FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

DATE: JAN 16 2008

OFFER TO BUY: Red Tart Cherries

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is planning to purchase up to 8.1 million pounds of red tart cherry products for donation to child nutrition and other domestic food assistance programs, according to Lloyd Day, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

The planned purchase will be made from offers that must be submitted on a delivered-to-destination basis.

Products, quantities and size of pack will be announced in the Invitation.

PLEASE NOTE: This announcement does not commit USDA to purchase specific quantities or particular products. The quantities described in this FOOD PURCHASE REPORT are estimates and are intended to provide only general notice of USDA purchasing plans. Those plans are subject to change. Actual purchases will depend upon prices and quantities offered as well as possible adjustments in user requirements.

Invitations to bid, including final details and specifications, will be sent to processors. **Bids must be submitted electronically via the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) on the Internet. Offerors who submit bids using other than DEBES, will be deemed non-responsive. Offeror must be assigned a Logon ID by USDA to access the site. The Internet address is: http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes which translates into a connection of https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe? Once connected, follow the online procedures. A 'HELP' button provides detailed instructions for using the system or call 202-720-4517 for assistance.**

Further information can be obtained from the Commodity Procurement Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2546-South Building, Washington, DC 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-4517 or our Internet Site: http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp/