

## **GIPSA PROPOSES TO INCREASE RICE INSPECTION FEES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Nov. 24, 1998) -- USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to increase by approximately 3.6 percent certain fees for Federal rice inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946.

Under the AMA of 1946, rice inspection services are provided upon customer request; and GIPSA must recover from the customer the cost of providing such services. GIPSA is proposing to recover a projected January 1, 1999, 3.6 percent increase in Federal salary costs by raising its rice service fees. The proposed increase will affect only that portion of the fees associated with the hourly salaries paid to Federal employees and administrative personnel; overhead recovery is not being proposed.

According to GIPSA administrator Jim R. Baker, the proposed fee increase will generate additional revenue to recover operational costs created by a projected January 1999 cost-of-living increase to Federal salaries.

The current rice inspection fees were last amended on July 3, 1996 (61 FR 34714), with a tri-level fee increase with effective dates of August 2, 1996; January 1, 1997; and January 1, 1998.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by January 25, 1999, to George Wollam, USDA-GIPSA-ART; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3649; Washington, D.C. 20250-3649; faxed to (202) 720-4628; or e-mailed to [gwillam@gipsadc.usda.gov](mailto:gwillam@gipsadc.usda.gov).

The proposal will be published in the November 25, 1998, Federal Register. This proposal can also be viewed on the GIPSA Home Page located at [www.usda.gov/gipsa](http://www.usda.gov/gipsa).

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Joanne Peterson (202) 720-4300  
E-mail [jpeterson@gipsadc.usda.gov](mailto:jpeterson@gipsadc.usda.gov)