

GIPSA to Increase Rice Inspection Fee

Washington, DC (March 30, 2000)-The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is increasing by 4.8 percent the fee for Federal rice inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. The increase, which becomes effective May 1, 2000, applies to all hourly rates and certain unit rates.

GIPSA has implemented numerous cost-saving measures, including employee buyouts and cross utilization programs, to contain rice inspection service costs. While these measures have reduced operating costs, the proposed increase is needed to cover additional operational costs resulting from a mandated 4.8 percent Federal pay increase that became effective in January 2000.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, GIPSA's existing fee schedule will not generate sufficient revenues to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance. The proposed fee increase is needed to cover increased operational costs resulting from the mandated Federal pay increase.

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