

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: Nov. 13, 2006

USDA CONSUMER PACK WHOLE CHICKENS PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen consumer pack chickens for use in domestic food nutrition assistance programs.

Offers will be invited from the trade for frozen U.S. Grade A ready-to-cook young chickens, with necks and giblets. Individual chickens must weigh 3 to 4.25 pounds (1.36 to 1.93 kg) per carcass weighed without necks and giblets. The commodity must be commercially labeled and packed in individual plastic-film bags with 10-12 chickens per fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will total 39,600 pounds (17,962 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, Nov. 27, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, Dec. 1, for delivery from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2007.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

There are some important changes to this year's program. All packing materials must be tamper-evident. Additionally, all delivery units--truck lot and less-than-truck lot (LTL) quantities--must be secured at all times prior to unloading with tamper resistant, serially numbered, high-security seals. The contractor must maintain a record of each seal number used for truck lot and LTL delivery units. Additionally, the contractor must ensure that the applicable seal identification number is on each bill of lading, shipping manifest, certificate, or other delivery documents for each delivery destination. When LTL delivery units are transported on the same trailer and destined for multiple recipients, the trailer must be sealed after each delivery. The seal number must be recorded on the appropriate delivery documents and correspond with the applied seal at the time of arrival at the next destination. All contractors and subcontractors must have a documented and operational food security plan that provides for the security of a plant's production processes. This plan will be audited by the USDA Graders.

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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.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-318, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-318, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Frozen Consumer Pack Chickens dated September 2006, 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: www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

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