



MARCH 2008

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

16th ANNUAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE FOR CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS IN USDA'S MEAT AND FISH PURCHASE PROGRAMS

The Livestock and Seed (LS) Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) invites current and potential contractors, meat suppliers and processors, and other interested parties to participate in the annual conference for the Department of Agriculture's commodity purchase and distribution program for meat and fish items. The meeting will provide an overview of the program and changes for the upcoming purchase cycle.

The date and location of the conference are as follows:

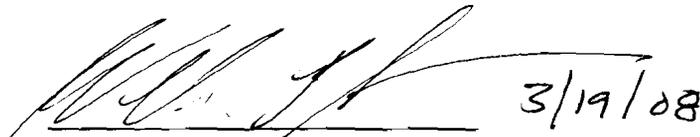
When: Thursday, May 22, 2008 -- 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.--General Industry Session

Where: Hilton Kansas City Airport
8801 N.W. 112th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64153
Phone: (816) 891-8900

Pre-Registration Information:

Pre-registration for the conference is requested. Please return the attached form by **Friday, May 2, 2008**. We invite you and your colleagues to submit questions and comments in advance, so time can be allocated for discussion. If you would like additional information, please call Angela Thomas on (202) 720-2650.

Shuttle service is available from the airport. Lodging at the host facility is **\$103.00** per night, plus tax. Participants are asked to make their own lodging arrangements. In order to obtain the conference room rate, reservations must be made no later than **12pm on Wednesday - May 7, 2008**. We value your participation and look forward to your attendance at the conference.



3/19/08

William T. Sessions
Associate Deputy Administrator
Livestock and Seed Program

-More-

SCHEDULED EVENT

General Industry Session -- May 22, 2008 -- Target audience: Company Officials and/or Representatives

The General Industry Session will provide current and potential contractors, meat suppliers and processors, and other interested parties with an overview of specification updates, certification issues, and other purchase program initiatives planned for the upcoming purchase cycle. AMS personnel will be available throughout the conference to answer questions on the various purchase programs. *Proposed Agenda topics: Humane Handling of Animals, Food Safety, Overview of New Purchasing System Website; Specification Changes, and Program Initiatives.*

Attachments

REGISTRATION FORM

**ANNUAL LIVESTOCK AND SEED PROGRAM
INDUSTRY CONFERENCE**

**Hilton Kansas City Airport
8801 N.W. 112th Street
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64153**

For lodging reservations, call (816) 891-8900 and request Livestock and Seed Conference rate.

SPONSORED BY USDA's AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Fax this registration form to Angela Thomas at: (202) 720-9538 by **Friday, May 2, 2008**

COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____

To assist us in our planning of conference facilities, please indicate the session(s) that you or company's representatives plan to attend (use additional sheets if needed).

Name of Person Attending	General Industry Session (May 22, 2008-- 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Questions/Comments for discussion:

Hilton Kansas City Airport

NORTH

Take I-29 South to Exit #12 (112th Street).
Turn left, go under the highway. Turn right into the parking lot.

SOUTH

Take I-35 North to I-29 North to Exit #12 (112th Street).
Turn right, then turn right into the parking lot.

EAST

Take I-70 West to I-435 North. Follow I-435 North to KCI Airport Exit.
Stay in the left lane on the KCI Airport Exit.
Turn left at Ambassador Drive to 112th Street.
Go through the Intersection at 112th Street,
Then turn right into the parking lot.

WEST

Take I-70 East to I-35 North to I-29 North, Exit #12 (112th Street).
Turn right on Ambassador, then turn right into the parking lot.

AMS:LS:CPBranch:SI Olson:sio:02/12/08:202/720-2650

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