

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

[TM-00-200]

Notice of Program Continuation

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice Inviting Applications for fiscal year (FY) 2000 Grant Funds Under the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) was allocated \$1,200,000 in the Federal budget for FY 2000. 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 organizations in the development of proposals and the conduct of projects.

DATES: Applications will be accepted through May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Proposals may be sent to: FSMIP Staff, Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4006 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Larry V. Summers, (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.

Mutually acceptable proposals are submitted by the State Agency and must be accompanied by a completed Standard Form (SF)-424 with SF-424A and SF-424B 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.

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 in the following areas, which correspond with ongoing, National initiatives in support of:

- (1) Small farms—to increase the base of marketing research and marketing services of particular importance to small-scale, limited-resource farmers and rural agribusinesses, with emphasis on projects aimed at identifying and improving producers' abilities to participate in alternative domestic and export markets;
- (2) Direct marketing—to identify and evaluate opportunities for producers to respond directly to new or expanding consumer demands for products and value-adding services, with emphasis on projects which concurrently address the needs of presently under served consumers; and
- (3) Sustainable agriculture—to encourage the development of

marketing channels and methods consistent with maintaining or improving the environment, with emphasis on projects aimed at expanding consumers' choices with regard to the environmental impact of alternative production and marketing technologies.

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: January 6, 2000.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator,

Transportation and Marketing.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Interim Flat Fee Policy for Outfitting and Guiding Activities; Alaska National Forests

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Regional Forester, Alaska Region, has adopted an interim flat fee policy for all outfitting and guiding activities on National Forest Systems (NFS) lands in the Alaska Region. Developed in response to an order from the Federal District Court in Alaska arising from a lawsuit filed by The Tongass Conservancy, the interim flat fee policy is designed to charge fees that are fair and equitable to the Federal government and the Alaska outfitter and guide industry.

On July 21, 1999, the Forest Service requested comments on a proposed interim flat fee policy for all outfitting and guiding activities on NFS lands in the Alaska Region. Notification of the policy was published in the **Federal Register**, in the local newspapers, distributed to interested parties, and posted on the worldwide web. Consideration was given to all responses in formulation of the final interim policy. The interim policy is issued as