

GIPSA to Adjust Hard Red Winter Wheat and Soft White Wheat Protein Calibrations

WASHINGTON, DC (April 8, 2002)-The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced it will make bias adjustments to the Hard Red Winter wheat (HRW) and Soft White wheat (SWH) protein calibrations for official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments. The bias adjustments will be effective May 1, 2002.

GIPSA annually reviews wheat protein calibrations to measure the performance of NIRT instruments compared to the standard reference method, the Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer. This change will more closely align official HRW and SWH wheat NIRT protein results with the standard reference method and is expected to improve the accuracy of official protein measurements for HRW and SWH wheat. The bias adjustment will lower the protein results for both HRW and SWH by 0.10 percent across the full protein range.

The existing HRW wheat protein calibration has been in place, with no adjustments, since 1993. In May 1999, the SWH wheat protein calibration was adjusted.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, periodic calibration updates and adjustments provide the grain industry with the best possible information from which to determine end-product yield and quality of grain.

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