

News Release Archive

2001

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News Release

Release No.: 01-01

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GIPSA Verifies Performance of StarLink Test Kits

Washington, DC (January 11, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it performed evaluations of two rapid test kits for determination of StarLink corn in corn grain. GIPSA performed its evaluations on Envirologix Inc. QuickStix kit and Strategic Diagnostics Inc. Trait Bt9 kit. GIPSA concluded that the performance of both kits meets the manufacturer's claims of identification of 1 StarLink corn kernel in 800 corn kernels. GIPSA's verification of tests is performed on grain only as opposed to processed foods.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing and to ensure that corn export markets to Japan were supplied with corn free of StarLink. StarLink is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

GIPSA Administrator James Baker stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For more information on StarLink testing services, see GIPSA's web site at www.gipsa.usda.gov. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <https://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/biotechnology.aspx>.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, director, GIPSA Technical Services Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 03-01

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New Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Members and Alternates Selected

WASHINGTON, February 1, 2001--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of five members and six alternate members to serve on the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The appointees will serve 3-year terms beginning March 2001.

The new members are: Philip Strayer, consultant, Hudson, IA; Rod Bradshaw, farmer, Jetmore, KS; Mark Scholl, president/CEO, ExSeed Genetics, LLC; Timothy Paurus, assistant vice president, terminal operations, Cenex Harvest States, St. Paul, MN; and Richard Adams, chief grain inspector, Memphis Grain Inspection Service, Memphis, TN.

The new alternate members are: Joseph Magliola, logistics manager, Farmers? Rice Cooperative, Sacramento, CA; David Ayers, president/manager, Champaign Danville Grain Inspection Departments, Champaign, IL; Dr. Charles Hurburgh, professor, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; Curtis Engel, business director, Scoular Company, Salina, KS; Douglas Allred, manager, corporate safety and operations, Louis Dreyfus Corporation, Kansas City, MO; and Wilbur Benroth, producer, Ottawa, OH.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise GIPSA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act that meet the needs of the Agency's customers.

For more information, contact Marianne Plaus, GIPSA, 202-690-3460,
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News Release

Release No.: 05-01

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GIPSA Export Grain Quality Report Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 20, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today released its latest report on the quality of U.S. grain exports.

Published annually, GIPSA's "2000 U.S. Grain Exports: Quality Report" summarizes the quality of export wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum, barley, sunflower seeds, and canola. It is based on data collected during the official inspection of export grain shipments in calendar year 2000.

The report is available electronically on GIPSA's web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>.

Hard copies are available in limited quantities and may be requested by calling 202-720-5091 or via electronic mail to dstewart@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 06-01

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 12, 2001)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Texas, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Louisiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Nebraska.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Amarillo, Texas; Cairo, Illinois; Fostoria, Ohio; Belmond, Iowa; Louisiana; and Wisconsin areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by March 31, 2001.
- Detroit Grain Inspection Service, Inc., is designated to inspect grain effective May 1, 2001 through March 31, 2004. Keokuk Grain Inspection Service is designated to inspect grain effective May 1, 2001 through March 31, 2004. Michigan Grain Inspection Services, Inc., is designated to inspect grain effective May 1, 2001 through March 31, 2004. Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection Departments, Inc., is designated to inspect and weigh grain effective June 1, 2001 through March 31, 2004. Eastern Iowa Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc., is designated to inspect grain effective June 1, 2001 through March 31, 2004. Enid Grain Inspection Company, Inc., is designated to inspect and weigh grain effective June 1, 2001 through March 31, 2004. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Detroit at 810-395-2105, Keokuk at 319-524-6482, Michigan at 616-781-2711, Champaign at 217-398-0723, Eastern Iowa at 319-322-7140, and Enid at 580-233-1121.
- GIPSA is asking for comments on the applicants for the Fremont, Nebraska area. Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc., applied for the area currently assigned to them. Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company applied for all or part of the Fremont geographic area.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 07-01

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GIPSA Verifies Performance of StarLink Test Kits

Washington, DC (February 21, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it evaluated two test kits for determination of StarLink corn in corn grain. GIPSA performed its evaluations on the EnviroLogix Cry9C ELISA Plate Kit and the Neogen Corporation Agri-Screen Qualitative Cry9C Test. GIPSA concluded that the performance of both kits meets the manufacturer's claims of identification of StarLink corn as follows:

- EnviroLogix Cry9C ELISA Plate Kit detection sensitivity of 1 StarLink kernel in 2,400 kernels of corn following the Rapid Protocol and 1 StarLink kernel in 10,000 kernels of corn following the High Sensitivity Protocol.
- Neogen Agri-Screen Qualitative CRY9C Test detection sensitivity of 1 StarLink kernel in 800 kernels of corn.

GIPSA's verification of tests is performed on grain only as opposed to processed foods. GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing and to ensure that corn export markets that have specific restrictions on the import of corn containing StarLink are fulfilled. StarLink is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

GIPSA acting administrator David Shipman stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold. For more information on StarLink testing services, see GIPSA's web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <https://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/biotechnology.aspx>.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, director, GIPSA Technical Services Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 12-01

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GIPSA to Increase Fees for Rice and Commodity Inspections

WASHINGTON, DC (April 4, 2001) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced a 3.7 percent increase in fees for all hourly rates and certain unit rates for rice and commodity inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, these increases are needed to cover increased operational costs resulting from the mandated January 2001 Federal pay increase. The existing fee schedule for GIPSA's rice inspection program will not generate sufficient revenues to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance. The increase becomes effective on May 4, 2001. The final rule implementing the increase was published in today's Federal Register.

Technical information contact: David Orr, Director, Field Management Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 11-01

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GIPSA Proposes Increasing Inspection and Weighing Fees

WASHINGTON, DC (April 4, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today proposed increasing fees by approximately 6.1 percent. The increase applies to hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee for official grain inspection and weighing services performed by GIPSA in the United States.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, the increase is needed to offset mandated cost-of-living increases to personnel salaries coupled with a 7 percent decrease in the volume of grain inspected. The revenue generated by the current fee schedule, he added, is insufficient to cover program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance.

The proposal was published in today's Federal Register. Written comments must be submitted on or before May 4, 2001, to: Sharon Vassiliades, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC 20250-3604, via fax (202) 690-2755, or via email to comments@gipsadc.usda.gov.

Technical information contact: David Orr, Director, Field Management Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 16-01

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GIPSA Approves Veratox 5/5 DON Test Kit

Washington, DC (April 10, 2001)-The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today approved the Veratox 5/5 DON Test Kit, manufactured by Neogen Corporation, for official testing of deoxynivalenol in the national grain inspection system.

Deoxynivalenol, or DON, is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in wheat, barley, corn, and other grains. GIPSA authorizes the use of the Veratox 5/5 DON test kit to determine deoxynivalenol in wheat, barley, malted barley, oats, and corn. According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, approval of this test kit expands the choice of DON test kits available to the national inspection system.

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News Release

Release No.: 18-01

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GIPSA Verifies Performance of StarLink™ Test Kit

Washington, DC (April 11, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it evaluated Strategic Diagnostics, Inc. GMOQuick 4™ Bt9 Test Kit and found that the kit's performance meets the manufacturer's claims of the identification of one StarLink™ corn kernel in 800 corn kernels. GIPSA's verification of tests is performed on grain only, not processed foods.

GIPSA acting administrator David Shipman stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink™ on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing to ensure that corn export markets that have specific restrictions on the import of corn containing StarLink™ are fulfilled. StarLink™ is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink™ is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

For more information on StarLink™ testing services, see GIPSA's web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <https://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/biotechnology.aspx>.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, director, GIPSA Technical Services Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 23-01

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GIPSA Verifies Performance of StarLink™ Test Kit

Washington, DC (May 14, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today that it evaluated a test kit for the determination of StarLink™ corn in corn grain. GIPSA performed its evaluation on the Strategic Diagnostics, Inc. GMO TM Bt9 Maize Kit (Part No. 7110030) and concluded that the performance of the kit meets the manufacturer's claims of the identification of one StarLink™ corn kernel in 10,000 corn kernels.

GIPSA's verification of tests is performed on grain only as opposed to processed foods. GIPSA verified the test detects the presence of StarLink™; the quantitative claims by the manufacturer were not verified. GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink™ on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing and to ensure that corn export markets that have specific restrictions on the import of corn containing StarLink™ are fulfilled. StarLink™ is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink™ is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

GIPSA's acting administrator David Shipman stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold. For more information on StarLink™ testing services, see GIPSA's web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <https://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/biotechnology.aspx>.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, director, GIPSA Technical Services Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 24-01

Contact:
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Minot Farmers Elevator, Inc., Pays \$1,500 Penalty to Settle USDA Charges

Washington, DC (May 21, 2001) - Minot Farmers Elevator, Inc., Drake, North Dakota, agreed to pay a \$1,500 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

GIPSA Acting Administrator David R. Shipman said that the firm was charged with deceptive loading and grain handling which caused the issuance of a false official grain inspection certificate. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

The complaint filed against Minot Farmers Elevator was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the USGSA.

The USGSA provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for the official inspection and weighing of grain shipped in domestic and international commerce.

Information contact: Tom Hearon, GIPSA Compliance Division, 202-720-8262.

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News Release

Release No.: 20-01

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GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

Washington, DC (April 26, 2001) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet on May 8, 2001 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The meeting will take place from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. Topics to be discussed include GIPSA's financial status, biotechnology, component end-use testing, information technology initiatives, the status of the official commodity program, and other related issues concerning the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee provides advice to the GIPSA administrator on the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chairman to address the Committee orally. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee or submit written statements before or after the meeting, should contact the Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, telephone (202) 720-0219 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

The meeting will be open to the public. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations should contact Marianne Plaus, telephone (202) 690-3460 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

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News Release

Release No.: 22-01

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 1, 2001)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas Ohio, Michigan, New Mexico, Texas, Indiana, Nebraska, and Iowa.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Columbus, Ohio; Farwell, New Mexico; and Fort Wayne, Indiana areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by June 30, 2001.
- East Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc., Fremont Grain Inspection Department, Inc., and Titus Grain Inspection, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective September 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact East Indiana at 765-289-1206, Fremont at 402-721-1270, and Titus at 765-497-2202.
- GIPSA is asking for comments on the applicants for the Fostoria, Ohio area. Fostoria Grain Inspection, Inc., applied for the area currently assigned to them. Columbus Grain Inspection, Inc., and Michigan Grain Inspection Services, Inc., each applied for all or part of the Fostoria geographic area.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 28-01

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USDA Honors Yohanna Lorio In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Yohanna Lorio for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Lorio is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Yohanna Lorio is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 30-01

Contact:
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USDA Honors Rose Fremin In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Rose Fremin for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Fremin is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, "Rose Fremin is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 35-01

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USDA Honors Joanne Matherne In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Joanne Matherne for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Matherne is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Joanne Matherne is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
dstewart@gipsadc.usda.gov



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News Release

Release No.: 33-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Honors Joanna LaBlanc In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Joanna LaBlanc for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. LaBlanc is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Joanna LaBlanc is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 27-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Honors Glenda Lasseigne In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Glenda Lasseigne for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony. "I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Lasseigne is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Glenda Lasseigne is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 31-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
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USDA Honors Erin Dubroc In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Erin Dubroc for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Dubroc is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Erin Dubroc is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 29--01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Honors Carla Cambre In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Carla Cambre for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Cambre is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Carla Cambre is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 36-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Honors Angela Roper In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Angela Roper for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Roper is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Angela Roper is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 34-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Honors Angela Marine In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Angela Marine for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Marine is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Angela Marine is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 32-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Honors Amelia Gautreau In Annual Awards Ceremony

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2001--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today honored Amelia Gautreau for her contributions as a member of the New Orleans Field Office Clerical/Support Staff in the 55th annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Awards Ceremony.

"I have worked alongside USDA employees for many years and have long been impressed with the dedication of our career workforce," Veneman said. "The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment and teamwork in carrying out their mission and serving the American people."

Ms. Gautreau is a member of a team that provides exceptional administrative support that increases the efficiency of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's New Orleans Field Office. The team was recognized for its commitment to customer service, exemplary teamwork, and highly respected work ethic and abilities. These are important accomplishments in an office that each year helps move 64 million metric tons, or approximately 75 percent of all grains exported from the United States.

Said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, Amelia Gautreau is an invaluable asset to the Agency and the Department, and the U.S. Government and the public significantly benefit from her outstanding and unselfish devotion to public service. I am proud that she is receiving the Department's high recognition - a recognition earned and truly deserved."

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News Release

Release No.: 48-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Verifies Performance of EnviroLogix Inc. Kit to Detect StarLink™ Corn

Washington, DC (August 16, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today that it has verified that the EnviroLogix Inc., Cry9C QuickStix™ Qualitative Lateral Flow Strip Kit detects the presence of one kernel of StarLink™ corn in 800 corn kernels in a 5 minute test development time. In addition, GIPSA reviewed data submitted by the manufacturer and concluded that ordinary tap water can be used with this test. The performance of this test was verified by GIPSA earlier this year, but the test development time was 10 minutes, and the test required deionized or distilled water. GIPSA's verification of this test was performed on grain only as opposed to processed foods.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink™ on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing. StarLink™ is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink™ is approved for animal feed and industrial use only.

GIPSA acting administrator Dave Shipman stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For more information on StarLink™ testing services, see GIPSA's web site at www.gipsa.usda.gov. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <https://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/biotechnology.aspx>.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, Director, GIPSA Technical Services Division,
816-891-0401.

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News Release

Release No.: 49-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 1, 2001)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas of Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, North Dakota, Texas, Louisiana, and North Carolina.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Owensboro, Kentucky; Bloomington, Illinois; Fargo, North Dakota; and Plainview, Texas areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by September 30, 2001.
- Cairo Grain Inspection Agency, Inc., Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and North Carolina Department of Agriculture, are designated to inspect grain effective October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2004. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Cairo at 618-734-0689, Louisiana at 318-487-5088, and North Carolina at 919-733-4491.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 52-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Designates Wisconsin Department of Agriculture to Officially Inspect Grain

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 1, 2001) – USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today renewed the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection's designation to inspect and weigh grain in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Grain and Warehouse Commission was created by state law in 1905. With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway system in 1959, exporting grain became the primary function in the port cities. In 1978, GIPSA delegated Wisconsin's grain program to provide export inspection and designated it for domestic inspections. The Grain program now serves export markets in Superior and Milwaukee; maintains domestic market service points in Clinton, Darien, and Ripon; and provides inspections at barge facilities on the Mississippi River in Wisconsin. Wisconsin provided 41,197 official inspections and 34,516 official weights in fiscal year 2000.

Wisconsin's new designation to inspect and weigh grain is effective December 1, 2001, through September 30, 2004, under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Wisconsin at 715-392-7851, or e-mail: William.Granlund@datcp.state.wi.us.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 53-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Designates Amarillo Grain Exchange as Official Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 1, 2001) – USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today renewed its designation with Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc., to officially inspect grain in specified areas of Oklahoma and Texas.

The Amarillo Grain Exchange, Inc., is headquartered at 1300 South Johnson Street, and serves northcentral Texas, and the Oklahoma panhandle, with an additional full-time service point in Guymon, Oklahoma.

Amarillo's new designation is effective December 1, 2001, through September 30, 2004, under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act. For official grain inspection services, contact Amarillo at 806-372-8511, or e-mail: age@amaonline.com.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail roseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 54-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA Seeks Members for Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

WASHINGTON (October 8, 2001)-- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration seeks nominations for individuals to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. Nominations are being sought for 5 members and 5 alternates, all of whom will begin serving their 3-year terms in March 2002.

The Committee is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise GIPSA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Such advice is especially important as GIPSA adjusts its programs to meet the needs of today's global, consumer-driven food system. Members of the Committee serve without compensation; they are reimbursed for travel expenses.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact GIPSA, by telephone (202-720-0219), fax (202-205-9237), or e-mail (mplaus@gipsadc.usda.gov) and request Nomination Form AD-755. Nomination forms also are available from GIPSA's web site at: <https://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/advisorycommittee.aspx>. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to GIPSA by fax or in hard copy to: GIPSA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Form AD-755 must be received not later than November 30, 2001.

A notice to solicit nominees was published in the October 1, 2001, Federal Register.

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News Release

Release No.: 60-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Approves Foss Infratec Model 1241 For Protein, Oil, and Starch Determinations

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 16, 2001) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has approved the Foss Infratec Model 1241 Whole Grain Analyzer, manufactured by Foss North America, Inc., for official determination of protein content in wheat; protein and oil content in soybeans; and oil, protein, and starch content in corn.

The Infratec Model 1241 near infrared transmission instrument is an engineering enhancement of, and equivalent in performance to, previously approved Infratec models. The new model includes a new test cell design with a belt conveyor sample feed that is non-removable and automatically adjusts the pathlength between 6 and 33 millimeters. The automatic adjustment is incorporated into the calibration file.

Approval of the Infratec Model 1241 gives GIPSA and official inspection agencies the opportunity to purchase enhanced near infrared spectroscopy equipment that is approved and supported for official inspection purposes.

For technical information, contact Richard Pierce at (816) 891-0449; or email at richard.o.pierce@usda.gov.

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091 dstewart@gipsadc.usda.gov



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News Release

Release No.: 61-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON (December 04, 2001) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas.

GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; Tiffin, Georgia; Helena, Montana; Pendleton, Oregon; and Lake Village, Indiana areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by January 2, 2002.

Columbus Grain Inspection, Inc., Farwell Grain Inspection Company, and Northeast Indiana Grain Inspection, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective February 1, 2002 through December 31, 2004. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Columbus at 740-474-3519, Farwell at 806-481-9052, and Northeast Indiana at 219-639-6390.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

Leah Akbar (202) 720-4998 Leah_L.Akbar@usda.gov



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News Release

Release No.: 62-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

USDA To Host Media Town Hall With Under Secretary

William T. Hawks, the United States Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs, cordially invites you to meet with him to discuss food safety and other agricultural issues.

Hawks' was appointed as the under secretary of marketing and regulatory programs by secretary Ann M. Veneman on May 24, 2001. Long before he became the under secretary, he was actively engaged in representing the agricultural interests of the people of Mississippi through participation in commodity organizations. He has held leadership positions with both the National Corn Growers and the American Soybean Association. More recently, he served as a state senator in Mississippi. As a senator, Hawks served on both the Agriculture Committee and the Environmental Committee.

Hawks' current role in marketing and regulatory programs is to facilitate the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensure the health and care of animals and plants, while improving competitiveness and the economy for the overall benefit of both consumers and American agriculture. He has oversight of three agencies, Agriculture Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Please join under secretary Hawks in Chicago.
Place: Hilton Chicago Hotel Erie Room 720 South Michigan Ave.
Date: December 5, 2001
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Contact: Mr. Steve Tanner (321) 922-4400 Hilton Chicago Hotel, ask for Mr. Tanner

[Leah Akbar \(202\) 720-4998Leah_L.Akbar@usda.gov](mailto:Leah_Akbar@usda.gov)



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News Release

Release No.: 63-01

Contact:
Terry Henry, 202-205-8281
Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov

GIPSA Verifies Performance Of Neogen Corporation Agri-Screen Cry9c Strip Test To Detect Starlink Corn

Washington (December 11, 2001) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it has verified that the Neogen Corporation's Agri-Screen Cry9C Strip Test detects the presence of one kernel of StarLink™ corn in 800 kernels in ten minutes (test development time.) GIPSA's verification of this test was performed on grain only, as opposed to processed foods.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink™ on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government-backed testing, and to ensure that corn export markets to Japan were supplied with corn free of StarLink™. StarLink™ is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink™ is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

GIPSA Acting Administrator Dave Shipman stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold. For more information on StarLink™ testing services, see GIPSA's web site at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/starlink/starlink.htm>. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/evalaccredit.htm>.

Information contact: Donald C. Kendall, Chief, Biotechnology Branch, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0432.

Leah Akbar (202) 720-4998 Leah_L.Akbar@usda.gov



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News Release

Release No.: 04-01

Contact:
Catherine M. Grasso, (202) 720-7201
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov

Dyer Gin and Grain Company Pays \$10,000 Penalty to Settle USDA Charges

Washington, DC (February 6, 2001) - Dyer Gin and Grain Company, Dyer, Tennessee, agreed to pay a \$10,000 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman said that the firm was charged with manipulating grain samples submitted for official inspection, causing the issuance of false official grain inspection certificates. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

The complaint filed against Dyer Gin and Grain Company was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the USGSA.

The USGSA provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for the official inspection and weighing of grain shipped in domestic and international commerce.

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
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News Release

Release No.: 08-01

Contact:
Catherine M. Grasso, (202) 720-7201
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov

Central Agrees To Settle USDA Complaint

Washington (March 1, 2001) - On December 1, 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture entered into a consent decision with Central Livestock Association, Inc. (Central), a livestock marketing agency located in Albany, Minnesota. Under applicable provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, Central was assessed a civil penalty of \$8,000 and ordered to cease and desist from:

1. Engaging in any act, practice or course of business for the purpose of obtaining money from the purchasers of livestock by false and deceptive practices in connection with the purchase or sale of livestock;
2. Failing to accurately represent to its principals or other purchasers of livestock, or aiding and assisting any person to misrepresent to such principals or purchasers, the original purchase prices, weights, freight charges, or shrinkage allowances of such livestock;
3. Preparing and issuing accounts of purchases, invoices, billings or any other documents showing false, inaccurate or misleading price, weight, freight charges, or shrinkage allowances for such livestock;
4. Inserting or failing to insert in accounts of purchase invoices, billings or any other document prepared in connection with the purchase or sale of livestock, any statement or information where such insertion or omission results, in whole or in part, in a false, inaccurate or misleading record of such livestock purchase or sale transaction; and
5. Collecting payment from principals or other purchasers of livestock, or aiding or assisting any person to collect from such persons, on the basis of false, inaccurate or misleading invoices or billings.

continued

Central, while agreeing to the Secretary of Agriculture's jurisdiction in this matter, neither admitted nor denied the material allegations set forth in a complaint issued on September 22, 2000. However, to settle the matter, Central waived an oral hearing and consented to the entry of the order in this case.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes a fair and competitive marketing environment for livestock, meat and poultry.

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News Release

Release No.: 14-01

Contact:
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Miller Consent Decision for Failure to be Properly Bonded

Washington, DC (April 04, 2001) - On January 22, 2001, Mark A. Miller, d/b/a Miller Cattle Company (Miller), Dodge City, Kansas, entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). Miller operates as a market agency selling livestock on commission and as a dealer buying and selling livestock for his own account.

Miller admitted the jurisdictional allegations of an administrative complaint issued by GIPSA on August 17, 2000. He neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations, waived oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the decision, Miller, his agents, and employees, agreed to cease and desist from engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards Act and its regulations without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent. Miller agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Miller previously entered into a consent agreement with GIPSA on February 17, 1999, in which he agreed to cease and desist from operating without maintaining a reasonable bond.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 13-01

Contact:
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Complaint Issued Against Calhan Auction Market and Kenneth Larry Miller

Washington, DC (April 04, 2001) - On February 13, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Calhan Auction Market, Inc. (Calhan) and its president and operator Kenneth Larry Miller (Miller), Calhan, Colorado. Calhan is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) as a market agency buying and selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis and as a livestock dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account.

The complaint alleges that Calhan, under the direction, management and control of Miller, violated the Act by failing to maintain and use properly its Custodial Account for Shippers. Proceeds (custodial account) that was used for livestock sales, thereby endangering full and prompt payments due to owners and consignors of livestock. Calhan is alleged to have violated the Act by issuing custodial account checks to consignors of livestock that were returned to the consignors unpaid due to insufficient funds in the account when presented for payment. Shortages in the custodial account were due, in part, from Calhan's failure to deposit into the account the amount due from the sale of consigned livestock within the time limits prescribed by the regulations issued under the Act.

The complaint also alleged that Calhan operated while its current liabilities exceeded its current assets, in violation of the Act's financial requirements, and issued checks in payment for livestock purchased in its dealer operations, which were returned unpaid due to insufficient funds available in the account on which they were drawn. The issuance of insufficient funds checks resulted in the failure to pay, when due under the Act, the full purchase price for livestock purchases. Calhan is also alleged to have falsely reported information on a report filed with GIPSA.

continued

Calhan and Miller have 20 days after receipt of the complaint in which to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If allegations are proven, Calhan and Miller may be ordered to stop violations of the Act, suspended as registrants under the Act, and assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 09-01

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GIPSA Files Complaint Against Kenneth Koops of Gettysburg, South Dakota

Washington, DC (April 5, 2001) ? On February 13, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Kenneth Koops (Koops) of Gettysburg, South Dakota. Koops is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) as a livestock dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce.

The complaint alleges that Koops, on several occasions, purchased livestock and failed to pay the full purchase price for the livestock. In addition, Koops allegedly issued checks in payment for livestock, which were returned unpaid. There were insufficient funds on deposit and available in the account, on which they were drawn, when checks were presented for payment.

Koops has 20 days after receipt of the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations in the complaint. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for an oral hearing. If allegations are proven, Koops may be ordered to stop violating the Act and suspended as a registrant. The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 10-01

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Brittingham Consent Decision for Failure to Provide Proper Bonding

Washington, DC (April 05, 2001) - On December 15, 2000, Carl D. Brittingham, d/b/a Wyoming Livestock Auction (Brittingham) entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Brittingham is a market agency selling livestock on commission in Wyoming, Illinois.

Brittingham admitted the jurisdictional allegations in an administrative complaint issued on October 20, 2000, neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations, waived oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the decision Brittingham, his agents, and employees agreed to cease and desist from engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) and its regulations without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent. Bonds are required under the Act to secure the performance of the firm's livestock payment obligations. Brittingham agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 15-01

Contact:
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USDA Issued a Default Decision Against Alexander Carr Smith

Washington, DC (April 10, 2001) - On February 22, 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a default decision ordering Alexander Carr Smith (Smith) of Church Hill, Tennessee to stop violating the bonding requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act). Smith is registered under the Act as a market agency buying livestock on commission, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

The default decision was issued after Smith failed to respond to an administrative complaint filed on September 7, 2000, alleging Smith failed to increase his bond coverage. Failure to file an answer constituted an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint.

Under the terms of the default decision, Smith, his agents, and employees, were ordered to cease and desist from engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Act without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent. In accordance with the Act, Smith was assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,500.00.

On April 5, 2001, the decision became final, when Smith failed to file an appeal with USDA's Judicial Officer.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 21-01

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USDA Default Decision Settles Complaint Against Bert Smith, III

Washington, DC (April 30, 2001) - On April 6, 2001, the United States Department of Agriculture issued a default decision ordering Bert Smith, III (Smith, III) of Church Hill, Tennessee to stop violating the bond and livestock payment provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act. Smith, III is registered under the Act as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and as a market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Under the terms of the default decision, Smith, III, his agents, and employees, in connection with activities subject to the Act, were ordered to cease and desist from: (1) engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Act without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent; (2) purchasing livestock while his financial condition does not meet the requirements of the Act; (3) issuing checks in payment for livestock without maintaining sufficient funds on deposit; (4) failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; (5) failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; (6) misleading sellers, their agents, and buyers of livestock; and (7) accepting, causing or authorizing the preparation of purchase invoices or other documents representing that Smith, III is purchasing cattle for another, when in fact, Smith, III is purchasing cattle for himself.

The order requires Smith, III to keep and maintain accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all transactions in his operation. Smith, III is also suspended as a registrant under the Act for a period of ten years and thereafter until solvency is demonstrated. However, a supplemental order may be issued terminating the suspension after the expiration of two years, upon demonstration by Smith, III that his current liabilities no longer exceed his current assets, and that all unpaid sellers identified in the complaint have been paid in full. The order may be modified after two years, to permit the salaried employment of Smith, III by another registrant or packer if Smith, III is able to demonstrate circumstances warranting modification.

continued

The default decision was issued after Smith, III, failed to respond to an administrative complaint filed September 22, 2000. Failure to file an answer constituted an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint. The cease and desist order and suspension will become effective 35 days after service of the order, unless Smith, III appeals the decision to the Judicial Officer of USDA.

The 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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News Release

Release No.: 17-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Issued Complaint Against Dale Meyer d/b/a Wagner Livestock Sales Co.

Washington, DC (April 30, 2001) ? On March 20, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Dale Meyer, d/b/a Wagner Livestock Sales Company (Meyer) of Wagner, South Dakota. Meyer is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis and as a livestock dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

The complaint alleges that Meyer, on several occasions, failed to maintain and use properly the Wagner Livestock Sales Company Custodial Account for Shippers Proceeds (custodial account) that was used for livestock sales, thereby endangering the full and prompt payment due to owners and consignors of livestock. Shortages in the custodial account were due, in part, from Meyer's failure to deposit into the account the amount due from the sale of consigned livestock, purchased by Meyer, within the time limits prescribed by the regulations issued under the Act.

Meyer has 20 days after receipt of the complaint in which to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If allegations are proven, Meyer may be ordered to stop violating the Act, suspended as a registrant under the Act, and assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 25-01

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GIPSA AND FARMLAND SETTLE COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON (May 31, 2001) – USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and Farmland National Beef Packing Company, L.P. (Farmland National) announced yesterday that they have reached an agreement to settle GIPSA's complaint against Farmland National. In July 1999, GIPSA filed a complaint alleging that Farmland National retaliated against Callicrate Feedyard of St. Francis, Kansas, in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act). According to the complaint, Farmland National changed its bidding and buying practices at Callicrate Feedyard after a major livestock journal published a letter written by the manager of Callicrate Feedyard that was critical of Farmland National. Farmland National has consistently denied and continues to deny any wrongdoing. As a result, a hearing commenced on May 22, 2001, and was set to reconvene yesterday.

GIPSA and Farmland National both realize that to pursue this case to final judicial resolution could be time consuming and expensive. The ultimate decision would probably not be made for more than a year, after a decision by a USDA Administrative Law Judge and potential appeals to the Judicial Officer of USDA and to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Termination of this case by the entry of this Consent Order is believed to be in the best interest of the parties and the industry.

Under the terms of the settlement, Farmland National is to comply with the law and shall not engage in any unfair or unjustly discriminatory practice or subject any cattle seller to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever, in connection with its operations under the P&S Act. The Consent Order does not require Farmland National to visit, offer bids or buy cattle from any particular seller, including Callicrate Feedyard, unless the failure to do so is a violation of the P&S Act. Retaliation is a violation of the P&S Act.

continued

In the Consent Order, Farmland National recognizes that it benefited from the cost and expense incurred by GIPSA in conducting its investigation of this matter because GIPSA has clarified Farmland National's rights and responsibilities under the law and wishes to reimburse GIPSA. However, as reimbursement is not provided for by law, Farmland National agreed to pay the Treasury of the United States \$95,000 in lieu of reimbursement.

"We are pleased to have resolved this important case," said Bill Hawks, Under Secretary for USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs. "The settlement clearly acknowledges that retaliation is a violation of Section 202 of the P&S Act, putting the industry on notice that GIPSA will pursue complaints of retaliation vigorously."

John R. Miller, CEO of Farmland National Beef Packing Company, L.P., stated that "I am pleased that GIPSA's allegations have been resolved. National Beef has denied any wrongdoing and confirms its policy not to engage in retaliation against beef producers. The Consent Order does not require National Beef to visit, bid or buy cattle from any particular seller, including Callicrate Feedyard, so long as the failure to do so is not a violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. This clarification of the law benefits the entire industry. It is National Beef's policy to abide by the provisions of the P&S Act."

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News Release

Release No.: 39-01

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GIPSA to Increase USGSA Inspection Fees by 6.1 Percent

Washington, DC (July 9, 2001) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is increasing fees by approximately 6.1 percent for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. The increase applies to contract and noncontract hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, the increase is needed to cover cost-of-living increases and revenue declines due to decreased exports. Under the USGSA, GIPSA fees collected must cover, as nearly as practicable, the agency's costs for performing inspection and weighing services, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

The fee increase becomes effective on August 8, 2001.

Information contact: David Orr, director, Field Management Division,
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News Release

Release No.: 38-01

Contact:
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Complaint Issued Against Monte Vista Livestock Auction, Inc. And Jody L. Peterson

Washington, DC (June 19, 2001) - On June 11, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Monte Vista Livestock Auction, Inc. (Monte Vista) of Monte Vista, Colorado, and its Secretary, Treasurer, and principal owner Jody L. Peterson. Monte Vista is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account.

The complaint alleges that Monte Vista, under the direction, management and control of Peterson, violated the P&S Act by failing to maintain and use properly its Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds (custodial account) that was used for livestock sales, endangering full and prompt payments due to owners and consignors of livestock. Monte Vista is alleged to have violated the P&S Act by issuing custodial account checks to consignors of livestock that were returned to the consignors unpaid due to insufficient funds in the account when presented for payment. Shortages in the custodial account were due, in part, from Monte Vista's alleged failure to deposit into the account the amount due from the sale of consigned livestock within the time limits prescribed by the regulations issued under the P&S Act. Monte Vista is further alleged to have misused its custodial account by regularly allowing bank fees to be charged to the account, committing unlawful withdrawals, and withdrawing market commissions and fees while the account was in a negative posture.

The complaint also alleges that Monte Vista operated while its current liabilities exceeded its current assets, in violation of the P&S Act's financial requirements.

Monte Vista and Peterson have 20 days after receipt of the complaint to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If allegations are proven, Monte Vista and Peterson may be ordered to stop violations of the Act and be assessed a civil penalty. Monte Vista may be suspended as a registrant under the Act, and Peterson may be prohibited from registering to operate subject to the Act.

continued

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News Release

Release No.: 40-01

Contact:
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Furr Indicted By Federal Grand Jury

Washington DC (June 25, 2001) -- Joseph E. Furr (Furr), a suspended livestock dealer and market agency in Staunton, Virginia was indicted by a federal Grand Jury on June 20, 2001. Furr was charged with "willful disobedience or resistance to the court's lawful order entered June 15, 2000 and filed June 21, 2000."

The charge arose from an investigation conducted by the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Furr was charged in a one count indictment with criminal contempt of the court. Furr, if convicted, faces a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000.

Furr was found in civil contempt of court for "willfully violating the U.S. District Court's March 24, 2000 order." By order of the U.S. District Court entered on June 15, 2000 and filed on June 21, 2000, Furr was prohibited from purchasing and selling livestock as a dealer or market agency under the Packers and Stockyards Act. He was required to comply with all provisions of the Secretary of Agriculture's consent order. However, he was allowed to purchase and sell livestock in connection with his farming operation. Furr was ordered to keep accurate and complete records for purchases of livestock and resale, directed to hold the animals for a reasonable period of time, and obtain approval from the Court for any sales where livestock had not been held for 90 days.

The Grand Jury in the one count indictment alleged that Furr had "willfully disobeyed or resisted a lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree or command of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia." The Grand Jury was convinced Furr had continued to operate in violation of the June 21, 2000 order.

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News Release

Release No.: 37-01

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GIPSA Releases Congressional Report

WASHINGTON, DC (June 28, 2001) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Packers and Stockyards Programs has released a report titled "Assessment of the Cattle and Hog Industries, Calendar Year 2000." The report describes the general economic state of the cattle and hog industries, changing business practices in those industries, and activities that appear to raise concerns under the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 (P&S Act).

The report is responsive to a requirement in the Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. No. 106-472), enacted on November 9, 2000, which amended the P&S Act.

The report is available for downloading or browsing from GIPSA's web site www.gipsa.usda.gov, and limited quantities of printed copies are also available.

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News Release

Release No.: 42-01

Contact:
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Syverson Consent Decision Final

WASHINGTON (July 6, 2001) - On June 12, 2001, Todd Syverson, d/b/a Syverson Livestock Brokers (Syverson), of Wanamingo, Minnesota, entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). Syverson operates as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and as a market agency buying livestock on commission.

Syverson admitted the jurisdictional allegations of an administrative complaint, waived an oral hearing, consented and agreed for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the decision, Syverson, has agreed to cease and desist from: (1) buying livestock from customers on the basis of false and incorrect purchase prices, weights, and designation of the buyer; (2) misrepresenting to customers that he was purchasing livestock for a packer on a hot carcass weight basis to be determined at the packing plant when the livestock was neither purchased on a hot carcass weight basis for the packer as agent, nor purchased for sale to the packer on a hot carcass weight basis; (3) issuing accounts of purchase or sale which fail to show the true and correct nature of the livestock transaction accounted for therein, including, but not limited to the true and correct purchase or sale price, the type of weight used for calculating payment, and the location where the livestock was sold; (4) preparing false invoices or other documents, including scale tickets and condemnation certificates, for the purpose of concealing or disguising fraudulent decreases in the amounts owed for livestock purchases, the identity of the livestock buyer and the actual number of cattle for which payment is owed; (5) misrepresenting to customers that he would sell their livestock for them at a livestock auction market and then selling their livestock for his own account and causing false records to be prepared showing a false prior purchase of the livestock by Syverson at a lower purchase price.

continued

The order requires Syverson to keep and maintain accounts, records and memoranda that will fully and correctly disclose all transactions in his operation. Syverson is also suspended as a registrant under the Packers and Stockyards Act for a period of two years. However, a supplemental order may be issued terminating the suspension after 90 days upon demonstration to GIPSA that Syverson has made restitution in the total amount of \$13,151.45 to the dairy farmers named in the complaint.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 41-01

Contact:
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Livestock Dealer Agrees To Comply With Packers And Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON (July 6, 2001) - On April 13, 2001, the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, issued a Consent Journal Entry and permanent injunction against Jerome Goetz, (Goetz) of Park, Kansas. Under the terms of the Consent Journal Entry, Goetz is permanently enjoined from engaging in business in any capacity for which registration and bonding are required according to the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act), without being registered with the Secretary of Agriculture and furnishing a bond of at least \$80,000.

Goetz also agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 plus \$150 for the cost of this action. 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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News Release

Release No.: 44-01

Contact:
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Complaint Issued Against Wes Myers D/B/A Wes Myers Livestock

WASHINGTON (July 10, 2001) - On June 19, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Wes Myers d/b/a Wes Myers Livestock (Myers) of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Myers is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act), as a dealer, buying and selling livestock in commerce.

The complaint alleges that Myers failed to pay for livestock purchases and issued checks in purported payment for livestock that were returned unpaid by the bank, because of insufficient funds on deposit in the account on which they were drawn when the checks were presented for payment.

Myers, allegedly, regularly used unauthorized trade names in his livestock dealer business, and unfairly and deceptively used the various trade names in the same livestock purchase transaction as though they were separate entities. The complaint also alleges that Myers failed to keep and maintain records that fully and correctly disclose all transactions involving his business subject to the Act.

Myers has 20 days after receipt of the complaint in which to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer shall constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If the allegations are proven, Wes Myers may be ordered to stop violations of the Act, suspended as a registrant under the Act, and assessed a civil penalty.

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Release No.: 43-01

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Complaint Issued Against Richard H. Swanz D/B/A Lewistown Livestock Auction

WASHINGTON (July 10, 2001) - On June 18, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Richard H. Swanz, d/b/a Lewistown Livestock Auction (Swanz) of Lewistown, Montana. At all times material in the complaint Swanz was registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

The complaint alleges that Swanz failed to maintain and use properly the Lewistown Livestock Auction Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds (custodial account) that was used for livestock sales, endangering full and prompt payments due to consignors of livestock to the market. Swanz allegedly failed to deposit into the custodial account the amount due from the sale of livestock consigned to the market within the time limits prescribed by the regulations issued under the Act. Swanz is further alleged to have misused the custodial account by failing to reimburse the account for bank overdraft charges deducted from the account, and withdrawing yardage and selling commissions while the account lacked sufficient funds to cover all outstanding checks issued to consignors. Swanz also allegedly failed to reimburse the custodial account for buyers who failed to pay for livestock purchases despite repeated written notices to Swanz that regulations required the account to be reimbursed.

The complaint also alleges that Swanz permitted its auctioneer to purchase livestock consigned to the Lewistown Livestock Auction despite being notified that regulations prohibit any selling agency from permitting its auctioneer to purchase livestock consigned to the market whether for his own account or for the accounts of others.

continued

Swanz has 20 days after receipt of the complaint in which to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If the allegations are proven, Swanz may be ordered to stop violations of the Act, suspended as a registrant under the Act, and assessed a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 46-01
Correction to GIPSA Release #43-01

Contact:
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Complaint Issued Against Richard H. Swanz D/B/A Lewistown Livestock Auction

WASHINGTON (August 2, 2001) - On June 18, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Richard H. Swanz, d/b/a Lewistown Livestock Auction (Swanz) of Lewistown, Montana. Swanz was registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock for his own account.

Central Montana Livestock Auction, Inc. (Central), purchased stock ownership of Lewistown Livestock Auction from Richard H. Swanz effective October 2, 2000. However, Central has and is operating under the trade name of Lewistown Livestock Auction. It should be noted that all allegations stated in the complaint pertain to the operations of Lewistown Livestock Auction prior to its ownership and operation by Central. Central is not a party to this action.

The complaint alleges that Swanz failed to maintain and use properly the Lewistown Livestock Auction Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds (custodial account) that was used for livestock sales, endangering full and prompt payments due to consignors of livestock to the market. Swanz allegedly failed to deposit into the custodial account the amount due from the sale of livestock consigned to the market within the time limits prescribed by the regulations issued under the Act. Swanz is further alleged to have misused the custodial account by failing to reimburse the account for bank overdraft charges deducted from the account, and withdrawing yardage and selling commissions while the account lacked sufficient funds to cover all outstanding checks issued to consignors. Swanz also allegedly failed to reimburse the custodial account for buyers who failed to pay for livestock purchases despite repeated written notices to Swanz that regulations required the account to be reimbursed.

continued

The complaint also alleges that Swanz permitted its auctioneer to purchase livestock consigned to the Lewistown Livestock Auction despite being notified that regulations prohibit any selling agency from permitting its auctioneer to purchase livestock consigned to the market whether for his own account or for the accounts of others.

Swanz has 20 days after receipt of the complaint in which to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If the allegations are proven, Swanz may be ordered to stop violations of the Act, suspended as a registrant under the Act, and assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 47-01

Contact:
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Complaint Issued Against Mba Poultry, Llc And Mark A. Haskins

WASHINGTON (August 02, 2001) - On July 11, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against MBA Poultry, LLC, (MBA) and Mark A. Haskins (Haskins), of Tecumseh, Nebraska. MBA operated as a live poultry dealer, obtaining live poultry under a poultry- growing arrangement for the purpose of slaughter, subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The complaint alleges that MBA, under the direction, management, and control of Haskins obtained live chickens under a poultry-growing arrangement and failed to pay for the live poultry.

MBA and Haskins have 20 days after receipt of the complaint to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If allegations are proven, MBA and Haskins may be ordered to stop violating the Act, and Haskins may be assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 47-01

Contact:
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Complaint Issued Against Mba Poultry, Llc And Mark A. Haskins

WASHINGTON (August 02, 2001) - On July 11, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against MBA Poultry, LLC, (MBA) and Mark A. Haskins (Haskins), of Tecumseh, Nebraska. MBA operated as a live poultry dealer, obtaining live poultry under a poultry- growing arrangement for the purpose of slaughter, subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The complaint alleges that MBA, under the direction, management, and control of Haskins obtained live chickens under a poultry-growing arrangement and failed to pay for the live poultry.

MBA and Haskins have 20 days after receipt of the complaint to file an answer to the allegations stated in it. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If an answer is received denying the allegations, a date will be set for oral hearing. If allegations are proven, MBA and Haskins may be ordered to stop violating the Act, and Haskins may be assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 45-01

Contact:
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Woodburn Agrees To Settle GIPSA's Complaint

WASHINGTON (August 3, 2001) - On July 17, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), entered into a consent decision with Woodburn Livestock Market, Inc. (Woodburn), Robert J. Babcock, II, and Sharon K. Babcock (Babcocks) of Woodburn, Oregon.

The Babcocks are responsible for the direction, management, and control of Woodburn. The Babcocks admitted the jurisdictional allegations of the complaint and waived an oral hearing. They consented and agreed for the purpose of settling this proceeding to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the decision, the Babcocks agreed to stop: (1) failing to deposit in Woodburn's "Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds" within the time prescribed an amount equal to the proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock; (2) failing to maintain Woodburn's Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds in conformity with applicable provisions of the regulations; (3) using custodial funds for purposes of their own or for any purpose other than the remittance of net proceeds to the person or persons entitled thereto and the payment of lawful marketing charges; (4) issuing insufficient funds checks to consignors in purported payment of net proceeds of livestock sold on a commission basis; (5) failing to remit, when due, the net proceeds due from the sale of livestock on a commission basis; (6) engaging in business subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act (Act) while Woodburn's current liabilities exceed its current assets.

The order requires Woodburn to maintain accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all transactions conducted subject to the Act including, but not limited to, a current ledger balance of its accounts receivable. Woodburn's registration is suspended until the shortage in its custodial account has been eliminated and it has demonstrated that it is no longer insolvent.

continued

Woodburn and the Babcocks are assessed a civil penalty, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

The management and operating name of the market changed in October 1999. Operations under the new management are not affected by this action.

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News Release

Release No.: 50-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Issues Complaint Against 3-State Stockyards, Inc. And Robert J. Witt

WASHINGTON (September 25, 2001) - On August 13, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against 3-State Stockyards, Inc. (3-State) and Robert J. Witt (Witt) of Falls City, Nebraska. 3-State is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis.

The complaint alleges that 3-State, on several occasions, under the direction, management and control of Witt, violated the P&S Act by failing to maintain and properly use the firm's Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds (custodial account). 3-State's failure to properly use the custodial account endangered full and prompt payments due to consignors of livestock. Shortages in the custodial account were allegedly caused, in part, by 3-State's failure to make timely deposits from the sale of livestock into the custodial account, as required by regulations issued under the P&S Act. Additionally, 3-State is alleged to have misused its custodial account by: (1) failing to reimburse the account when full payment was not received from purchasers of livestock; (2) issuing checks from the account to pay buyers' commissions; (3) allowing bank service fees to be deducted from the account; and (4) withdrawing market commissions and fees from the account while there was a deficiency in funds available in the account to pay livestock consignors.

The complaint further alleges that 3-State failed to properly maintain records that fully and correctly disclose all transactions involved in the firm's business. Specifically, the complaint alleges that 3-State failed to maintain a check register, or outstanding checklist for its general checking account, and failed to reconcile the account and maintain reconciliation records.

continued

3-State and Witt have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. If Witt files an answer denying the allegations, a date will be set for an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, 3-State and Witt may be ordered to stop violations of the Act and assessed a civil penalty. 3-State may also be suspended as a registrant under the Act.

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News Release

Release No.: 51-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Officially Designates D.R. Schaal Grain Inspection Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 1, 2001) – USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today renewed its designation of D. R. Schaal Agency, Inc. to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas of Iowa on GIPSA's behalf.

The D.R. Schaal Agency, Inc., Belmond, Iowa, is operated by the fourth generation of Schaaals active in grain-related businesses. The original Schaal Grain Co. was John Schaal's 1885 grain elevator and cattle feeding operation.

D.R. Schaal serves north-central Iowa, the heart of the State's corn and soybean growing region. Schaal's headquarters are located in Belmond, Iowa, and they maintain three onsite grain inspection laboratories.

Schaal's new designation to inspect grain is effective from December 1, 2001, through September 30, 2004, under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Schaal at 641-444-3122, or e-mail: drschaal@frontiernet.net.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 57-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Issues Complaint Against Wayne W. Coblentz

WASHINGTON (November 6, 2001) - On September 26, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Wayne W. Coblentz, doing business as Coblentz & Sons Livestock, Sugarcreek, Ohio. Coblentz is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis.

The complaint alleges that Coblentz issued checks in payment for livestock purchases that were returned unpaid by the bank. When the checks were presented for payment, they were returned because of insufficient funds on deposit in the account on which they were drawn. The complaint also alleges that Coblentz purchased livestock and failed to pay for the full purchase price of the livestock. As of September 20, 2001, livestock purchases totaling \$281,970.90 remained unpaid by Coblentz.

Coblentz has 20 days, after receiving the complaint, to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Coblentz may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty. Coblentz may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

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News Release

Release No.: 56-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Issues Complaint Against Tennessee Meat Packer

WASHINGTON (November 6, 2001) - On September 14, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Salah Abdalla and Hassan Boukhari, doing business as Wells Processing Plant, also known as Badr Halal Meat Plant, Brighton, Tennessee. Abdalla and Boukhari are partners in a meat packing business who buy livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter, subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

GIPSA's complaint alleges that Abdalla and Boukhari, while operating as a meat packer, failed to maintain an adequate bond or bond equivalent as required by the P&S Act and regulations; purchased livestock and failed to promptly pay for the full purchase price of livestock; and failed to maintain accounts and records that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in their business.

Abdalla and Boukhari have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Abdalla and Boukhari may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, and keep specific records that fully and correctly disclose all business transactions subject to the P&S Act. Additionally, they may be assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 58-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Issues Complaint Against Sugarcreek Livestock Auction

WASHINGTON (November 6, 2001) - On October 15, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Sugarcreek Livestock Auction, Inc. and Leroy H. Baker, Jr., of Sugarcreek, Ohio. Sugarcreek is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis.

The complaint alleges that Sugarcreek on several occasions, under the direction, management, and control of Baker, violated the P&S Act by failing to maintain and properly use the firm's custodial account. Sugarcreek's failure to properly use the custodial account endangered full and prompt payments due to the consignors of livestock. Shortages in the custodial account were allegedly caused, in part, by Sugarcreek's failure to make timely deposits from the sale of livestock into the custodial account, and failure to make timely reimbursement to the account for purchases by market owners as required by regulations issued under the P&S Act. Additionally, Sugarcreek is alleged to have misused its custodial account by allowing bank service fees to be deducted from it, and by making unlawful withdrawals from the account while there was a lack of sufficient funds available in the account to pay livestock consignors.

Sugarcreek and Baker have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Sugarcreek and Baker may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty. Sugarcreek may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

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News Release

Release No.: 59-01

Contact:
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Amended Complaint Issued Against Rod Suhr Of Atlantic, Iowa

WASHINGTON (November 6, 2001) -- On September 14, 2001, a motion to amend an administrative complaint filed by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration against Rod Suhr was granted. Suhr operated as a dealer and market agency buying livestock on commission in Atlantic, Iowa. The original complaint issued on April 10, 2000, alleged that Suhr failed to maintain an adequate surety bond or bond equivalent. The amended complaint alleges that Suhr continued to engage in business as a dealer without maintaining an adequate bond, and also failed to pay \$156,785.42 for livestock he purchased.

Suhr filed an answer to the amended complaint on October 4, 2001, denying the material allegations of the complaint. An oral hearing on the matter has been set for February 20, 2002. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Suhr may be ordered to stop violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and assessed a civil penalty. Suhr may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

Prior to GIPSA's filing of the amended complaint, Suhr filed a voluntary petition for chapter 7 Bankruptcy on September 10, 2001, in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa.

Processing of the administrative complaint will proceed despite the bankruptcy filing. The Packers and Stockyards 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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News Release

Release No.: 64-01

Contact:
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Valley Pride Pack Filed For Bankruptcy Owing \$3,601,164.83 To Livestock Sellers

Washington (December 7, 2001) -- On August 10, 2001, Valley Pride Pack, Inc. (Valley Pride), a meat packer with slaughter facilities in Norwalk, WI, and Tama, IA, ceased operations. Valley Pride is subject to the packer trust provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and has a livestock bond in the amount of \$505,000. When it ceased operations, Valley Pride owed nearly \$4 million to approximately 400 livestock sellers.

On August 17, 2001, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division froze Valley Pride's assets. On October 16, 2001, Valley Pride filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Wisconsin.

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) received trust claims from more than 300 livestock sellers totaling \$3,601,164.83. The P&S Act and regulations require claims against a packer trust to be filed within 30 days of the final date for making payment under section 409 of the P&S Act and claims against a bond to be filed within 60 days from the date of the transaction on which the claim is based.

As a courtesy, on November 9, 2001, GIPSA completed a partial packer trust analysis of Valley Pride and provided it to Valley Pride, as the trustee. GIPSA's partial packer trust analysis reviewed the claims for compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements of the P&S Act.

GIPSA does not make final determination on the validity of trust claims, order the payment of trust claims, or provide legal representation to trust claimants. The final determination of the validity of trust claims and payment of trust claims are the responsibility of the trustee.

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News Release

Release No.: 65-01

Contact:
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GIPSA Issues A Bond Complaint Against Billy Mike Gentry

WASHINGTON (December 26, 2001) - On November 14, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Billy Mike Gentry, of Houston, Mississippi. Gentry is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a market agency buying on commission, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

On March 13, 2000, Gentry was served with a letter informing him that the \$10,000 surety bond he maintained was inadequate, and that a \$75,000 surety bond or bond equivalent was required to secure the performance of his livestock obligations. Gentry continued to engage in the business of a market agency and dealer without proper bonding.

Gentry has 20 days after receiving the complaint to file a response to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. Alternatively, Gentry can file an answer to the complaint, deny the allegations, and request an oral hearing. If an administrative law judge determines that Gentry has violated the Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations, Gentry could be ordered to stop violating the Act, assessed a civil penalty, and/or suspended as a registrant (i.e. ordered to stop buying and selling livestock for a specified period of time.)

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