

USDA Considers Regulations to Address Contract Poultry Growers' Issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 9, 1997)-- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced on February 10, 1997, that as part of the Clinton Administration's continued effort to address the needs of family farmers, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comments on concerns contract poultry growers have raised about their relationships with poultry companies.

The advance notice was published in the February 10, 1997, *Federal Register*, with the comment period ending May 12, 1997. As the halfway point of the comment period nears, potential respondents are reminded that GIPSA continues to seek comments from all segments of the industry on the anticipated benefits and/or burdens, especially to smaller operations involving less than \$500,000 in poultry annually, that may result from the rulemaking under consideration. Specifically, GIPSA is seeking comments on (1) grower payments tied to performance of other growers; (2) the accuracy of feed weights, feed delivery, and feed pickup procedures; and (3) procedures for weighing live birds. The comments received will enable the Department to determine whether, and what type of, additional regulatory action(s) may be necessary to protect contract poultry growers.

All written submissions received pursuant to the ANPR will be made part of the record and available for public inspection. However, GIPSA recognizes that some potential commentors may have concerns that disclosure of their identity could expose them to possible disadvantages in their business. If individuals wish to submit a comment anonymously, the comment will be accepted, and it will be given the same consideration as all other comments received.

Comments must be submitted no later than May 12, 1997, to: Mr. Harold Davis, Acting Deputy Administrator, GIPSA, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 3641, Washington, D.C. 20250-3641; via FAX 202-205-3941; or via e-mail to psp.gipsa@usda.gov.

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