

GIPSA ANPR on Ethanol/Distillers Grains

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register on July 20, 2007, inviting comments from interested persons regarding the appropriate government role in differentiating grain attributes for ethanol conversion, as well as standardizing the testing of co-products of ethanol production. The initial comment period closed on September 18, 2007, but due to a request from the National Grain and Feed Association, the closing date for comments was extended through December 4, 2007, as published in the Federal Register.

GIPSA received 29 comments from individuals and organizations across the marketing chain. Overall, respondents do not want GIPSA to assist in the revision of existing definitions for ethanol co-products, establish standards for the co-products, or offer standardized tests for grain going into ethanol production or the resulting co-products, with one exception. Some commenter's recommended that GIPSA's expertise in verifying the performance of commercial test kits might be applied to the marketing of the co-products. Respondents presented an overriding theme that the perceived needs of the ethanol industry will be best met by the various industry participants. One final observation was a recurring comment that the ethanol industry is relatively young, and because of this youth, GIPSA involvement (i.e., standardizing testing of ethanol inputs and outputs) may hinder its progress.

With such agreement among respondents that GIPSA should play a very limited role in standardizing the testing of ethanol inputs and outputs, the Agency will not initiate any rulemaking action related to the matters presented in the ANPR.

GIPSA will continue to monitor developments and remain actively engaged with the ethanol and co-products markets and will support the industry, as appropriate, in its efforts to successfully market ethanol co-products.

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