

## **GIPSA Holds Biotech Methods Validation Meeting**

Washington, DC (February 25, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, in conjunction with the Analytical Environmental Immunochemical Consortium (AEIC), this week sponsored a meeting on detection methods and sampling techniques for biotechnology derived grains.

The AEIC is comprised of life science companies and immunochemical detection technology companies.

The conference was a forum for experts to discuss the application and validation of measurement technologies, and the proper validation and use of DNA-based (PCR) and immunological-based detection methods as diagnostic tools for grain testing. These methods are used to determine if grains are genetically modified for enhanced agronomic and consumer desired traits. Scientific sampling of grain also was addressed. Participants represented the governments of the United States, Canada, and the European Commission, in addition to the U.S. grain industry, life science companies, and independent technology and service providers.

GIPSA administrator James R. Baker said that the conference was a unique opportunity for scientific experts in biochemical detection technology to gather and address this increasingly important issue.

Baker noted that GIPSA is establishing a biotech reference laboratory in Kansas City, MO, to assist in the standardization of methodologies for detection of genetically modified grains. The lab is scheduled to be operational by late summer.

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