

GIPSA to Allow Contracting for Specified Inspection Services

WASHINGTON, DC (June 1, 1998)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration will allow GIPSA and State cooperators to use contractors to perform specified inspection services on processed commodities, beans, peas, lentils, and rice under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

Specifically, GIPSA is amending the regulations under the Act to allow GIPSA and State cooperators to contract for service work and to license individual contractors and those employed by contractors.

According to GIPSA Administrator Jim R. Baker, the agency has determined that private firms, institutions, and individuals, working under contract with FGIS field offices and State cooperators, can perform some inspection services, at certain locations, more effectively or at less cost than if those services were performed by GIPSA or State employees. This action, he added, will provide for more responsive, cost-effective inspection services under the Act.

The final rule, which was published in today's Federal Register, will become effective on July 1, 1998.

End GIPSA Release #35-98

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