics Training and Resources, Easier to Find Than You Would Think

Caroline Thorpe, Washington, DC

This year's ethics training covers: Non-Federal Employment, Post-Employment Restrictions and Fundraising. However, if you have questions on other ethics topics, resources include:

- Other relevant Aglearn courses
- Talking to your supervisor
- Contacting Mary Royster, Branch Chief, USDA Ethics Office
- The online site – USDA Rules at a Glance, which is located at:
- http://www.usda-ethics.net/rules/rule1.htm

The site outlines and provides answers to typical areas of employee concern which you can quickly access anytime of the day, such as:

- Gifts from Outside Sources
- Gifts between Employees
- Conflicting Financial Interests
- Impartiality in Performing Official Duties
- Seeking Other Employment
- Misuse of Position
- Outside Activities

Concerning Gifts:

Mary Royster, Branch Chief, USDA Office of Ethics, Marketing, Regulatory and Nutrition Ethics had some guidance for typical GIPSA questions about gift giving.

Gifts from Outside Sources

General Exceptions. You may accept:

- A gift worth up to $20 per occasion, up to a maximum value of $50 from any source per calendar year.
- Gifts based on close personal relationships.
- Gifts based on outside activities or social events.

However, from PROHIBITED sources, the AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY GRADERS would not be able accept a gift from a prohibited source. - Therefore, the $20 rule would not apply. Even though acceptance of a gift may be permitted by one of the exceptions at 5 CFR 2635.204(a) through (l), remember, it is never inappropriate and frequently prudent for an employee to decline a gift offered by a prohibited source or because of the employee's official position.

Note: A prohibited source is any person, company or organization which:

- Does business with USDA, or
- Is seeking to do business with USDA, or
- Conducts activities regulated by USDA, or
- Has interests that may be "substantially affected" by the performance or non-performance of your duties, or
- Is an organization a majority of whose members fit any of the above categories.

Gifts from Employees

There are exceptions for special occasions such as weddings, baby showers, etc. but the solicitation for donations from employees must be voluntary. Also a supervisor cannot send out a notice to solicit contributions for a gift even where there is an exception. Someone other than a supervisor must send the notice to employees within the Branch/Staff for voluntary donations for a gift.

An employee may give and a supervisor may accept a gift which is for a traditional occasion such as a birthday or Christmas, and is worth $10 or less. However, employees cannot combine their $10 to give the supervisor a more expense gift.

However, if the supervisor was retiring, he or she could accept the VISA gift card valued at $50.

Example: If there are 5 employees who wish to give their supervisor a VISA gift card for $50. The supervisor could not accept the $50 VISA gift card because it is valued at more than $10. Also, a VISA gift card is the same as cash, and it would be inappropriate for the supervisor to accept cash from his/her employees for a traditional occasion such as a birthday or Christmas.

If you have further questions you may contact.

Mary Royster
Branch Chief
USDA Office of Ethics
Marketing, Regulatory and Nutrition Ethics Branch
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Washington, DC 20250
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CCWG Accomplishments

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

Since the inception of Change Control Working Group (CCWG) there has been over 200 change requests (CR's) received. All CR's received are viewed by the CCWG before any determinations are made. Many require the CCWG to conduct more research. This may include obtaining input from subject matter experts both inside and outside of the agency, speaking with the person who submitted the CR for clarification, getting cost estimates, creating teams to complete more in-depth work, and working together as a team to put together a final product ready for the Packers and Stockyards Management Team (PMT) to make a final decision on the CR. Not all CR's received need to have the CCWG make a determination as, some are bug fixes, are out of scope, or are duplicates. No matter the category that a CR falls into though, a member of the CCWG takes the time to read every CR submitted.

So what has the CCWG been doing? To date, there has been 90 CR's implemented. A total of 57 CR's are currently awaiting action from Developers, Policy and Litigation Division (PLD), and Business and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD). Another six CR's are awaiting implementation or disposition.

Many CR's immediately impact how we do our jobs and are quite noticeable. While others play more of a "behind the scene roll" and help our work flow more smoothly and easily. If you have an idea of improving efficiency, morale, the Packers and Stockyards Automated System (PAS), or any aspect of our Agency, please take the time to submit a CR! We look forward to hearing from you!

Hazards of High-Intensity Discharge Lights

Amber McDonald-Lake, Washington, DC

High-intensity discharge lights are available in three basic types: metal halide, mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium lights. Metal halide and mercury vapor lights are used in warehouses, warehouse-type retail stores and sports facilities. High-pressure sodium lights often are used for street and highway lighting. When these lights are turned on, they can produce potentially harmful levels of ultraviolet radiation.

According to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (Washington L&I), these lights are only a concern when cracked bulbs or covers can expose workers to harmful UV radiation, often without an individual even being aware. Possible health effects range from skin irritation and temporary loss of vision to severe skin burns and long-term damage to the eye's cornea, depending on the length of exposure. To protect against high-intensity discharge light hazards, the department recommends workers:

- Know where these light sources are located in their work area and how the lights can become hazardous.
- Be familiar with how to report observations of broken glass and cracked bulbs and covers, as well as incidents in which lights may have been struck with equipment or other objects.
- Be aware that the lights may still work even when damaged.
- Know how to take proper safety precautions when inspecting or replacing lights. For example, properly disconnect the power when removing bulbs, and always check exposed electrical contacts with an appropriate sensor before making contact. *Source: nsc.org*

Issuance Report

Terri Henry, Washington, DC

- MRP Directive 4531.1, "Salary Rate Determinations", dated March 25, 2013
- MRP Directive 4351.1, "Reduction in Force", dated March 26, 2013
- FGIS Policy Memorandum Reference No. 255, Fumigation Information for Processed Commodity Phytosanitary Inspections, dated March 27, 2013

Before Disaster Strikes

Mark Kemp, Washington, DC

As the Safety and Occupational Health Manager for the GIPSA, I am responsible for many things that will ensure you have a safe environment allowing you to do your part in helping GIPSA accomplish its mission. Ensuring that your work environment is free of recognized hazards is easily one of my biggest responsibilities but there are a few other things that I am responsible for that help to achieve that goal, they include management of the following programs:

- Safety Training
- Disaster Preparedness
- Workplace Violence Prevention Program
- Continuity of Operations Program (COOP)
- Federal Occupational Health (FOH) Program
- Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP)

To have a successful safety and health program you must have reliable management involvement in the program; employee commitment to safety and health practices and procedures; identification of hazards and potential hazards; appropriate prevention and control procedures; and detailed training. The program must address hazards regardless of whether or not they are regulated by government standards.

Safety Training: With a comprehensive library of occupational health and safety training videos, employees can help reduce safety incidents, stay in compliance and positively influence a safety culture in GIPSA. Many titles are available online, they can be viewed by visiting the following link: http://www.screencast.com/users/USDA-GIPSA/folders/Safety+Training/rss or by contacting the safety manager.

Disaster Preparedness: This is a very interesting part of the job; whether you are at home or at work, GIPSA is concerned about your well being. To ensure the agency is ready to react in the event of manmade or natural disasters, I have been given the responsibility to ensure each member of the agency has the appropriate information so that each of you will be ready to respond to whatever happens. To that extent, I monitor events around the country that could impact GIPSA employees and report to the Administrator and agency leadership so we can take any measures that may be required. I work closely with the USDA Resilience and Preparedness Division (RPD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, as well as regional, state, and local government agencies so we can get you the most accurate information as soon as possible. I also ensure the agency maintains an emergency evacuation plan for each of our duty locations and provide assistance to any GIPSA employee that wants to develop an emergency family plan or a personal basic disaster supply kit for your home, auto, or office.

Marc Kemp

Workplace Violence Prevention Program: It is estimated that over 2 million people are assaulted in the workplace every year. Outside of the "General Duty" in the OSHA Act of 1970 there are no Federal guidelines or regulations covering workplace violence. The "General Duty Clause" requires a workplace free of hazards and protects workers from violent acts; OSHA encourages workplace violence prevention programs. GIPSA's policy is to provide a workplace that is free of any act of physical violence, threats of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening, disruptive behavior. All allegations of workplace violence are taken seriously by all levels of management and when appropriate, actions will be taken to resolve or remove the physical violence, threats of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening, disruptive behavior.

Continuity of Operations Program (COOP): COOP is vital to the agency, department, and federal government, it ensures there are continuity plans in place to allow the government agencies to continue functioning with minimal disruption in the event there is a national or local emergency. Whether that emergency is a natural event like a hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or snowstorm or a manmade disaster like September 11, 2001, we want to be able to react or respond to the crisis but to the greatest extent possible continue to provide the services our customers require and support the needs of the Department and the other federal agencies that may require our

Continued, see **Before Disaster Strikes** *on page 9.*

Before Disaster Strikes *from page 8*

assistance in support of the National Essential Functions and Primary Mission Essential Functions of the Federal Government in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-20. Just as HSPD-20 directs appointment of COOP personnel at the most senior level of government, the USDA Secretary and Administrator of GIPSA have appointed personnel to oversee the development and implementation of the USDA and GIPSA COOP plans.

Federal Occupational Health (FOH) Program: We are concerned about you; your physical and mental well being is essential because the work you do depends on it! Most of the services you get from FOH can be done completely confidentially; not even I will know and the services are available for you to use (at no cost to you I might add!). FOH provides occupational health and wellness services exclusively to federal employees.

Clinical services, including emergency response; physical exams; immunizations; vision and health screenings; and health risk appraisals are available through FOH and network of more than 15,000 private-provider physicians and nurses.

FOH Wellness/Fitness services provide numerous benefits that improve organizational effectiveness such as reduced absenteeism and healthcare costs; greater job satisfaction; and improved morale.

FOH's EAP services are provided by staff counselors as well as through a vast network of affiliate counselors. FOH's Environmental Health and Safety program helps agencies identify and resolve environmental health issues by addressing them early through assessments, abatement programs, and on-going monitoring, as well as specialized training for employees and managers. Other services and products, including administrative operations, health resources, information technology support, financial management, and strategic acquisitions are available through the Program Support Center (PSC),

Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP): As hard as we try to prevent them, sometimes accidents, mishaps, and occupational illness' occur involving our employees. When they do, GIPSA wants to make sure you get what you are entitled to in accordance with the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. The Federal Employees' Compensation Act provides workers' compensation coverage to Federal workers for employment-related injuries and occupational diseases. Benefits include wage replacement, payment for medical care, and where necessary, medical and vocational rehabilitation assistance in returning to work. I work closely with the USDA Workers Compensation Office and the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs in the Department of Labor which administers this disability compensation program to ensure claims are filed in a timely manner. My office is the central point for all claims but, claims are initially submitted at the local level to avoid unnecessary delays. Our goal is to make you whole again and return you to work as soon as possible. I review each case and provide assistance to the agency and OWCP to ensure the correct information is used in considering the appropriate adjudication for each case.

Hopefully this gives you a glimpse into the GIPSA Safety Office and the many ways GIPSA is trying to ensure you have a great place to work that free of recognized hazards and responsive to your well being. If you need any assistance please call or contact me at:

Safety & Occupational Health Manager
USDA GIPSA/MBS
Room 2528-S
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3642
Phone (202) 720-0061
Cell (202) 236-9610

GIPSA Idea Hotline

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.

MBS Quick Contact List

Marianne Plaus 202-690-3460
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Secretary
DC - Keys Made and Move/Renovations
NFC Employee Roster POC

Idelisse Rodriguez 202-720-5688
GIPSA Newsletter POC
Performance Management
Employee Assistance Program

Caroline Thorpe 202-690-2332
Training POC
Individual Development Plans

Tammi Lindsey 202-690-4188
IAS Requisitions/Budget Approvals
OPM Background Investigations
ULO POC

Ruth Ortiz 202-720-6719
FMMI POC
Status of Funds
Operating Plans POC
Budget Formulation

Lisa Fyall 202-720-7045
Human Resources Guidance

Amber McDonald-Lake 202-720-1741
Award/Retirements Processing

Terri Henry 202-205-8281
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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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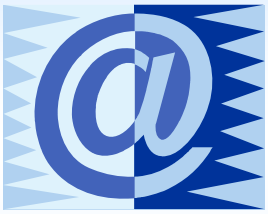

by April 30, 2013

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

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