

USDA Proposes to Amend Four Existing Scales and Weighing Regulations

WASHINGTON, February 28, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) proposes to amend four existing scales and weighing regulations issued under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. The amendments are to ensure that payments by live poultry dealers and swine contractors to poultry and swine production contract growers are based on accurate weighing of both inputs and outputs. GIPSA is proposing to:

- amend a regulation on scale tickets to reduce redundant wording and clarify weighing procedures;
- amend a regulation on reweighing to add swine contractors to the list of firms that must comply, and to add feed to the list of items for which reweighing may be requested;
- amend two regulations on weighing livestock and poultry to add weighing processes for feed, to add a specific time limit for weighing poultry; and
- add swine contractors to the list of firms that must comply with care and promptness requirements.

The regulatory changes will clarify the requirements and add consistency. They will also help to ensure proper weighing and, ultimately, proper payment for live poultry, feed, and livestock.

The proposed rule was published in the February 11, *Federal Register*. GIPSA is accepting public comments received by April 11, 2008. Additional information is available in GIPSA's [Federal Register notice](#).

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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