## PURCHASE ANNOUNCEMENT

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service

DATE: May 19, 2011

## USDA CANNED FRUIT PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase canned fruit for the National School Lunch Program. Offers will be invited pursuant to the AMS Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurements dated April 2011, for canned fruit in the following forms: Apricots 10 (100209) and Apricots Diced 10 (100216). Please reference the Commodity Specification for Canned Fruit dated April 2011 for further descriptions.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Web-Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) website at <a href="http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=WBSCM">http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=WBSCM</a>. Offers submitted by any means other than WBSCM will be considered nonresponsive.

The Solicitation will be issued for deliveries November 16, 2011, through June 30, 2012, in the near future, contingent upon availability of funds which is explained in the Solicitation. Offers to sell these products must be received not later than the date specified on the Solicitation. Vendors are strongly encouraged to login to the WBSCM system as early as possible to place their bid as this process has changed significantly with the new system. Subsequent Solicitations will be issued as necessary.

There are some important changes to this year's program as Commodity Specifications were reviewed and revised. The Specification for Canned Fruit has been revised to include the change that packing medium must be extra light sucrose syrup or slightly sweetened fruit juice(s) and water or slightly sweetened fruit juice(s) and the Brix measurement must be comparable to extra light sucrose syrup for the product.

The implementation of WBSCM brings about new terminology and procedures for bidding on Solicitations, shipment and delivery, and invoicing. Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of the AMS Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurements dated April 2011; the Qualification Requirements for Prospective Contractors Selling Commodities to USDA dated March 2011; Commodity Specification for Canned Fruit dated April 2011; and the entire Solicitation.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-4517 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS Commodity Procurement Division; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 3932-S, Mail Stop 0256; Washington, DC 20250-0256. An electronic version of this Program Announcement can be obtained through the World Wide Web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing">http://www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing</a>.

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