

GIPSA To Use Artificial Neural Network Barley Protein Calibration

Washington, DC (November 4, 2004) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration will begin offering official barley protein measurements using an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) calibration on official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments. The barley protein content testing service will be available, upon request, beginning July 1, 2005.

This marks the first official test for barley protein content. Recently developed state-of-the-art ANN calibration development techniques allow for barley and wheat protein content to be determined with a greater degree of accuracy than was possible with more limited calibration approaches. GIPSA will begin using an ANN calibration for official wheat protein content measurement in May 2005

According to GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider, the new official barley protein service will facilitate the marketing of barley by providing a fair, accurate, and transparent third party determination, backed by a national quality control process, and standardized instrumentation, reference samples, calibrations and procedures.

Technical information on barley protein testing using ANN technology is available on GIPSA's website at: <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/tech-servsup/metheqp/ann/ann.htm>.

GIPSA provides protein content measurement in barley as official criteria under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act.

The notice announcing the change was published in today's *Federal Register*.

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