

GIPSA To Offer Corn Oil, Protein, and Starch Testing Service

WASHINGTON, DC (June 30, 1998)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that, effective July 1, 1998, the official grain inspection and weighing system will offer official corn oil, protein, and starch testing services, upon request, using near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) technology and instruments.

GIPSA initiated the service in response to producers and processors needs for reliable official testing procedures for high-oil corn (HOC) varieties. In a 1996-97 report, the U.S. Feed Grains Council estimated that HOC production is estimated to more than double in 1998/99. HOC primarily is used by livestock feeders to enhance weight gain.

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

This interim rule was published in today's Federal Register. Written comments must be sent by July 30, 1998, to Sharon Vassiliades, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, Washington, D.C. 20250-3649; FAX to (202) 720-4628; or e-mail svassili@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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End GIPSA Release #28-98

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