

GIPSA TO RAISE OFFICIAL INSPECTION AND WEIGHING FEES

Washington, Mar. 23, 2002 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is increasing fees by approximately 4.6 percent for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. The increase applies to contract and noncontract hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, the increase is needed to cover cost-of-living increases. Under the USGSA, GIPSA fees collected must cover, as nearly as practicable, the agency's costs for performing inspection and weighing services, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

The fee increase becomes effective on April 22, 2002.

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