

Agricultural Marketing Service Livestock and Grain Market News Division Stop 0252 – Room 2619-S 1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington DC 20250100 GU5032TTI November 28, 2012 Page 1 of 1

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.

Date Approved Date Revised:

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Approved by WGS