

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: Sept. 27, 2007

USDA CHICKEN BURGERS PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen fully cooked chicken burgers for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Frozen fully cooked chicken (fowl) burgers must be produced from ground and seasoned fowl and formed into burgers weighing 2.5 ounces (71 grams). The commodity must be packaged in 5-pound bags (4.54 kg) or bulk packaged in a bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg). **Interested offerors must ensure that the Contracting Officer receives the technical proposal and two pre-bid samples not later than 1 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday, October 22, for evaluation. Announcement PY-328 and the Commodity Specification for Chicken Burgers dated September 2007 provide detailed instructions for submission of samples and the factors used for evaluation. Offers will be invited from approved suppliers only.** Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, October 29, will be issued in the near future. Subsequent invitations may be issued.

There are some important changes to this year's program. Pre-bid/production samples and technical proposals are required prior to participation in this program. The formulation has been revised, and the maximum fat content has been reduced to 13 percent. Truck seals shall meet the American Society for Testing and Materials standards, and seals shall be 1/8-inch in diameter, high-security bolts, or equivalent. Additionally, food defense plans will be audited by the USDA AMS Grading Branch prior to contract award. Potential Contractors will receive written notification from the Contracting Officer of their eligibility to bid. Contractors may request the Contracting Officer waive the pre-award audit.

All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in the Online Representations and Certifications Application and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-328, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-328, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Chicken Burgers dated September 2007, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- - - - -