

The 2008 Farm Bill required that GIPSA write regulations about the following 4 items

- when an upgrade is an unfair practice,
- what practices are considered undue or unreasonable preferences by poultry companies,
- how long growers should be notified before their birds are suspended, and
- how long growers should get to fix a breach of contract.

In the next couple of weeks, GIPSA will be putting out these regulations in proposed form and has asked for specific comments from growers about their experiences in these areas.

These are the areas that we will need people to comment on are

- forced upgrades
- undue preferences – (examples) – we would like the rule to define an undue preference as any time a grower is penalized based on factors outside of a grower’s control, such as
 - receiving a different density (#chicks/square feet) than other growers in the settlement group
 - settling with growers who had birds that were older or younger than yours (ie they were picked up at a different time)
 - getting bad chicks (sick chickens, from an older or younger breeder flock)
 - being held out for birds for longer than the rest of your settlement group
 - Receiving feed from different feed mills
 - Receiving different amount of starter feed than other growers in your settlement group
- Being held out of birds for longer than normal
- how much time they need to fix a breach of contract

We will need people to write comments just like we did 3 years ago which resulted in the new regulations that you have a fact sheet on. There were over 450 comments sent in and the personalized ones that you all wrote made sure that the rules were not weakened and that part of them were strengthened

You can either write a comment at the next meeting (there will be two people here taking comments), or let me know that you would like someone to call you to take down your story on the phone