

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: June 6, 2008

USDA CHICKEN FAJITA STRIPS PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED (PY-336):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase chicken fajita strips for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs.

Offers will be invited from the trade for frozen, fully cooked, dark chicken fajita strips, produced from ready-to-cook boneless, skinless drumsticks, thighs, and/or legs. The commodity will be packaged 5 or 10 pounds (2.27 or 4.54 kg) per plastic-film bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, June 23, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, June 27, for delivery from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the second and fourth 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. 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. Food defense 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 the 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.

All certifications in the Central Contractor Registration (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 dated May 2008; Qualification Requirements for Prospective Contractors dated May 2008; Commodity Specification for Chicken Fajita Strips dated June 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: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

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