

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: May 30, 2007

USDA FROZEN COOKED DICED CHICKEN PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen cooked diced chicken meat produced from fowl (a class of mature female chickens) for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Offers will be invited from approved suppliers for frozen cooked diced chicken meat in one or more of the following forms:

Diced Chicken (223240) – Must be packaged in eight 5-pound (2.27 kg) packages to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Diced Chicken (222140) – Must be packaged in four 10-pound (4.54 kg) packages to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, June 18, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, June 22, for delivery from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the first and third Monday of each month.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

There are some important changes to this year's program. There is an additional pack size of eight 5-pound (2.27 kg) packages to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg). Truck seals shall meet the American Society for Testing and Materials Standards, and seals shall be 1/8-inch in diameter, high-security bolts, or equivalent. Food defense plans will be audited by the USDA AMS Grading Branch prior to contract award. Potential contractors will receive written notification from the Contracting Officer of their eligibility to bid. Contractors may request the Contracting Officer waive the pre-award audit. The contractor/producer must immediately report all complaints received on the commodity to the Contracting Officer. The report must

include a plan that addresses control and segregation of all non-conforming products, removal of any USDA markings, and disposition of all non-conforming products. Additionally, in accordance with the Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations, all poultry shall be handled humanely.

As with previous diced chicken programs, processors who wish to participate in the purchase program must apply in writing to the Contracting Officer. The written application must include an outline of formulation and production processes to be used in producing diced chicken. In addition, processors must develop a documented quality control program that specifically addresses the removal of bone and bone-like material from the raw materials used in production of diced chicken. The documented program is to be submitted to the Contracting Officer for review and approval. Additional requirement information can be accessed at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry.

All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, for the Online Representations and Certifications Application, and the Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Although most other provisions of the program are similar to the program operated last year, offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended; Announcement PY-324; Appendix-1; the Commodity Specification for Cooked Diced Chicken dated May 2007, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.