



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

**Note: New vendors and subcontractors must supply all of the required paperwork (Appendix I, Financial Statement, and 3 Reference Letters), and must register in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA). In addition, all Vendors must also be registered in the CCR within 48 hours after bid opening or your company may be considered non-responsive.**

FV-314

Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Date Issued: August 6, 2008

Fresh Vegetables, Announcement FV-314, Invitation 018

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell fresh vegetables as indicated below and per the Announcement for use in Child Nutrition and other domestic food assistance programs. **Offers are due by 1 p.m., Central Time, Friday, August 15, 2008.** Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, August 29, 2008. Deliveries are to be made from October 13, 2008 through October 31, 2008.

Offers are invited from the trade for:

Fresh Sweet Potatoes                      40 lb carton                      2,000 cases  
**Grade: U.S. No.1**  
**Washed**  
**Destination Inspection Required**

**Vendors or its subcontractors/suppliers who are supplying fresh sweet potatoes are required to undergo the USDA AMS FVP Fresh Products Branch Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) certifications process along with its Preventive Food Defense Procedures. GHP must be completed within 12 months or within 10 business days after award of the contract. Vendors or its subcontractors/suppliers must pass the minimum score of 80% for each of the following elements: House Packing; Storage and Transportation; and Traceback. GAP must be completed within 12 months or no later than 10 days prior to the first day of the contract delivery period. A negative response to questions 1 and 2 in the "General Questions" section shall result in an automatic unsatisfactory rating. Failure to obtain GAP & GHP certifications within the prescribed timeframe will result in the bidder to be deemed non responsive, and the contract terminated for default. Brokers are exempt from this requirement.**

**The Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program can be accessed at the following website:  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm>**

No offer will be made to 8(a) vendors on this invitation.



All prime vendors are reminded that they are prohibited from subcontracting with companies or individuals that have been suspended or debarred.

All invitations with orders for the state of New York must have the pack date stamped on the outside of each carton. The pack date should be annotated as per the following example: (05/01/2003). Orders for the state of New York requiring the special markings will be indicated by (\*\*). This applies to New York orders "Only", if and when they appear on an invitation.

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.

Bidders are cautioned to bid only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver in accordance with the contract. Inquiries about Announcement FV-314, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Fresh Vegetables, or this Invitation should be directed to the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0239, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, telephone (202) 720-4517. An electronic version of this invitation can be obtained through the World Wide Web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

Purchases will be made on a delivered basis, subject to Announcement FV-314, to the listed locations. Destination quantities are estimates and are subject to adjustment based on offerings, changes in recipient need, market conditions, and program operations. Delivery by trucks or railcars is optional to the contractor, except for those destination(s) which specify delivery by truck only or rail only.

**Destinations with split shipments that are unspecified on the invitation are indicated by a single asterisk (\*).**

ANNOUNCEMENT : FV314  
 INVITATION : 018  
 COMM GROUP : 38 VEGETABLES, FRESH  
**COMM TYPE : 70 SWEET POTATOES, FRESH**  
**PACK SIZE : 40 40 LB CARTON**

ITEM NO	DESTINATION CITY	ST	TRANS RESTR	QUANTITY (CSE)	PRICE PER (CSE)
<b>DELIVERY PERIOD 10/13/08 - 10/15/08</b>					
001	NEWPORT		MN	1,000	_____
<b>DELIVERY PERIOD 10/29/08 - 10/31/08</b>					
002	BROOKLYN		NY TRUCK ONLY	1,000	_____ **
<b>TOTAL QUANTITY FOR COMMODITY TYPE</b>				<b>2,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL QUANTITY FOR INVITATION</b>				<b>2,000</b>	

  
 Felicitas Lofton  
 Contracting Officer

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.