

GIPSA Proposes Amending Feed Weighing Requirements

WASHINGTON, April 1, 1999--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today proposed amending regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act regarding the weighing of feed.

GIPSA continues to receive complaints from contract growers that integrators use their dominant positions to impose unfair or unjustly discriminatory terms or conditions on contract growers. GIPSA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the [Federal Register](#) to solicit input on the need for regulations to protect growers. This regulation is a result of that process. Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to include requirements regarding the weighing of feed whenever the weight of feed is a factor in determining payment or settlement to a livestock grower or poultry grower when that livestock or poultry is produced under a contract growing arrangement.

The current regulations do not contain requirements regarding the weighing of feed although, in some circumstances, feed weight affects payment or settlement to livestock growers and poultry growers.

Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Michael V. Dunn said, "This regulation represents another step by USDA to protect small, independent family farms throughout the nation. Secretary Glickman and I are committed to taking all available actions to maintain the integrity of America's independent farmers."

According to GIPSA Administrator Jim Baker, the proposed amendment to the regulations would give livestock growers and poultry growers a measure of assurance that feed is accurately weighed or reasonably determined, and that feed weight is properly documented whenever that weight affects payment or settlement to growers.

Public comments on the proposal must be received by GIPSA on or before June 3, 1999. The proposal will be published in the April 2 *Federal Register*.
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Correction: The comment period for this proposal closes June 1, 1999.

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