

# GRAIN INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

October 29-30, 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

Rashad Hart, General Superintendent of Plant Operations, Cargill

Mark Heil General Manager Prairie Central Cooperative, Inc.

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

Carlos Campabadal, Kansas State University

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

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

Shayleen Rambur, Vice President, JD Heiskell & Company

Charles Bird, Senior Director of Product Management, Neogen Corporation

Tracy Logan, Director of Export Documentation, United Grain Corporation

Charles Hurburgh, Professor, Iowa State University

Kurt Rosentrater, Professor, Iowa State University

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

Arthur Neal, Deputy Administrator, Federal Grain Inspection Service

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,

## **Also Present:**

Sarah May, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Kansas City, Missouri

Jess McCluer, National Grain and Feed Association

Steve Goldsmith, FBI (Online)

Ignatius Liberto, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer for Operations, USDA

Islelly Castillo, USDA

Christopher Coon, USDA (Telephonic and Online)

**Tuesday, October 29, 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 being taken to address the financial gap. Arthur also presented updates for the Quality Assurance and Compliance Division about the upcoming audit schedule, Technology Science Division's (TSD) big project with Equipment evaluation, the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (GIAC) nomination process and charter and the FGIS, Food and Drug Administration Memorandum of Understanding.

**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 plan to streamline operations.

**Dr. Edward Jhee** presented updates for TSD regarding their key focus to conduct program analysis, continue to identify technologies to support and advance the grain industry in terms of instrumentation and equipment, mycotoxin, DON for wheat and corn, and Falling Numbers. He also provided updates on how they continue to explore advancements in grain inspection technology through Imaging Technology, entering into two Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, and the Video meter technology.

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

### **Cyber Security Presentations**

The Deputy Chief Information Security Officer for Operations, Cybersecurity and Privacy Operations Center, USDA, discussed their plans for Fiscal Year 2025 and their commitment to building partnership with other agencies to provide resources and support as we continue to ensure that FGIS business applications and the agriculture industry are secure. Sarah May, Intelligence Analyst, Federal Bureau of Investigation presented on domestic and international Agriculture threats.

### **Industry Discussion Issues**

The industry took up the following topics for discussion:

### **Container Handbook**

The Committee recommended FGIS to continue their work to update the handbook with an emphasis in transparency, including a publicly published timeline for comment & review. Enlist stakeholder input throughout the development process, including providing clear instructions for submitting comments & inviting industry associations to participate. Streamline, including collecting or referencing all relevant information in one resource; and inclusion of instructions for U.S. Grain Standards Act and Agricultural Marketing Act commodities.

### **Updating FGIS-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)/Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The GIAC recommended that FGIS facilitate a conversation with APHIS to update the existing FGIS/APHIS PPQ MOU. In cases where FGIS has granted a waiver of official inspection and weighing requirements, the MOU will allow for third party insect inspection and witness of fumigation reporting to APHIS for phytosanitary certificate issuance. By implementing this change to the MOU agreement, export facilities can be assured of receiving a phytosanitary certificate in emergency situations when an FGIS waiver is issued.

Currently, when FGIS inspection services are waived or otherwise unavailable, the MOU agreement between FGIS and APHIS/PPQ does not allow for phytosanitary certification without a 921-2 form issued by FGIS. In case of natural disasters or other interruption of services, there is not a protocol in place that provides for phytosanitary issuance required by importing countries, but rather APHIS assesses each situation on a case-by-case basis. The export industry believes this change to the MOU will help facilitate grain flow throughout the industry by allowing for continued grain shipments at export facilities when waivers are issued.

### **Equipment Equivalency**

The Committee recommended prioritizing policies for measuring equivalence that can be applied to potential alternative, new technologies under consideration for official use. The general criterion would be that the use of additional technologies for a given test would not create unacceptable systemic variability beyond what is present with the existing technology.

### **Laboratory Scales**

The GIAC recommended that FGIS adopts the American Society for Testing and Materials Class 4 or better weights as the lab scale standard. This change will: provide a procedure for testing laboratory scales for precision across the FGIS range of use; justify the use of expanded resolution; and provide flexibility for future changes in laboratory scale procedures.

## **Periodic Updates for FGIS Inspection Instructions**

The Committee recommended FGIS enhance the transparency and accessibility of the review process for the FGIS inspection instructions. The following actions were recommended: provide clear contact information; outline submission guidelines; and schedule regular updates.

## **Other Topics Discussed**

### **Technology and Grain Inspection**

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.

### **Emerging Export Issues**

This topic, of emerging export, is a holding place on the agenda to discuss developing issues among the grain industry. No priority topics were highlighted.

## **Wednesday, October 30, 2024**

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

Officer election for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions were held.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Central Standard Time.

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