

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Marketing Service****[Docket No. AMS-TM-07-0152; TM-08-01]****Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)
Inviting Applications for the Farmers'
Market Promotion Program (FMPP)****AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces funding of approximately \$1 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year (FY) 2008 to increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Examples of direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities include new farmers' markets, roadside stands, community supported agriculture programs, and other direct producer-to-consumer infrastructures. AMS hereby requests proposals from eligible entities from the following categories: (1) Agricultural cooperatives, (2) local governments, (3) nonprofit corporations, (4) public benefit corporations, (5) economic development corporations, (6) regional farmers' market authorities, and (7) tribal governments. The maximum award per grant is \$75,000. No matching funds are required. AMS strongly recommends that each applicant visit the AMS Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP> to review a copy of the FMPP Guidelines and application package preparation information to assist in preparing the proposal narrative and application package. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection requirements have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under 0581-0235.

DATES: Applications should be received at the address below and must be postmarked not later than March 24, 2008. Applications bearing a postmark after the deadline will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Submit proposals and other required materials to Mr. Errol Bragg, Associate Deputy Administrator, Marketing Services Branch, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, Room 2646-South, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0269, phone 202/720-8317.

For hard-copy (paper) submissions all forms, narrative, letters of support, and

other required materials must be forwarded in one application package. AMS will not accept application packages by e-mail; electronic applications will be accepted only if submitted via <http://www.Grants.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Errol Bragg, Associate Deputy Administrator, Marketing Services Branch, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), on 202/720-8317, fax 202/690-0031, or by e-mail USDAMFPP@usda.gov. State that your request for information refers to Docket No. TM-08-01.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This solicitation is issued pursuant to Section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3001-3006) as amended by Section 10605 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (the Acts) authorizing the establishment of the Farmers' Market Promotion Program (7 U.S.C. 3005)(FMPP). The amended act states that the purposes of the FMPP are "(A) to increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by improving and expanding, or assisting in the improvement and expansion of, domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities; and (B) to develop, or aid in the development of, new farmers' markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, and other direct producer-to-consumer infrastructure."

Detailed program guidelines may be obtained at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP> or from the contact listed above.

Further, in accordance with the Secretary's Statement of Policy (36 FR 13804), it is found and determined upon good cause that it is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to engage in further public participation under 5 U.S.C 553 because the applications for the FMPP need to be made available as soon as possible as the program season approaches.

Background

AMS will grant awards for projects that continue developing, promoting, and expanding direct marketing of agricultural commodities from farmers to consumers. Eligible FMPP proposals should support marketing entities where agricultural farmers or vendors sell their own products directly to consumers, and the sales of these farm products should represent the core business of the entity.

All eligible entities shall be domestic entities, i.e., those owned, operated, and located within one or more of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia only. Entities located within U.S. territories are not eligible.

Additionally, under this program eligible entities must apply for FMPP funds on behalf of direct marketing operators that include two or more agricultural farmers/vendors that produce and sell their own products through a common distribution channel. For example, a sole proprietor of a roadside farm market would not be eligible for this program. Individual agricultural producers, including farmers and farmers' market vendors, roadside stand operators, community supported agriculture participants, and other individual direct marketers are not eligible for FMPP funds.

FMPP funds exclude existing routine operational expenses such as management salaries or other's salaries associated with normal operation of existing farmers markets/marketing entities, utility bills, and insurance premiums.

FMPP grant funds must be applied to the specific programs and objectives identified in the application. Proprietary projects and projects that benefit one agricultural producer or individual will not be considered.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the FMPP information collection were previously approved by OMB and were assigned OMB control number 0581-0235.

AMS is committed to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) that requires Government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

How to Submit Proposals and Applications

Each applicant must follow the application preparation and submission instructions provided within the FMPP Guidelines at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP>. Electronic forms, proposals, letters of support, or any other application materials emailed directly to AMS-FMPP or USDA-AMS staff will not be accepted.

Following are the options available for submitting proposals and applications to AMS:

Paper Submissions—For paper submissions an original and one copy of the proposal, required forms, narrative,

letters of support, and all required materials *must be submitted in one package, preferably via express mail.*

Electronic Submissions via Grants.gov—Applicants may apply electronically for grants through *Grants.gov* at <http://www.Grants.gov> (insert 10.168 in grant search) and are strongly encouraged to initiate the electronic submission process at least two weeks prior to application deadline. *Grants.gov* applicants who submit their FMPP proposals via the Federal grants Web site are not required to submit any paper documents to FMPP.

FMPP is listed in the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance" under number 10.168 and subject agencies must adhere to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination in all federally assisted programs.

Dated: February 1, 2008.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E8-2195 Filed 2-6-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket # AMS-FV-2006-0205; FV-06-317]

United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloups

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is revising the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloups. Specifically, AMS is revising the "Application of Tolerances" section in the cantaloup standards. Additionally, AMS is removing the "Unclassified" category from the standards. These changes will bring the standards for cantaloups in line with current marketing practices, thereby improving the usefulness of the standards in serving the industry.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 10, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vincent J. Fusaro, Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, (202) 720-2185. The revised United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloups are available by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as

amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "To develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities. AMS makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is revising the United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloups using the procedures that appear in Part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36). These standards were last revised June 30, 1968.

Background

Prior to undertaking detailed work to develop a proposed revision to the standards, AMS published a notice on December 28, 2006, in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 78128) soliciting comments on possible revisions of the United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloups. One supporting comment was received from a national trade association representing independent wholesale receivers. The commenter stated their members were in favor of the proposed revisions to the "Application of Tolerances" section. Based on this supportive comment, a second notice was published on July 25, 2007, in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 40825) proposing to revise the standards to allow changes to section 51.480, which permitted applying tolerances to: either samples of the entire contents of melons in cartons or to samples consisting of at least twenty five melons for cantaloups packed in bulk bins or other packaging. Specifically within the section, "The contents of individual packages * * *" will be modified to "Samples * * *" and "(a) A package may contain * * *" will be modified to "(a) Samples may contain * * *". The notice also proposed eliminating the "Unclassified" category. No additional comments were received.

Based on the one initial comment received and information gathered, AMS is revising the grade standards for cantaloups to include these revisions.

The official grades of cantaloups covered by these standards are determined by the procedures set forth

in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification, and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (7 CFR 51.1 to 51.62).

The revised United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloups will become effective 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: February 1, 2008.

Lloyd C. Day,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. E8-2197 Filed 2-6-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket # AMS-FV-2007-0036; FV-06-318]

United States Standards for Grades of Pineapples

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is revising the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Pineapples. Specifically, AMS is replacing Tables I and II in the tolerances section with numerical tolerances and numerical application of tolerances. Decay tolerances will also be revised. This change will bring the standards for pineapples in line with current marketing practices, thereby, improving the usefulness of the standards in serving the industry.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 10, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vincent J. Fusaro, Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch; (202) 720-2185. The revised United States Standards for Grades of Pineapples is available by accessing the AMS, Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "To develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities