



United States
Department of
Agriculture

April 13, 2001

DDOD-95

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

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

NOTICE TO THE TRADE FOR PASTA SUPPLIERS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency, Kansas City Commodity Office (FSA/KCCO) purchases pasta products for various domestic feeding programs for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). FNS program outlets may be schools/institutions or household programs, such as the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Temporary Food Assistance Programs, or the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. USDA has been piloting the use of commercial labels in household programs for several years. The program recipients for households have strongly favored receiving products with commercial labels versus USDA-labeled packages.

School Food Service Directors have expressed their desire to continue to receive USDA purchased products in a USDA-labeled package only. There is presently a team studying USDA purchasing all products for the National School Lunch Program using commercial-labels, but implementation of this proposal is not anticipated at this time.

In order to proceed with providing a commercial-labeled package for household program recipients for pasta products, beginning with invitations issued on May 11, 2001, FSA/KCCO will issue an invitation for:

- a USDA-labeled package for pasta products in a 20 pound carton to be received for schools or institutional programs
- the option of a commercial-labeled package or a USDA-labeled package for the 1 or 2 pound packages of spaghetti and elbow macaroni, and
- a commercial-labeled package for the 1 pound package of egg noodles.

Contractors supplying a commercial-labeled package shall certify as a part of the offer that the product being delivered has a history of successful distribution and use in the domestic commercial channels, and is sold on the commercial market with an established level of consumer acceptance. The product delivered shall comply with all applicable Federal and state mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, processing, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sale within the commercial marketplace.

If you intend to offer a commercial-labeled package for USDA purchases, please provide a sample primary package to this office at the following address before the May 11 invitation issuance date:

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Farm Service Agency
Dairy & Domestic Operations Division, Stop 8718
6501 Beacon Drive
Kansas City, MO 64133-4676

Please contact Tom Denner, Marketing Specialist, at 816-926-6395 if you have any questions concerning this notice.

George W. Aldaya
Director