

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 2012, the Advisory Committee met on December 6-7, 2011, in Portland, OR.

At the December meeting, GIPSA provided updates to the members on the resolutions from the June 2010 meeting; gave a general overview of FGIS operations which included; a market overview; financial status of user-fee accounts; and financial status-appropriated funds.

Discussion on the Asia Collateral Duty Program, China-Soybean Memorandum of Understanding, and Mexico Outreach Program

GIPSA provided a status of the Grain Surveys which included Sorghum Farm Gate and Soybean Farm Gate. Also briefed the Advisory Committee on Soybean Export, Wheat Export Cargo Sampling Project-Weed Seed Analysis, Japan Wheat and Barley Residue, U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), Export Soybean Residue, and U.S. Grains Council Export Corn Quality.

Updated the Advisory Committee on importer complaints, program on Reconditioning Grain to Reduce Aflatoxin, and Drop Sample Test Update. Discussed several Grain initiatives which included; Improve Customer Experience-Using the Lean Six Sigma, Focus on Quality Assurance/Management Program; updates on inspection methods; and density effects on corn.

During the discussion portion of the meeting, the following recommendations were made:

1. The Advisory Committee recommended that GIPSA continues to hold these meetings twice a year to stay abreast of resolutions submitted by committee members.
2. The Advisory Committee recommended that GIPSA expedite the formation and release of reports from the Quality Assurance Control (QAC) program to the official agencies. The development of these QAC reports should incorporate feedback from the official agencies.
3. The Advisory Committee recommended that GIPSA consider the confusion and uncertainty for market participants if there was a change in the current market moisture reference. Potential changes in the moisture reference should be avoided. The only reference method the Advisory Committee would support for global harmonization would be the one currently utilized in the United States.
4. The Advisory Committee recommended the implementation of the 149 MHZ technology for moisture measurement in August 2012 for fall harvest grains.

GIPSA should also work with industry to transition from the GAC 2100 to the 149 MHZ technology to aid in stakeholder needs.

5. The Advisory Committee recommended that GIPSA perform a comprehensive review of all inspection fees associated with processed commodities and containers, including but not limited to users fees, oversight, and those collected to ensure the charges are equitable in comparison with these same fees on bulk grain.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Cope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" and the last name "Cope" clearly distinguishable.

Jerry Cope  
Chairperson

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee  
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration