

GIPSA Seeks Public Comment on Official U.S. Wheat Standards

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 2009 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is seeking public comment on any changes needed to the U.S. Standards for Wheat or current official grading practices for wheat.

Since the wheat standards were last revised in 2006, there have been numerous changes in wheat breeding and production practices; the technology used to harvest, process, and test wheat; and in wheat marketing that may necessitate changes to the standards or grading practices.

"To best serve the market, we must ensure that that standards and official grading practices remain relevant," said GIPSA administrator J. Dudley Butler. "The standards facilitate the marketing of U.S. wheat and ensure that both domestic and international customers receive the quality of U.S. wheat that they purchased."

GIPSA's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking public comment on changes needed to the current wheat standards and grading practices was published in today's *Federal Register*. Comments must be received by February 25, 2010. Comments may be submitted via email to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier, or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604; fax to (202) 690-2755; or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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