



"Improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life."

June 19, 2003

Tess Butler
USDA - GIPSA
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Room 1647-S
Washington, DC 20250-3604

RE: Federal Register (7 CFR 1.27(b)): May 30, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 104)
Page 32455-32458

The Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is pleased to provide comments on the proposed study of marketing methods used in the livestock and red meat industries. As the largest producer organization in the state of Illinois, the IFB represents the vast number of Illinois livestock producers who are impacted by the issues that this study is intended to analyze. Our comments will focus on the names of persons to be considered for involvement in the peer reviews.

In identifying academicians who are highly qualified to serve as peer reviewers for the researchers' technical work, we suggest that GIPSA include representation from various regions and backgrounds to lend greater credence to the final results of the research. Obviously, as with any divisive issue, there will be dissention no matter what the outcome. However, including leading scholars who are affiliated with multiple constituencies will provide for the inclusion of broad ranging views to be considered for technical merit.

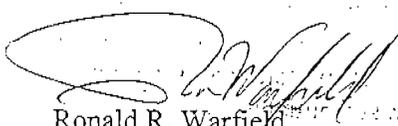
We would recommend the following academicians be considered for inclusion in the peer review process:

- Ted Schroeder, Kansas State University
- Clem Ward, Oklahoma State University
- John Lawrence, Iowa State University
- Steve Sonka, Formerly with the University of Illinois
- Arne Hallam, Iowa State University
- Robert Taylor, Auburn University
- Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University
- Michael Boehlje, Purdue University
- Gordon Rausser, UC Berkley
- Bruce Gardner, University of Maryland

Our members look forward to reviewing the results of this thorough study and utilizing the findings to increase the competitiveness of the production agriculture industry in which they operate.

Sincerely,

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU


Ronald R. Warfield
President



ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION®:

1701 N. Towanda Avenue • P.O. 2901 • Bloomington, Illinois • 61702-2901
Phone: 309.557.2111 • Fax: 309.557.2559 • <http://www.ilfb.org>

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