

requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA. Since this order regulates canned and frozen forms of tart cherries, reporting requirements will be in effect all year. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, tart cherry growers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the Board must file nomination forms with the Secretary. Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in grower referenda conducted by the Secretary. In addition, USDA may conduct a referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the order. Finally, handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to comply with the provisions of the order if the order is amended. These forms are included in this request.

The forms covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA as expressed in the order, and the rules and regulations issued under the order.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the Board. Authorized Board employees and the industry are the primary users of the information, and AMS is the secondary user.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .183 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Tart cherry growers and for-profit businesses handling fresh and processed tart cherries produced in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 943.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 4.93.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 852 hours.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0177 and the Tart Cherry Marketing Order No. 930, and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 205-2829; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or E-mail:

*moab.docketclerk@usda.gov*. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC, room 2525-S.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 14, 2003.

**Kenneth C. Clayton,**

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-18193 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Announcement of the Quality Samples Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commodity Credit Corporation is extending the time for submission of proposals for the Fiscal Year 2003 Quality Samples Program.

**DATES:** Proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042, (202) 720-4327.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Introduction

On January 17, 2003, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announced in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 2487) that

proposals were being accepted for participation in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Quality Samples Program (QSP). Based on its review of the proposals, CCC allocated approximately \$1.4 million in funding in July 2003. Because approximately \$1.1 million of the FY 2003 funds remain unallocated, CCC announces that it is extending the time period for submission of proposals to participate in the FY 2003 QSP.

The QSP is designed to encourage the development and expansion of export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities by assisting U.S. entities in providing commodity samples to potential foreign importers to promote a better understanding and appreciation for the high quality of U.S. agricultural commodities. All proposals will be reviewed against the evaluation criteria contained herein and funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. Financial assistance will be made available on a reimbursement basis. The QSP is administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Under the QSP, CCC enters into agreements with those entities whose proposals have been accepted. The QSP agreement between CCC and the participant will include the maximum amount of CCC funds that may be used to reimburse specific activity costs that have been approved by CCC and paid by the QSP participant. QSP participants will be responsible for procuring (or arranging for the procurement of) commodity samples, exporting the samples, and providing the technical assistance necessary to facilitate successful use of the samples by importers. Participants that are funded under this announcement may seek reimbursement for the sample purchase price and the costs of transporting the samples domestically to the port of export and then to the foreign port of entry. Transportation costs from the foreign port, or point of entry to the final destination will not be eligible for reimbursement. CCC will not reimburse the costs incidental to purchasing and transporting samples, for example, inspection or documentation fees. Although providing technical assistance is required for all projects, CCC will not reimburse the costs of providing technical assistance. A QSP participant will be reimbursed after CCC reviews its reimbursement claim and determines that the claim is complete.

QSP agreements are subject to review and verification by the Foreign Agricultural Service's Compliance Review Staff. Upon request, a QSP participant shall provide to CCC the original documents which support the participant's reimbursement claims.

CCC may deny a claim for reimbursement if the claim is not supported by adequate documentation. Cash advances will not be made available to any QSP participant.

This notice supersedes any prior notices concerning the QSP.

#### Authority

The QSP is authorized under section 5(f) of the CCC Charter Act, 15 U.S.C. 714c(f).

#### Available Funds

\$1.1 million of cost-share assistance may be obligated under this announcement.

#### General Scope of QSP Projects

QSP projects are the activities undertaken by a QSP participant to provide an appropriate sample of a U.S. agricultural commodity to a foreign importer, or a group of foreign importers, in a given market. The purpose of the project is to provide information to an appropriate target audience regarding the attributes, characteristics, and proper use of the U.S. commodity. A QSP project addresses a single market/commodity combination. As a general matter, QSP projects should conform to the following guidelines:

- Projects should benefit the represented U.S. industry and not a specific company or brand;
- Projects should develop a new market for a U.S. product, promote a new U.S. product, or promote a new use for a U.S. product, rather than promote the substitution of one established U.S. product for another;
- Sample commodities provided under a QSP project must be in sufficient supply and available on a commercial basis;
- Each QSP project must either subject the commodity sample to further processing or substantial transformation in the importing country, or the sample must be used in technical seminars designed to demonstrate to an appropriate target audience the proper preparation or use of the sample in the creation of an end product;
- Samples provided in a QSP project shall not be directly used as part of a retail promotion or supplied directly to consumers. However, the end product, that is, the product resulting from further processing, substantial transformation, or a technical seminar, may be provided to end use consumers to demonstrate to importers consumer preference for that end product; and
- Samples shall be in quantities less than a typical commercial sale and limited to the amount sufficient to

achieve the project goal (*e.g.*, not more than a full commercial mill run in the destination country).

QSP projects shall target foreign importers and target audiences who:

- Have not previously purchased the U.S. commodity which will be transported under the QSP;
- Are unfamiliar with the variety, quality attribute, or end-use characteristic of the U.S. commodity which will be transported under the QSP;
- Have been unsuccessful in previous attempts to import, process, and market the U.S. commodity which will be transported under the QSP (*e.g.*, because of improper specification, blending, or formulation; or sanitary or phytosanitary (SPS) issues);
- Are interested in testing or demonstrating the benefits of the U.S. commodity which will be transported under the QSP; or
- Need technical assistance in processing or using the U.S. commodity which will be transported under the QSP.

Under this announcement, the number of projects per participant will not be limited. However, individual projects will be limited to \$75,000 of QSP reimbursement. Projects comprised of technical preparation seminars, that is, projects that do not include further processing or substantial transformation, will be limited to \$15,000 of QSP reimbursement because these projects require smaller samples.

#### Proposal Process

In order to be considered for participation in the QSP, interested parties should submit proposals to FAS as described in this notice. QSP proposals must contain complete information about the proposed projects. Applicants should follow the application procedures contained in this notice.

Entities interested in participating in the QSP are not required to submit proposals in any specific format; however, FAS recommends that proposals contain, at a minimum, the following:

- (a) Organizational information, including:
  - Organization's name, address, Chief Executive Officer (or designee), and Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN);
  - Type of organization;
  - Name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of the primary contact person;
  - A description of the organization and its membership;
  - A description of the organization's prior export promotion experience; and

- A description of the organization's experience in implementing an appropriate trade/technical assistance component;

- (b) Market information, including:
  - An assessment of the market;
  - A long-term strategy in the market;

- and
  - U.S. export value/volume and market share (historic and goals) for 1999–2004;

- (c) Project information, including:
  - A brief project title;
  - Amount of funding requested;
  - A brief description of the specific market development trade constraint or opportunity to be addressed by the project, performance measures for the years 2003–2005 which will be used to measure the effectiveness of the project, a benchmark performance measure for 2002, the viability of long-term sales to this market, the goals of the project, and the expected benefits to the represented industry;

- A description of the activities planned to address the constraint or opportunity, including how the sample will be used in the end-use performance trial, the attributes of the sample to be demonstrated and their end-use benefit, and details of the trade/technical servicing component (including who will provide and who will fund this component);

- A sample description (*i.e.*, commodity, quantity, quality, type, and grade), including a justification for selecting a sample with such characteristics (this justification should explain in detail why the project could not be effective with a smaller sample);
- An itemized list of all estimated costs associated with the project for which reimbursement will be sought; and

- The importer's role in the project regarding handling and processing the commodity sample;

- (d) Information indicating all funding sources and amounts to be contributed by each entity that will supplement implementation of the proposed project. This may include the organization that submitted the proposal, private industry entities, host governments, foreign third parties, CCC, FAS, or other Federal agencies. Contributed resources may include cash, goods, and services.

#### Review Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the applicable FAS commodity division. The divisions will review each proposal against the factors described below.

The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals, recommend an appropriate funding level for each proposal based upon these

factors, and submit the proposals and funding recommendations to the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs.

FAS will use the following criteria in evaluating proposals:

- The ability of the organization to provide an experienced staff with the requisite technical and trade experience to execute the proposal;
- The extent to which the proposal is targeted to a market in which the United States is generally competitive;
- The potential for expanding commercial sales in the proposed market;
- The nature of the specific market constraint or opportunity involved and how well it is addressed by the proposal;
- The extent to which the importer's contribution, in terms of handling and processing, enhances the potential outcome of the project;
- The amount of reimbursement requested and the organization's willingness to contribute resources, including cash and goods and services of the U.S. industry and foreign third parties; and
- How well the proposed technical assistance component assures that performance trials will effectively demonstrate the intended end-use benefit.

Highest priority for funding under this announcement will be given to meritorious proposals which target countries which meet either of the following criteria:

- Per capita income less than \$9,265 (the ceiling on upper middle income economies as determined by the World Bank [World Development Indicators 2001]); and population greater than 1 million. Proposals may address suitable regional groupings, for example, the islands of the Caribbean Basin; or
- U.S. market share of imports of the commodity identified in the proposal of 10 percent or less.

#### Agreements

Following approval of a proposal, CCC will enter into an agreement with the organization that submitted the proposal. Agreements will incorporate the details of each project as approved by FAS. Each agreement will identify terms and conditions pursuant to which CCC will reimburse certain costs of each project. Agreements will also outline the responsibilities of the participant, including, but not limited to, procurement (or arranging for procurement) of the commodity sample at a fair market price, arranging for transportation of the commodity sample within the time limit specified in the

agreement (organizations should endeavor to ship commodities within 6 months of effective date of agreement), compliance with cargo preference requirements (shipment on United States flag vessels, as required), compliance with the Fly America Act requirements (shipment on United States air carriers, as required), timely and effective implementation of technical assistance, and submission of a written evaluation report within 90 days of expiration of the agreement. Evaluation reports should address all performance measures which were presented in the proposal.

#### Closing Date for Proposals

To be considered for participation in the QSP, interested parties should submit, via a commercial delivery service (including FedEx, DHL, etc.), proposals to: Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

#### A. Ellen Terpstra,

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 03-18268 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

#### Announcement of the 2003/2004 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Commodity Credit Corporation has published elsewhere in this issue a final rule establishing the "Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops" program to help open, retain, and expand markets for U.S. specialty crops.

**DATES:** Proposals will be accepted between July 18, 2003 and 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003. Proposals will be reviewed, and funding decisions will be made, as proposals are received.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave.,

SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042, or telephone: (202) 720-4327.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** To be considered for participation in the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, interested parties should submit, via a commercial delivery service (including FedEx, DHL, etc.), proposals to: Director, Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4932-S, Stop 1042, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 18, 2003. Although entities interested in participating in the TASC program are not required to submit proposals in any specific format, all proposals must contain complete information about the proposed projects as described in the final rule, published elsewhere in this issue, that establishes the program.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

#### A. Ellen Terpstra,

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 03-18267 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Notice of Request for Revision and Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection—Emergency Farm Loan Program

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of currently approved information collections used in support of FSA's Emergency Loan Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 16, 2003 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet Downs, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; Telephone (202) 720-0599; e-mail: [janet\\_downs@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:janet_downs@wdc.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* 7 CFR 764, Emergency Farm Loans.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0159.