

GIPSA to Increase Fees for Rice and Commodity Inspections

WASHINGTON, DC (April 4, 2001) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced a 3.7 percent increase in fees for all hourly rates and certain unit rates for rice and commodity inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, these increases are needed to cover increased operational costs resulting from the mandated January 2001 Federal pay increase. The existing fee schedule for GIPSA's rice inspection program will not generate sufficient revenues to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance.

The increase becomes effective on May 4, 2001. The final rule implementing the increase was published in today's *Federal Register*.

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