

## **USDA Announces Swine Contract Library Availability**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11, 2003 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that the final rule implementing the Swine Contract Library was published in the Federal Register today.

Publication of this rule sets the Swine Contract Library in motion, said Donna Reifschneider, administrator of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. The library will help producers and industry by providing more information about contract terms and making this information available in one place, helping to bring more open competition to the marketplace.

The Swine Contract Library was mandated by the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999. It requires that USDA establish a contract library or catalog of types of contracts used by industry for the purchase of swine by packers. The law further mandated that information be made available to swine producers and other interested parties on a "real time" basis.

In addition, the numbers of hogs under contract by region will be reported.

"We chose an Internet application for this because it would be the best way of getting timely and accurate information to our producers and the industry," Reifschneider said. "For those who don't have computers at home or in their places of business, they can get help through local libraries or by asking their local Extension Service office."

Thirty days following publication of the rule, GIPSA will begin collecting data from packers on the contracts and numbers of hogs contracted for. The data will then be extracted and summarized so that no individual producer or packer can be identified, and categorized by geographic regions. Approximately 60-90 days later, the information will be published on the Internet.

Additional information is available on the GIPSA website at [www.usda.gov/gipsa](http://www.usda.gov/gipsa).

GIPSA will announce when the Swine Contract Library data is available for viewing.

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