

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. # TM-01-10]

Notice of Program Continuation

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice inviting proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2002 grant funds under the federal-state marketing improvement program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) was allocated \$1,347,000 in the Federal budget for FY 2002. Funds remain available for this program. 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 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 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Proposals may be sent to: FSMIP Staff, 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.*). The program is a matching fund program designed to assist State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State agencies in

conducting studies or developing innovative approaches related to the marketing of 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 a completed Standard Form (SF)-424 with SF-424A attached. FSMIP funds may not be used for advertising or, with limited exceptions, for the purchase of equipment or facilities. Guidelines may be obtained from your State Department of Agriculture or the above AMS contact.

Starting with FY 2002, FSMIP funds will be allocated on the basis of only one round of competition. In previous years, FSMIP grants were allocated on the basis of two rounds. Moving to one round will enable FSMIP staff to give more attention to project oversight, ongoing consultation with researchers, and wider dissemination of research results. The change should result in more efficient management of FSMIP projects at both the State and Federal levels.

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 arenas:

(1) Global Economy—preparing U.S. producers to market profitably in a rapidly changing global environment

where 96 percent of the world's consumers reside outside the United States;

(2) Consumer-Driven Agriculture—responding to consumer concerns about health and food safety; developing new products that address the needs of the mobile, time-pressed consumer; and studying the uses and value to consumers of food labeling and packaging alternatives;

(3) Agricultural Diversity—identifying niche market opportunities; exploring new markets for agricultural products, such as for industrial and nutraceutical applications; developing value-added products that meet consumer needs while enabling producers to retain a larger share of the food dollar; and developing marketing tools and strategies that will foster long term sustainability of the environment and viable rural communities; and

(4) Technical Innovation—exploring ways improve food safety and reduce the threat of plant and animal diseases in marketing channels such as through improved handling and packaging; and fostering ways to transport and distribute food and agricultural products more efficiently both domestically and overseas.

Copies of the FSMIP guidelines may be obtained by contacting the person listed as the contact for further information. 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: November 20, 2001.

A. J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 01-108-1]

Public Meeting; Veterinary Biologics

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.