

## **GIPSA Adopts Final Rule to Improve Clear Title Program for America's Farmers**

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) adopts the final rule to modify the clear title, allowing for electronic transfer of lien notices and simplifying farm product descriptions.

Lenders are no longer required to obtain authorized signatures on effective financing statements (EFS) and related documents. The electronic transfer will authenticate the EFS, saving both time and money. Farm product descriptions now only have to indicate where the product was produced rather than where it was produced and located. In addition to increasing efficiency, the modifications allow States to use a unique identifier, rather than a social security number, as an alternative to protect farm producers from identity theft.

"USDA continues to ensure America's farmers have the capability to compete globally in the 21st century," said GIPSA Administrator James Link. "Amending the clear title act protects privacy while improving our program delivery."

Clear title programs are implemented in 19 States serving producers and purchasers of farm products as a database to check for liens. GIPSA administers the clear title program for the Secretary of Agriculture. The program is authorized by Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 and requires States' implementation of a central filing system to notify the public of liens on farm products. The final rule changes GIPSA's clear title regulations by allowing States that use debtors' social security numbers instead use approved unique identifiers.

"Improving our efficiency and simplifying our procedures is part of GIPSA's ongoing effort to better serve America's agricultural producers," said GIPSA Administrator James Link.

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. The [clear title final rule](#) was published in the Federal Register on May 8, 2007. For more information, visit the [GIPSA web site](#) at: <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>.

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GIPSA Release 42-07

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