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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. # TM–04–12]

Notice of Program Continuation

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice Inviting Proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2005 grant funds under the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given for proposals for FY 2005 grant funds under the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP). FSMIP anticipates that approximately $1.3 million will be available for support of this program in FY 2005. States interested in obtaining funds under the program are invited to submit proposals. While only State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State Agencies are eligible to apply for funds, State Agencies are encouraged to involve industry groups, academia, and community-based organizations in the development of proposals and the conduct of projects.

DATES: Funds will be allocated on the basis of one round of consideration. Proposals will be accepted through February 11, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Proposals may be sent to: FSMIP, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4009 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmont, FSMIP Staff Officer, (202) 720–2704.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FSMIP is authorized under Section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). FSMIP provides matching grants on a competitive basis to assist State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State agencies in conducting studies or developing innovative approaches related to the marketing of U.S. food and agricultural products. Other organizations interested in participating in this program should contact their State Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division to discuss their proposal.

Proposals are submitted by the State Agency and must be accompanied by completed Standard Forms (SF) 424 and 424A. AMS will not approve the use of FSMIP funds for advertising or, with limited exceptions, for the purchase of equipment. Detailed program guidelines may be obtained from your State Department of Agriculture, the above AMS contact, or the FSMIP Web site: *http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/fsmip.htm.*

FSMIP funds can be requested for a wide range of marketing research and marketing service activities, including projects aimed at:

(1) Developing and testing new or more efficient methods of processing, packaging, handling, storing, transporting, and distributing food and other agricultural products;

(2) Assessing customer response to new or alternative agricultural products or marketing services and evaluating potential opportunities for U.S. producers, processors and other agribusinesses, in both domestic and international markets; and,

(3) Identifying problems and impediments in existing channels of trade between producers and consumers of agricultural products and devising improved marketing practices, facilities, or systems to address such problems.

While all proposals which fall within the FSMIP guidelines will be considered, States are encouraged to submit proposals that have regional or national significance and that foster innovation in the following areas:

(1) Market analysis—collecting and analyzing unique and relevant economic data and transportation and marketing statistics relating to targeted domestic and international markets.

(2) Transportation and distribution—finding ways to improve efficiency and reduce barriers in local, regional, national, and international transportation and distribution systems to promote free movement of U.S. food and agricultural products.

(3) Competitiveness and new markets—identifying new opportunities for traditional and non-traditional products and by-products of agricultural production and processing in domestic and international markets. Assessing consumer preferences and consumer response to marketing and labeling claims.

(4) Quality and variety—enhancing the value of food and agricultural products through improvements in product quality and traceability. Using technology to address marketing challenges and opportunities such as developing new products and innovative packaging, or improving handling and storage methods.

Applicants have the option of submitting FSMIP applications electronically through the central Federal grants Web site, *http://www.grants.gov* instead of mailing hard copy documents. Applicants considering the electronic application option are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the Federal grants Web site well before the application deadline and to begin the application process before the deadline. Additional details about the FSMIP application process for all applicants are available at the FSMIP Web site: *http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/fsmip.htm.*

FSMIP is listed in the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance" under number 10.156 and subject agencies must adhere to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination in all Federally assisted programs.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: December 14, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04–27932 Filed 12–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Domestic Sugar Program—2005–Crop Sugar Marketing Allotments and Company Allocations

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is issuing this notice which sets forth the establishment of the sugar overall allotment quantity for the 2004 crop year (FY 2005) which runs from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. Although CCC already has announced all of the information in this notice, CCC is statutorily required to publish in the **Federal Register** determinations establishing sugar marketing allotments. CCC set the 2004-crop overall allotment quantity (OAQ) of domestic sugar to 8.100 million short tons raw value (STRV) on July 16, 2004; 4.402 million STRV to the beet sector, and 3.698 million STRV to the cane sector. On July 22, 2004, CCC announced the 2004 crop year, proportionate-share percentage of 83.4 percent for Louisiana. On September 28, 2004, CCC announced the allotments to sugarcane-producing States and allocations to sugarcane and sugar beet processors. At that time, because Puerto Rico had ceased production of sugar for more than two years, CCC also eliminated the allotment to Puerto Rico and allocations to Puerto Rico's two sugarcane processors.

ADDRESSES: Barbara Fecso, Dairy and Sweeteners Analysis Group, Economic Policy and Analysis Staff, Farm Service Agency, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0516, Washington, DC 20250–0516; telephone (202) 720–4146; FAX (202) 690–1480; e-mail: *barbara.fecso@usda.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Fecso at (202) 720–4146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 359b(b)(1) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1359bb(a)(1)), requires the Secretary to establish, by the beginning of each crop year, an appropriate allotment for the marketing by processors of sugar processed from sugar beets and from domestically produced cane sugar at a level the Secretary estimates will result in no forfeitures of sugar to the CCC under the loan program. When CCC announced an 8.100 million ton OAQ in July 2004, it noted the existence of sugar market uncertainties and that the OAQ would be adjusted if warranted.

To establish cane state allotments, weights of 25 percent, 25 percent and 50 percent, respectively, are assigned to the three-factor criteria: past marketings; processing capacity; and ability to market. This notice reflects the recent change in the ''ability to market'' definition, which is now based on historical data. *See* 69 FR 55061–55063. Beginning with FY 2005, the cane processor allocations are fixed shares of the cane sugar allotment and will change only if the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) adjusts the OAQ or determines that a processor cannot fulfill its cane sugar allocation and reassigns the unused allocation to other processors.

CCC is required to limit the amount of sugarcane acreage that may be harvested in Louisiana for sugar or seed whenever marketing allotments are in effect and the quantity of sugarcane estimated to be produced in Louisiana, plus a reasonable carryover, exceeds the marketing allotment allocation for Louisiana. This limitation is referred to as a ''proportionate share,'' and is applied to each farm's sugarcane acreage base to determine the quantity of sugarcane that may be harvested on that farm. Because production will be excessive in Louisiana, CCC has determined that the proportionate share of a sugarcane acreage base that may be harvested in Louisiana for sugar or seed for the 2004 crop year will be 83.4 percent of each farm's sugarcane acreage base.

CCC has determined that Puerto Rico's processors permanently terminated operations because no sugar had been processed for two complete years. Consequently, the allocation of 6,356 STRV was permanently reassigned to the mainland sugarcane-producing states. Hawaii received none of Puerto Rico's reassignment because it is not expected to use all of its current cane sugar allotment. A request for an allocation as a new entrant would be required for any mills in Puerto Rico to market cane sugar in the future.

These actions apply to all domestic sugar marketed for human consumption in the United States from October l, 2004, through September 30, 2005. The established 2004-crop beet and cane sugar marketing allotments are listed in the following table:

FY 2005 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS

	Initial FY 2005 allocations	Reassignment of Puerto Rican allotment	Beginning FY 2005 allotments/allocations
Beet Sugar	4,402,350		
Cane Sugar	3,697,650		
TOTAL OAQ	8,100,000		
BEET PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:			
Amalgamated Sugar Co.	917,207		
American Crystal Sugar Co.	1,692,713		
Holly Sugar Corp.	295,372		
Michigan Sugar Co.	281,254		
Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op.	274,650		
Monitor Sugar Co.	161,164		
So. Minn Beet Sugar Co-op.	282,812		
Western Sugar Co.	438,449		
Wyoming Sugar Co.	58,729		
TOTAL BEET SUGAR	4,402,350		
STATE CANE SUGAR ALLOTMENTS:			
Florida	1,812,722	3,416	1,816,139
Louisiana	1,402,345	2,643	1,404,987
Texas	157,583	297	157,880
Hawaii	318,644	0	318,644
Puerto Rico	6,356	−6,356	0
TOTAL CANE SUGAR	3,697,650	0	3,697,650
SUGARCANE PROCESSORS' MARKETING ALLOCATIONS:			
Florida:.			
Atlantic Sugar Assoc.	152,198	287	152,485

FY 2005 OVERALL BEET/CANE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS—Continued

	Initial FY 2005 allocations	Reassignment of Puerto Rican allotment	Beginning FY 2005 allotments/allocations
Growers Co-op. of FL	326,082	615	326,697
Okeelanta Corp.	383,847	723	384,570
Osceola Farms Co.	210,300	396	210,697
U.S. Sugar Corp.	740,295	1,395	741,690
TOTAL	1,812,722	3,416	1,816,139
Louisiana:.			
Alma Plantation	76,478	144	76,622
Cajun Sugar Co-op.	106,225	200	106,426
Cora-Texas Mfg. Co.	130,258	245	130,504
Harry Laws & Co.	57,006	107	57,113
Iberia Sugar Co-op.	67,712	128	67,839
Jeanerette Sugar Co.	64,078	121	64,199
Lafourche Sugars Corp.	76,381	144	76,525
Louisiana Sugarcane Co-op.	87,247	164	87,411
Lula Westfield, LLC	165,601	312	165,913
M.A. Patout & Sons	368,356	694	369,051
St. Mary Sugar Co-op.	92,814	175	92,989
So. Louisiana Sugars Co-op.	110,189	208	110,396
TOTAL	1,402,345	2,643	1,404,987
Texas:.			
Rio Grande Valley	157,583	297	157,880
Hawaii:.			
Gay & Robinson, Inc.	73,145	0	73,145
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company	245,499	0	245,499
TOTAL	318,644	0	318,644
Puerto Rico:.			
Agraso	4,076	−4,076	0
Roig	2,280	−2,280	0
TOTAL	6,356	−6,356	0

Signed in Washington, DC on December 3, 2004.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 04–27966 Filed 12–21–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Power Fire Restoration; Eldorado National Forest, Amador County, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: In October of 2004, the Power Fire burned approximately 16,993 acres on the Eldorado National Forest and on private timberlands. The project area for this analysis is the approximately 13,611 acre portion of the Power Fire on National Forest lands within the Amador Ranger District administrative boundary. The USDA, Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to treat approximately 7,914 acres of fire killed and damaged trees in the Power Fire burned area. The land allocations within the fire area identified in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Supplemental EIS are old forest emphasis, threat zone, defense zone, protected activity centers (PACs) for spotted owls and goshawks, spotted owl home range core areas (HRCAs), and riparian conservation areas (RCAs) adjacent to perennial, seasonal and ephemeral streams. A portion of the Mokelumne Wilderness and the Salt Springs State Game Refuge is also within the fire area. The Mokelumne River, Bear River, Beaver Creek, Cole Creek and Green Creek, having outstandingly remarkable cultural resource values, are eligible for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system.

The purpose of the project is to reduce long term fuel loading for the purpose of reducing future fire severity and resistance to control, improve roads and establish effective ground cover in severely burned areas for the purpose of reducing erosion and sedimentation to streams in the short term and contributing to long term soil productivity, recover the volume and value of timber killed or severely injured by the fire for the purpose of generating funds to offset the cost of future restoration activities and supplying wood fiber to local sawmills, and reduce safety hazards to the public and forest workers.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope and implementation of this proposal should be received by January 7, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Patricia Ferrell, Project Leader, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions and comments about this EIS should be directed to Patricia Ferrell, at the above address, or call her at 530–642–5146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fire burned with varying intensity. Many areas of the fire burned at high and moderate intensity, killing 75%–100% of the trees and burning the duff and litter that protects the soil. In these areas, the fire resulted in high rates of soil erosion, sedimentation to streams, destruction of wildlife habitat for sensitive species, and loss of old forest. The fire killed ten of thousands of trees that if left untreated will contribute to extremely high fuel loading over time. As these dead trees fall and fuel accumulates, future fires will be even more severe. Treating the dead and dying tree component of the landscape is the first step in reducing long term fuel loading and restoring the historic