



GIPSA News

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

July 1998

From My Desk

Jim R. Baker

I've worked in many areas and have seen a lot of jobs, organizations, and people. The people who do the work make the real lasting impression on me — the ones who work hard to make things better for others who follow. To look around and see others who gained from being trained, learned from others' experience, and above all shared, shared their knowledge with others, makes me proud to be part of GIPSA.

I often talk with different employees about what they think is the best part of their jobs. Most reply that it's the people that they work with on a daily basis. The next most frequent answer is that they see something positive come from the work we do to benefit the agriculture industry. Most all of us would give the same type of reply.

I believe the two most important factors that we all depend on in our jobs is communication and trust. They are the foundation that we must have to succeed in our mission. Everyone around you asks four basic questions about others, you heard this before: 1) Can I trust you? 2) Do you trust me? 3) Do you care about me? 4) Will you keep me informed? One of the weakest statements ever said, "We assume you knew what was going to happen, I've known about it for some-time now." At all levels, we should make sure that everyone can answer these questions with a "Yes".

Keep focussing on communication, teamwork, expressing your appreciation to your coworkers, and on making GIPSA a positive place to work!

Y2K Outreach

USDA agencies are helping in an outreach effort to inform all of our customers and the public about the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. The Y2K problem is a serious national and global issue. The problem is that many computer applications and some equipment with built-in microprocessors or embedded chips will not be able to distinguish between the years 1900 and 2000.

Historically, years were entered into computer applications using only 2 digits to increase the efficiency and economy of computer programs; for example, "1998" was entered as stored as "98." This problem involves not only computer software and hardware, but all technologies that use microprocessors, including instrumentation, telecommunication networks, and data exchanges.

The consequences of noncompliant Y2K technology range from minor annoyances on January 1, 2000, to potentially catastrophic failures of the computer-dependent systems. Exactly what will happen in many situations is unknown.

USDA has been addressing the Year 2000 problem for some time. However, many individuals and organizations outside the Department of Agriculture know little of this issue. Please help us increase awareness of this critical issue. On the last page of this newsletter is a notice that explains the Y2K problem and urges everyone to act now to ensure that all automated systems are up and running on January 1, 2000. Please copy the notice, post it in your offices, and distribute it to the many individuals and organizations with whom you work. Thank you for your help in this most important effort.

Names in the News

Personnel

The FGIS Weighing and Equipment Branch (WEB) welcomes (back) its newest member, **Byron School**. **Byron** had left the Equipment Branch in 1987, after 11 years of service in FGIS, to manage a cargo inspection and analysis company in Bangkok, Thailand. While in Bangkok, he met some old friends from the embassy, who convinced him to come to work for a special humanitarian assistance project in Cambodia. The project ended in late 1994 and **Byron** came home and went to work for P&S Programs as an Industrial Specialist. He said, he's always had an interest in the Railroad Track Scale Program and is very pleased to be part of WEB once again.

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John Barthel has been selected to fill the Supervisory Agricultural Marketing Specialist position in Atlanta, GA; **Keith Ingram** has been selected to fill the Supervisory Auditor position in Des Moines, IA.

The Compliance Division's Review Branch thanks the following folks who traveled while working on details for the Compliance Division's Review Branch recently: **Larry Giles**, supervisory agricultural commodity grader (ACG), New Orleans, who assisted with the review of the Oregon Department of Agriculture; **Carl Jackson**, protein coordinator, New Orleans, and **Judy Johnston**, office services assistant, Wichita, who helped with the evaluation of the Moscow Field Office circuit; and **Dave Fulks**, supervisory ACG, Portland, who reviewed Hastings Grain Inspection, Inc.

New Arrival

Congratulations to **Donna Melton**, Program Services Staff, on the birth of her daughter, **Tonisha Sharday**, on June 23.

Awards

Margaret Campbell, legal program assistant/computer specialist, Memphis, received a performance award for high level performance while performing the clerical duties, IRM duties, and computer assistant duties in the Memphis office in a manner which exceeds normal expectations.

Hal Crocker, marketing specialist, Memphis, received a performance award for developing innovative approaches in performing complex poultry investigations and in the handling of poultry grower complaints.

Mark Dickson, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for providing efficient customer service while retrieving and supplying the number of official samples graded/supervised during an employee's Federal career.

Erin Dubroc, **Amelia Gautreau**, **Mary Joanne Mathern**, **Angela Proyer**, and **Dawn Worcester**, New Orleans, received spot awards for outstanding application functionality testing and review during the February through June 1998 pilot of the updated automated FGIS NQDB Certificate Program.

Harold Duncan, marketing specialist, Memphis, received a performance award for professionalism and job proficiency in investigations and in assisting litigation of those investigations by the U.S. Attorney's Office in East Tennessee.

Mark Einarson, Grand Forks, received a time-off award for efforts in recognizing the need for a DON Barley Survey in the Plains Region, while exhibiting professionalism, integrity, honesty, and sincerity.

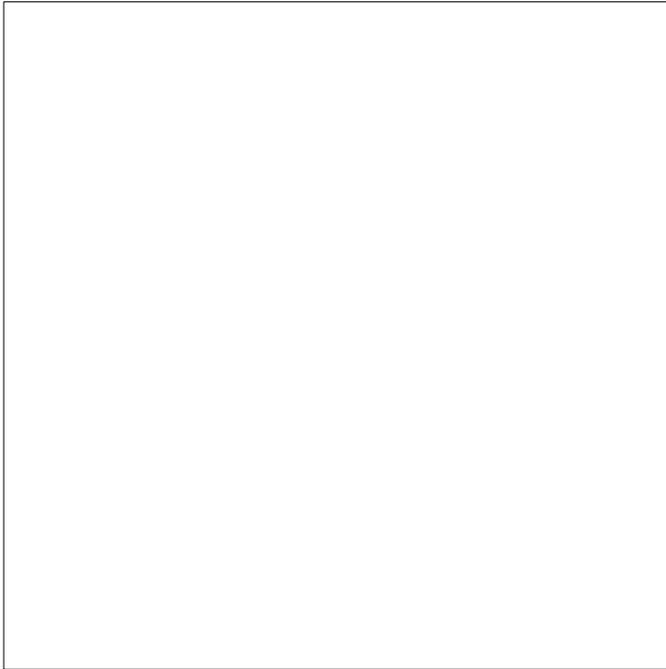
Kenneth Gordon, auditor, Memphis, received a performance award for continuing excellence in the performance of supervisory auditor duties and for contributing significantly to the overall effectiveness of the P&S Act in the Memphis region.

*Continued, see Names
on page 6.*

Getting to Know... Catherine Grasso

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

Catherine began her career with P&S about 5 years ago in the Livestock Marketing Division and is now the secretary to Tommy Morris, Director of Field Operations. She enjoys working with all of the field office personnel and recently began working with the budget, which she also thoroughly enjoys.



Catherine has been married for 29 years and says she's working because all three of her children are in college!

She and her husband have been area coordinators for *Project Children* for the past 10 years. *Project Children* places Irish Protestant and Catholic children in American homes for 6 weeks during the summer. Summer is a more volatile time in Northern Ireland and *Project Children* gives children a much needed break from the violence. During their stay in American homes, these children get to meet and socialize with children from another religious background. Last summer, **Catherine** and her husband went to Ireland to escort a group of children to America. She met a cabdriver who had participated in *Project Children* when he was younger and he told **Catherine** that being exposed to another religion changed his perspective - people are generally the same no matter what religion they are. Throughout her 10-year involvement, **Catherine** and her husband have sponsored 17 children in their home.

Catherine's greatest enjoyment in life is spending time with family and friends.

June Issuances

Charlie Turner, Washington, DC

- ❑ Hop Inspection Handbook, effective 8/1/98
- ❑ Pea and Lentil Inspection Handbook, effective 8/1/98
- ❑ FGIS PN 98-16, Corn Protein, Oil, and Starch Testing Service, dated effective 7/1/98.

Note: FGIS PN98-15, regarding cross-utilization of equipment is still in clearance and has not yet been issued.

August Events



- 2 - 5 American Association Grain Inspection & Weighing Agencies Annual Meeting, Maui, HI
- 7 - 9 Iowa Soybean Association's Midwest Soybean Conference, Davenport, IA
- 11 - 12 Nebraska Grain and Feed Association Summer Convention, Kearney, NE
- 12 USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Released
- 14 - 15 GEAPS Plains States Regional Meeting, Manhattan, KS
- 19 - 20 GIPSA Research Coordination Team Meeting, Technical Center, Kansas City, MO



GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

Norma Phelps, Washington, DC



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

Suggestor

Suggestion

David Mundwiler, Toledo, Ohio	Retirement Credit for Years As Licensed Employees Of An Official Agency Rail Scale Test Car Transition Ramp
Joy Casler, New Orleans, LA	Develop a Rough Texture Work Surface For Determining DHV and HVAC
Ray Hollis, New Orleans, LA	Union and Management Work Together To Iron Out Problems
John Barthel, Atlanta, GA	Maintain Printed Registrant and Packer Lists On Home Page
Jackie Stevens, Jonesboro, AR	Use Departmental "Logo/Emblem" On FGIS Clothing Apparel
Dave Skallerud, Cedar Rapids, IA	Pursue Official Weights As A Source Of Income
Dean Brown, League City, TX	Allow GS-5's/6's To Conduct Stowage Exams Without Supervision of a GS-9 or 11
Gilbert Knight, New Orleans, LA	Install Safety Mirrors on Golf Cart At Continental Elevator, Westwego, LA

June's tee-shirt winner: **Dave Skallerud**, Cedar Rapids Field Office!

GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During June 1998

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.

Teach Defensive Driving Classes For Employees Driving GIPSA-Leased Vehicles
Reinstate The Old P&SA-26, Auction Review Form, Or Something Similar

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; 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.**

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

If you will be relocating during the next year, the "1998 Relocation Directory" lists real estate brokers nationwide who limit their commissions to 5 percent for American Express Government cardholders. To obtain a free copy of the relocation directory, call 212-967-4747.

Check out the American Express Government Services website at: <http://www.americanexpress.com/governmentservices>. There is a wealth of information at this site including the cardholder welcome kit, insurance coverage terms and conditions, the cardholder agreement, and back issues of "Dispatch."

For a wide variety of travel preparation tips before your depart on a trip, visit: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>. This website offers a variety of information on destinations, visas, languages, money and currency matters, customs, embassies, mobile computing, travel health preparations, and much more.

The Civil Rights Corner

Do you have a question about Civil Rights or EEO? Call the GIPSA Civil Rights Hotline:

1-800-639-5167

Do you have a question for a GIPSA Civil Rights Staff member? Call:

Eugene Bass	Director	202-720-0216
Linda Alston	Secretary	202-720-0218
Raymond Jones	Formal Complaints Manager	202-690-3640
Wanda Jimenez	EEO Counselor/Mediator	202-720-9528

Mike Dunn, Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, has directed that all employees view the recently made video tape on Civil Rights. The tape has been distributed at headquarters and to all field offices. You will be contacted regarding your scheduled viewing.

If you missed the GIPSA Town Hall Meeting in December, you can still listen to the session. Audiotapes of the meeting have been mailed to all field locations. Contact your regional/field office manager if you'd like to listen to the tape.

Corn Testing Service

On July 1, 1998, the official grain inspection and weighing system began offering official corn oil, protein, and starch testing services, upon request, using near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) technology.

GIPSA initiated the service in response to producers' and processors' needs for reliable official testing procedures for high-oil corn (HOC) varieties. HOC primarily is used by livestock feeders to enhance weight gain.

GIPSA is pleased to respond to the market's need for this official service, said GIPSA administrator **Jim Baker**. Our goal is to provide the market with accurate results it can rely on to negotiate price, value, and premiums. By using previously approved NIRT technology and existing instruments, he added, GIPSA significantly reduced the cost of providing these services.

The interim rule was published in the June 30, 1998, *Federal Register*; written comments must be submitted by July 30, 1998.

*"You are not alone.
Helping sort out life's problems is our job."*

*For free, confidential assistance,
call your Employee Assistance Program.*

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

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

Christopher Gray, marketing specialist and **Fred McCree**, auditor, Memphis, received performance awards for exemplary performance in investigating the restriction of competition in the feeder calf market in Tennessee, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the Memphis office in enforcing the P&S Act.

Terry Henson, Baltimore, received an extra effort award for exceptional commitment to and performance of duties in the field office and for putting forth tremendous effort and making every reasonable sacrifice to ensure customer satisfaction, while participating in the Aspiring Leaders Programs and being away from the office to fulfill program requirements.

Keith Ingram, marketing specialist, Omaha, received an extra effort award for investigating a Minnesota cattle feeder's complaint which resulted in the cattle feeder receiving \$19,897.20 adjustment from the packer.

Morris Johnson, William Kelly, Doug Lacefield, Diane Reeves, and Carol Remmers, Washington, D.C., received extra effort awards for performing duties outside recognized IT responsibilities to identify alternate FGIS storage facilities and clean out current FGIS storage room in preparation for unplanned storage relocation.

Joseph Kuseck, Portland, received a time-off award in recognition of exemplary customer service to our external industry customers in the Wheat Marketing Center and the U.S. Wheat Associates organization.

Doug Lacefield, Washington, D.C., received an extra effort award for outstanding performance in procurement of computer hardware and

software that resulted in substantial monetary savings for the FGIS program during FY 1998.

Yohanna Lorio, New Orleans, received an extra effort award for outstanding technical support and application functionality testing and review during pilot testing of the automated FGIS NQDB Certificate Program.

Ray Minks, auditor, Lenexa, received an extra effort award for sustained exceptional performance in carrying out the duties of senior auditor in the Lenexa office.

Lisa Nagley, Washington, D.C., received a spot award for performing duties outside recognized IT responsibilities to identify alternate FGIS storage facilities and clean out current FGIS storage room in preparation for unplanned storage relocation.

Craig Nicholas, marketing specialist, Memphis, received a performance bonus for professionalism and job proficiency in aiding in the conducting of complex poultry investigations and contributing greatly to the effectiveness of the Memphis office.

Terry Ryno, auditor, Memphis, received a performance bonus for continuing excellence in performing IRM duties in the Memphis office while continuing to perform all his duties as an auditor.

Stephen Warrilow, auditor, Memphis, received a performance bonus for continuing excellence in maintaining the Scales and Weighing program in the Memphis office while continuing to perform his duties as an auditor.

Sara Wright, marketing specialist, Memphis, received a performance bonus for professionalism and job proficiency which exceeds normal expectations, and, which stand as a positive example for others.

On July 1, 1998, GIPSA implemented an increase of approximately 2.9 percent in certain service fees for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. The increase is designed to generate additional revenue required to recover operational costs created by cost-of-living increases to Federal salaries in fiscal year 1998.

The USGSA requires GIPSA to charge and collect reasonable fees for performing official inspection and weighing services. The fees are to cover, as nearly as practicable, GIPSA's costs for performing these services, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

The fee increase, a cost-of-living increase, covers the hourly rate and certain unit fees on tests performed at other than an applicant's facility. These fees cover only the basic salary, benefit, and leave costs associated with those employees directly providing service to the applicant. The hourly cost to the industry is directly related to the number of employees required to perform service at any particular facility.

For more information on the fee increase, see Program Notice 98-18 on GIPSA's home page at:

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/stulreg/bulletns/pn98-18.htm>

FERS Transfer Open Season: July 1 - December 31, 1998

Lynn Barba, APHIS HRO

Recent Congressional legislation gives employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the CSRS Offset plan the option of switching to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) during a special open season. This article has information to help you decide whether to switch from CSRS to FERS. Remember, only **you** can make your FERS transfer decision.

Introduction. The open season will run from July 1-December 31, 1998. Your decision to stay with CSRS or transfer to FERS is important, and requires careful consideration. If you elect FERS, your decision cannot be changed, so you should make every effort to understand which system is better

sued to your personal situation. Everyone's case will be different — don't decide based on what your friends, coworkers, or anyone else does. This is your choice. Likewise, don't advise others on their decisions.

CSRS/CSRS Offset and FERS are both good retirement systems. Each has advantages and disadvantages. They are also very different systems; don't automatically assume that one is better for you than the other. When making your decision, compare the systems in terms of what is important to you.

The FERS Transfer Handbook: A Guide to Making Your Decision. The FERS Transfer Handbook contains information about

CSRS and FERS. Read the Handbook before making your decision. You will receive one in the mail soon. The Handbook is also available on the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) web site at www.opm.gov/fers_election. This electronic handbook will lead you to the most pertinent sections based on your individual circumstances.

Getting a CSRS-FERS Comparison: The FERS Transfer Model. OPM's web site also has a downloadable transfer model that compares benefits under the two systems. The model takes information

If you elect FERS, your decision cannot be changed, so you should make every effort to understand which system is better suited to your personal situation.

that you enter and, using either standard economic assumptions OPM built into the model or assumptions that you choose, projects your benefits and costs under both systems.

A worksheet is available on the MRP Human Resources home page (see Internet address below) to help you gather the information you need to use the model. If you have trouble using the model, fax or mail the completed worksheet to your benefits specialist.

Special Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Election Opportunity.

If you elect to transfer to FERS, you will have 30 days from the effective date of your transfer to make a new TSP election. During the 30 days, you

may start, change, or stop your TSP contributions using a TSP-1 form. This is an extra opportunity in addition to the regular TSP open seasons. To maximize use of TSP, submit a TSP-1 with your election to transfer to FERS. Because the TSP is a major benefit for FERS employees, you may want to review the TSP web site at www.tsp.gov for information and forms.

Former Spouse's Consent to Election. Your current spouse does not need to consent to your decision to elect FERS. However, if you are electing FERS coverage, and

if you have a former spouse to whom a qualifying court order on file at OPM awards a portion of your annuity or survivor benefits

based on your Federal service under OPM, you must obtain your former spouse's consent to elect FERS coverage, unless your former spouse remarried before age 55. If you are electing FERS coverage and you have an entitled former spouse, request a copy of SF-3110, Former Spouse's Consent to FERS Election, from your benefits specialist. Contact your benefits specialist to find out if a court order is on file at OPM, request a waiver of the spousal consent requirement (granted under very limited circumstances), or request an extension of the election deadline in order to modify a court order.

Continued, see FERS on page 8.

Social Security Earnings Information. Since Social Security coverage is a component of FERS, finding out how much Social Security coverage you already have will help you make your decision. A Personal Earnings and Benefits Estimate Statement (PEBES) is available from the Social Security Administration's Web site, www.ssa.gov, or by completing and mailing Form SSA-7004 to the Social Security address on the form. Employees covered by the CSRS Offset plan should be sure to request the PEBES as suggested on page 40 of the FERS Transfer Handbook. It takes 2 to 4 weeks to receive the PEBES from Social Security through an Internet request, 4 to 6 weeks if you request it by mail using the SSA-7004.

The PEBES lists your past Social Security covered earnings, which you can use in the FERS transfer model for a more accurate comparison of benefits. The PEBES also provides an estimate of your future Social Security benefits. It does not, however, show the effects of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or the Government Pension Offset (GPO), two laws that affect the Social Security benefits of CSRS employees.

WEP and GPO Information. The WEP reduces Social Security benefits for workers who have less than 30 years of substantial coverage under Social Security and who have earned a retirement benefit from employment not covered by Social Security (e.g., CSRS service). If you are a CSRS employee subject to the WEP, your Social Security benefit will be figured using a modified benefit formula that will result in your

benefit being lower than the amount that is shown on your PEBES. The primary way to avoid the WEP reduction is by accumulating 30 years of substantial earnings that are covered by Social Security. If you are covered by CSRS Offset, you already have Social Security coverage.

You can easily approximate the impact of the WEP on your Social Security benefit by using the following table, which shows how the PEBES for a person reaching age 62 in 1998 or later can be adjusted to reflect the WEP by subtracting a specified amount from the age-62 or age-65 benefit estimate. The amount to be subtracted depends on the number of years of substantial Social Security earnings you will have acquired by the time you begin to receive Social Security benefits. Even though you may not be close to age 62, this method will give you an idea of the potential impact of the WEP on your Social Security benefit.

Years of Substantial Earnings	Retirement at Age:	
	62	65
30 or more	0	0
29	19	24
28	38	48
27	58	72
26	77	96
25	96	120
24	115	144
23	134	168
22	154	192
21	173	216
20 or less	192	240

Example: If you have 23 years of substantial earnings and expect to begin receiving your Social Security benefit at age 62, you should subtract \$134 from the amount shown on your PEBES.

The **GPO** is another provision of the Social Security law that affects many Federal employees. It affects workers who are entitled to a pension based on work in a Federal, State, or local government that was not covered by Social Security, such as CSRS. It also affects employees who transfer to FERS, if they do not work under FERS for 5 years. The GPO does not affect employees who were required by law to have Social Security coverage -- such as employees who were automatically covered by FERS without electing it and people with CSRS Offset coverage.

The GPO affects the Social Security benefits you may be entitled to as a spouse, former spouse, or surviving spouse of someone who is eligible for a full Social Security benefit. Under the GPO, your Social Security spousal benefit will be reduced by \$2 for every \$3 you receive from your CSRS annuity. Your own PEBES will not give you information about the impact of the GPO. You need to review your spouse's PEBES, which will give you information about your spousal benefit, then adjust that amount.

*Continued, see **More FERS** on page 9.*

More FERS, from page 8.

Example: You are eligible for a \$600 Social Security benefit based on your spouse's employment history, and you receive a CSRS annuity of \$1,200 a month. The GPO would be two thirds of your monthly \$1,200 CSRS benefit, or \$800. Since the offset amount is larger than your \$600 Social Security benefit, your Social Security benefit would be eliminated.

Remember that if your own earned Social Security benefit is higher than the Social Security benefit you may receive from your spouse's employment, you will be paid your own Social Security benefit, and the GPO does not apply to your own earned benefit.

For more information about the WEP and GPO, see the FERS Transfer Handbook or Social Security web site.

Internet Resources. The Internet has a lot of information that you should use before making your decision.

GIPSA's home page has a link to the MRP Human Resources home page, which has information on the Open Season and links to related web sites. If you do not have access to the Internet at your work site or home, try your local public library for Internet access.

www.opm.gov/fers_election (The FERS Transfer Handbook, your official source of information on the FERS open season.)

www.tsp.gov (Official information on the Thrift Savings Plan).

www.ssa.gov (Official information on Social Security).

The following companies are not government agencies, but they have developed web sites that provide information that may help you make your decision:

www.grbinc.com (Includes an on-line CSRS-FERS benefits comparison program).

www.fedweek.com

www.fedmanager.com (Includes a 15-question quiz to determine if you are a likely candidate for transferring to FERS).

www.washingtonpost.com (Click on Metro, then Columnists, then Mike Causey, for news of interest to Federal employees).

Your Benefits Specialists. If you have questions that are not answered by the FERS Transfer Handbook or OPM's web site, contact GIPSA's Benefits Specialist: **Nancy Varichak**, telephone (612) 370-2493; FAX (612) 370-2082, or e-mail: Nancy.C.Varichak@usda.gov.

GIPSA employees in Washington, DC, may contact Debbie Rigden at (202) 690-3012 for assistance in using the FERS Transfer Model or Internet resources.

Oats Puzzle Answers

Congratulations to **Philip Sapienza**, New Orleans, who is the grand prize winner; and to **Myron Hall** and **Mary Carmouche**, also of New Orleans, who were runners up!

Here are the answers to the Oats puzzle.

ACROSS

3. Garlicky
7. Four
8. O
9. Extra
10. Triangular
12. Wild
13. Cockleburs
15. Bright
16. OG
17. Slightly
19. Heavy
20. Debris
22. Glass
23. Five
24. Bleached
25. Weather

DOWN

1. DLQ
2. Winchester
3. Goats
4. Crotalaria
5. Thin
6. Sound
9. Ergot
11. Smutty
14. Stones
18. GIU
19. Heating
21. Infested

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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by August 24, 1998!

URGENT

Year 2000 Computer Problem Awareness

The Year 2000 computer problem is among the most serious and under reported challenges facing the Nation and world today. We are concerned about this problem and we think you should be too. Simply stated, the problem arises when computers and related technologies fail to properly distinguish between the years 1900 and 2000. This limitation can result in technologies that include computer chips experiencing minor disruptions or total failure on January 1, 2000. The problem affects both computer software and hardware, and all associated technologies. Solving this problem cannot be postponed Year 2000 will occur on schedule. It is imperative that you take immediate action to determine if the computer-dependent systems upon which you rely will function properly on January 1, 2000; if they will not, you need to initiate immediate remedial action to formulate appropriate contingency plans. Technologies that employ computer chips include, but are not limited to, mainframe and persona computers, network servers, telecommunication equipment (including telephones), scientific instrumentation, building security systems, automated factory equipment, facsimile machines, and electronic postage meters. If you exchange electronic data with other parties, you need to determine if they are taking the necessary actions to ensure that the data they provide to you will not be compromised in the year 2000.”

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