



# GIPSA News

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

May 1998

## From My Desk

*Jim R. Baker*

photo 1A

*Administrator Jim R. Baker*

We are fast approaching the 21st century. The challenges and changes we face also present many opportunities. Some say that the challenges appear so overwhelming that the opportunities are seldom seen. Keep perspective.

I recently attended the USDA Safety and Health Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. I want to commend **Ralph Regan** and each of the **collateral duty safety and health officers** for making the conference such a success and for their work throughout the year.

My number one goal for last year, this year, and next year is safety in the workplace for our employees. You have my commitment that safety training has top priority. It must be ongoing in every office and workplace.

Those who can't move beyond the past or learn from it are condemned to repeat it. Some accidents might have been prevented, some could not. Either way, all serious ones leave scars.

I challenge each employee to make safety a priority.

Make rules and abide by them. Ensuring a safe workplace requires training, good common sense, a positive attitude, and, most of all, requires that each of us accept responsibility for making it happen.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

**Think safety!**

### The Safety Gospel According to Jim Baker

Here are some safety rules that I live by --

1. Take pride in your workplace
2. Look out for each other.
3. Stop any unsafe act now.
4. Think before acting.
5. Horseplay on the job causes problems.
6. Rested, alert employees prevent accidents.
7. Aggressive actions cause problems.
8. Safety conscious employees tend to details.
9. Safety gear is made to be worn, not stored in a safe place.
10. Drugs in the workplace are just like cancer.
11. If you get mad, get over it -- otherwise you become ineffective.
12. Keep calm, don't panic.

# Names in the News

## Personnel

The following folks were selected to be regional supervisors in P&S Programs' new regional offices: **Amy Van Skiver** will move from Washington, D.C., to take the helm in Atlanta, GA; **Keith Kienow**, currently regional supervisor in Omaha, NE, will make a move to the new Denver, CO, office; and **Jay Johnson**, currently acting director of the Packer and Poultry Division in Washington, DC, will be heading up the staff in the Des Moines, IA, regional office.

The Olympia Federal/State Office welcomes **Scott Cooley**, previously from the Portland Field Office, as their new Quality Assurance Specialist.

Many thanks to the following people for assisting the Compliance Division's Review Branch with the April onsite compliance review detail of the Portland Field Office: **Don Akers**, quality assurance specialist, Corpus Christi Suboffice (technical); and **Donna Hoover**, office support assistant, League City Field Office (administrative). In addition, **Bill Ashley**, deputy director, Executive Resources Staff, assisted us with evaluating the field office's financial programs.

GIPSA bids farewell to **Lynn Daws**, Kansas City Field Office, who transferred to the Social Security Administration in Des Moines, IA, on April 7.

Farewell also to long-time TSD employee **Alice Swaite**, who will be leaving GIPSA on June 18. We'll miss you and wish you much future success!

## 30-Year Service Award

John Good, Washington, DC

## 25-Year Service Award

*The 25-year certificates have been on back order for the last two quarters. As soon as they're available, we will get them to everyone who is waiting for them.*

## 20-Year Service Award

Kenneth Carter, Greenville, MS  
 Kenneth Critchfield, Wichita, KS  
 Hal Crocker, Memphis, TN  
 Carol Forest, New Orleans, LA  
 John Giler, Washington, DC  
 Joseph Kuseck, Portland, OR  
 James Magee, New Orleans, LA  
 Paul Manol, Washington, DC  
 Melvin McLaurin, New Orleans, LA  
 John Schoonover, Portland, OR  
 Sarah Welch Hill, New Orleans, LA

## 15-Year Service Award

Carl Jackson, New Orleans, LA  
 Philip Sapienza, New Orleans, LA

## 10-Year Service Award

Donald Damm, Minneapolis, MN  
 Gary Davis, Sacramento, CA  
 Constance Grows, New Orleans, LA  
 Carol Remmers, Washington, DC

## Awards

**Martin Begley**, Field Management Division, Washington, D.C., received a performance award for sustained superior performance as the Weighing and Equipment Branch acting chief, in addition to maintaining normal duties.

**Maggie Mills** and **Patricia Tolle**, marketing specialists, Denver, received extra effort awards for outstanding performance in conducting the National Lamb Investigation and exceptional proficiency in producing and completing a professional and high quality investigative report.

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# P&S Headquarters Reorganization

The headquarters reorganization of the P&S Programs, including the reassignment of all functions and current personnel, became effective on April 26, 1998. Previous rooms and phone numbers will be used until further notice. If you're looking for folks, here's where you can find them:

## PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS PROGRAMS

*Effective April 26, 1998*

### OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

Davis, Harold  
Spengler, Jane  
Stencel, John

### OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Morris, Tommy (Director)  
Boor, Bruce (Asst. to the  
Director)  
Grasso, Catherine

### TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Burnette, Lynn  
Helms, Durwood  
Johnson, Jay (until 7/98)  
Van Skiver, Amy (until 7/98)

### PROGRAM SERVICES STAFF

Smith, Peggy  
Melton, Donna

### INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Bromley, Gerald  
Galpin, Carl  
Omade, Irene  
Paugh, Tracey  
Rigden, Steven  
Thalacker, Dennis

### ECONOMIC/STATISTICAL SUPPORT

Grinnell, Gerald E.  
Harris, Tanika  
Christian, Monica  
Haller, Larry  
Schneider, Roger  
Spinelli, Felix (Grain)

### OFFICE OF POLICY/ LITIGATION SUPPORT

Van Ackeren, Dan (Director)  
Parkerson, Ronny (Asst. to  
the Director)  
Alexander, Rose  
Davis, Sheila  
McGrady, Claudia  
Shipman, Debbie  
Beck, Mel

### Competition Branch

Preston, Warren  
England, Branard  
Frank, Stuart (until 7/98)  
Giberson, Andrea

### Financial Branch

Buchanan, Larry  
Adams, Jim  
Eskilsen, Gunnard  
Larson, Ron

### Trade Practices Branch

Edmond, John  
Rollins, John  
School, Byron  
Smith, Bobby  
Vanderwielen, Jim

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*Plans are to establish the re-  
gional offices effective the  
week of July 20. We'll keep  
you posted!*

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# FGIS Financial Status Update

*Dave Shipman, Washington, DC*

Last October, we were looking forward to a productive year with exports projected to increase from 74 million metric tons (mmt) last year to 80 mmt in FY 98. Unfortunately, the outlook changed for the worse. Based on USDA projections, we are now anticipating that our workload will reach only 70 mmt this year, a 12.5 percent drop from our 5-year average.

On the positive side, thanks to everyone's efforts to cut costs and improve our efficiency, we have not lost money in our trust programs to date this fiscal year. We have held the line despite a decreased workload, absorbing the Federal pay increases, purchasing new moisture meters, and funding repairs and upgrades to our computer systems to ensure they continue to operate in the Year 2000. So far this fiscal year, our total user fee operating costs are running approximately even with last year and revenue is up \$500,000.

Unfortunately, a slow period is coming upon us. We must work now to put in place the necessary changes to contain costs during this period. Our first line of defense is to detail some employees to other USDA agencies, e.g., to APHIS-PPQ. We already are pursuing several potential sources of alternative work assign-

ments. But, the availability of such assignments may be limited. If adequate details are not found or the workload decline becomes more severe, furloughs will be implemented.

Over the past few years, we have structured FGIS to handle an average of 80-83 mmt of business annually (our 5-year average). Due to the Asian financial crisis and other changes taking place in world grain markets, we project our business for the next 2 to 3 years will drop to between 70-73 mmt annually, a sig-

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***... we project our business for the next 2 to 3 years will drop to between 70-73 mmt annually, a significant decrease in workload ...***

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nificant decrease in workload that may require restructuring and operational adjustments.

You may ask "Why does management always ask employees to do more with less rather than taking a proactive role to increase revenues through expanded business opportunities and higher fees?" In reality, we have been addressing all of these issues simultaneously and, thanks to your hard work, have made considerable progress.

Because we are primarily user-fee funded, we operate like a business. But, we also operate within the legislative authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural

Marketing Act, which limits our ability to compete with private sector businesses. Still, we must expand our services in response to market conditions wherever possible within our legislative mandate to facilitate the marketing of U.S. cereals and oilseeds. In recent years, this has led to our providing services such as railroad track scale testing; pesticide residue testing; stress crack analysis in corn; lead and cadmium testing in wheat and corn; zearalenone testing; soybean seed sizing and count; and ergot analysis in sorghum.

We also will continue to implement fee increases, as necessary, to recover the cost of providing cost effective, quality service. In fact, rulemaking is already proceeding that will allow us to automatically recover the cost of federal pay increases each year.

But, we cannot use fee increases to cover the cost of program inefficiencies, or as a means of shying away from the need to adopt new technology or to adjust our organizational staffing and structure in response to market trends.

We will look for new business opportunities. We will charge fair prices for our services. And, we will continue to provide American agriculture with accurate, timely, and cost effective services.

# GIPSA to Inspect Kamut

GIPSA has established uniform procedures for the factor analysis of Kamut seed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (AMA).

Kamut is a wheat-like grain that is grown organically in Montana and parts of Idaho. It is hypo-allergenic and can be used as a wheat substitute for those allergic to wheat flour. Kamut is used in organic products such as cereal, pasta, and flour, and in a number of high-performance foods.

Inspection of Kamut seed is being performed on a factor only basis. The factors analyzed for are: kind of grain, test weight, moisture, dockage, shrunken and broken kernels, infestation, heating, odor, bird dropping, other animal filth, broken glass, caster beans, cockleburrs, crotalaria seeds, smut, ergot, garlic, treated, stones, temperature, unknown foreign substances, heat-damaged kernels, damaged kernels, and foreign material. There are no classes, subclasses or grades in Kamut seed.

## Feeling Overwhelmed? Overburdened?

For free, confidential assistance, contact your Employee Assistance Program.

Washington, DC,  
Headquarters personnel --  
call 301-570-3900

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

# Connecting Students to Ag

*Cleve and Cyndi Ellis, Portland, OR*

How do students in an elementary school make the connection between growing plants in the classroom and making healthy food choices in their daily lives? By teaching them where their food comes from, of course! Washington State University/Clark County Cooperative Extension combines two programs, the Master Gardeners' "Grow Cart Project" and the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) to show students where their food comes from. The Grow Cart Project helps children understand plant biology through growing bean and flower seeds in the classroom. The FSNEP educator teaches the importance of making healthy food choices from the Food Guide Pyramid with discussions, snacks, and games.

I got involved in helping to connect the two programs. I bring the wheat industry into the classroom with samples of grains and tools of the trade for the children to see and touch. They learn the difference between oats, wheat, corn, and rice. They see how a probe is used to sample the grain. They learn about how FGIS takes steps to ensure that the grains they eat are safe when they get to use a magnifying glass to watch a live granary weevil "farm" in action. Children also see the source of whole grains and their place in the Food Guide Pyramid in two educational videos.

These programs are unique and invaluable for the children, many whom are from low-income homes. I, and FGIS, are proud to play a part in enriching the lives of these students!

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## Travel Bits & Pieces

*Peggy Smith, Washington, DC*

- Hertz is offering American Express cardholders a free membership for the first year to its Club Gold. The Hertz #1 Club Gold is available in 640 locations around the world. If you are interested in applying for membership, please contact me and I'll get the enrollment package to you.
- Sunpark airport parking is offering several discounts to American Express cardholders. I have coupons for 20% off daily parking, a weekly rate of \$6.00 per day (for 6 or more days), and one day free parking with a minimum 2-day stay. Sunpark is located at National Airport. If you would like a coupon, please contact me.
- Delta airlines implemented a new carry-on baggage policy on April 15. The carrier maintains the two-bag rule, but tightens up on the "exceptions," which will be limited to a purse, food for on-board consumption, and devices for disabled passengers.



# GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

*Norma Phelps, Washington, DC*



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

*Suggestor*

*Suggestion*

Myron Hall, New Orleans, LA  
David Mundwiler, Toledo, OH  
Jill Ainsworth, Indianapolis, IN

Mike Johnson, Sacramento, CA

Philip P. Tate, Toledo, OH

Charge Applicant For Reinspections on Submitted Samples  
All Agencies to Cross Utilize Equipment  
Allow Regional Supervisors To Grant Over 30 Days Extensions  
for Annual Report  
Offer OA Inexpensive Method For Replacing Light Source  
in Tecator Protein Machine  
Inform OA That GAC 2100 Does Not Require An Individual  
Moisture Log

April's tee-shirt winner: **Jill Ainsworth**, Indianapolis Regional Office!

## **GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During April 1997**

This list does not necessarily indicate that the idea was implemented as suggested or that it is currently in place (it could be in the development/implementation stage). To avoid the chance of misinterpretation, please call the Hotline if you have any concerns or questions regarding the following list of ideas.

- 👍 Place Licensing Files in a Bulletin Board
- 👍 Allow Baltimore Field Office Input to Internet Line
- 👍 Furnish Xerox Copies of Worksheets for Shiphold Inspections
- 👍 Set Up Safety Instances Review Meetings

Keep those ideas coming in! Send your ideas to the GIPSA Idea Hotline via GroupWise to GIPSAIDEA; HP Desk to Ideas; Internet to [ideas@fgis.usda.gov](mailto:ideas@fgis.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.**

# GIPSA Expands Toll Free Hotline 1-800-998-3447

GIPSA recently expanded its toll-free telephone number for reporting violations to include abuses in the grain, livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

Specifically, GIPSA's hotline is available to all interested parties who wish to provide information on possible violations of the United States Grain Standards Act, the Agricultural Marketing Act, or the Packers and Stockyards Act.

According to GIPSA Administrator **Jim R. Baker**, the toll free number provides a direct and easy way for producers and others to access GIPSA's regulatory resources. Callers will reach a voicemail system that will tape their messages.

"We will respond as quickly as possible to reports of violations," said **Baker**. "The hotline," he added, "is another step GIPSA is taking to be as responsive as possible to our customers."

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## April Issuances

*Charlie Turner, Washington, DC*

PN-98-9, "Licensing Program Revisions," dated 3/11/98

PN-98-10, "Elimination of the Narrow Margin Rule for Beans, Peas, and Lentils," dated 3/11/98

PN-98-11, "Hard White Wheat Protein Calibration update," dated 3/30/98

PN-98-12, "Sample Collection Responsibilities for Verifying the Accuracy of Moisture Meter Calibrations," dated 4/3/98

PN-98-13, "Operating Procedures for the Dickey-John GAC2100," dated 4/9/98

Directive 9180.60, "Inspection of Kamut," dated 4/15/98

Directive 5200.2, "Colthing and Identity Apparel Policy," dated 4/1/98

# New Rice Training Video

*Mike Eustrom, Technical Center*

The Board of Appeals and Review (BAR) distributed copies of the videocassette, "Rough Rice Milling Yield," to all rice field offices and suboffices, including one official agency rice location. The BAR helped the Stuttgart Field Office create this training video, which focuses on the equipment used to determine rice milling yield. The objectives of the video are to: 1) provide technicians with a basic understanding of the rice equipment; 2) highlight "critical control points" in the rice appraisal process; and 3) suggest simple checks that can be performed to ensure the equipment is functioning properly. The 22-minute videotape is intended to serve as a starting point for basic or "refresher" rice training at the local level.

The video was first proposed by the Milling Yield Comparison Team of the Stuttgart Field Office circuit. Their ultimate goal? Increased overall standardization of the milling yield process, and increased consistency in inter-market milling yield results.

Stuttgart's Jonesboro Suboffice wrote and filmed an early version of the video, which was well-received at a Rough Rice Workshop held in Kansas City last year. The FGIS Rice Quality Improvement Team soon saw that what was useful for one circuit would be valuable for all official rice offices. Using additional ideas generated at the rice workshop, the BAR assisted in revising the script and obtaining additional film footage. The new video was sent to the field in late April.



## June Events

- June 10      USDA Honor Awards Program, Washington, DC
- June 12      USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates released
- June 19      Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Summer Convention, Bloomington, IL
- June 26-30   National Oilseed Processors Association 69th Annual Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA

### 3 a.m.

*Wes Blake, Technical Center*

Ever see one of these? If you have it was probably at 3:00 a.m. in one of your most unusual nightmares. That's why I titled it 3:00 a.m. I'm not really sure why I built the thing, but it all started when I ran across an ugly old coffee table at an antique store. The table had been made from an old tree stump, and when I saw it I had a strange compulsion that said I should take it home and turn it

into something other than a coffee table. (Possible mind control by aliens?). Anyway, after about six months of wasted evenings of obsessively attaching everything to it from old wood shoe lasts to tinker toys I had it finished. And, believe it or not, my wife and I are still married. I even brought it in and put it on display in the lunchroom at TSD for a day, and I still have my job.

Maybe late some night after having a quarter pounder with pickles and onions, greasy onion rings, and a big chocolate sundae for dessert, you can dream up one of these for yourself.

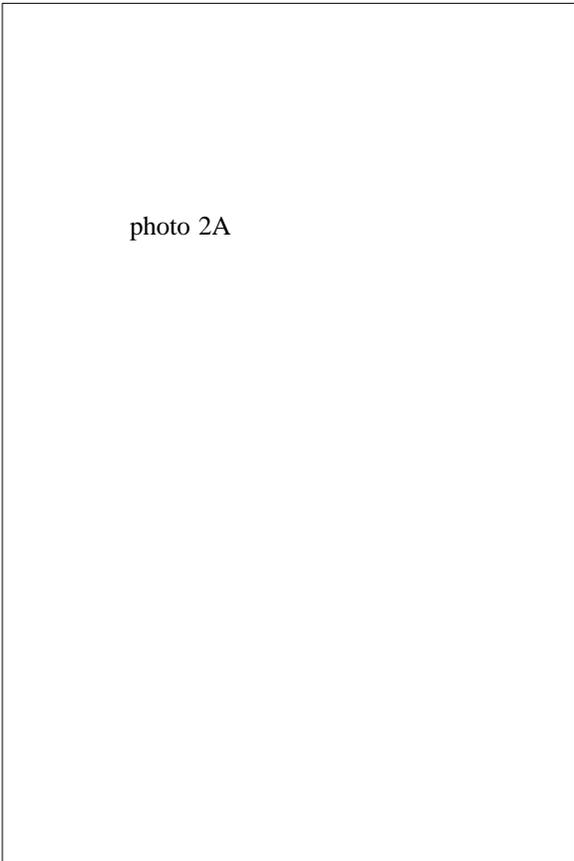


photo 2A

## Rye Standards Amended

GIPSA is revising the U.S. Standards for Rye to certificate dockage to the nearest tenth of a percent. The current method of dockage certification rounds the actual dockage percentage down to the nearest whole percent.

Dockage consists primarily of dust, chaff, small weed seeds, very small pieces of broken rye, and coarse grains larger than rye.

The certification of dockage to the nearest tenth of a percent will result in more accurate statements of dockage content in rye on official inspection certificates and promote greater pricing efficiency in the marketplace.

GIPSA also will establish new inspection tolerances, or breakpoints, as appropriate, for its statistically-based inspection plan.

The revisions will become effective on June 1, 1999.

**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**

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601  
Phone (202) 720-5091  
FAX (202) 205-9237  
Internet: [dstewart@fgis.usda.gov](mailto:dstewart@fgis.usda.gov)

**by May 26, 1998!**

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
USDA, GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS  
AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION  
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