

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: November 18, 2005

USDA TURKEY TACO FILLING PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen cooked turkey taco filling for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Frozen cooked turkey taco filling must be produced from ground turkey (ready-to-cook nonbasted, young turkeys or turkey carcasses and parts, and turkey skin) and spices/seasonings. The commodity must be packaged in 3- to 5-pound (1.36- or 2.27-kg) packages to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg). **Interested offerors must ensure that the Contracting Officer receives the technical proposal and two pre-bid samples not later than 1 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday, Dec. 5, for evaluation. Announcement PY-304 and the Commodity Specification for Turkey Taco Filling dated June 2005 provide detailed instructions for submission of samples and the factors used for evaluation.**

Offers will be invited from approved suppliers only. Invitation No. 1, inviting offers from approved suppliers is being issued in the near future. Offers will be due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, Dec. 12, with acceptances announced by midnight, Friday, Dec. 16. Deliveries will be made in accordance with notices-to-deliver.

There are some important changes to this year's program. All contractors and subcontractors must have a documented and operational food security plan that provides for the security of a plant's production processes. Vendors must certify in their Appendix-1 that they have a food security plan. Additionally, all offeror's must be registered in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA). ORCA can be accessed at www.bpn.gov. Offerors must have an active registration in the Central Contractor Registration to access ORCA. All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in ORCA and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

As with last year's program, suppliers approved under the previous year's announcement (PY-289) remain approved and need not re-submit a Technical Proposal or samples. However, product must be produced under the Technical Proposal that was previously approved.

Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specifications and are cautioned to offer only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Although most other provisions of the program are similar to the program operated last year, offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-304, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Turkey Taco Filling dated June 2005, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch; STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave. SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the World Wide Web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

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