

available with this notice will not negatively or disproportionately affect minorities, women, or persons with disabilities who are program beneficiaries or applicants for program benefits.

Environmental Evaluation

On each farm or ranch, during the application evaluation process, the environmental effects of any proposed actions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. That evaluation is used to determine whether further environmental analysis is required. Accordingly, neither an EA nor an EIS has been prepared for this notice.

Executive Order 12866

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), USDA must determine whether the regulatory action is "significant" and therefore subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the requirements of the Executive Order. The Order defines "significant regulatory action" as one that is likely to result in a rule that may:

(1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or Tribal governments or communities;

(2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

Pursuant to the terms of the Executive Order 12866, it has been determined that this Notice of Fund Availability is not a "significant regulatory action".

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 1, 2003.

Bruce I. Knight,

Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Request for Applications (RFA): Risk Management and Crop Insurance Education

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of funds and request for applications under two programs—(1) Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education and (2) Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States.

SUMMARY: In accordance with sections 552(d) and 524(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), operating through the Risk Management Agency (RMA), announces the availability of funding for two educational and informational programs:

1. Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education (Commodity Partnerships program). FCIC announces the availability of up to \$3.5 million for partnership agreements for risk management training and informational activities, with a priority for reaching agricultural producers of (a) agricultural commodities covered by section 196 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7333); (b) specialty crops; and (c) underserved commodities. (For purposes of these announcements, these commodities are collectively referred to as "Priority Commodities.") A maximum of thirty-nine partnership agreements will be funded: One in each of thirty-five specific States, one in Puerto Rico, and one in each of three multi-state areas. Recipients of awards must demonstrate non-financial benefits from a partnership agreement and must agree to the substantial involvement of RMA in the project.

2. Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States (Targets States program). FCIC announces the availability of up to \$4.25 million for cooperative agreements that will be used to conduct crop insurance education and information programs in fifteen States that have been determined to have low participation or are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. The fifteen States are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Funding will be limited for each of the fifteen States and a maximum of one cooperative agreement will be funded for each State. Recipients of awards must agree to the substantial involvement of RMA in the project.

Awards under both of these programs will be made on a competitive basis for projects of up to one year. This announcement lists the information needed to submit an application under either of these programs.

CLOSING DATES: The closing date and time for receipt of applications for both programs is 5 p.m. EDT on July 28, 2003. Applications received after the deadline will not be evaluated by the technical review panel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact: Michelle Fuller, USDA-RMA-RME, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0808, (Portals Bldg., Suite 508), Washington, DC 20250-0808, phone: 202-720-6356, fax: 202-690-3605, e-mail: michelle.fuller@wdc.usda.gov. You may also obtain information regarding this announcement from the RMA website at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov>.

Applicants may download an application package for either of the two programs from the RMA Web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov>. Applicants may also request an application package from: Michelle Fuller, USDA-RMA-RME, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0808, (Portals Bldgs., Suite 508), Washington, DC 20250-0808, phone: 202-720-6356, fax: 202-690-3605, email: michelle.fuller@wdc.usda.gov. <<mailto:michelle.fuller@wdc.usda.gov>>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit completed and signed application packages using overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by the USDA. The applicable address for such submissions is: RME Agreement Programs, c/o Michelle Fuller, USDA-RMA-RME, 1250 Maryland Ave. SW., Suite 508, Washington, DC 20024.

Completed and signed application packages sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to the following address: RME Agreement Programs, c/o Michelle Fuller, USDA-RMA-RME, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0808, (Portals Bldg. Suite 508), Washington, DC 20250-0808. Applicants using the U.S. Postal Service should allow for extra security-processing time for mail delivered to government offices.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended (44 U.S.C. chapter 25), the collection of information requirements contained in this announcement have been approved under OMB Document Nos. 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0046, and 0348-0040.