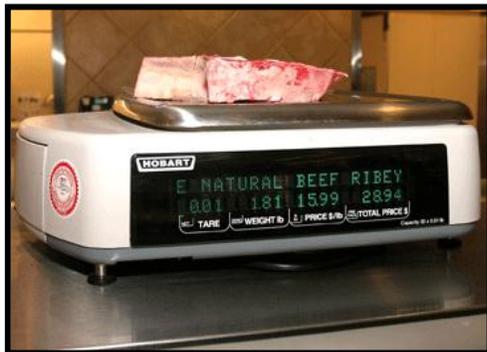




Inside Ag *March 2012*

CDA Celebrates Weights and Measures Week: March 1-7, 2012 **Weights and Measures: Keeping Pace for the Future**



On any given day, Americans make dozens of purchase decisions—at the grocery store, hardware store, retail store and the gas pump. As diverse as the character of these "daily necessities" may be, they all have one ingredient in common: consumers can *trust* that what they weigh, buy or pump, is what it says it is due to a national and state weights and measures system.

To recognize this vital element of our free market society, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), together with the National Conference on Weights and Measures will celebrate Weights and Measures Week, *March 1-7, 2012*.

This date is significant as it marks the signing of the first weights and measures law by President John Adams on March 2, 1799. Since that time, the nation has seen significant advancements from mechanical devices to highly sophisticated software-based weighing and measuring instruments.

Today, quantities are determined in all business sectors using the latest advancements in technology. Gasoline stations and supermarkets employ state of the art weighing and measuring equipment. Railway cars and highway vehicles are weighed "in-motion." Coal is weighed while moving rapidly across belt-conveyor scales.

CDA Weights and Measures inspectors are keeping pace with rapidly advancing technologies to ensure fairness in the marketplace. CDA inspectors test scales for accuracy, perform price verification inspections (scan tests) as well as inspect packages for net quantity and truth in labeling. Their service to consumers and industry plays an essential role in our economic recovery by protecting buyers and sellers in virtually all sales of goods in the United States.

The CDA Metrology Laboratory maintains state standards for weights and measures and provides traceable calibration of mass, length, volume, time/frequency, and grain moisture. Laboratory services are utilized by CDA inspectors, companies licensed to install and repair scales and gasoline pumps, law enforcement and other government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Steve Bornmann, Director of CDA's Inspection and Consumer Services Division states that "The weights and measures inspector is perhaps the least known element of daily commerce in the United States, but serves to protect buyers and sellers in every transaction".

Weights and Measures Week serves as a reminder of the value that our society receives for a very small investment in Weights and Measures inspection programs. The cost of a regulatory presence is about 0.70 cents per person per year. Yet we can realize the full return on that investment in a single trip to the market or gas station.

If you have a weights and measures related question or concern feel free to contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture Measurement Standards Office at 303-477-4220.