

GIPSA Seeking Public Comment on Proposed Swine Contract Regulation

Washington, DC (September 6, 2000) U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) published a new proposed regulation in the Federal Register on September 5, 2000. GIPSA is seeking public comment for the proposed regulation that implements the legislative requirements of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (LMRA). A copy of the proposed regulation may be found on GIPSA's web site at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/rulemaking/fr00/fr00.htm>.

The Packers and Stockyards Act was amended by the LMRA which created a new subtitle called *Swine Packer Marketing Contracts*. The new regulation is required to implement the new subtitle. The new regulation would require certain packers to file swine marketing or purchase contracts with GIPSA and would require GIPSA to publish monthly reports about available swine marketing contracts.

The objective of the LMRA is to establish a program of information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock by:

- providing information that will be readily understood by producers, packers, and other market participants, including information with respect to price, purchase contracts, supply and demand conditions for livestock, livestock production, and livestock products;
- improving the price and supply reporting services of the Department of Agriculture; and,
- encouraging competition in the marketplace for livestock and livestock products.

Comments on the new proposed GIPSA regulation must be received by

October 5, 2000, for consideration and may be mailed to the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs (GIPSA), USDA, Stop 3641, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-3641; sent by fax to 202-205-3941; or e-mailed to comments@gipsadc.usda.gov. Please state that your comments refer to Swine Packer Marketing Contracts (PSA-2000-01-a, RIN 0580-AA71). All comments will be a matter of public record and will be available for review during normal business hours in the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Room 3039 (same address as listed above).

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