

## **GIPSA ANPR on Soybean Standards**

In 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register seeking public comment on the effectiveness of the soybean standards. GIPSA asked for input on factors used in the 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. The comments we received did not indicate a consensus on needed changes to the standards, so we are withdrawing the rulemaking and taking no action at this time.

The one issue that merits further review is amending grading limits for soybean foreign material (FM). Based on the lack of consensus and, at times, conflicting information provided by some commenters, GIPSA has determined that we need to enhance our understanding of the soybean marketing/processing system and collect additional data about the quality of soybeans. GIPSA will use data from its ongoing 5-year farm-gate assessment before considering further rulemaking related to FM grading limits. The assessment will provide first-point-of-sale data related to soybean FM content and composition across the United States, providing an FM range that can be used to formulate new FM grade limits, if appropriate.

Last updated 07/15/2008