

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee  
Report

TO: Richard Yarnall  
Library of Congress

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) advises the Secretary on various important issues affecting GIPSA operations and the official grain inspection and weighing system. In FY 2011, the Advisory Committee met on November 17-18, 2010, in New Orleans, LA, and June 21-22, 2011 in Kansas City, MO.

At the November meeting, GIPSA provided updates to the members on the resolutions from the June 2010 meeting; gave a general overview of FGIS operations for the last few months focusing on services in Canada, corn-soy blend testing, and a market overview; provided an update on discrepancies (complaints), the Korean Corn Sampling Project, the China Soybean Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), an update on China's corn imports, Egypt's wheat import standards change, Egypt's corn complaints, and the preliminary results of the Wheat Weed Survey; provided a briefing on the 15,000 metric ton Waiver Program in response to a resolution adopted at the June 16-17, 2010, meeting of the Advisory Committee that asked GIPSA to review the program "for possible regulatory compliance issues with respect to container shipments; provided information on Corn Grading Review-Domestic and Export; an update on the construction of the National Grain Center in Kansas City, MO; provided information on FGIS' plans with regards to pursuing new moisture measurement technology to be implemented into the Official Inspection System; provided information on FGIS' implementation of the revised Rapid Test Evaluation Program; reported that a Quality Management Program for the Board of Appeals and Review and the Grading Services Laboratory has been approved by FGIS' Compliance Division; reported that FGIS completed the Yamamoto Sheller Study in July 2010; reported on FGIS' processed commodities testing program, including the Retest and Appeal process; provided an overview on the Agency's appropriated and user fee funding; explained the current structure of export tonnage fees; provided a briefing on GIPSA's plans to issue a directive setting forth the Agency's policies implementing its Exception Program; and reported to the Advisory Committee on the Sorghum Odor Study.

At the June meeting, GIPSA provided updates to the members on the resolutions from the November 2010 meeting; gave an overview of FGIS operations to date which included the recent flooding in New Orleans and Mississippi; a briefing was provided on international issues; an overview was provided on the roles, staffing, and responsibilities of the Quality Assurance and Compliance Division, including the status of the integration of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Staff into the renamed Quality Assurance and Designation Branch. This also included providing a summary of the findings for the Agency's Contract Review Program in which GIPSA sampled the contracts relating to vessel, rail, and container export shipments for conformance with the U.S. Grain Standards Act and associated regulations, directives, and policies. GIPSA provided a historical overview on how mechanical samplers, in particular, the Diverter-Type (D/T) sampler came to existence; an update on FGIS' implementation of the revised Rapid Test Evaluation Program; an overview of wheat functionality research initiatives including, Farinograph standardization, varietal identification for classification assistance, and gluten quality assessment. Also provided a briefing on export tonnage and grain inspection and weighing program (520) fees and proposed the following changes beginning in 2013:

- Reduce the national administrative tonnage fee based on a reallocation of workers compensation from the national to the local field office level.
- Modify local administrative tonnage fees based on updated field office costs, tonnages, and a reallocation of workers compensation from the national to the local field office level.

- Levy designated agencies and delegated states the national administrative tonnage fee in lieu of the current \$0.011/metric ton fee on all export inspections

GIPSA intends to publish a proposed rule in the near future and implement the changes October 1, 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri L. Henry".

Terri L. Henry  
Designated Federal Official  
Grain Inspection Advisory Committee