



National Grain and Feed
Association



North American Export
Grain Association

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April 2, 2012

Mr. Randall Jones
Deputy Director
Grain, Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-3604

RE: Implementation of New Moisture Meter Technology

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) appreciate the opportunity you and your colleagues provided during the March 27, 2012 conference call to discuss the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) plans for implementing new moisture meter technology in 2013.

This correspondence is our attempt to memorialize several of the excellent ideas generated during the conference call that we believe will contribute greatly to facilitating GIPSA's implementation plans and our organizations' support for the 149 MHZ technology. Many of these ideas involve proactive communications by the agency with grain handlers, processors, exporters and other affected industry stakeholders, as well as domestic and foreign markets, to improve understanding of the implications of the changeover.

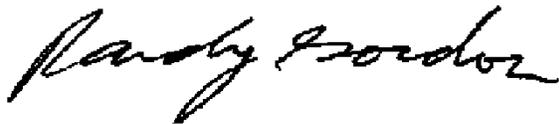
In summary, these initiatives by GIPSA, NGFA and NAEGA on implementation of the new moisture meter technology involve, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Preparation of a GIPSA Fact Sheet containing information on the reasons for the change, the transition period, and other pertinent information, including that calibrations for the GAC 2100 meter will continue to be maintained under the National Type Evaluation Program.
- Preparation by GIPSA of a chart or spreadsheet showing how moisture readings from the new official meter technology compare at different test weights for various commodities – particularly corn, rice, sunflowers and green soybeans – versus the currently used GAC2100 official meter.
- Including on the GIPSA Web site the fact sheet and a “Question-and-Answer” document on the new moisture meter technology and the planned transition.

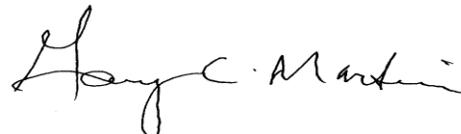
- Working together to develop one or more “Question-and-Answer” articles for industry publications and trade press, including the *NGFA Newsletter*, *NAEGA Outreach* and other publications.
- Conducting a webinar, tentatively using *Grain Journal's* free web-based platform, to allow for interactive discussion between GIPSA and the industry on the changeover.
- A presentation by GIPSA at the NGFA/*Grain Journal* Safety and Health/Grain Quality Conference, August 1-2, 2012 in Kansas City, Mo.
- GIPSA and NAEGA will work together with other U.S. stakeholders to develop and implement communication to the international market.

Again, we appreciate GIPSA's efforts to implement the new moisture meter technology in a way that minimizes the impact on existing stocks and facilitates the marketing of U.S. grains and oilseeds to domestic and export markets. Please feel free to contact NGFA Director of Safety and Regulatory Affairs Jess McCluer at 202-289-0873 or jmcccluer@ngfa.org, or either of us, if you have any further questions or thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,



Randall Gordon
Acting President
National Grain and Feed Association



Gary C. Martin
President and Chief Executive Officer
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