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Programs

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

Meeting Minutes Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

July 15-16, 2014
National Grain Center
Kansas City, Missouri

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WELCOME

Larry Mitchell, Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided background information and introductions to the new members.

Gary Woodward, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Program, gave opening remarks that included information on his career. Mr. Woodward said that our mission is to provide customer service and that receiving feedback from our customers helps us to provide better customer service.

Tammy Basel, Chairperson, Advisory Committee, welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made.

ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE 18-19, 2013, MEETING MINUTES

The Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the June 18-19, 2013, meeting as presented.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JULY 15-16, 2014, AGENDA

The Advisory Committee approved the July 15-16, 2014, agenda, with a change to one presenter.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Advisory Committee Members

Scott E. Averhoff, Owner/Operator, Scott Averhoff dba SARA Farms
Tammy Basel, Past President, Women Involved in Farm Economics
Janice Cooper, Executive Director, California Wheat Commission
Omar Garza, Special Project Coordinator, University of Texas, Pan American
Arvid Hawk, President, Global Agricultural Consulting, LCC
Kent McAninch, Owner/Operator
Marvin R. Paulsen, retired Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois
Cesar Ramirez, Manager, Gavilon Grain LLC
Maria Reinitz, Manager, Gavilon, LLC
Todd E. Russom, Manager, Anheuser-Busch InBev
Jessica L. Wilcox, Farmer/Crop Insurance Agent, Wilcox Farms

GIPSA

Brian Adam, Chair, Board of Appeals and Review, Technology and Science Division (TSD), Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), GIPSA
Mary Coffey Alonzo, Director, TSD, FGIS, GIPSA
Tandace Bell, Branch Chief, Biotechnology and Analytical Services Branch, TSD, FGIS, GIPSA
Cathy Brenner, Inspection Instrumentation Branch, TSD, FGIS, GIPSA

Rob Dorman, Policies, Procedures and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB), Field Management
Division (FMD), FGIS, GIPSA
David Funk, Chief Scientist, TSD, FGIS, GIPSA
Joe Han, PPMAB, FMD, FGIS, GIPSA
Terri Henry, Management Services Staff, GIPSA
Eric Jabs, Branch Chief, Quality Assurance and Designation Branch (QADB), Quality Assurance
and Compliance Division (QACD), FGIS, GIPSA
Randall Jones, Deputy Administrator, FGIS, GIPSA
Kendra Kline, Assistant to the Deputy Administrator, FGIS, GIPSA
Pat McCluskey, Branch Chief, PPMAB, FMD, FGIS, GIPSA
Larry Mitchell, Administrator, GIPSA
Tim Norden, Chief, Analytical Chemistry Branch, TSD, FGIS, GIPSA
Byron Reilly, Acting Director, Departmental Initiatives and International Affairs, FGIS,
GIPSA
Samantha Simon, Director, QACD, FGIS, GIPSA

Other Attendees

Dave Ayers, Champaign Grain Catherine Bouchard, Cargill Sarah Bowser, Sorghum
Checkoff Nick Friant, Cargill
Jess McClure, National Grain and Feed Association Tom Meyer, Kansas Grain
Inspection Service

ETHICS

Ms. Henry gave a brief overview of Federal Ethics as they pertain to Federal Employees which includes members of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The overview covered: acceptance of gifts, prohibited sources, gifts between coworkers and supervisors, and the use of government property and time allowed and not allowed.

MARKET UPDATE

Mr. Jones gave an overview of FGIS operations.

The year 2013/14 export inspection tonnage is on the rebound after last year's lows. Currently the total tonnage is approximately 60 percent greater than this time last year. If this rate continues the year-end total tonnage will be second only to 2007-08. The increase in the total export inspections is primarily due to the rebound in corn production and exports. The 2013 corn crop production was reported at 13.9 billion bu. and resupplied the market from 2012 drought which was reported at 10.8 billion bu. At this point in time within market year corn export inspections are 159 percent greater than Market Year 2012/13.

China continues to be the driving force in soybean exports. In Market Year 2013/14 the U.S. has exported more soybeans to China than any other year, nearly 8 percent more than China's old record in 2011. Wheat export levels are slightly above last year and the 5-year average. Sorghum export inspections are 139 percent higher than last year and substantially higher than the 5-year average. The large increase is primarily due to China becoming a big buyer. China's purchases make up nearly 74 percent of all sorghum exports.

FGIS Export Locations:

1. New Orleans –

- Total volumes for 2014 are 35 percent above last year and 22 percent above the 5-year average.

2. League City –

- Total volumes for 2014 are 27 percent above last year but 3.5 percent below the 5-year average.

3. Portland –

- Total volumes for 2014 are 25 percent above last year and 3.5 percent above the 5-year average.

4. Toledo –

- Total volumes for 2014 are 23 percent above last year and 30 percent above the 5-year average.

5. State of Washington -

- Total volumes for 2014 are 25 percent above last year and 14 percent above the 5-year average.

Domestic inspections are voluntary and primarily performed by Official Agencies (OA). Inspections are stable, pulse inspections are slightly better than last year. Exports are still driving the pea and lentil trade. Vegetable and Pulse production is projected to increase a .5 percent annually over the next decade. Rice inspections are very consistent over the last few years but expected to be slightly better than last year. This year's containerized grain inspections are slightly above last year and 5-year average.

Many are predicting that the number of bushels used for ethanol production will remain strong for crop year 2014/15 due to the recent dramatic decrease in corn prices. With these cheaper prices it has allowed ethanol production margins to range from 50 to 70 cents per gallon, or \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bushel. Because of the fantastic corn export year and the large 2013/2014 crop the percent of corn production that has went to make ethanol has decreased even though the bushels used for ethanol have increased.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Reilly provided a briefing on several international trade and outreach initiatives. Several are an update to issues discussed at the last meeting, but several are new. Briefings included the LibertyLink (LL) Rice issue, the U.S. China joint Soybean Vessel Comparison Study, Quality Complaints, Mexico detaining U.S. rail shipments, and China rejecting U.S. corn shipments.

LibertyLink (LL) Rice

Since the 2006 discovery of the inadvertent release of LL Rice in U.S. commercial rice channels, many of our buyers required pre-shipment testing for LL RICE. Commercial testing continued for 8 years, and according to the rice industry, the last positive detection was in 2008. In 2014, FGIS notified our customers that we had discontinued LL RICE testing in our Proficiency Study. On April 1, 2014, we begin issuing the letterhead statement: "There are no transgenic rice varieties for sale or in commercial production in the United States at this time." On July 1, 2014, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) ended their requirement for pre- testing U.S. rice for the presence of LL Rice. Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) discontinued their pre-shipment testing in April 2014. For Russia to lift their ban on U.S. rice, they want to visit the U.S. to verify its disappearance. FGIS sent a letter back to Russia with supporting industry data, suggesting a site visit is not necessary.

Mexico Detains Rail Shipments

Since late 2013, SENASICA (Mexican Quarantine officials) in Piedras Negras and Nuevo Laredo have been detaining U.S. rail shipments of grain, oilseeds, and pulses for days up to weeks, due to the presence of soil in the grain. SENASICA found the largest number of soil clods in edible bean and lentil trains followed by soybeans and other grains. SENASICA has a phytosanitary law that establishes a zero tolerance for soil in commodities imported into Mexico. Unit trains are being detained, disrupting trade and costing exporters \$100,000s in demurrage costs. In March 2014, FGIS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) met with SENASICA officials in Mexico to discuss the issue. They showed us samples of small dirt clods they were finding. SENASICA accompanied the USDA team to tour FGIS' National Grain Center. They also witnessed a corn train destined for Mexico loading in Kansas, and met with U.S. grain industry representatives. APHIS plans to continue discussions with SENASICA to find a solution to this issue.

China Rejects U.S. Corn Shipments

Syngenta's MIR 162 biotech corn event has been deregulated and commercialized in the U.S., but has not been approved in China. MIR 162 is still undergoing China's slow approval process and has a zero tolerance for unapproved events. Until such time that MIR 162 gains regulatory approval in China, they will continue rejecting any corn shipments testing positive for the MIR 162 event. This has caused huge and costly trade disruption for U.S. exporters. Even if China approves MIR 162 soon, problems may continue next crop year because Syngenta plans to commercialize Duracade, another

transgenic corn event that has been deregulated in the U. S. but not China. A longer term issue is that China's regulatory framework precludes any tolerance for unapproved biotech events, even if they are approved in the country of export. China samples and tests according to protocols unknown to USDA, and rejects corn with any positive detection.

China – Soybean Vessel Comparison Study

In May 2014, representatives from FGIS and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) traveled to Beijing, China, to discuss the U.S./China Joint Soybean Vessel Comparison Study with China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine AQSIQ. They agreed to continue the vessel comparison study (VCS) this coming shipping season. To allow enough time to sample two soybean ships, we asked if they could extend their stay in the United States. FAS is waiting for their reply. Realizing that our definitions of foreign material (FM) differ, we agreed to conduct a study on FM as well as a study comparing our grain probe to the Chinese probe and how it may affect factor results. The U.S. team then traveled to several Chinese ports to observe their sampling methods and visit their inspection laboratories. Their labs were modern and very impressive. The lab in Guangzhou is their National Provincial Lab where they conduct their research and development and training activities.

Quality Complaints

In 2011, GIPSA received 12 quality complaints. Egypt filed complaints on five corn shipments due to damaged kernels and China filed complaints on five soybean shipments due to treated seeds.

In FY 2012, GIPSA received only five complaints, two complaints involving three shipments to China alleged to contain treated seeds. These complaints accounted for 0.2 percent by weight of all the grain exported from the United States in FY 2012.

In FY 2013, GIPSA received only received one quality complaint on damaged soybeans to China. This accounted for less than 0.01 percent of all the grain exported from the U.S. in FY 2013.

FIELD MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Mr. Goodeman briefed the Advisory Committee on a number of FMD issues.

FMD Overview

A brief overview of the functions and current staffing of FMD was given as the "service delivery" arm of FGIS. FMD performs original inspection and weighing service through a network of 8 Field Offices with over 400 full-time and part-time samplers, technicians, inspectors, and supervisors. FMD operates a network of Field Offices located in New Orleans, LA; League City, TX; Stuttgart, AR; Grand Forks, ND; Toledo, OH; Portland, OR; Olympia, WA; and the Domestic Inspections Operations Office (DIOO), Kansas City, MO. FMD also writes instructions and promulgates regulations for the grain inspection program through the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch.

Pacific Northwest Labor Issues

FMD provided an update on the current situation in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). Two export grain elevators are involved in a dispute with a labor union, and picket lines have been established at two facilities.

Fall Protection and Safety

An overview of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) citation and new FGIS Program Directive addressing Rolling Stock Fall Protection was provided. The Directive stipulates that fall protection must be used if available, however GIPSA would continue to sample without fall protection if not available. It is now mandatory that all employees working in the field be trained in fall safety protection. The Directive release is pending.

Laboratory Modernization Project

Many of the inspection labs are over 30 years old and not adequate. Industry is working with FGIS on new lab spaces. Multiple labs are being redesigned or relocated to comply with FGIS Directive 9160.5, Official Inspection Laboratory Location, Design and Maintenance Requirements. In 2013, FGIS opened a new state of the art lab at Louis Dreyfus in Port Allen, Louisiana. The lab is equipped with new equipment, an ergonomic layout, efficient lighting and other aesthetic improvements. New labs are also planned for Portland, OR and Lake Charles, LA. Each of these new labs will be outfitted with new design and equipment features to improve safety, comfort, efficiency, and ergonomics. FGIS' goal is to link inspections electronically and sync with quality control system; FGIS is currently conducting a study to use new technology to link equipment.

GRAIN STANDARDS AND MARKET NEEDS

Mr. McCluskey provided updates on rulemaking activities currently in the clearance process.

GIPSA is preparing two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking. "US Standards for Barley" has been cleared by the Office of the General Counsel and rests with the Department pending final clearance; "Fees for Commodity Inspection (Excluding Rice) Services and Processed Commodity Analytical Services" resides with the Office of the General Counsel, being reviewed for legal sufficiency.

GIPSA is preparing one Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, asking for comments on current services and focusing on distillers dried grains. The document resides with the Office of the General Counsel.

One final rule published in 2013 "US Standards for Wheat" became effective on May 1, 2014.

Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Asking for comment on current services, and focusing on DDG's, Services currently offered or needed to facilitate the marketing of grain and related products. The Notice will be open for a 90-comment period.

QUALITY INITIATIVE AND COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Ms. Simon provided an update on the QACD quality project.

Last year, QACD reported on a quality pilot being conducted on inspection accuracy. The pilot concluded on September 30, 2013, and based on the results, FGIS revised the inspector performance standards to better serve as a quality measurement tool to evaluate certificate and inspection accuracy. Under the revised standards, one randomly selected sample of grain for each inspector for each week during which the inspector has performed inspection work is graded by the local Quality Assurance Specialist (QAS) for critical factors as defined for each field office. Inspection accuracy data from the first 3 months since rollout shows a national average of 95.5 percent factor accuracy from 1,478 samples. QACD continues to develop reports and analyze the data to verify certificate accuracy as well as to improve alignment between the QAS and inspectors, identify training needs, and improve inspector performance and accountability.

QACD is currently working on 3 additional projects under the Quality Programs:

- First are proposed changes to the Quality Management Program. The proposed changes are intended to ensure that all agency personnel meet the FGIS regulations, are adequately trained, and remain abreast of new developments.
- Second is an FY 2014 strategic goal to review all FGIS Quality Assurance Programs and determine how best to organize these functions within FGIS.
- Third is another FY 2014 strategic goal to create and implement Quality Assurance Dashboards to assist FGIS and official Agency managers and supervisors in the analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of services.

UNIFIED GRAIN MOISTURE ALGORITHM (UGMA)-COMPATIBLE MOISTURE METERS

Ms. Alonzo provided an overview of the results of appeals filed during FY 2014.

The majority of appeals showed that moisture measurements made at the point of original inspection were confirmed by appeal, and that the DICKEY-john GAC 2500 UGMA meters that processed the original inspection did so within all FGIS performance expectations. FGIS' internal monitoring of moisture measurements on both approved moisture meters, the GAC 2500 UGMA and the Perten AM5200A, confirmed that meters were generally performing within FGIS performance expectations.

Action plans to address FGIS Sample Information Management System (SIMS) monitoring limits were discussed.

QUANTITATIVE RAPID TEST KIT PROGRAM FOR GENETICALLY (GE) TRAITS

Dr. Bell provided an overview of its existing Biotechnology Rapid Test Kit verification program.

At this point, all GIPSA approved test kits are for the qualitative detection of genetically engineered traits in grains.

To facilitate grain marketing and in response to emerging detection technology, GIPSA will initiate the implementation of a Quantitative Rapid Test kit Verification Program for the detection of genetically engineered traits in grains. The development requirements will include:

- Determine appropriate number of independent analyses, test lots, and individual samples;
- Develop accuracy requirements for test kits against reference standards;
- Design criteria for maximum RSD values and standard deviations;
- Implement appropriate positive and negative controls; and
- Finalize directive and initiate program.

SORGHUM PROJECT 2014

Mr. Adam reviewed a recent collaboration between the BAR, Field Management Division, Official Agencies, and the industry to address concerns about sorghum odor alignment between origin and destination results.

Industry representative sought to reaffirm its confidence in FGIS' ability to align sorghum odor within the official system. FGIS outlined steps employed to harmonize origin and destination inspectors with the BAR. Feedback from industry regarding FGIS' ability to maintain consistency between origin and destination results has been universally positive.

GLUTEN STRENGTH ANALYZER

Dr. Norden provided a briefing on Gluten Strength Analyzer.

Working with its stakeholders, GIPSA identified gluten strength as a key market need for which no test or instrumentation existed. GIPSA initiated a collaborative project to develop a market- relevant test for gluten strength that could be accomplished in 30 minutes or less for any wheat sample. GIPSA worked with the Agricultural Research Service, Cornell University, Oklahoma State University, and Perten Instruments to develop an instrument and a method to measure gluten strength.

Over the last 7 years, Perten Instruments has developed several prototype instruments and the final commercial prototype was tested using 48 hard wheat pure cultivar samples. The results of testing these samples as both flour and whole meal were presented. The discrimination power for the whole meal samples (6.8) was higher than that for the flour samples (4.3), but somewhat lower than the estimated discrimination power (11.2) of the well-established method of protein determination. There is a concern about a lack of correlation of the results of some flour samples with the corresponding whole meal samples. In addition, there is a relatively low correlation of the gluten strength recovery index with the Farinograph stability time, which should be a key measure of gluten strength.

Perten Instruments has taken the lead in doing a field test of four instruments in four key U.S. laboratories. The timeframe for this field test is 3-6 months and the results will determine whether Perten Instruments decides to commercialize the instrument.

NATIONAL MYCOTOXIN QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Dr. Norden briefed on the Advisory Committee on the status of a national QA program for mycotoxin testing that includes the existing rapid test kit evaluation program, inspection monitoring, check sample distributions, training, and technical assistance.

Since FY 2012, 73 rapid mycotoxin test kits have been evaluated by GIPSA, the majority for analysis of aflatoxins and DON. Aflatoxin check sample distributions in recent years suggested that additional procedures related to supplemental analysis could impact the accuracy of results. FGIS is considering increasing the concentration ranges in the GIPSA performance criteria for aflatoxin, DON, and fumonisins so that supplemental analysis procedures can be eliminated. Four water-based aflatoxin test kits were evaluated for accuracy on coarsely ground corn samples. Two test kits were found to give biased results and the GIPSA Certificates of Conformance were cancelled. The remaining two test kits were verified as accurate.

NATIONAL FALLING NUMBER QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Dr. Norden briefed the Advisory Committee on the national QA program for Falling Number testing. The program is outlined in FGIS Directive 9180.84, National Falling Number Quality Assurance Program, on April 23, 2014.

The goals of this program are to provide information that assesses the level of accuracy among official service points and to validate and/or improve the accuracy of the official testing program. The inspection monitoring component of the QA program involves collecting and reanalyzing samples from official service locations on a weekly basis and providing rapid feedback of the results. The check sample component of the QA program will focus on troubleshooting system-wide issues. Results from the first check sample distribution were presented and showed good overall performance for all locations that participated. A second check sample distribution will occur in November of 2014. The warning and action limits for the monitoring program will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if they should be tightened.

METHODS DEVELOPMENT RETROSPECTIVE

Dr. Funk presented a historical overview and a vision for the future of innovation in official grain inspection. Successful innovation in grain inspection has involved understanding of market needs, vision for what could be achieved, recognition of the confluence of technologies, research and development knowledge and skills, and a large measure of determination.

Innovation in grain inspection has been most significant in improving service for long-recognized needs rather than addressing new market needs. Other than tests that are deemed essential to keep from “being left holding the bag,” few new tests have emerged in the last 26 years that met the requirement for adding sufficient value to sustain measurements throughout the grain production and handling system. However, innovation has brought tremendous advantages to several official inspection programs such as NIR/NIRT methods, moisture measurement, nuclear magnetic resonance (sunflower seeds), and wheat varietal identification for classification.

Current innovation projects include testing Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps for use in grain inspection laboratories and the USDA Rice Studio. LED lighting technology is evolving rapidly and becoming dominant—as can be seen from a visit to one’s local home improvement store. LED technology provides long life, high efficiency, and the convenience and safety of low-voltage wiring. Until recently, however, the quality of light available from LED lamps was rather poor. LED lamps have recently become available with light quality (Color Rendering Index and Color Temperature) rivaling that of FGIS’ approved fluorescent inspection laboratory lamps. FGIS is testing their suitability for grain inspection.

A brief demonstration of the USDA Rice Studio illustrated how low-cost consumer photo scanner technology is expected to transform official inspection of broken kernels and milling yield in rice. This program, developed by Dr. Zoltan Gillay, Visiting Scientist, over the past year went through FGIS’ pre-Beta testing (at three official inspection laboratories) with flying colors. It is being readied for a wider Beta test to gauge its acceptability for official inspection and applicability to unofficial users’ special needs. USDA Rice Studio requires only a computer and a low-cost photo scanner for hardware. The software itself was developed using appropriated funds and will be provided to users free of charge.

Looking to the future, societal factors will continue to drive technological developments. These driving factors include: fear/need for defense (military/weapons), grand ideas (such as space) that capture the national imagination and commitment, globalization, the desire for instant communication and social media, mass consumerism, the Internet of Things, computer gaming, an incredible data explosion, cybercrime, medicine/health/nutrition, increasing standard of living, water shortages, and depletion of traditional energy sources.

Some of the major developing technological areas to watch for possible application to grain inspection include: computer processing (cloud/parallel/distributed/embedded), optics (sensors/displays/computing), drones and other remotely piloted vehicles,

robotics, biotechnology, bioelectricity, biochemistry, wearable electronics (such as Google Glass), voice recognition and control, nanotechnology, and accurate, inexpensive sensors of all sorts.

Three points to remember regarding future innovation in official grain inspection.

1. Truly “new” market needs are rare. Concentrate on doing important things better, faster, cheaper.
2. Deeply understand current systems and market needs.
3. Continually study and apply the confluence of new and evolving applicable technologies to improve existing services as well as address new market needs.

REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. Kline gave an update on the Reauthorization of certain provisions of the United States Grain Standards Act.

On September 30, 2015, certain provisions of the United States Grain Standards Act expire. The provisions were added to the Act in 1976. The Secretary of Agriculture will notify congress about the expirations and congress will then vote on reauthorization of the provisions in the Act. The last reauthorization took place in 2005. The key points were private inspections firms at the export locations and reauthorizing for 10 years rather than 5 years. Currently for the 2015 reauthorization no major changes have been suggested.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Averhoff was elected as vice chair and will become the Chairperson during the first meeting of 2015.

NEXT MEETING

The Advisory Committee recommends the next meeting be held in November 2014 (date to be determined) at the National Grain Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were introduced and passed by the Advisory Committee:

1. Whereas the U.S. Department of Agriculture is mandated under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to provide Official inspection and weighing services for exports of U.S. grains and oilseeds,

Therefore be it resolved that the Advisory Committee urges in the strongest terms that FGIS take whatever actions are necessary to immediately restore Official grain inspection and weighing service wherever and whenever it is disrupted, either by immediately replacing absent inspectors with FGIS Official personnel or with inspectors from available qualified providers, including other designated or delegated Official Agencies.

2. The inspection and weighing services provided by FGIS are critical to the continued export of U.S. grain and oilseeds. In order to assure uninterrupted service, the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee strongly recommends the reauthorization of GIPSA for a minimum of 10 years.
3. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA initiate the implementation of a Quantitative Rapid Test kit Verification Program for the detection of genetically engineered traits in grains.
4. It is known that moisture condenses onto cold grain. Because of the possible propensity for cold grain pneumatically delivered from a sampler to an inspection laboratory in a warm humid atmosphere to result in an apparent decrease in the TW result and an apparent increase in the moisture result, the Advisory Committee recommends that FGIS study this issue with an eye to finding a way to correct the results of measuring the two factors to account for this phenomenon.
5. Whereas GIPSA is exploring the possibility of expanding the concentration ranges in performance criteria for mycotoxin test kits, the Advisory Committee recommends GIPSA consider setting the following ranges for performance criteria:

Aflatoxin - 5 to 700 ppb

Vomitoxin - 0.5 to 30 ppm

Fumonisin - 0.5 to 100 ppm

Ochratoxin A - No Change

Zearalenone - No change

6. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA review and update all the quality assurance tolerances utilized in the official inspection system. Specifically, the Advisory Committee recommends that the first to be reviewed reflect the Unified Grain Moisture Algorithm (UGMA) technology for moisture measurement.

7. Whereas the Test Weight module/apparatus that is integrated in the current official moisture meters is capable of testing for the test weight of grain; the Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA complete and report its research regarding the feasibility of changing the official method for determination of test weight from the kettle method to the test weight apparatus integrated in the official moisture meters.
8. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA continue its work with updating inspection lab lighting standards. Lab lighting is crucial for proper visual quality analysis. Advancements in LED technology and lower overall cost should prove this technology a suitable replacement for current approved lighting technology.
9. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA continue its work to utilize technology enhancements to advance efficiencies for grain inspections. For example, GIPSA should continue its work with the USDA Rice Studio (rice scanner project) by connecting with industry stakeholders for feasibility of using the technology for further evaluations: including rice brokens sizing, color, and potential uses with other grains.
10. The Advisory Committee supports continued focus on water-based quantitative mycotoxin test kits. Industry efforts to be “green” by reducing use of hazardous chemicals and associated waste are becoming commonplace. Encouraging manufacturers of testing methodology to develop the water-based methods should be continued.
11. The Advisory Committee recommends two face-to-face meetings annually as there are many important issues to address.
12. The Advisory Committee recommends continued work in verifying the accuracy of mycotoxin test kits for Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS).
13. The Advisory Committee recommends FGIS explore the needs with animal producers for DDGS quality measurement of key amino acids for animal nutrition.
14. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA suspend scheduled export grain inspection and weighing fee increases when the retained earnings exceed the 3-month reserve level.
15. The Advisory Committee recommends that GIPSA post financial information for FGIS user fee accounts on a monthly basis to their website for access by users.