

USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting, January 21-22, 2026

The Committee passed one Recommendation regarding technology:

Recommendation on Grain Grading Technology

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (GIAC) recognizes the continued advancement of grain grading technology and provides the following recommendations to the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to support the transparent, deliberate, and effective consideration of visual grain grading systems within the official inspection framework.

1. Acknowledgment of Progress

The Committee acknowledges the progress made by FGIS in evaluating and advancing visual grain grading technologies, including efforts to address research and development limitations. The Committee appreciates the work completed to date and encourages continued advancement in a manner that maintains program integrity and stakeholder confidence.

2. Identification of Key Policy and Procedural Considerations

The Committee recommends that FGIS identify and compile a key policy, regulatory, and procedural considerations that may require consideration as visual grain grading technologies move toward implementation. The Committee further recommends identifying approximately ten such areas for structured discussion with the Advisory Committee and industry stakeholders. Early identification and discussion will support transparency, clarify potential impacts, and allow for informed stakeholder input prior to formal decision-making.

3. Continued Engagement with Stakeholder Task Groups

The Committee recommends that FGIS continue engaging with stakeholder task groups including but not limited to, country elevators, producer groups, commodity groups and similar forums to identify and address potential bottlenecks associated with the implementation of visual grain grading technologies.