

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-04-14

6-2-04

NIRT MONITORING PROGRAM

1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is temporarily revising the program for monitoring the accuracy of the Near Infrared Transmittance (NIRT) instruments used in the official inspection system.

The revised procedures are effective immediately and will remain in effect until October 1, 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

Due to budgetary constraints, GIPSA has decided to revise the NIRT Monitoring Program until the end of the current fiscal year (i.e., September 30, 2004). The changes to the program effect the corn and soybean check sample surveys, and routine wheat monitoring sample exchanges between specified service points (official agency and GIPSA) participating in NIRT testing activities.

These changes do not effect Collaborative Check Sample surveys or Special Studies conducted by the Technical Services Division (TSD), or intermarket sample exchanges conducted between specified service points.

Instrument accuracy levels, as stated in Chapter 3 of the NIRT Handbook, and wheat protein monitoring control chart tolerances, as stated in Chapter 5 of the NIRT Handbook, remain the same.

3. REVISIONS TO THE NIRT MONITORING PROGRAM

- The spring 2004 soybean check sample conducted by TSD has been cancelled.
- The corn check sample and fall 2004 soybean check sample surveys, scheduled for September 2004 by TSD, have been cancelled.
- Field offices and official agencies participating in the wheat monitoring program with TSD will only be required to select and send samples on a **bi-weekly basis** to TSD. (See attachment for field office circuit assignments.)

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Retain a copy of this Program Notice with Chapter 5 of the NIRT Handbook until the notice has expired.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning the revised NIRT Monitoring Program procedures to Cathleen Brenner, Inspection Systems Engineering Branch, TSD. Phone at (816) 891-0486; or e-mail at cathleen.a.brenner@usda.gov.

/s/ John Giler

David Orr, Director
Field Management Division

