



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

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NOTICE TO THE TRADE
Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES)

On Friday October 18, several vendors encountered problems entering constraints in the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) using Netscape.

It was determined that the problems were due to incompatibility issues between DEBES and higher versions of Netscape. Until this problem is fixed, we request that vendors use a version of Netscape between 4.07 and 6, or use Internet Explorer 5.0 or above.

In Netscape, the version and cipher strength can be determined by going to **Help/About Netscape**. Earlier Netscape versions can be downloaded from <http://home.netscape.com>. Product Archives of earlier versions can be found under the Browser Central tool. Choose the 128 bit Strong Encryption* version for your download.

In Internet Explorer the version and cipher strength can be determined by going to **Help/About Internet Explorer**. Internet Explorer versions can be downloaded from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com>. The version selected must be capable of handling 128-bit encryption.

Please contact Susan Proden or Linda Hinkle (202-720-4517) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Proden, Chief
Commodity Procurement Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs

