



SUBJECT: Exchange of Export Information between the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Federal Grain Inspection Service

In a recent audit of the Export Sales Reporting (ESR) program administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) recommended the development of a formal agreement for the exchange of information between FAS and the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) for comparison and reconciliation of export data.

Information on exports reported by U. S. agricultural exporters to ESR and inspections for export reported to FGIS, Export Grain Information System (EGIS) in Washington by field office personnel has been exchanged under an informal agreement since 1985. The data compiled by both organizations are published weekly and widely disseminated to the public and are used as a benchmark for commodity analysis. The accuracy of the published data has significantly improved as corrections have been made following the identification of errors in reporting of commodity, class, quantity and destination, as well as duplications and omissions not apparent through normal independent procedures.

The following examples of recent reporting adjustments graphically demonstrate the value--both to FAS and FGIS--of the continued mutual exchange of detailed export information in the evaluation and verification of reported data.

ESR data - the addition of unreported shipments of 11,228 MT of sorghum and 17,254 MT of corn to Israel on the "Sampson"; the correction of the destination from Belgium to the Netherlands for a shipment of 12,389 MT of soybeans on the "Tenoch"; and the elimination of duplicate reporting for a shipment of 54,478 MT of corn to Japan on the "Olga Topic".

FGIS data - the addition of a shipment of 26,385 MT of white wheat to the Philippines on the "Elena", which was apparently omitted from field office reports; the addition of 8,534 MT of sorghum to Japan on the "Ocean Pearl" to the 46,938 MT of corn shown as shipped to Japan on this vessel; and the correction of the destination from Japan to Spain for a shipment of 56,598 MT of soybeans on the "Atlantic Sailor".

FGIS agrees to provide ESR access to the following on-line EGIS report files:

1. Grains Inspected and/or Weighed for Export - 1000 Bushels.
2. Soybeans Inspected and/or Weighed for Export by Port Area and Country of Destination - 1000 Bushels.
3. Grains Inspected and/or Weighed for Export to USSR and China (Mainland) - 1000 Bushels.
4. Wheat Inspection for Export by Class and Region - 1000 Bushels.
5. Grains Inspected and/or Weighed for Export by Region and Port Area - 1000 Bushels.
6. Grains Inspected and/or Weighed for Export by Country of Destination - 1000 Bushels.
7. Grains Inspected and/or Weighed for Export Detailed Listing.
8. Late Shipment Report.
9. Corrections to Previous Publications.
10. Weekly file of EGIS shipment records.
11. Grains by class and destination for fiscal year, calendar year, or marketing year to date.

In support of electronic access FGIS will provide FAS with a logon-ID, account and user passwords, the necessary logon procedures, and the access privileges that will give FAS the capability to transfer reports and data files from EGIS to FAS computers.

ESR will compare the EGIS weekly data with data reported under the Export Sales program and advise FGIS promptly of significant discrepancies in commodity, class, quantity, destination, and load port. FAS will also inform FGIS of shipments reported to ESR which are not included in the EGIS weekly summary. ESR will provide a monthly listing of differences for reconciliation. All individual data considered confidential by either agency shall be held in confidence and used only to verify the accuracy of reported data unless another use is specifically authorized by the originating agency. ESR will also continue to work closely with FGIS providing information on export trends, shipping patterns and market information.

APPROVED FOR FAS:


 Duane Acker, Administrator
 Foreign Agricultural Service

DATE: 5-7-91

APPROVED FOR FGIS:


 John C. Foltz, Administrator
 Federal Grain Inspection Service

DATE: 5/14/91