



Operational Guidance for the Submission of Blank Information Files to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Issue: Some plants occasionally submit blank files to AMS.

Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News (LPGMN) Position: Some plants submit blank files to AMS when the plant conducted no covered activity. These files are ruled invalid by AMS's computer system because all data fields are blank. This activity is commonly done by plants that have an automated system established to submit information to AMS.

LPGMN Guidance: Packers shall not be considered to be in violation of the LMR program if they submit blank files representing reporting days when no covered activities were conducted by the plants.

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Approved by _____
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