

**Grain Inspection Packers and
Stockyards Administration**
Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2014

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January 2014**

I. Policy Framework (Describe your agency vision, mission, goals and strategic approaches)

The Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture through its two primary mission areas, the Packers and Stockyards Program (PSP) and the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS).

PSP promotes fair business practices and competitive environments to market livestock, meat and poultry. Through its oversight activities, including monitoring programs, reviews, and investigation, PSP fosters fair competition, provide payment protection, and guards against deceptive and fraudulent trade practices that affect the movement and price of meat animals and their products. PSP's work protects consumer and members of the livestock, meat and poultry industries. PSP is primarily responsible for administering and enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) enacted in 1921 to assure effective competition and integrity in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry. PSP is responsible for bringing formal actions for violations of the Truth-in-Lending Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act by persons and firms subject to the P&S Act. In addition to its primary responsibility, PSP carries out limited responsibilities for the Secretary of Agriculture under Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985. These responsibilities include review of "central filing systems" establish by the States for pre-notifications of security interests against farm products.

FGIS establishes quality standards for grains, oilseeds, pulses and legumes; provides impartial inspection and weighing service through a network of Federal, State, and private entities and monitors marketing practices to enforce compliance with the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended and the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA), as amended. FGIS administers uniform, national grain inspection and weighing programs established by the Act on a fee basis for both export and domestic grain shipments. The USGSA requires that most export grain be inspected and weighed, prohibits deceptive practices with respect to the inspection and weighing grain, and provides penalties for violations. The USGSA also requires most corn exported from the US be tested for aflatoxin prior to shipment

GIPSA's Strategic Goals are linked to the USDA Strategic Goal 1: Assist Rural Communities to Create Prosperity so They Are Self-Sustaining, Repopulating, and Economically Thriving. PSP does this through its strategic objective to protect fair trade practices, financial integrity and competitive livestock, meat and poultry markets. FGIS, in turn, has three strategic objectives:

- Provide the market with terms and methods for quality assessment
- Protect the integrity of the U.S. grain and related markets, and
- Provide official grain inspection and weighing services

II. Vulnerability Assessment (Describe both the risks and opportunities associated with changing climate that your agency will face)

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Risks

- Cyclical crop production due to weather and other production variables stemming from climate change could affect GIPSA's ability to build steady inspection expertise.
- Increased need for quality verification of USDA food assistance purchases may overwhelm existing GIPSA capacity.
- GIPSA operations at both interior and US export locations may be more vulnerable to extreme weather events.

Opportunities

- Increased demand for genetically engineered crops modified to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Increased development and deployment of pesticides to address the effects of climate change.
- Increased demand for inspection tools and methods with a reduced environmental footprint.
- Increased need for accurate collection and reporting of data indicating overall crop quality issues.
- Increased demand for verification of new crop varieties bred to adapt to the effects of climate change.

III. The Adaptation and Evaluation Process (Integration into policies, programs and operation, includes coordination with stakeholders including local, state or tribal entities and private landowners)

GIPSA's adaption and evaluation process addresses both continuity of operations and adaption of program operations.

A changing climate can result in more frequent, severe and longer term weather related disasters, which will require GIPSA to be more resilient to short and medium term weather events. GIPSA will improve current policies on reducing its environmental footprint. It will also review occupant emergency plans, employee notification and accountability, increased productivity of unscheduled teleworking days, and decreased potential for service disruptions.

GIPSA engages directly with stakeholders through its Grain Inspection Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from throughout the grain handling industry; direct interaction with various commodity groups; and with stakeholders in general through Federal Register publications soliciting input into what the grain and commodity market is most interested in GIPSA addressing. GIPSA relies on this information to establish strategic priorities for review of grain and commodity standards and methods development priorities.

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IV. Sustained Adaptation Process (To ensure that the Climate Change Adaptation Plan remains current)

GIPSA Leadership will review program operational plans and policies annually to ensure that adaptation to climate change is factored into our planning, implementation and evaluation of program performance.

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V. Actions to Address Risks and Opportunities

Proposed New Actions	Agency Lead	Description	Scale	Timeframe	Performance Metric	Inter-Governmental Coordination	Resource Implications	Challenges/ Further Implications	Highlights of Accomplishments to Date
Reduce GIPSA’s environmental footprint.	GIPSA	Examine all operations to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy and materials.	Global	3 years	# of operational facilities reviewed annually.	None	None	None	New plan
Confirm GIPSA’s ability to deliver service under extreme conditions.	GIPSA	Ensure Occupant Emergency Plans (OEP’s) and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) effectively address weather related service disruptions.	Global	3 years	# of operational facilities reviewed annually.	None	None	None	New plan
Enhance automated data collection and reporting systems.	GIPSA	Improve and refine data collection and reporting tools that assess the quality of crop data.	Global	3 years	% of available quality data accessible.	None	None	Funding	New plan
Review availability of inspection tools with a reduced environmental footprint.	FGIS	Evaluate efficacy of water based mycotoxin test kits	Global	Ongoing	# of GIPSA approved water based test kits reviewed.	None	None	None	New plan

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Current Actions	Agency Lead	Description	Scale	Timeframe	Performance Metric	Inter-Governmental Coordination	Resource Implications	Challenges/ Further Implications	Highlights of Accomplishments to Date
Continue to develop proficiency in determining and confirming genetic events in grain.	FGIS	Conduct semi-annual biotechnology proficiency tests on corn and soybeans with collaborating laboratories.	Global	Ongoing	# of participating laboratories.	None	None	None	Program grew from initial 18 laboratories in 2002 to 77 participant laboratories in 2012.
Ensure pesticide residue services are available to detect pesticides most predominantly in use.	FGIS	Develop appropriate methods and conduct pesticide residue analysis as needed.	Global	Ongoing	# pesticide results tests conducted.	Agricultural Marketing Service	None	None	GIPSA continues to offer service as needed. In FY 2013, GIPSA upgraded instrumentation used in this program.
Facilitate identification of new crop varieties developed to respond the effects of climate change.	FGIS	Develop and publish FGIS' process for identifying new crop varieties.	Global	1 year	Process published.	Agricultural Marketing Service	None	None	New plan