



Note: New vendors and subcontractors must supply all required paperwork (Appendix 1, 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.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Washington, DC
20250

FV-311

Fruit and Vegetable Programs

This Invitation is for Small Business Set-Aside only; see FAR 52.219-6 Notice of Total Small Business Set-Aside.

Date Issued: August 19, 2008

Fresh Fruit, Announcement FV-311, Invitation 028

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell fresh fruit 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, Wednesday, August 27, 2008.** Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, September 5, 2008. Deliveries are to be made from September 29, 2008 through November 5, 2008.

Offers are invited from the trade for

Fresh Apples 37/40 lb. (cartons to a shipping container) 11,088 cases

Vendors or subcontractors who are supplying fresh apples are required to undergo the USDA AMS FVP Fresh Products Branch Good Handling Practices (GHP) certifications process, and must score at least 80% on each of the following elements: House Packing; Storage and Transportation; and Traceback, prior to the submission of bids. Brokers are exempt from this requirement.

In addition to the GHP, vendors or subcontractors/suppliers are also required to undergo the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification process. Vendors will be required to submit a list of the growers they will potentially use for the fresh apples with their bids. USDA's Fresh Products Branch will schedule and ensure that Federal or State inspectors provide an informational audit to those growers to explain where improvements need to be made to pass the USDA GAP audit.

The following statements will result in an immediate failure of the GAP requirement.

- **An immediate food safety risk is present when produce is grown, processed, packed, or held under conditions that promote or cause the produce to become contaminated.**
- **The presence or evidence of rodents, and excessive amounts of insects or other pests in the produce during packing, processing, or storage.**
- **Observation of employee practices (personal or hygienic) that have jeopardized or may jeopardize the safety of the produce.**
- **Falsification of records.**

USDA will pay for these inspections from program funds.

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

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

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

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 this special marking 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-311, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Fresh Fruit dated April 2004, 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-311, to the listed locations. 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 : FV311
 INVITATION : 028
 COMM GROUP : 34 FRUIT, FRESH

PREFERENCE
 CODES: M -MCINTOSH
 IR-IDA RED
 RD-RED DELICIOUS
 GD-GOLDEN DELICI
 NP-NEWTOWN PIPPN
 GS-GRANNY SMITH
 F -FUJI
 B -BRAEBURN
 G -GALA
 JG-JONAGOLD

COMM TYPE : 10 APPLES, FRESH
 PACK SIZE : 10 37/40 LB CARTON

ITEM NO	DESTINATION CITY	ST	TRANS RESTR	QUANTITY (CSE)	PRICE PER (CSE)	PREFERENCE		
						1	2	3
DELIVERY PERIOD 09/29/08 - 10/01/08								
001	HALFMOON	NY	TRUCK ONLY	924		M	IR	**
002	FORT MILL LEXINGTON	SC SC	TRUCK ONLY	213 711		RD	GD	NP
003	ALCOA LEBANON	TN TN	TRUCK ONLY TRUCK ONLY	644 280		RD	GD	GS
004	NEWPORT	MN		924		F	GD	B
005	COMMERCE LOS ANGELES	CA CA	TRUCK ONLY TRUCK ONLY	231 693		RD	GS	F
DELIVERY PERIOD 10/06/08 - 10/08/08								
006	BERKELEY	IL	TRUCK ONLY	924		GD		
007	PHOENIX	AZ	TRUCK ONLY	924		M	G	F
DELIVERY PERIOD 10/13/08 - 10/15/08								
008	COOKEVILLE	TN	TRUCK ONLY	924		RD	GD	GS
DELIVERY PERIOD 10/20/08 - 10/22/08								
009	NEWPORT	MN		924		F	GD	B
DELIVERY PERIOD 11/03/08 - 11/05/08								
010	RICHMOND SUFFOLK	VA VA	TRUCK ONLY TRUCK ONLY	500 424		RD	GD	JG
011	BATESVILLE	MS	TRUCK ONLY	924		RD	GD	GS
012	JOHNSON CITY MADISON HEIGHTS	TN VA	TRUCK ONLY TRUCK ONLY	325 599		RD	GD	JG

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TOTAL QUANTITY FOR COMMODITY TYPE 11,088

TOTAL QUANTITY FOR INVITATION 11,088


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.