

## GRAIN INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MEETING

June 11, 2025  
Virtual Meeting

### **Committee members present:**

Kia Adams-Mikesh Owner/Vice President North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc.  
Tracy Logan, Director of Export Documentation, United Grain Corporation  
Carlos Campabadal, Instructor, Kansas State University  
Christopher Frederking, General Manager, Zen-Noh Grain Corporation  
Barbara Grove, Quality Systems Manager, Central Valley Ag  
Rashad Hart, General Superintendent of Plant Operations, Cargill  
Mark Heil, General Manager, Prairie Central Cooperative, Inc.  
Gang Guo, Senior Director of Grain Research and Quality, Ardent Mills, LLC  
Lyndsey Erb, Director of Industry Affairs, U.S. Soybean Export Council  
Erin Casey-Campbell, Program Manager, Missouri Department of Agriculture  
Shayleen Rambur, Vice President, JD Heiskell & Company  
Charles Bird, Senior Director of Product Management, Neogen Corporation  
Charles Hurburgh, Professor, Iowa State University  
Erica Olson, Market Development & Research Manager, North Dakota Wheat Commission

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture employees present:**

Jennifer Porter, Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Grain Inspection Service  
Andrew Ping, Associate 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, Deputy Director, Quality Assurance and Compliance Division  
Tony Goodman, Senior Policy Advisor  
Dr. Seth Meyers, Chief Economist, USDA

\*See additional attendees at the end of the document

**Wednesday June 11, 2025**

Kia Adams-Mikesh, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and conducted roll call from committee members.

## **FGIS Program Updates**

**Jennifer Porter** provided a welcome, and **Andrew Ping** gave an update about FGIS Staffing changes and export activity. Jennifer Porter is now serving as Acting Deputy Administrator; Kendra Kline has transitioned to a new role within the Quality Assurance and Compliance Division; and Tony Goodeman has taken on responsibility for both the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee and International Affairs. Export activity has been notably strong, with total volumes projected over the top three to five years on record. Despite this, FGIS financial reserves have dropped below the minimum statutory threshold of three to six months, prompting discussions on revising the user fee structure. Proposed changes include streamlining fees and potentially incorporating mycotoxin testing into a general fee model. FGIS also announced plans to launch an online service request form to improve response times and processing accuracy.

**Jacob Thein, Branch Chief, Policy, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch**, provided an update on FGIS' five-year revolving review plan for handbooks, which launched in FY2025. They're currently in Phase One and have updated various Handbook, Directives, Program Notices, and Policy Bulletins. He also discussed the updates in Directive 9060.2, FGIS-FDA Memorandum of Understanding, which was finalized earlier this year, and their May 19, 2025, kick-off meeting where they brainstormed and outlined the next steps for updating a new Container Inspection Handbook.

**Dr. Edward Jhee, Technology and Science Division**, presented updates on FGIS's ongoing efforts to integrate artificial intelligence into grain inspection processes; their continued collaboration with C-Grain and Video meter to build image reference libraries and using expert annotations to train predictive algorithms capable of identifying various forms of kernel damage. He also provided an update for Protein and Oil Calibration Verification, Mycotoxin test kits, and their work for Ochratoxin A testing methods to meet Japan's proposed import standards.

**Tony Goodeman, Senior Policy Advisor**, provided updates on international affairs highlighting FGIS's ongoing communication with Chinese authorities in reference to exporters and Exporter's Registration. He also noted updates about the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA) Reauthorization, highlighting previous Reauthorizations and FGIS' commitment to provide technical assistance to Congress and other stakeholders upon request.

**Kendra Kline, Deputy Director of the Quality Assurance and Compliance Division**, outlined the status of FGIS's internal audit program, 15 of 16 scheduled official agency audits have been completed to date, with common trends, such as official recordkeeping practices, facility, equipment, and personnel; compliance with the USGSA, regulations and instructions; training requirements and protocols; conducting training and providing supervision. Kendra further highlighted Federal Register Notices expected to publish this year, including a final update on geographic boundaries, where no facility relocations or public comments were received, a designation award notice, and an opportunity notice.

**Charles Parr, Director of the Field Management Division (FMD)**, presented an overview of the current 2025 Market Summary, highlighting the year-over-year increase in total U.S. grain exports, and provided an update on FMD's staffing.

**Seth Meyer, USDA Chief Economist**, analyzed crop acreage trends, income forecasts, and global trade dynamics. Corn acreage is increasing, while soybean and cotton acreage is declining. Livestock markets are outperforming crop sectors, although egg production remains volatile. Farm income is generally down for crops but is supported by government payments and livestock revenues. Global trade remains vital, with Mexico, China, and Canada leading U.S. export markets for key commodities.

Copies of presentations can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/giac-june-2025-meeting>

The Committee discussed planning for future work; a technology working group to support implementation and certification of new inspection systems; a pilot project draft is expected by mid-July; to tentatively target late October or early November for its next in-person meeting while recognizing the importance of timing around the expected reauthorization of the USGSA and upcoming fall events. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Approved August 12, 2025

Kia Adams-Mikesh, Chair

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

**Federal Grain Inspection Service present continued:**

LeRoy Capper

Yun Tao

Candace Hildreth

Alan Disch

Jeffrey L'Heureux

Jennifer Hill

Darrell Hughes

**Federal Grain Inspection Service present continued:**

Corey Wray

Robert Dorman

Sherri Murphy

Andrew Boamah-Agyekum

Josh Raymond

Tanner Fye

Jeffrey Vanfossan

Thomas Weber

Eric Jabs

Jorge Vazquez

Robert Waller

Barry Gomoll

Joseph Han

Tandace Bell

**Also present:**

Angie Nelson

Jess McCluer

Philip Garcia

Nick Friant

Eric Venancio

Ryan Kuhl

Rachel Beiswenger

Brent Boydston

Tommy Milligan

Kurt Shultz

Mark Tess

Zach Helder

**Also present continued:**

John Sharpe

Angie Nelson

Steve Mattix

Brant Burkey

Chad Huebner

Noah Wicks

Michelle Arsenault

Jeff Behme

Anthony Peña