

# GRAIN INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

May 15-16, 2024

AMS National Grain Center, 10383 North Ambassador Drive,

Kansas City, Missouri, at 8:30 a.m.,

Onsite and Hybrid Option

## **Committee members present:**

Barbara Grove, Chairperson, Central Valley Ag

John Morgan, Supreme Rice, Crowley, Louisiana

Rashad Hart, General Superintendent of Plant Operations, Cargill

Christopher Frederking, General Manager, Zen-Noh Grain Corporation

Mark Heil General Manager Prairie Central Cooperative, Inc.

Erin Casey-Campbell, Program Manager, Missouri Department of Agriculture

Erica Olson Market Development & Research Manager, North Dakota Wheat Commission

Kia Adams-Mikesh Owner/Vice President North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.

Philip Garcia, Grain Inspection Program Manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture

Charles Bird, Senior Director of Product Management, Neogen Corporation

Tracy Logan, Director of Export Documentation, United Grain Corporation

Kurt Rosentrater, Professor, Iowa State University

## **Federal Grain Inspection Service present:**

Arthur Neal, Deputy Administrator,

Jacob Thein, Branch Chief, Policies, Procedures, Marketing and Analysis Branch

Dr. Ed Jhee, Director, Technology & Science Division

Charles Parr, Director, Field Management Division

Kendra Kline, Chief of Staff,

Leroy Capper, Chief Innovation Officer (virtual)

Sheena Fox, Supervisory Agricultural Commodity Grader (virtual)

Greg Giese, Grain Marketing Specialist

**Also Present:**

Jeff Behmr, Simple Physics Agriculture

Jon Newcomer, Kansas Grain Inspection Service

Nicholas Friant, Vice Chair, Cargill, Incorporated; National Grain and Feed Association;  
North American Export Grain Association

Erica Venancio, American Association of Grain Inspection & Weighing Agencies

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

Barbara Grove, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Central Standard Time and conducted a roll call of committee members.

### **FGIS Program Updates**

**Arthur Neal** provided an update about Federal Grain Inspection Service's (FGIS) budget and fees, the current financial situation, and the steps that have been taken to address the financial gap. Arthur also presented updates for the Quality Assurance and Compliance Division (QACD) that included the upcoming audit schedule and *Federal Registers* notices.

**Jacob Thein** presented various updates for Policies, Procedures and Marketing Analysis Branch (PPMAB). He recently became its' branch chief in October 2023. PPMAB has been in a transitional period and have been realigned under the Office of Deputy Administrator. Since the last Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (GIAC) meeting, they published a Federal Register for comments on the United States Standards for Beans in June 2023. For this current Fiscal Year '24 and '25, PPMAB has a five-year plan to routinely publish Federal Registers for comments on US. Standards for various grains. They are also updated various Handbooks, Directives, Policy Bulletins, and current has a Pilot Program for Automated Weighing at CHS' Myrtle Grove, Louisiana, where they're monitoring the grain flows, tracking vessels, and weights through the system.

**Charles Parr** provided an update for the Field Management Division (FMD). He first presented basic information on various grain export volumes. He further discussed FMD's biggest challenge, budgetary, and the goal to make FMD a lean and mean division, whose focus is mainly to provide only services FGIS is required by the regulations. He covered the realignments of PPMAB, re-organizing FGIS' Master Scale Depot in Chicago and the status of field offices.

**Dr. Edward Jhee** presented updates for the Technology and Science Division regarding their efforts to identify technologies to support and advance the grain industry in terms of instrumentation, imaging systems, and exploring instrumentation options for test weight. They're also engaging with various grain technology manufacturers, USDA's Agriculture and Research Service, attended several Technology and Innovation meetings within the past six months (highlighted Lubbock, TX event), and are looking to expand a current cooperative agreement to include broken kernel. He wrapped up the update with the five-year study collaboration between Japan's Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and FGIS where wheat and barley were surveyed for Ochratoxin A.

Copies of presentations can be found here <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/giac-may-2024-meeting>

### **Industry Discussion Issues**

The industry took up the following topics for discussion:

### **Cybersecurity**

FGIS covered the steps the U.S. Department of Agriculture is doing to ensure that FGIS business applications are secure. The Committee discussed government cybersecurity resources for private companies and their systems.

### **Committee Quorum**

The Committee discussed the need to adjust the committee quorum to assist with the consistency to hold business meetings.

### **Committee Nomination Process**

The Committee considered options to adjust the length of terms to reduce the frequency of the nomination process.

### **Committee Handbook**

The Committee explored if there was a need to adjust the handbook to lay out best practices for members who participate virtually.

### **Protein Moisture Basis Certification**

Greg Giese with PPMAB presented on standardizing the certification of protein moisture basis in order to improve transparency for buyers. The Committee was provided with three options for consideration.

### **Grain Inspection Technology**

Discussed modernizing the instruments and processes used in analyzing grain. Members discussed the various industry technology task forces that have prioritized short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals.

### **Technology Subcommittee**

Discussed if there was a need to establish a subcommittee to focus on technology.

### **Emerging Export Issues**

The Committee established the topic of emerging export issues as a holding place on the agenda to discuss developing issues among the grain industry. The Committee inquired about the

progress on Food and Drug Administration protocol on the handling of animal filth in samples. The exporters on the Committee have voiced that the timeliness of the process is unsatisfactory.

### **Thursday's Meeting**

Barbara Grove brought the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Central Standard Time and went right into Committee recommendations discussions. Out of the eight discussion topics, the committee submitted five recommendations. There were no public comments made on the proposed recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m. Central Standard Time.

Meeting recommendations, presentations, and transcripts can be found here <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/giac-may-2024-meeting>.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

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Barbara Grove, Chair  
Grain Inspection Advisory Committee