



# GIPSA News

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

*September 1998*

## Recruitment Efforts In Full Swing

*Harold Davis, Washington, DC*

While most agencies at USDA are maintaining their current staff levels or down-sizing, GIPSA's P&S program is fortunate that it has the opportunity to continue recruiting people who will help us strengthen our ability to conduct complex investigations. While our staffing is down from the 180-level a few years ago, we currently have vacant positions available to rebuild our staff and to actually increase our staffing to around 190 permanent full-time employees. Our current low of about 160 people on board is the result of not filling a number of vacant positions over the last 2 years as we planned for the reorganization. With the headquarters reorganization complete and the three field offices established, we are now in a position to move forward to fully staff all of our P&S offices.

In the past 6 months, we focused on recruiting economists for the Competition Branch in Washington and the Denver and Des Moines field offices. We have also focused on hiring a computer specialist for each office, and getting an attorney in the

Des Moines office and one in the Denver office, and have started looking for potential candidates to fill entry-level auditor positions in Denver and Des Moines. At this time, we anticipate the financial unit in Atlanta will be fully staffed with P&S employees relocating from offices that are closing.

As we look now to the beginning of fiscal year (FY) 1999, we anticipate continuing our efforts to staff the competition units in each of the three regional offices, including hiring about 15 to 20 more investigators with economic and statistical expertise. We also expect to recruit at least 15 to 20 entry-level auditors and marketing specialists in FY 1999 to fully staff the trade practice and financial units in each of the field offices.

Over the past few months, we recruited five economists, two legal specialists, and one marketing specialist and are currently moving forward to identify additional candidates.

As we hire, we will continue to recruit in areas that are likely to produce highly-qualified minorities and

females so that we develop and maintain a diverse work force. Over the past several months, we have made contacts with many of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Colleges and Universities, and Native American schools, as well as the Land Grant Universities. We will continue to look to as wide a variety of colleges and universities as possible to make sure we are identifying highly-qualified individuals with the necessary skills to carry P&S into the next century.

*Correction: In Administrator Baker's "From My Desk" article in the August newsletter, we stated that Amy Van Skiver was the first GIPSA employee to receive Vice President Gore's Hammer Award. Actually, Joanne Peterson, Washington, DC, was our first Hammer Award recipient. She received the award in November 1996 for her work on the Federal "Blue Pages."*

# Names in the News

## Personnel

GIPSA welcomes **Mary Lee** and **Gayle Pounds-Barnett**, economists, and **William Arce-Arana**, marketing specialist, to the Des Moines office; **David Davis**, economist, and **Melinda Meador**, legal specialist, to Denver; and welcome back to **Raymond Minks**, auditor, who is returning to the headquarters staff as an auditor in the Financial Branch.

Many thanks from the Compliance Division's Review Branch to the following people who assisted with recent onsite compliance reviews: **Ed Durgin**, shift supervisor, Portland, and **Donna Hoover**, office support assistant, League City, for the review of the Minneapolis Field

Office (**Ed** also helped with the review of the State of Wisconsin); **Dave Fulks**, shift supervisor, Portland, and **Erin Dubroc**, clerk, New Orleans, for the review of the Grand Forks Field Office; **Kevin Bredthauer**, agricultural commodity grader (ACG), Cedar Rapids, **Scott Cooley**, quality assurance specialist, Washington Federal/State Office, **Frank Jackson**, area manager, New Orleans, and **Max Peterson**, ACG, Wichita, for the review of two official agencies in the Grand Forks circuit; and **Will Schilling**, shift supervisor, New Orleans, for the review of the State of South Carolina.

effective September 26; and before September 30, say goodbye to **Joseph Chiasson**, New Orleans, **Richard Clark**, Montreal, **James Decker**, Washington, **Juan Luevano**, Wichita, **Douglas McEnery**, New Orleans, **Robert Starr**, Baltimore, MD, and **Jimmie Wright**, New Orleans.

GIPSA wishes all of these folks the best!

## Awards

**Jill Ainsworth**, computer assistant, and **Carol Coburn**, legal instruments examiner, Indianapolis, received extra effort awards for sustained dedication and commitment in sending out bond trust claim letters and assisting the packer trust team resulting in returning \$4,870,207 to unpaid livestock sellers.

**Mary Heisey** and **Lawrence Poss**, marketing specialists, received extra effort awards for exceptional dedication in performing the duties as Acting Regional Supervisor in the Lancaster regional office.

**Denise Redding**, auditor, and **Cary Ainsworth** and **Robert Schmidt**, marketing specialists, Indianapolis, received extra effort awards for sustained dedication and commitment in conducting a packer trust investigation that returned \$4,870,207 to 113 unpaid livestock sellers.

*Continued, see Names on page 3.*

## Farewell

**Tommy Morris**, director, Field Operations, will retire on September 30. "Like everyone else," **Tommy** said, "I'm a little apprehensive about making a major change, however I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities retirement will bring."

On September 30, GIPSA also will say goodbye to **Jane Spengler** and **Ronny Parkerson**, DC, and **Robert Armijo**, Denver.

Field Management Division bids farewell to the following folks who are taking advantage of the buyout opportunity: **Lawrence Behm**, **Harold Kercher**, **Daniel Moszer**, and **Patrick Paul**, all from Portland, left effective September 3; **Bradley O'Neal**, Baltimore, will be leaving,

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## Company Pays \$24,000 Penalty

### Condolences

**Barvon Coy Hamilton**, a retired commodity inspector, died while fighting fires in Texas on August 1, 1998. He was serving as a volunteer firefighter with the Southern Oaks Volunteer Fire Department. **Barvon**, 72, was a native of Fort Worth, TX, and is survived by his wife **Mona**, and two children.

Former assistant field office manager **Charles V. Brant**, Toledo Field Office, died August 21, 1998, at the age of 81. He leaves behind a widow, **Rita**, three daughters, and five grandchildren.

### 20-Year Service Awards

James Decker, Washington, D.C.  
Robert Moses, New Orleans, LA  
Albert Snelson, Stuttgart, AR  
Thomas Steele, Portland, OR

### 15-Year Service Awards

Cathy Haskins, Stuttgart, AR  
Angela Roper, New Orleans, LA

### 10-Year Service Awards

Joy Casler, Washington, DC  
Inez Dupont, New Orleans, LA  
James Whalen, Kansas City

*Note: The 25-year certificates are still unavailable and are on back order. As soon as they're available, we will get them to everyone.*

Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, Beresford, South Dakota, agreed to pay a \$24,000 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by GIPSA.

Administrator **Jim Baker** said that the firm was charged with causing the issuance of false official grain inspection certificates by loading economically superior grain on top of economically inferior grain so that the inferior grain would not be sampled or detected during the inspection. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act.

Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company agreed to pay a \$24,000 penalty to settle action brought by GIPSA.

The complaint filed against Farmers Cooperative was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, which provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for an official inspection and weighing system for grain shipped in domestic and foreign commerce.

## August Issuances

*Charlie Turner, Washington, DC*

- ❑ Federal Register Notice: "United States Standards for Sorghum", 7CFR Part 810, Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making, dated 8/14/98.
- ❑ MRP Directive 3040.2, "MRP Records Management Program" dated 8/12/98.
- ❑ MRP Directive 3040.3, "MRP Electronic Records Management Program", dated 8/12/98.

Copies of the MRP Directives may be obtained from APHIS, Management Services Division, Printing, Distribution, and Mail Branch, Riverdale, MD.

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## Business Cards

The Department has ruled that business cards may now be purchased from the Department's Office of Operations (OO) and the Government Printing Office (GPO) using appropriated funds. OO will charge \$5 for 500 cards if camera ready copy is furnished to them with 10 (same) cards on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet for reproducing. However, if OO is furnished with one single card as camera copy, then the charge will be \$25. GPO has quoted a price of \$25 for 500 cards. The Department recommends using the new USDA logo.

Business cards may also be produced in your office on government equipment using plain card stock, index paper stock, or pre-perforated business cards which can be purchased from a commercial source at government expense.

Employees choosing to use a commercial printer may do so at their own expense.

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## Travel Bits & Pieces

*Peggy Smith, Washington, DC*

The Government travel card contract has been awarded to Nation's Bank. The contract with American Express will end November 30 and Nation's Bank will provide VISA cards to all current cardholders by December 1. There will be no interruption to travelers during the transition. I'll provide updates about the new VISA card system as I get them.

## Around the World

*Ellie Speelman, Washington, DC*

Early in the summer, the International Monitoring Staff (IMS) received a request from the president of APPAMEX, A.C. (the Mexican Grain Importers Association) for GIPSA to conduct a seminar in Mexico City in July to explain GIPSA's role, with a focus on both rail and water shipments into Mexico, with an emphasis on certification, sampling, analysis, and documentation. We submitted a proposal to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for funding the travel and expenses through their Technical Issues Resolution Fund (TIRF). TIRF approved our proposal, and **Douglas McEnery**, New Orleans, departed for Mexico on July 6.

The seminar lasted a day and a half, and focussed primarily on topics that were raised as a result of questions and concerns of the participants. Much of the material was new to the participants, and they were very interested in learning about GIPSA grade standards and grading procedures. The participants spent the final hours completing a ship inspection log of five sublots. Approximately 60 grain processors, merchandisers, survey companies, importers, and elevator operators attended.

The seminar significantly increased the participants' level of confidence in the official U.S. grain inspection system and the image of GIPSA. This was evident when importers and private inspection companies asked to be trained and certified in GIPSA inspection methods and procedures. APPAMEX stated that they believe GIPSA's positive attitude will help the commercial relations between Mexico and the United States.

IMS would like to thank **Doug** for doing an excellent job on this trip, and for all the excellent jobs he has done for us over the years. We wish him good health, happiness, and success in his retirement.

**Asking for help is a sign of courage.**

For confidential assistance,  
call your Employee Assistance Program

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

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



# GIPSA Idea Hotline Update

*Norma Phelps, Washington, DC*



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

*Suggestor*

*Suggestion*

Sandra Robertson, Washington, DC  
Judy Johnston, Wichita

Publish FAX Numbers For Individuals Listed In The GIPSA Phone Directory  
Change Forms FGIS-908, FGIS-943, FGIS-944, and FGIS-938 to Two-Part Forms  
Charge Agencies For FGIS-909-2s--Export Grain Inspection Certificates  
Electronic Availability of APHIS Management Directives on APHIS ITS  
Homepage

Ray Hart, Washington, DC

August's tee-shirt winner: **Judy Johnston, Wichita!**

## **GIPSA Hotline Ideas Accepted and Approved for Implementation During August 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.

Distribute Departmental Directives To All Offices That Maintain Directives  
Document Containing Colored Graphic/Picture Be Sent to Field Office As PC File

**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.**

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.

# Help Wanted: Census 2000

*Lynn Barba, APHIS Human Resources*

To help with the important task of Census 2000, the Secretary of Commerce has requested the support of Federal agencies in recruiting Federal employees under temporary and intermittent appointments. Secretary of Agriculture **Dan Glickman** responded with an agreement to fully support their efforts in recruiting USDA employees for these critical positions.

The Decennial census appointments are short-term and allow flexible working hours. These would be second jobs, with most work being done in the evenings and on week-

ends. Employees would be assigned to cover their respective local communities, and work out of their homes. Most of the work will last less than 3 months and occur from March through July 2000. Employees will also be needed for their small scale pre-census operations currently underway, and continuing through the year 2000. The current projection is that 260,000 persons will be needed during peak operations in the spring of 2000.

Due to the enormity of the staffing requirements for Census positions, the dual-pay restrictions that normally

apply to Federal workers who hold more than one Federal job will be waived. With certain exceptions, most Federal employees may be employed to work in the field on temporary, intermittent appointments with Census 2000 to increase the success of this massive operation.

Employees who are interested in learning more about Census 2000 jobs should call the nationwide toll-free number (888-325-7733) or access the Census Internet site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

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## 98 Savings Bond Drive a Success

*Felix Spinelli, Washington, DC*

The 1998 USDA-wide Savings bond drive was held during August this year. Despite relocations, various people on annual leave, and retirements, all employees in Washington, D.C. and around the country fully participated in this year's drive. There were 14 new permanent employees added to the payroll savings plan, 17 employees increased their allotments, and two non-permanent employees began purchasing bonds.

As this year's chairman, I would like to personally thank all the keyworkers who made this year's drive possible. In headquarters, the keyworkers were **Terri Henry, George Wollam, Barbara Matthews, Joanne Peterson, John Giler, and Sheila Davis**. In the field, keyworkers were: **Fred Kelly, Mike Johnson, Denise Ruggles, Donald Ellis, James Tullous, Diane Palecek, Danny Cameron, Don Damm, Rick Clark, Leroy Baker, Joanne Matherne, Regina Landry, Richard Freudenthal, Mary Hill, Rodney Suber, Jim Cadle, Martha Carver, John Flamm, Ken Critchfield, Wilmer Brandt, Pamela Lake, Jennifer Anderson, Bob Armijo, Sue Anne Claudon, Jill Ainworth, Larry Werhmuller, Mary Heisey, Sara Wright, Kandee Murphy, Bob Turner, and Jacque Meadow**.

*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 September 25, 1998!**

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