

News Release Archive

2008

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Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 01-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. GIPSA also is publishing a correction to a notice about opportunities for designation in Georgia, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Montana.

- GIPSA seeks comments about those who applied with the Agency to provide official services on GIPSA's behalf in Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. Particularly, GIPSA is seeking input about the Maryland Department of Agriculture, which applied to provide services in the State of Maryland; D. R. Schaal Agency, Inc., which applied to provide service in New Jersey and New York; and Kankakee Grain Inspection, Inc. and Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., both of which applied to provide services in Maryland, New Jersey and New York. Comments are due by March 17.
- In Dec. 2007, GIPSA sought new applicants, as well as applications from and comments about providers currently providing service in Georgia, Montana, and the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, area. The date the applications and comments were due was incorrectly listed as Jan. 2, 2009, instead of 2008. GIPSA is extending the comment and application period until February 25, 2008. The current providers are the Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia); Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., (Cedar Rapids); and the Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana).

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

#

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 04-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 3, 2008) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Arizona, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas.

- GIPSA is seeking applicants to provide official services, or comments about current service providers, in Aberdeen, South Dakota; Decatur, Illinois; Fulton, Illinois; Hastings, Nebraska; and Missouri and South Carolina areas. GIPSA is asking for applications and comments by April 2, 2008.
- GIPSA designated J. W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; California Agri Inspection Company, Ltd.; Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc.; Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; Enid Grain Inspection Company, Inc.; Farwell Commodity and Grain Services, Inc.; North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; Northern Plains Grain Inspection Service, Inc.; and Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc. to inspect or inspect and weigh grain from April 1, 2008, through March 31, 2011. For official grain inspection services, contact Barton at 270-683-0616, California Agri at 916-374-9700, Central Illinois at 309-827-7121, Central Iowa at 641-648-3467, Enid at 580-233-1121, Farwell Southwest at 520-421-1027, North Dakota at 701-293-7420, Northern Plains at 701-772-2414, and Plainview at 806-293-1364. The entities were designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

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

Dana Stewart
202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 05-08

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

GIPSA OFFICIAL DESIGNATION ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 26, 2008) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Iowa, Minnesota, and Texas. The entities will be designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

GIPSA is asking for comments on those who have applied to provide official services in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, area, which is comprised of northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and east Texas. The applicants are Gulf Country Inspection Service, Inc., which applied for the entire Cedar Rapids, Iowa area; South Texas Grain Inspection, LLC, which applied for the east Texas portion of the region; and Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., which applied for their current designation in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Comments are due by April 25, 2008.

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

Dana Stewart
202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 07-08

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

GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

Washington, DC, April 25, 2008 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet May 13-14, 2008, at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center, 30 South Seventh Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The meeting will take place from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on May 13, 2008, and 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on May 14, 2008.

The agenda will include discussions about the agency's financial status, the agency's work in assessing wheat functionality, the program that is capturing first-point-of sale grading quality data via the Farm Gate Quality assessments, the status of export services contracts, a collaborative inspector training program, international trade issues, centralization of oversight programs, and FGISonline, which is GIPSA's initiative to bring modernized business operations to the web better serve our customers.

The Advisory Committee provides advice to the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.). Information about the Committee is available on the GIPSA Web site (<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>), by selecting "Learn about the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee" in the "I Want To" section.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chair to orally address the Committee. The meeting will be open to the public. Requests to address the Committee at the meeting or in writing may be sent to: Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601, or faxed to (202) 690-2173.

For more information, and for those persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations, please contact Terri Henry, (202) 205-8281. FAX (202) 690-2173, or by e-mail Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov.



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 08-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 29, 2008) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. The following entities were designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

- GIPSA has designated the Maryland Department of Agriculture (Maryland) to inspect or inspect and weigh grain effective June 1, 2008, through June 30, 2010.
- GIPSA has amended the designated geographic area for D. R. Schaal Agency, Inc. (Schaal) to include the States of New Jersey and New York, except those export ports served by GIPSA.

For official grain inspection services, contact Maryland at 410-841-5769, and Schaal at 641-444-3122.

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

#

Dana Stewart
202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 09-08

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

GIPSA to Enact Changes to Sorghum Standards

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is reminding interested parties that revisions to the United States Standards for Sorghum become effective on June 1, 2008. The changes, which were promulgated in rulemaking on July 20, 2007, better describe the types of grain sorghum produced by American farmers and reduce the allowable levels of broken sorghum kernels and foreign material in the various quality grades of sorghum.

Specifically, the standards will be changed to:

- amend the definitions of the classes Sorghum, White sorghum, Tannin sorghum, and nongrain sorghum,
- adjust the grade limits for broken kernels and foreign material (BNFM), and the subfactor foreign material (FM),
- insert a total count limit for other material into the standards and revise the method for certifying test weight, and
- modify the inspection plan tolerances for BNFM and FM.

Nearly 50 percent of the grain sorghum produced by American farmers is exported around the world for use as food and animal feed. In many parts of the world sorghum is used in food products and various food items; porridge, unleavened bread, cookies, cakes, couscous, and malted beverages are made from this versatile grain. Domestically, sorghum is used primarily as animal feed with a lesser amount moving into food marketing channels and, more recently, into ethanol production.

According to GIPSA administrator James E. Link, the changes will promote the marketing of higher quality sorghum and facilitate both domestic and international grain sorghum trade.

For further information, contact Patrick McCluskey at (816) 823-4639.

Dana Stewart2
202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 10-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Texas and Washington.

GIPSA has designated the following entities to inspect and weigh grain based upon a comprehensive selection process. GIPSA designated the Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia); Montana Department of Agriculture (Montana) and Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc. (Mid-Iowa) to inspect or inspect and weigh grain effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011 for Georgia and Montana, and effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 for Mid-Iowa. GIPSA determined that no qualified applicants were available to provide service in the southeast Texas region.

GIPSA is seeking applicants to provide official services in Alabama; Essex, Ill.; Springfield, Ill.; Savage, Minn.; and Washington State areas and is requesting comments on the official agencies currently serving these areas. Applications and comments about the current service providers are due by July 1, 2008.

For official grain inspection services, contact Georgia at 229-386-3129; Montana at 406-452-9561; Mid-Iowa at 319-363-0239 and the GIPSA League City, Texas, Field Office at 281-338-2787.

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

#

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 147-08

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

USDA Names Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Members and Alternates

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the appointment of four members and three alternate members to serve on USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The appointees will serve 3-year terms.

The new members are: Thomas E. Bressner, general manager, Assumption Cooperative Grain Company, Assumption, Ill.; Bennie B. Lackey, Jr., management director of commodity operations, Riceland Foods, Inc., Stuttgart, Ark.; Marvin R. Paulsen, professor emeritus, University of Illinois; Urbana, Ill.; and Jon G. Stoner, president, Stoner and Sons, Inc., Havre, Mont.

The new alternate members are: Randall R. Deike, grain inspection program manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Olympia, Wash.; Cassie L. Eigenmann, marketing product manager/analytical laboratory, Auburn, Ill.; and Paul J. Lautenschlager, general manager, Beach Coop. Grain Company, Beach, N.D.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members and 15 alternate members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all facets of the grain industry.

The Committee meets twice annually to advise USDA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 01-08

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

Randall Jones Named GIPSA Deputy Administrator

WASHINGTON, July 8, 2008 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced Randall Jones as the new deputy administrator of the Agency's Federal Grain Inspection Service. Mr. Jones will serve in his new capacity effective July 20, 2008.

"We are delighted that Mr. Jones will be leading the national grain inspection and weighing program," said GIPSA Administrator James Link. "He brings to this critically important position proven leadership ability and expertise in programs that enhance trade in domestic and international markets."

The Federal Grain Inspection Service facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products by providing the market with the official U.S. quality standards and methods to assess product quality; maintaining the integrity of the U.S. grain marketing system and overseeing America's national inspection system, a network of third-party Federal, State and private providers that provide impartial, user-fee funded official inspection and weighing services.

Prior to joining GIPSA, Mr. Jones served as associate deputy administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Livestock and Seed Program. During his tenure, he oversaw research and promotion programs for beef, pork, lamb and soybeans; livestock and grain market reporting; domestic and foreign seed trade activities and quality management programs to market seed and meat products domestically and internationally. He also was directly involved in the development and implementation of a new research and promotion program for sorghum. Before his service with the Agricultural Marketing Service, Mr. Jones served more than 16 years in various management positions with the USDA Farm Service Agency and the former Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Mr. Jones received his Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. He is a native of Grayson County in southwest Virginia, where he grew up on a beef cattle and dairy farm. He now resides in Warrenton, Va., with his wife and daughter.

Mr. Jones replaces Mr. David Shipman, who left GIPSA earlier this year.



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

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

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

GIPSA Release #14-08
Dana Stewart
202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 15-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, September 2, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

The entities were designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process. GIPSA is seeking applicants to provide official services in Jamestown, North Dakota; Lincoln, Nebraska; Memphis, Tennessee; and Sioux City, Iowa areas, and requests comments about the official agencies currently serving these areas. Applications and comments are due by October 2, 2008.

GIPSA has designated Aberdeen Grain Inspection, Inc. (Aberdeen); Decatur Grain Inspection, Inc. (Decatur); Hastings Grain Inspection, Inc. (Hastings); John R. McCrea Agency, Inc. (McCrea); Missouri Department of Agriculture (Missouri); and South Carolina Department of Agriculture (South Carolina) to inspect or inspect and weigh grain effective October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2011. For official grain inspection services, contact Aberdeen at 605-225- 8432, Decatur at 217-429-2466, Hastings at 402-462-4254 McCrea at 815-589-9955 Missouri at 573-751-5515, and South Carolina at 843-296-7522.

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

#

Dana Stewart, 202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 18-08

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

GIPSA Seeking Members for Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

WASHINGTON (September 26, 2008) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. Nominations are being sought for six members and three alternates, all of whom will begin serving a three-year term beginning in April 2009.

The Advisory Committee meets twice annually to advise GIPSA on the programs and services it delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The Act requires that U.S. grain exports be inspected and weighed; prohibits deceptive practices and criminal acts with respect to the inspection and weighing of grain; and provides penalties for violations. Recommendations by the Advisory Committee help GIPSA better meet the needs of its customers who operate in a dynamic and changing marketplace. The Committee is comprised of 15 members and 15 alternate members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all facets of the U.S. grain industry.

Members of the Advisory Committee serve without compensation, but 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.

GIPSA will consider nominations received by November 25, 2008. Interested individuals must complete nomination form AD-755. A list of current Advisory Committee members and other relevant information is available on GIPSA's website at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>. Under the section "I Want To?" select, "Learn about the Advisory Committee."

For more information, contact Terri Henry, GIPSA, at 202-205-8281 or via email at Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov.

A notice to solicit nominees was published in the September 26, 2008, Federal Register.

Dana Stewart, 202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 16-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON (September 29, 2008) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Northeast Texas. Entities are designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

GIPSA is providing services in part of Texas on an interim basis. GIPSA is asking persons interested in providing official services in all or part of the unassigned areas of Texas to submit an application for designation.

The area being considered for assignment to the applicant or applicants selected for designation in Texas is as follows: bounded on the north by the northern Young, Jack, Montague, Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River, Morris, and Marion County lines east to the Texas State line; bounded on the east by the eastern Texas State line south to the southern Shelby County line; bounded on the south by the southern Shelby, Rusk, Smith, Henderson, Navarro, Hill, Bosque, Hamilton, and Mills County lines west to the western Mills county line; bounded on the west by the western Mills, Comanche, Eastland, Stephens, and Young County lines north to the northern Young County line.

GIPSA is asking for applications by October 29, 2008.

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

#

Dana Stewart, 202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 20-08

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

GIPSA Withdraws Notice of Soybean Standards Review

Washington, DC (Oct. 21, 2008)- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today withdrew its advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR), which sought public comment on the effectiveness of the soybean standards. The ANPR was part of GIPSA's review of the United States Standards for Soybeans to assess their effectiveness and responsiveness to current grain industry needs.

On May 1, 2007, GIPSA published an ANPR seeking input on current standards and grading procedures, whether changes in soybean processing practices and technology merited changes in the standards, and whether any other changes were needed to ensure that the standards remain relevant to market needs. In response to a request from the soybean industry, GIPSA extended the comment period an additional 30 days until August 20, 2007.

GIPSA received 17 comments from producers, handlers, international associations and companies, and academia. Comments did not indicate a consensus concerning changes to the standards, so GIPSA will not proceed with rulemaking in this matter.

For further information, contact Ross Heiman at telephone (816) 823-2580 or e-mail Ross.D.Heiman@usda.gov.
Dana Stewart, 202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 19-08

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

GIPSA Withdraws Notice Regarding Standardization Programs for Ethanol

Washington, DC (Oct. 21, 2008) - The UDSA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today withdrew its advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) on the government's appropriate role in differentiating grain attributes for ethanol conversion, as well as standardizing the testing of co-products of ethanol production.

GIPSA published an ANPR seeking comments on these issues on July 20, 2007; the extended comment period closed December 4, 2007.

GIPSA received 29 comments from individuals and organizations across the marketing chain. Commenters overwhelmingly concurred that GIPSA should not play a role in standardizing the testing of ethanol inputs and outputs.

Accordingly, GIPSA will not initiate any rulemaking action at this time related to the matters presented in the ANPR.

For further information, contact Ross Heiman at telephone (816) 823-2580 or e-mail Ross.D.Heiman@usda.gov.

Dana Stewart, 202-720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 21-08

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

GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

Washington, DC (Nov. 24, 2008) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet Dec. 16 and 17, 2008, in Kansas City, Mo.

This advisory committee, which has members that represent all facets of U.S. grain marketing, is charged with providing advice to the administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration on implementing the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.). There is more information about this advisory committee on GIPSA's web site. Click the section "I Want To?" and then select "Learn about the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee."

The December meeting agenda will include a review of GIPSA's grain inspection program operations, international programs, technical training programs, sorghum odor line validation, research and technology, the use of contracts for export service provision, and implementation of Quality Management Programs in the official inspection and weighing system.

The committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 16 and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW, 112th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64153.

This meeting is open to the public. Public participation is limited to written statements. However the public can ask to speak to the committee in person. Send requests to address the committee or comments to: Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3601, Washington, DC 20250-3601. Requests and comments may also be faxed to (202) 690-2173.

For more information, or if you have a disability that requires alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations, contact Terri Henry, telephone (202) 205-8281, email terri.l.henry@usda.gov, or fax (202) 690-2173.



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 22-08

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

GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, DC (December 1, 2008) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces the following actions on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Entities are designated to inspect and weigh grains based upon a comprehensive selection process.

GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Topeka, Kansas; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Minot, North Dakota; and Cincinnati, Ohio areas, and requests comments on the official agencies serving these areas. Applications and comments are due by January 2, 2009.

GIPSA also is requesting comments in support of or objection to the applicants seeking official designation to provide services in the unassigned areas of east Texas. The applicants are Central Illinois Grain Inspection doing business as Lone Star Grain Inspection and Gulf Country Inspection Service, Inc. Comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before December 31, 2009.

GIPSA has designated Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama); Kankakee Grain Inspection, Inc. (Kankakee); Springfield Grain Inspection, Inc. (Springfield); State Grain Inspection, Inc. (State Grain) and Washington Department of Agriculture (Washington) to inspect or inspect and weigh grain effective January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2011. For official grain inspection services, contact Alabama at 251-438-2549, Kankakee at 815-365-2268, Springfield at 217-522-5233, State Grain at 952-808-8566 and Washington at 360-753-1484.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail Virginia.V.Roseberry@usda.gov
Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091



Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 03-08

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

USDA Proposes to Amend Four Existing Scales and Weighing Regulations

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

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

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

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

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



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Stockyards Administration
STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
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Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 02-08

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

USDA Proposes to Add “Swine Contractors” to the List of Regulated Entities

WASHINGTON, February 28, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) proposes adding “swine contractors” to the list of regulated entities subject to specific regulations under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

GIPSA’s proposed rule prohibits regulated entities from circulating misleading reports about market conditions or prices. The proposal would amend regulations that address inspection of business records and facilities, information that regulated entities are required to share with the Secretary of Agriculture, and USDA’s responsibility to refrain from unauthorized disclosure of that information. The goal of these regulations is to assure fairness in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.

Adding swine contractors to specific regulations under the P&S Act will assist swine contractors (those who obtain swine under a swine production contract for the purpose of slaughtering the swine or selling the swine for slaughter, if the swine is obtained in commerce or if the swine or swine products obtained are sold or shipped in commerce) and swine production contract growers (those engaged in the business of raising and caring for swine in accordance with the instructions of another person) with determining which regulations apply to them. GIPSA already has the authority to enforce provisions of the P&S Act that apply to swine contractors.

However, swine contractors, or the swine production contract growers who produce swine for them, may not know that the specified regulations also apply to swine contractors. The proposed amendments to the regulations will clarify that the specified regulations do apply to swine contractors.

It will also allow GIPSA to better enforce the provisions of the P&S Act and regulations. Swine contractors who understand that they are subject to the provisions of the P&S Act and regulations are more likely to voluntarily comply with the prohibition from circulating



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Contact:

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

misleading reports about market conditions or prices, with GIPSA's requests for access to inspect business records and facilities, and to share information with the Secretary of Agriculture, knowing that USDA must refrain from unauthorized disclosure of that information.

The proposed rule was published in the February 8, Federal Register. GIPSA is accepting public comments received by April 8, 2008. Additional information is available in GIPSA's Federal Register notice.

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Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 06-08

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

USDA Alleges Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, LLC, Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2008 - On April 7, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration filed a complaint against Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, LLC, of Arkansas City, Kansas. The complaint alleges that Creekstone operated while insolvent. Under the Packers and Stockyards Act, Creekstone must maintain a solvent financial condition. Solvency is defined as current liabilities exceeding current assets.

Creekstone buys and sells livestock in commerce for slaughter. It also manufactures and prepares meat and meat food products for sale or shipment in commerce.

If the allegations in the GIPSA complaint are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Creekstone could be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Act and assessed a civil penalty.

GIPSA ensures payment protection for livestock and poultry sellers by maintaining standards of financial stability for those engaged in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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1400 Independence Ave., SW
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News Release

Release No.: 12-08

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

Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, LLC Settles USDA Complaint Regarding Financial Condition

WASHINGTON, June 12, 2008 - On May 30, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, LLC (Creekstone), Arkansas City, Kan. The decision resolves a complaint GIPSA filed against Creekstone on April 7, 2008, in which GIPSA alleged that Creekstone's current liabilities exceeded its current assets, and it was therefore operating in violation of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

According to findings in the consent decision, Creekstone was engaged in the business of a packer from Dec. 31, 2006 through Aug. 26, 2007, and to the present, notwithstanding the fact that its current liabilities exceed its current assets. Creekstone must cease and desist from purchasing livestock while its financial condition does not meet the requirements of the P&S Act unless it pays the full purchase price for livestock at the time of the purchase in United States currency, by certified check, by wire transfer or in accordance with the payment provisions outlined in a separate understanding regarding the consent decision. The cease and desist order remains in effect until Creekstone shows GIPSA that its current assets exceed its current liabilities.

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News Release

Release No.: 13-08

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

Information on Regulated Entities Now Available on Web

WASHINGTON, June 23, 2008 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration recently posted on its website information on regulated entities operating subject to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. The site, located at www.gipsa.usda.gov, now contains information on:

- registered and bonded market agencies selling livestock on commission;
- registered and bonded market agencies buying on commission and dealers;
- bonded packers; and
- live poultry dealers.

Under the Act, dealers, market agencies and certain packers are required to maintain a bond. Bonded packers and live poultry dealers are subject to the statutory trust provisions under the Act.

This information is being made available to assist the public in making decisions when doing business with regulated entities. The posted information includes the name, address and telephone number of the regulated entities and their current bond coverage, if any.

For more information about the information in these lists, contact a GIPSA Packers and Stockyards Program regional office in Atlanta, Ga. (404-562-5840), Denver, Co. (303-375-4240) or Des Moines, Ia. (515-323-2579).

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News Release

Release No.: 17-08

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

USDA Schedules 3 Public Meetings to Discuss Impact of 2008 Farm Bill on Swine and Poultry Industries

WASHINGTON, October 1, 2008 - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today said it will hold three Town Hall meetings on implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill where members of the public can provide comments and recommendations related to the swine and poultry industries.

GIPSA will use comments and recommendations gathered at these meetings to write the regulations needed to implement sections 11005 and 11006 of the 2008 Farm Bill. Attendees should be prepared to discuss the specific provisions, the problems Congress means to address through the Farm Bill, and possible regulatory solutions that would correct those problems. Attendees are requested to discuss potential benefits and costs of their recommendations as well.

The meetings will be in Arkansas, Iowa, and Georgia, and will run from 6 to 8 p.m. each day. Dates and locations are:

Oct. 14, 2008
Crawford County Cooperative Extension Office,
105 Pointer Trail West
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956

Oct. 16, 2008
Iowa State University Scheman Building,
Room 275
1810 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010



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News Release

Contact:

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

Oct. 22, 2008
Hall County FSA Building
734 East Crescent Drive
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, you can comment via an audio bridge by calling 877-950-5739; the participant pass code is 6969173#. During the meeting, you can send questions or comments to Jeana.M.Harbison@usda.gov.

If you are hearing or visually impaired, or have a condition that requires special assistance, please notify Ms. Harbison by Oct. 9. Ms. Harbison's contact information is: Jeana Harbison, Legal Specialist, Policy and Litigation Division, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-3646; e-mail Jeana.M.Harbison@usda.gov; phone (202)720-7363; or fax (202)690-3207.



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STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
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News Release

Release No.: 23-08

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

USDA Schedules Public Meeting on Livestock and Poultry Growers Trust Provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, December 9, 2008 - USDA's Grain, Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced that it will hold a public meeting to inform livestock or poultry producers who have done business with Agriprocessors Inc. of their rights under the livestock and poultry growers trust provisions of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

GIPSA will provide information and forms necessary for filing claims on payments due by Agriprocessors and for filing a claim under the livestock and poultry grower's trust provisions of the P&S Act. Officials will also answer questions regarding claim processing.

Agriprocessors filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on November 4, 2008, in the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York. Livestock sellers and poultry grower's rights may be affected by the bankruptcy proceedings.

The USDA/GIPSA meeting to provide information and answer questions will be in Dubuque, Iowa, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The date and location is:

Dec. 15, 2008
Grand Harbor Resort's Platinum A Room
350 Bell Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

All of those with questions about the claim process are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can participate via an audio bridge by calling 877- 812-4788, the participant pass code is 8645405. During the meeting you can send questions or comments to Gregory.A.Andrews@usda.gov.

If you are hearing and visually impaired, or have a condition that requires special assistance, please notify Mr. Andrews by Dec. 12. Mr. Andrews' contact information is: Greg Andrews,



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STOP 3601
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Contact:

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

Legal Specialist, Midwestern Regional Office, Packers and Stockyards Program, United States Department of Agriculture, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2110; e-mail Gregory.A.Andrews@usda.gov; phone (515) 323-2579; or fax (515) 323-2590.



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STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
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Web: www.gipsa.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 28-08

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

USDA Proposes to Require Five-Year Terms for Registration

WASHINGTON, December 24, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) proposes to amend the regulations under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act regarding the registration of market agencies and dealers. Under the proposed rule, persons registered as dealers or market agencies under the P&S Act would be registered for five-year terms. Upon expiration of the five-year term, registrants would be required to renew their registration. Under the proposed regulation, a registration that is not renewed timely would expire after five years.

The proposed rule will allow GIPSA to maintain more accurate records and be more effective and efficient in enforcing the P&S Act. When applying for registration, the applicant must certify that its financial condition meets the P&S Act's requirements, list its type of business organization, whether it will operate on a calendar year or fiscal year basis, and identify the character of its business and the species of livestock it will handle. Under current regulations, if a registration is granted it is effective indefinitely. Requiring registration renewal would give GIPSA periodic updates on whether entities are still operating and the type of operation being conducted. This will enable GIPSA to better manage the oversight of its pool of regulated entities.

The proposed rule was published in the December 16, 2008 Federal Register. GIPSA is accepting public comments received by February 17, 2009. Additional information is available in GIPSA's Federal Register notice (archive.gipsa.usda.gov/GIPSA/webapp?area=home&subject=lr&topic=gfr).

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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.