

GIPSA and Iowa State University Merge NIR Databases

Washington, DC (September 11, 2000) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced that the agency and Iowa State University have entered into a contract to merge the Iowa State University (ISU) corn and soybean databases for the Infratec 1200 series near-infrared transmittance analyzer with the GIPSA databases. The Infratec is used in the official inspection system to measure protein, oil, and starch in corn, and protein and oil in soybeans.

This action, said Michael V. Dunn, under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, is another instance of GIPSA applying technology and partnering with Land Grant Universities to improve the services provided by the official inspection system.

The merger will produce extensive databases that are geographically and genetically more diverse than either organization could generate acting independently, added GIPSA administrator James R. Baker.

GIPSA will use the combined databases to create improved official NIR calibrations. GIPSA retains exclusive responsibility for official calibration equations and procedures for official use.

GIPSA and ISU have agreed to collaborate on research to maximize the accuracy improvements possible with such large calibration databases. In addition ISU will be sharing information from their instrumentation testing program to assist GIPSA in keeping abreast of new technology.

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