

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center: Inviting Grant Proposals for the Sheep and Goat Industry Grant Initiative

AGENCY: National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) announces the availability of approximately \$300,000 in competitive grants for product or business development, producer information or education, marketing and promotion for sheep or goats or their products, genetic retention, and animal health. Eligible applicants, including many business structures but excluding individuals (see section III), may apply for up to \$50,000 in Federal Funds per proposal. The intent is to fund a variety of proposals that will benefit the U.S. sheep and goat industries.

DATES: Complete paper or electronically submitted applications must be received on or before 5 p.m. eastern time, October 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Applications, required forms, frequently asked questions and other helpful information can be found at <http://www.nsiic.org>.

Submit completed paper applications to one of the following addresses, depending on the delivery service used: (1) Submissions using the U.S. Postal Service should be sent to: USDA National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, P.O. Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483; (2) Submissions using commercial carriers should be sent to USDA National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., South Building Room 2117, Washington, DC 20250-3250.

Submit electronic grant applications to the following Internet address:

<http://www.grants.gov>. Before being able to submit an electronic grant application, the applicant must complete a registration process. Applicants should register at least 2 weeks prior to the application deadline to ensure timely submission of their applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director/CEO 202-690-0632 or Steve Lee, Administrative Officer 202-236-6567, or by e-mail, info@nsiic.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Agency: National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

Title: Sheep and Goat Industry Grant Initiative.

Type: Initial announcement for funding availability.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10-774.

Dates: Applications must be received by October 14, 2005 for projects that will be completed on or before September 30, 2007.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2008j. A NSIIC fund was established in the Treasury, without fiscal year limitation, to provide seed-money for a revolving fund that will provide financial assistance through a variety of mechanisms for the enhancement and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States with an emphasis on infrastructure development. The NSIIC is a unique pilot program with the management vested in a Board of Directors that is appointed by, and reports to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board of Directors consists of 7 voting members chosen from the sheep and goat industries. The Under Secretary for Rural Development and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) serve as non-voting members of the Board of Directors. The mission of the NSIIC is "To assist the U.S. Sheep and Goat Industries by strengthening and enhancing the production and marketing of sheep, goats, and their products in the United States." The NSIIC Board of Directors has made low interest loans available through an intermediary arrangement with the

National Livestock Producers Association since 2000 and has conducted the National Sheep Industry Grant Initiative in each of the past fiscal years since Fiscal Year (FY) 2002. The Board is making this grant initiative of up to \$300,000 available for FY 2006.

Projects that are submitted in the proposals should be completed in a timely fashion as provided in the proposal, with a final completion date on or before September 30, 2007. The primary objective of the Sheep and Goat Industry Grant Initiative (SGIGI) is to fund a number of diverse projects that will benefit the U.S. sheep or goat industries through product or business development, producer information or education, marketing and promotion for sheep or goats or their products, genetic retention and animal health at the regional, national or international level. Examples of previously funded projects can be found at www.nsiic.org/grants.htm.

Definitions

The definitions published at 7 CFR 4284.3 are incorporated by reference.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Grant.

Fiscal Year Funds: NA.

Approximate Total Funding: \$300,000.

Approximate number of Awards: 15.

Approximate Average Award: \$18,000, ranging in the past from \$1,300 to \$50,000.

Floor of Award Range: None.

Ceiling of Award Range: \$50,000.

Anticipated Award Date: January 23, 2006.

Budget Period Length: 20 months.

Project Period Length: 20 months.

It is expected that there will be proposals submitted that address a variety of needs related to the U.S. sheep and goat industries. Awards may be classified so that a variety of needs will be addressed by the funded proposals. The actual number of grants funded will depend on the quality of proposals received and the amount of funding requested. A proposal may be partially funded or funded in its entirety. The primary objective of the Sheep and Goat Industry Grant Initiative (SGIGI) is to fund a number of diverse projects that will benefit the U.S. sheep or goat industries through product or business development, producer information or education, marketing and

promotion for sheep or goats or their products, genetic retention or animal health at the regional, national or international level.

No funds made available under this solicitation shall be used to do any of the following activities:

1. Duplicate current services or replace or substitute support previously provided. If the current service is inadequate, however, grant funds may be used to expand the level of effort or services beyond that which is currently being provided;

2. Pay costs of preparing the application package for funding under this program;

3. Pay costs of the project incurred prior to the date of grant approval;

4. Fund political activities;

5. Pay for assistance to any private business enterprise that does not have at least 51 percent ownership by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence;

6. Pay any judgment or debt owed to the United States; or

7. Fund any activities prohibited by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, or 3019.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible applicants—An eligible entity is one that promotes the betterment of the United States sheep or goat industries and includes: (1) A public, private, or cooperative organization; (2) an association, including a corporation not operated for profit; (3) a federally recognized Indian Tribe; or (4) a public or quasi-public agency. Eligible entities must be domestic with at least 51 percent ownership by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence.

B. Ineligible applicants—Individuals, organizations under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, and organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4)) which engage in lobbying activities. Applications from ineligible applicants will be returned without review or consideration.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching—Cost sharing or matching funds are not required but preference may be given to proposals that have over 50 percent of the project costs in matching funds, including in kind contributions (See the Review and Selection Process). Overhead costs cannot exceed 25 percent of total project cost.

D. Other Eligibility Requirements—Applications without sufficient

information to determine eligibility will not be considered for funding.

Applications that are missing any required elements (in whole or in part) will not be considered for funding.

There is no limit on the number of applications that an entity may submit for this announcement.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Language: English

B. Address to Request Application Package—Forms can be found at <http://www.nsiic.org>. They can also be obtained by: e-mailing a request to info@nsiic.org; faxing a request to 202–720–1053 or calling 202–690–0632.

C. Content and Form of Application Submission:

1. You may submit your application in paper or in an electronic format. If you submit your application in a paper format it must include an original, with an original signature, and 10 additional copies.

2. Each copy must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner, do not bind.

3. All copies of the proposal must be submitted in one package.

4. The proposal must be submitted on standard 8.5" x 11" paper with typing on one side of the page only.

5. Margins must be at least 1", type must be 12 characters per inch (12 pitch or 10 point) or larger, no more than 6 lines per inch, and there should be no page reductions.

6. Proposals are limited to the information requested. DO NOT; exceed the narrative limit; include organizational brochures, promotional materials, slides, films, clips, books, videos, product samples, letters of support (they should be summarized in the narrative) or any other additional materials. Proposals that contain more than the requested information will be returned without review or consideration.

D. What to Submit:

1. SF-424 "Application for Federal Assistance." This serves as the cover page and no other cover page should be included.

2. SF-424A "Budget Information—Non Construction Programs."

3. SF-424B "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs."

4. Project Summary: The proposal must contain a project summary of 1 page or less on a separate page. This page must include the title of the project, the names of the primary project contacts, the applicant entity, followed by the summary. The summary should be self-contained and should describe the overall goals and relevance of the project. The summary should also

contain a listing of all organizations involved in the project. The Project Summary should immediately follow SF-424B.

5. Project Narrative: The project narrative is limited to 10 pages and the pages should be numbered, beginning with page 1 on the first page of the narrative. The narrative portion of the Project Proposal should contain the following:

- a. Introduction: Substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe the project's specific relationship to the segment of sheep or goat industry issue, product or market being addressed.

- b. Potential Industry Impact—Discuss the specific objectives to be accomplished under the project. Describe the proposed project and demonstrate how it will stimulate the U.S. sheep or goat industries. Provide a detailed analysis of the sheep or goat industry issue that is being addressed by the proposal by including the: (i) Product or group that will be impacted by the proposal; (ii) geographic area affected (iii) target audience or end user; (iv) and expected results.

- c. Industry Commitment—Describe the commitment of the producers, processors, end-users or other involved parties in participating in the proposed project. This may include, but is not limited to, individual producers, producer groups, processors, seminar participants, local organizations, local or state governments or trade associations.

- d. Business Soundness—Discuss the specific goals and objectives to be accomplished with a timetable, quantifiable benchmarks and expected results.

- e. Financial Feasibility—Provide a well-defined budget for the proposal and describe how the budget specifically relates to the completion of each goal or objective. This requirement may be accomplished, in whole or in part, by the required completion of SF-424A.

- f. Management Ability—Identify the management team needed to complete the proposal objectives and describe their qualifications. Describe how the project will be coordinated among various participants and the nature of the collaborations. Describe plans for management of the project to ensure its proper and efficient administration.

- g. Information that successful applicants must submit—Successful applicants will receive a letter of intent from NSIIC at which time they will be required to complete forms:

AD-1047, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other

Responsibility Matters—Primary Covered Transactions;”

AD-1048, “Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions;”

AD-1049, “Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants);”

RD-400-1, “Equal Opportunity Agreement; Certification Regarding Lobbying—Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreement;”

SF-270, “Request for Advance for Reimbursement;” and

SF-269, “Financial Status Report,” which is required later with the written semi annual-reports.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria—The proposal will initially be reviewed to determine whether the entity submitting the proposal meets the eligibility requirements and whether the proposal application contains the information required. After this initial evaluation, the following criteria will be used to rate and rank proposals received in response to this notice of funding availability. Failure to address any one of the criteria will disqualify the proposal and the proposal will be returned without review or consideration. Equal weight shall be given to each of the criterion listed below and points will be awarded on a scale of 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. A score of 5 indicates that the proposal was judged to be highly relevant to the criterion and a score of 1 indicates that the proposal was judged not to sufficiently address the criterion.

Each proposal will be evaluated and judged using the following criteria:

A. Potential Industry Impact—Describe the proposed project and demonstrate how it will stimulate the U.S. sheep or goat industries. Provide a detailed analysis of the sheep or goat industry issue that is being addressed by the proposal by including the: (1) Product or group that will be impacted by the proposal; (2) geographic area affected; (3) target audience or end user; (4) and expected results. The NSIIC will evaluate whether the industry issue and need are well-defined and the proposed project provides an effective and efficient approach to resolving the identified need.

B. Industry Commitment—Describe the commitment of the producers, processor, end-users or other involved parties in participating in the proposed project. This may include, but is not limited to, individual producers, producer groups, processors, seminar participants, local organizations, local

or state governments or trade associations. The NSIIC will evaluate whether there is a commitment from all who are expected to participate and benefit from the proposed project.

C. Business Soundness—Provide a timetable and objectives along with a quantifiable benchmark and expected results. The NSIIC will evaluate whether the proposal includes (1) Clear objectives; (2) well-defined tasks that will accomplish the objectives; (3) realistic benchmarks; and (4) a realistic timetable for the completion of the proposed tasks and a business strategy have been adequately developed.

D. Financial Feasibility—Provide a well-defined budget for the proposal. The NSIIC will evaluate whether (1) the funding requirements and budget for the project are well defined; (2) financially feasible and the matching funds or other resources that will be used to leverage the requested funds are identified.

E. Management Ability—Identify the management team needed to complete the proposal objectives and describe their qualifications. The NSIIC will evaluate whether the management team is identified and capable of implementing the proposal.

Review and Selection Process—The NSIIC Board of Directors will evaluate proposal applications. Applications will be evaluated competitively and points awarded as specified in the Selection Criteria section of this Notice. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to eligible entities. A proposal may be partially funded. After assigning points based upon the selection criteria, applications will be funded in rank order until all available funds have been expended. The Board of Directors reserves the right to award up to five additional points for proposals with over 50 percent in matching funds or to provide a diversity of projects targeting various situations, geographic areas, subjects. Projects that are approved for further processing will be subject to the grant terms that are negotiated between the applicant and the Board of Directors including, but not limited to, the amount to be funded, project goals, timetables, completion date or other terms as deemed necessary.

Award Administration Information: All applicants will receive notification of the outcome no later than January 23, 2006. Notifications will be sent to the contact person identified on the SF-424 by traceable carrier or USPS certified, return receipt mail.

VI. Award Administration Information

Award Notices—Successful applicants can expect notification no later than January 23, 2006. A letter of

intent will be sent to the contact person identified on the SF-424. The letter of intent will be followed by a letter of conditions, at that time the requirements described in the “Information that Successful applicants must submit” section are required. When those are completed the grant agreement will be executed.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements—Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to proposals considered for review and to grants awarded by USDA. These include, but are not limited to:

7 CFR 1.1—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR part 15a—USDA implementation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

7 CFR part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations.

7 CFR part 3016—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

7 CFR part 3017—Governmentwide Debarment.

7 CFR part 3018—New Restrictions on Lobbying.

7 CFR part 3019—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR part 3052—Audits of State, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

The terms of the above parts will be incorporated in the grant agreement.

Reporting—In addition to any other required reports, awardees will be required to submit written project performance reports on a semi-annual basis and a final report at the completion of the project. A follow up report on the progress of the project will also be required one year after the completion of the award.

The project performance report and final report shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. SF-269 “Financial Status Report”

2. A written report that includes:

A. A comparison of timeline, tasks and objectives outlined in the proposal as compared to the actual accomplishments;

B. If report varies from the stated objectives or they were not met, the reasons why established objectives were not met;

C. Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will materially affect attainment of planned project objectives;

D. Objectives established for the next reporting period; and

E. Status of compliance with any special conditions on the use of awarded funds.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

Web site—Forms, previous recipients and other information can be found at <http://www.nsiic.org>; e-mail: info@nsiic.org; USPS at NSIIC, PO Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483; other carriers at Room 2117, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 690-0632 or (207) 236-6567 or FAX (202) 720-1053.

VIII. Other Information

Low interest loans: For information on NSIIC intermediary low interest loan program, visit National Livestock Producers Association at <http://www.nlpa.org>.

The NSIIC Board of Directors reserves the right to award more, or less than the funds described in this announcement. In the absence of worthy application, the Board may decide not to make an award if deemed in the best interest of the Government.

Dated: July 14, 2005.

Jay B. Wilson,

Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

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BILLING CODE 1351-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. TM-05-07]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: The meeting dates are Monday, August 15, 2005, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, August 16, 2005, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, August 17, 2005, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Requests from individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting are due by the close of business on July 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, The Hillwood Room, 1330 Maryland

Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

Requests for copies of the NOSB meeting agenda, requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting, or written comments may be sent to Ms. Katherine Benham at USDA-AMS-TMD-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0200. Requests to make an oral presentation at the meeting may also be sent via facsimile to Ms. Katherine Benham at (202) 205-7808 or electronically to Ms. Katherine Benham at Katherine.benham@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katherine E. Benham, Advisory Board Specialist, National Organic Program, (202) 205-7806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of the NOSB. The purpose of the NOSB is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the OFPA. The NOSB met for the first time in Washington, DC, in March 1992, and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the organic program. The committees are: Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification; Crops; Livestock; Materials; Handling; and Policy Development.

In August of 1994, the NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture. Since that time, the NOSB has submitted 69 addenda to its recommendations and reviewed more than 267 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of the NOSB was held on February 28-March 3, 2005, in Washington, DC.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its final National Organic Program regulation in the **Federal Register** on December 21, 2000 (65 FR 80548). The rule became effective April 21, 2001.

The principal purposes of the meeting are to provide an opportunity for the NOSB to receive an update from the USDA/NOP and hear progress reports from NOSB committees regarding work plan items and proposed action items. The NOSB will also review materials to determine if they should be included on

the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

The Policy Development Committee will discuss factors to be considered for the development of guidance regarding temporary variances for research. The committee will also discuss the future development of criteria and procedures to be used by the NOSB when reviewing substances petitioned for addition to or removal from 205.606. The committee will present, for NOSB consideration, recommended changes to the Board Policies and Procedures Manual that include the following: (1) New materials approval and TAP review information; (2) sunset review process information; (3) procedures for handling questions and answers from the NOP; (4) decision tree process; (5) Chemistry 101 background information; and (6) formatting changes. Finally, the committee will submit, for NOSB consideration, its recommendations concerning the adoption of the collaboration policy document as presented by the NOP as an amendment to the Board Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Certification, Accreditation, and Compliance Committee will present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendation on how to operationalize the process of Peer Review. The committee will present a draft statement concerning NOP's response to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) report. It will also present, for NOSB consideration, a recommendation developed in cooperation with the Handling Committee that contains certification questions and answers related to retailers and private labelers.

*COM019*The Livestock Committee will discuss the future development of apiculture standards (based on an existing NOSB recommendation). The committee will present, for NOSB consideration, its recommendations to provide guidance on requirements for access to pasture for ruminants and the addition of Sucrose Octanoate Esters to the National List for use in Apiculture Production.

The Materials Committee will discuss priority items for the sunset review of substances identified by Crops, Livestock, Handling, and Materials Committee. The committee will also discuss possible revisions to the **Federal Register** Notice (65 FR 43259) that contains instructions for the submission of petitions to add substances to or remove substances from the National List. The committee will present recommendations to (1) restructure the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances to reflect the exemption