

GIPSA To Offer Corn Oil, Protein, and Starch Testing Using NIRS

WASHINGTON, DC (April 19, 1999)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration will expand use of currently approved near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) analyzers in the official inspection program to include testing of corn for oil, protein, and starch content as official criteria. The service, which GIPSA has been providing since July 1998 under an interim final rule, will now be provided on a permanent basis, for a fee, upon request. GIPSA also is adopting, by reference, the Corn Refiners Association Method A-20, Starch method as the chemical reference method for determining the starch content in corn.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, GIPSA is offering this service to meet a market demand for reliable official testing procedures created by anticipated increases in high-oil corn production. "This service," he said, "offers the grain industry a reliable official testing procedure to use in negotiating price, value, and premiums. Offering this service will enhance both the export and domestic marketability of speciality corn."

Use of the NIRS for corn oil, protein, and starch testing will be implemented May 19, 1999.

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