

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: May 21, 2008

USDA FROZEN COOKED DICED CHICKEN PROGRAM ANNOUNCED (PY-333):

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 2, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, June 6, for delivery from July 16 to Nov. 15. Subsequent invitations will be issued as needed.

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. Under the food defense requirements, all non-conformances listed in the audit report must be addressed in writing within 14 days to the Contracting Officer. Plans must also have been audited since February 7, 2008. In addition, Program Announcements have been replaced with the Master Solicitation for Commodity Purchases and a Qualification Requirements for Prospective Contractors Selling Commodities to USDA. Also, qualified bidders must provide annual financial updates to Dun & Bradstreet as detailed in the Qualification Requirements.

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 certifications in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) and Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) 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 the Master Solicitation for Commodity Purchases dated May 2008; Qualification Requirements for Prospective Contractors dated May 2008; the Commodity Specification for Cooked Diced Chicken dated May 2008, 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.

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