3. *Reporting.* The FAS requires various reports and evaluations from Cooperators. Reporting requirements are detailed in the Cooperator Program regulations in sections 1484.53, 1484.70, and 1484.72.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

For additional information and assistance, contact the Program Policy Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Portals Office Building, Suite 400, Stop 1042, 1250 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024, phone: (202) 720–4327; fax: (202) 720–9361, e-mail: *ppsadmin@fas.usda.gov*.

W. Kirk Miller,

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

[FR Doc. 07–1591 Filed 3–29–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Funds Availability; Inviting Applications for the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program

Announcement Type: New.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.604.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announces the availability of funding for the 2008 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program. The intended effect of this notice is to solicit applications from the private sector and from government agencies for participation in the FY 2008 TASC Program. The TASC Program is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

DATES: See paragraph IV.3 below for a detailed description of relevant dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Entities wishing to apply for funding assistance should contact the Program Policy Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Portals Office Building, Suite 400, 1250 Maryland Avenue, Stop 1042, SW., Washington, DC 20024, phone: (202) 720–4327, fax: (202) 720–9361, email: *ppsadmin@fas.usda.gov*. Information is also available on the Foreign Agricultural Service Web site at *http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/tasc/tasc.asp*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority: The TASC Program is authorized by section 3205 of Pub. L. 107–171. TASC regulations appear at 7 CPR part 1487.

Purpose: The TASC Program is designed to assist U.S. organizations by providing funding for projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary, or related technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. U.S. specialty crops, for the purpose of the TASC Program, are defined to include all cultivated plants, or the products thereof, produced in the United States, except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar, and tobacco.

As a general matter, TASC Program projects should be designed to accomplish the following goals:

- Projects should address a sanitary, phytosanitary, or related technical barrier that prohibits or threatens the export of U.S. specialty crops;
- Projects should demonstrably benefit the represented industry and not a specific company or brand; and,
- Projects must address barriers to U.S. specialty crops that are currently available on a commercial basis and for which barrier removal would predominantly benefit U.S. exports.

Examples of expenses that CCC may agree to reimburse under the TASC Program include, but are not limited to: initial pre-clearance programs, export protocol and work plan support, seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, development of pest lists, pest and disease research, database development, reasonable logistical and administrative support, and travel and per diem expenses.

II. Award Information

In general, all qualified proposals received before the specified application deadlines will compete for funding. The limited funds and the range of barriers affecting the exports of U.S. specialty crops worldwide preclude CCC from approving large budgets for individual projects. In prior years, the amount of funding per proposal has ranged from $13,000 to $250,000, the maximum allowed.

Applicants may submit multiple proposals, and applicants with previously approved TASC proposals may apply for additional funding. However, no TASC participant may have more than three approved projects underway at any given time.

FAS will consider providing either grant funds as direct assistance to U.S. organizations or providing technical assistance on behalf of U.S. organizations, provided that the organization submits timely and qualified proposals. FAS will review all proposals against the evaluation criteria contained in the program regulations.

Funding for successful proposals will be provided through specific agreements. These agreements will incorporate the proposal as approved by FAS. FAS must approve in advance any subsequent changes to the project. FAS or another Federal agency may be involved in the implementation of approved projects.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Any United States organization, private or government, may apply to the program. Government organizations consist of federal, state, and local agencies. Private organizations include non-profit trade associations, universities, agricultural cooperatives, state regional trade groups, and private companies.

Foreign organizations, whether government or private, may participate as third parties in activities carried out by U.S. organizations, but are not eligible for funding assistance from the program.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* Applicants are very strongly encouraged to provide matching funds or cost sharing support in this highly competitive program. Such support may be in the form of cash, goods, or in-kind services which are dedicated to the project by the organization that submitted the proposal, private industry entities, host governments, or foreign third parties.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Application through the UES:* Organizations are strongly encouraged to submit applications to FAS through the Unified Export Strategy (UES) application Internet website. Using the UES application process reduces paperwork and expedites FAS' processing and review cycle. Applicants planning to use the UES Internet-based system must contact FAS Program Policy Staff on (202) 720–4327 to obtain site access information including a user ID and password. The UES Internet-based application, including a Help file containing step-by-step instructions for its use, may be found at the following URL address: *http://www.fas.usda.gov/cooperators.html*.

2. *Application through electronic and hard copies:* Applicants also have the option of submitting electronic versions in the UES format (along with two paper copies) of their applications to FAS on diskette. Applicants who choose to submit applications on diskette can obtain an application format at the following URL address:

http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/tasc/proposals.html.

3. *Content and Form of Application Submission:* All TASC proposals must contain complete information about the proposed projects as described in § 1487.5(b) of the TASC Program regulations. In addition, in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's policy directive regarding the use of a universal identifier for all Federal grants and cooperative agreements, all applicants must submit a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. An applicant may request a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS number request line on 1–866–705–5711. Incomplete applications and applications which do not otherwise conform to this announcement will not be accepted for review.

4. *Submission Dates and Times:* TASC funding is limited, and in order to assure sufficient resources are available to meet unanticipated needs during the fiscal year, TASC proposals will, generally, only be evaluated on a semi-annual basis. That is:

- Proposals received prior to, but not later than, 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 14, 2007, will be considered for funding with other proposals received by that date;
- Proposals not approved for funding during the review period will be reconsidered for funding after the review period only if the applicant specifically requests such reconsideration in writing, and only if funding remains available;
- Proposals received after 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 14, 2007, will be considered for funding only if funding remains available.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a proposal may be submitted for expedited consideration under the TASC Quick Response process if, in addition to meeting all requirements of the TASC program, a proposal clearly identifies a time-sensitive activity. In these cases, a proposal may be submitted at any time for an immediate evaluation.

FAS will track the time and date of receipt of all proposals.

5. *Funding Restrictions:* Proposals which request more than $250,000 of CCC funding in a given year will not be considered. Proposals to fund projects that exceed three years in duration will not be considered. No TASC participant may have more than three approved projects underway at any given time. Although funded projects may take place in the United States, all eligible projects must specifically address sanitary, phytosanitary, or technical barriers to the export of U.S. specialty crops.

Certain types of expenses are not eligible for reimbursement by the program, including the costs of market research, advertising, or other promotional expenses. CCC will not reimburse unreasonable expenditures or any expenditure made prior to approval of a proposal.

6. *Other Submission Requirements:* All Internet-based applications must be properly submitted by 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on May 14, 2007, to be considered.

All applications on diskette (with two accompanying paper copies) and any other applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, on May 14, 2007, at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Program Policy Staff, Portals Office Building, Suite 400, 1250 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

U.S. Postal Delivery: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Program Policy Staff, Stop 1042, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1042.

Application Review Information

1. *Criteria:* FAS follows the evaluation criteria set forth in § 1487.6 of the TASC regulations.

2. *Review and Selection Process:* FAS will review proposals for eligibility and will evaluate each proposal against the factors referred to above. 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, Office of Trade Programs. FAS may, when appropriate, request the assistance of other U.S. government subject area experts in evaluating the merits of a proposal.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* FAS will notify each applicant in writing of the final disposition of its application. FAS will send an approval letter and agreement to each approved applicant. The approval letter and agreement will specify the terms and conditions applicable to the project, including levels of funding, timelines for implementation, and written evaluation requirements.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* The 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. Interested parties should review the TASC Program regulations found at 7 CFR part 1487 in addition to this announcement.

3. *Reporting:* TASC participants are required to submit a written report(s), on no less than an annual basis, and a final report, each of which evaluates their TASC project using the performance measures presented in the approved proposal.

VII. Agency Contact

For additional information or assistance, contact the Program Policy Staff,

Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Portals Office Building, Suite 400, 1250 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024, phone: (202) 720–4327, fax: (202) 720–9361, e-mail: *ppsadmin@fas.usda.gov*.

W. Kirk Miller,

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

[FR Doc. 07–1592 Filed 3–29–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Funds Availability; Inviting Applications for the Quality Samples Program

Announcement Type: New.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.605

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announces the availability of $2.5 million in funding for the 2008 Quality Samples Program (QSP). The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications for participation in the FY 2008 QSP. QSP is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). This notice supercedes any prior notices concerning QSP.

DATES: All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 14, 2007.

Applications received after this date will be considered only if funds are still available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Entities wishing to apply for funding assistance should contact the Program Policy Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, Portals Office Building, Suite