

Marketing Operations Staff of FAS at (202) 720-4327 to obtain site access information. The Internet-based application, including step-by-step instructions for its use, is located at the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/cooperators.html>.

Applicants who choose to submit applications on diskette can download the UES handbook, including the suggested application format and instructions, from the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/ues/unified.html>. A UES handbook may also be obtained by contacting the Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327.

All Cooperator program applicants, whether applying via the Internet or diskette, must also submit by March 12, 2001, via hand delivery or U.S. mail, an original signed certification statement as specified in 7 CFR section 1484.20(a)(14). The UES handbook contains an acceptable certification format.

Any organization which is not interested in applying for the Cooperator program but would like to request assistance through one of the other programs mentioned, should contact the Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327.

Review Process and Allocation Criteria

FAS allocates funds in a manner that effectively supports the strategic decision-making initiatives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. In deciding whether a proposed project will contribute to the effective creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets, FAS seeks to identify a clear, long-term agricultural trade strategy and a program effectiveness time line against which results can be measured at specific intervals using quantifiable product or country goals. These performance indicators are part of FAS' resource allocation strategy to fund applicants which can demonstrate performance based on a long-term strategic plan and address the performance measurement objectives of the GPRA.

Following is a description of the FAS process for reviewing applications and the criteria for allocating available Cooperator program funds.

(1) Phase 1—Sufficiency Committee and FAS Divisional Review

Application received by the closing date will be reviewed by FAS to determine the eligibility of the applicants and the completeness of the applications. These requirements appear at § 1484.14 and § 1484.20 of the

Cooperator program regulations. Applications which meet the application requirements will then be further evaluated by the applicable FAS Commodity Division. The Divisions will review each application against the criteria listed in § 1484.21 and § 1484.22 of the Cooperator program regulations. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals and to recommend an appropriate funding level for each application based upon these criteria.

(2) Phase 2—Competitive Review

Meritorious applications will then be passed on to the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs, for the purpose of allocating available funds among the applicants. Applications which pass the Divisional Review will compete for funds on the basis of the following allocation criteria (the number in parentheses represents a percentage weight factor).

(a) Contribution Level (40)

- The applicant's 6-year average share (1997–2002 of all contributions (contributions may include cash and goods and services provided by U.S. entities in support of foreign market development activities) compared to
- The applicant's 6-year average share (1997–2002 of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets.

(b) Past Export Performance (20)

- The 6-year average share (1996–2001 of the value of exports promoted by the applicant compared to
- The applicant's 6-year average share (1996–2001 of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets plus a 6-year average share (1995–2000) of MAP program ceiling levels and a 6-year average share (1995–2000) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office.

(c) Past Demand Expansion Performance (20)

- The 6-year average share (1996–2001) of the total value of world trade of the commodities promoted by the applicant compared to
- The applicant's 6-year average share (1996–2001) of all Cooperator marketing plan budgets plus a 6-year average share (1995–2000) of MAP program ceiling levels and a 6-year average share (1995–2000) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural trade office.

(d) Future Demand expansion Goals (10)

- The projected total dollar value of world trade of the commodities being

promoted by the applicant for the year 2007 compared to

- The applicant's requested funding level.

(e) Accuracy of Past Demand expansion Projections (10)

- The actual dollar value share of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2000 compared to
- The applicant's past projected share of world trade of the commodities being promoted by the applicant for the year 2000, as specified in the 2000 Cooperator program application.

The Commodity Divisions' recommended funding level for each applicant is converted to a percentage of the total Cooperator program funds available and multiplied by the total weight factor to determine the amount of funds allocated to each applicant.

Closing Date for Applications

All Internet-based applications must be properly submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 12, 2001. Signed certification statements also must be received by that time at one of the addresses listed below.

All applications on diskette (with two accompanying paper copies and a signed certification statement) and any other applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 12, 2001, at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff, Room 4932-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042.

U.S. Postal Delivery: Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1042.

Timothy J. Galvin,

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

[FR Doc. 00-33138 Filed 12-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Announcement of the Market Access Program for Fiscal Year 2001

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the application period for the Fiscal Year 2001 Market Access Program (MAP).

DATES: All applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 12, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-4327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announces that applications are being accepted for participation in the Fiscal Year 2001 MAP. The MAP is designed to create, expand, and maintain foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities and products through cost-share assistance. Financial assistance under the MAP will be made available on a competitive basis and applications will be reviewed against the evaluation criteria contained herein. The MAP is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Under the MAP, CCC enters into agreements with eligible participants to share the costs of certain overseas marketing and promotion activities. MAP participants may receive assistance for either generic or brand promotion activities. The program generally operates on a reimbursement basis.

Authority

The MAP is authorized under section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, as amended, and MAP regulations appear at 7 CFR part 1485.

Eligible Applicants

To participate in the MAP, an applicant must be: A nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organization, a nonprofit state regional trade group (*i.e.*, an association of State Departments of Agriculture), a U.S. agricultural cooperative, a State agency, or a small-sized U.S. commercial entity (other than a cooperative or producer association).

Available Funds

\$90 million of cost-share assistance may be obligated under this announcement to eligible MAP applicants.

Application Process

To be considered for the MAP, an applicant must submit to FAS information required by the MAP regulations set forth in 7 CFR part 1485. Incomplete applications and

applications that do not otherwise conform to this announcement will not be accepted for review.

We also point out that FAS administers various other agricultural export assistance programs, including the Foreign Market Development Cooperator (Cooperator) program, Cochran Fellowships, the Emerging Markets Program, the Quality Samples Program, the Section 108 foreign currency program, and several Export Credit Guarantee programs.

Organizations which are interested in applying for MAP funds are encouraged to submit their requests using the Unified Export Strategy (UES) format. The UES allows interested entities to submit a consolidated and strategically coordinated single proposal that incorporates requests for funding and recommendations for virtually all FAS marketing programs, financial assistance programs, and market access programs. The suggested UES format encourages applicants to examine the constraints or barriers to trade they face, identify activities which would help overcome such impediments, consider the entire pool of complementary marketing tools and program resources, and establish realistic export goals. Applicants are not required, however, to use the UES format.

Organizations can submit applications in the UES format by two methods. The first allows an applicant to submit information directly to FAS through the UES application Internet site. FAS highly recommends applying via the Internet, as this format virtually eliminates paperwork and expedites the FAS processing and review cycle. Applicants also have the option of submitting electronic versions (along with two paper copies) of their applications to FAS on diskette.

Applicants planning to use the Internet-based system must contact the Marketing Operations Staff of FAS at (202) 720-4327 to obtain site access information. The Internet-based application, including step-by-step instructions for its use, is located at the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/cooperators.html>.

Applicants who choose to submit applications on diskette can download the UES handbook, including the suggested application format and instructions, from the following URL address: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/ues/unified.html>. A UES handbook may also be obtained by contacting the Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327.

All MAP applicants, whether applying via the Internet or diskette, must also submit by March 12, 2001, via

hand delivery or U.S. mail, an original signed certification statement as specified in 7 CFR 1485.13(a)(2)(i)(G). The UES handbook contains an acceptable certification format.

Any organization which is not interested in applying for the MAP but would like to request assistance through one of the other programs mentioned, should contact the Marketing Operations Staff at (202) 720-4327.

Review Process and Allocation Criteria

FAS allocates funds in a manner that effectively supports the strategic decision-making initiatives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. In deciding whether a proposed project will contribute to the effective creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets, FAS seeks to identify a clear, long-term agricultural trade strategy and a program effectiveness time line against which results can be measured at specific intervals using quantifiable product or country goals. These performance indicators are part of FAS' resource allocation strategy to fund applicants which can demonstrate performance based on a long-term strategic plan and address the performance measurement objectives of the GPRA.

Following is a description of the FAS process for reviewing applications and the criteria for allocating available MAP funds.

(1) Phase 1—Sufficiency Committee and FAS Divisional Review

Applications received by the closing date will be reviewed by FAS to determine the eligibility of the applicants and the completeness of the applications. These requirements appear at § 1485.12 and § 1485.13 of the MAP regulations. Applications which meet the application requirements will then be further evaluated by the applicable FAS Commodity Division. The Divisions will review each application against the criteria listed in § 1485.14 of the MAP regulations. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals and to recommend an appropriate funding level for each application based upon these criteria.

(2) Phase 2—Competitive Review

Meritorious applications will then be passed on to the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Commodity and Marketing Programs, for the purpose of allocating available funds among the applicants. Applications which pass the Divisional Review will compete for funds on the basis of the following allocation criteria (the number in

parentheses represents a percentage weight factor):

(a) Applicant's Contribution Level (40)

- The applicant's 4-year average share (1998–2001) of all contributions (cash and goods and services provided by U.S. entities in support of overseas marketing and promotion activities) compared to
- The applicant's 4-year average share (1998–2001) of the funding level for all MAP participants.

(b) Past Performance (30)

- The 3-year average share (1998–2000) of the value of exports promoted by the applicant compared to
- The applicant's 2-year average share (1999–2000) of the funding level for all MAP applicants plus, for those groups participating in the Cooperator program, the 2-year average share (2000–2001) of Cooperator marketing plan budgets, and the 2-year average share (1999–2000) of foreign overhead provided for co-location within a U.S. agricultural office;

(c) Projected Export Goals (15)

- The total dollar value of projected exports promoted by the applicant for 2001 compared to
- The applicant's requested funding level;

(d) Accuracy of Past Projections (15)

- Actual exports for 1999 as reported in the 2001 MAP application compared to
- Past projections of exports for 1999 as specified in the 1999 MAP application.

The Commodity Divisions' recommended funding level for each applicant is converted to a percentage of the total MAP funds available and multiplied by the total weight factor as described above to determine the amount of funds allocated to each applicant.

Closing Date for Applications

All Internet-based applications must be properly submitted by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 12, 2001. Signed certification statements also must be received by that time at one of the addresses listed below.

All applications on diskette (with two accompanying paper copies and a signed certification statement) and any other applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 12, 2001, at one of the following addresses:

Hand Delivery (including FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc.): U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Marketing Operations Staff,

Room 4932–S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1042.

U.S. Postal Delivery: Marketing Operations Staff, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250–1042.

Timothy J. Galvin,

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

[FR Doc. 00–33141 Filed 12–27–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Guidelines for State Plans of Work for the Agricultural Research and Extension Formula Funds

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) published Guidelines for the State Plans of Work for Agricultural Research and Extension Formula Funds on July 1, 1999 [64 FR 35910–35919]. The guidelines prescribe the procedures to be followed by the eligible institutions receiving Federal agricultural research and extension formula funds under the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a *et seq.*); sections 3(b)(1) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, as amended (7 U.S.C. 343(b)(1) and (c)); and sections 1444 and 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222). The recipients of these funds are commonly referred to as the 1862 land-grant institutions and the 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University. CSREES is publishing this notice to inform these institutions that the due date for the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results is changed from December 31 to March 1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. George Cooper; Deputy Administrator, Partnerships; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Washington, DC 20250; at 202–720–5285 or 202–720–5369, 202–720–4924 (fax); or via electronic mail at bhewitt@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Guidelines for State Plans of Work provide guidance for the submission of a 5-Year Plan of Work for the use of the

agricultural research and extension formula funds described above. The first 5-Year Plan of Work was due July 15, 1999, for the period covering October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2004. In addition, the Guidelines prescribe procedures for updating the 5-Year Plan of Work, if necessary, and for reporting annually on the accomplishments and results of the plan. The latter report is referred to as the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. CSREES has decided, in consultation with the land-grant institutions, to change the due date for the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results from December 31 to March 1. Therefore, the first report will be due March 1, 2001, and not December 31, 2000. It is anticipated that the additional two months will provide the institutions more time each year to report on their accomplishments and results for the fiscal year ending September 30.

Done at Washington, DC, this 21st day of December 2000.

Colien Hefferan,

Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 00–33208 Filed 12–27–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Announcement of the Emerging Markets Program for Fiscal Year 2001

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the application period for the Fiscal Year 2001 Emerging Markets Program.

DATES: All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 12, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marketing Operations Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–1042, phone: (202) 720–4327, fax: (202) 720–9361, email: emo@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

The Emerging Markets Program is authorized by Section 1542(d)(1)(D) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended (the Act). Up to \$10 million is available to fund the program each fiscal year.