

GIPSA Proposes Increasing Inspection and Weighing Fees

WASHINGTON, DC (April 4, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today proposed increasing fees by approximately 6.1 percent. The increase applies to hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee for official grain inspection and weighing services performed by GIPSA in the United States.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, the increase is needed to offset mandated cost-of-living increases to personnel salaries coupled with a 7 percent decrease in the volume of grain inspected. The revenue generated by the current fee schedule, he added, is insufficient to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance.

The proposal was published in today's *Federal Register*. Written comments must be submitted on or before May 4, 2001, to: Sharon Vassiliades, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC 20250-3604, via fax (202) 690-2755, or via email to comments@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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