



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

Stop 3611
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-3601

Dear Colleagues:

As you well aware, agencies within the USDA, including GIPSA, faced unprecedented budget reductions in FY2012. It is anticipated that reduced budgets will continue for some time to come. In response, GIPSA undertook significant cost-cutting measures aimed at reducing our spending to account for the FY2012 reduced appropriations of more than 6 percent. These measures, while helpful, have left us short of where we need to manage the appropriations loss. As a result, the Agency sought additional help by requesting a supplemental Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment (VSIP, or “buyout”) and another Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA, or “early out”) for certain occupational series.

The GIPSA request for additional use of these authorities was recently granted by the Office of Personnel Management. The additional VSIP and VERA opportunities will be extended to positions in Management and Budget Services, the Civil Rights and Information Technology staffs, as well as the Packers and Stockyards Program and the Federal Grain Inspection Service. A list of the eligible occupational series is included with this message. The buyout authority received allows employees in covered positions to apply for a separation incentive payment of up to \$20,000 between March 19 and April 13, 2012. Employees who accept an offer will then be required to separate no later than April 30, 2012. It is our hope that these voluntary programs will help us manage our FY2012 funding reductions, while positioning the Agency to better tolerate future budget changes. There are no further VSIP/VERA opportunities anticipated during the remainder of this fiscal year.

Employees in the eligible occupational series will be receiving information from Human Resources by email within the next week. The email will include a letter detailing general VSIP/VERA eligibility requirements, frequently asked questions, and an HR contact should there be additional questions. HR will be posting this information on its VERA/VSIP web site in the near future. Please check the following address for updates:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/hr/benefits/vera_vsip.shtml

Our goal in GIPSA is to minimize to the greatest extent possible the effects these fiscal uncertainties have on our employees. Again, I thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to the mission of this Agency.

Alan R. Christian
Acting Administrator

Positions in GIPSA Eligible for VSIP

Job Series	Position Title	Org. Unit	Category I	Category II
0018	Safety and Occupational Health Manager	MBS	1	
0110	Agricultural Economists	PSP	3	x
0260	Equal Employment Specialists	OA	1	
0301	Program Support Specialists, FOIA/Privacy Act Specialists, Regulatory Analysts, Supervisory Regulatory Analysts, Assistant to the Director	FGIS*, IT, MBS, PSP	4	x
0303	Administrative, Program, and Staff Assistants	IT, PSP	3	x
0318	Secretary	MBS	1	
0341	Administrative Officers	PSP	2	
0343	Management Analysts, Program Analysts, and Supervisory Management Analysts	FGIS*, MBS, PSP	3	x
0503	Financial Reports Assistant	PSP	1	
0501	Supervisory Financial Systems Analyst	PSP	1	x
0511	Auditors and Supervisory Auditors	PSP	5	x
0560	Director Management and Budget Services and Budget Analysts	MBS	1	
0890	Agricultural Engineer	FGIS*	1	
0905	Attorneys	PSP	1	
0963	Legal Instruments Examiners and Supervisory Legal Instruments Examiners	PSP	3	x
1101	Legal Specialists and Supervisory Packers and Stockyards Specialists	PSP	2	x
1146	Agricultural/Grain Marketing Specialists and Supervisory Agricultural/Grain Marketing Spec	FGIS*, PSP	6	x
1301	Physical Scientists and Supervisory Physical Scientists	FGIS*	1	
1311	Physical Science Technician	FGIS*	1	
1320	Chemists	FGIS*	1	
1529	Mathematical Statistician	FGIS*	1	
1712	Training Specialists	MBS	1	
1801	Compliance Officers and Supervisory Compliance Officers	FGIS*	1	
1980	Agricultural Commodity Grader Grain	FGIS*	1	
2210	Information Technology Specialists and Supervisory Information Technology Specialists (only those included in the Network, Telecommunications and Customer Support Branch)	IT	2	
2210	Information Technology Specialists	PSP	1	
			49	

*Covers only these FGIS divisions: Departmental Initiatives and International Affairs, Quality Assurance and Compliance, and Technology and Science