



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 and Grain Market News 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 programmed to automatically submit information to AMS.

Livestock and Grain Market News Guidance: Packers shall not be considered to be in violation of the Law or Regulations if they submit blank files on reporting days when no covered activities were conducted by the plants.