



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

July 24, 2001

DDOD-99

Farm Service  
Agency

Kansas City  
Commodity Office  
P.O. Box 419205  
Kansas City,  
Missouri  
64141-6205

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE  
ALL GROUP B COMMODITY SUPPLIERS**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reviewing their purchase announcements and is seeking comments from industry. We are particularly interested in comments concerning packaging/labeling, product specifications, and laboratory testing/certification requirements. Our intent is to bring our requirements more in line with commercial requirements. This endeavor should reduce the need for special production runs and packaging materials, reduce production/delivery delays, and lower overall costs.

Please review the attached list of questions and share your comments/suggested changes by August 6, 2001. Be sure to identify the specific announcement(s) and/or specification(s) you are referring to are noted as part of your recommendations.

Comments can be sent via e-mail to [Sandra.Lesesne@wdc.fsa.usda.gov](mailto:Sandra.Lesesne@wdc.fsa.usda.gov) or faxed to (202)690-2844. Comments will be reviewed by the Commodity Review Team, which consists of: Sandra Lesesne, Farm Service Agency; Rosalind Cleveland, Food and Nutrition Service; and Mike Buckley, Food and Nutrition Service. With your assistance, the commodity purchase program will become more efficient and compatible with commercial practices.

George W. Aldaya  
Director



## COMMODITY SPECIFICATION QUESTIONS

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What commodities do you currently provide for USDA, FSA Programs?
  
2. Does a predominant commercial standard/specification exist for the commodity(ies)?  
Is so, name the commodity(ies)
  
3. Is there a commercial pack size? If so, does it differ from the USDA procured commodity(ies) and if so, how? Indicate the commodity(ies) and commercial pack size(s).
  
4. Do the commercial standards/specifications differ from USDA? If so, name the commodity(ies) and how they differ specifically in regard to:
  - (a) Food safety
  
  - (b) Nutritional composition
  
  - (c) Laboratory testing
  
5. Other comments/suggested changes (attach additional sheets, if necessary)

