

basis for such designation. The original copy of a proposal that does not result in an award will be retained by RMA for a period of one year. Other copies will be destroyed. Copies of proposals not receiving awards will be released only with the express written consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. A proposal may be withdrawn at any time prior to award.

#### *G. Reporting Requirements*

Applicants awarded partnership or cooperative agreements will be required to submit quarterly progress and financial reports (OMB Standard Form 269) throughout the project period, as well as a final program and financial report not later than 90 days after the end of the project period.

#### *H. Audit Requirements*

Applicants awarded partnership or cooperative agreements are subject to audit.

#### *I. Prohibitions and Requirements With Regard to Lobbying*

Section 1352 of Public Law 101-121, enacted on October 23, 1989, imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans. It provides exemptions for Indian Tribes and tribal organizations. Current and prospective recipients, and any subcontractors, are prohibited from using Federal funds, other than profits from a Federal contract, for lobbying Congress or any Federal agency in connection with the award of a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or loan. In addition, for each award action in excess of \$100,000 (\$150,000 for loans) the law requires recipients and any subcontractors: (1) To certify that they have neither used nor will use any appropriated funds for payment of lobbyists; (2) to disclose the name, address, payment details, and purpose of any agreements with lobbyists whom recipients of their subcontractors will pay with profits or other nonappropriated funds on or after December 22, 1989; and (3) to file quarterly up-dates about the use of lobbyists if material changes occur in their use. The law establishes civil penalties for non-compliance. A copy of the certification and disclosure forms must be submitted with the application and are available from Michelle Fuller at the above stated address and telephone number.

#### *J. Applicable OMB Circulars*

All partnership and cooperative agreements funded as a result of this

notice will be subject to the requirements contained in all applicable OMB circulars.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 10, 2003.

**Ross J. Davidson, Jr.,**

*Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-08-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Federal Crop Insurance Corporation**

#### **Request for Applications (RFA): Risk Management Research Partnerships**

**AGENCY:** Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

**ACTION:** Announcement of availability of funds and request for application for risk management research partnerships.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 522(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) announces the availability of approximately \$4 million for partnership agreements that will fund risk management research activities. Priority will be given to those activities addressing the need for risk management tools for producers of agricultural commodities currently covered by section 196 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7333), specialty crops, livestock, rangeland and underserved commodities (For purposes of this announcement, these commodities are collectively referred to as "Priority Commodities"). Applications requesting funding for the specific development or modification of insurance products, plans of insurance or policies are excluded from consideration under this announcement. Awards under this program will be made on a competitive basis for projects of up to three years. Recipients of awards must demonstrate non-financial benefits from a partnership agreement and must agree to substantial involvement of RMA in the project. This announcement lists the information needed to submit an application for these funds.

**Closing Date:** The closing date and time for receipt of an application is 5 p.m. CDT on July 28, 2003. Applications received after the deadline will not be evaluated by the technical review panel.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Applicants may download an application package from the Risk Management Agency Web site at <http://www.rma.usda.gov>. Applicants may also request an application package

from: USDA, RMA/ RED, 6501 Beacon Drive, Stop 0813, Kansas City, Missouri 64133-4676, phone: (816) 926-6343, fax: (816) 926-7343, e-mail: [RMARED.Application@rma.usda.gov](mailto:RMARED.Application@rma.usda.gov).

Applicants are 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: RMA/RED Partnership Agreement Program, USDA, RMA/RED, 6501 Beacon Drive, Stop 0813, Kansas City, Missouri 64133-4676. Completed and signed application packages sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to the same address. 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.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 10.450.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This announcement consists of six parts:

#### Part I—General Information

- A. Legislative Authority
- B. Background
- C. Project Objectives
- D. Purpose
- E. Definition of Priority Commodities

#### Part II—Eligibility/Funding

- A. Eligible Applicants
- B. Non-financial Benefits
- C. Project Period
- D. Availability of Funds

#### Part III—Research Program Description

- A. Recipient Activities
- B. RMA Activities
- C. Other Activities

#### Part IV—Preparation of an Application

- A. Research Program Application Materials
- B. Content of Applications
- C. Submission of Applications
- D. Acknowledgement of Applications

#### Part V—Review Process

- A. General
- B. Evaluation Criteria and Weights
- C. Confidentiality

#### Part VI—Additional Information

- A. Access to Panel Review Information
- B. Notification of Partnership Agreement Awards
- C. Confidential Aspects of Proposals and Awards
- D. Reporting Documents
- E. Audit Requirements
- F. Prohibitions and Requirements with Regard to Lobbying
- G. Applicable OMB Circulars