

propagation are still subject to the restrictions found in APHIS' foreign quarantine notices in 7 CFR part 319.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with this determination. The EA was prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Based on that EA, APHIS has reached a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with regard to its determination that Monsanto's corn line MON 802 and lines developed from it are no longer regulated articles under its regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available upon request from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of May 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97–14876 Filed 6–5–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[RFP #126–FW–NRCS–97]

Soil Survey Division Research Program

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 74–46, 16 U.S.C. 590(a–f), Pub. L. 89–560.

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of funds for Request for Proposal.

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey Division through Congressional authority, has provided soil related research primarily through the National Soil Survey Laboratory (NSSL), and the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Soil Survey Division has focused its research on soil genesis and processes, soil-landscape relationships, and development of criteria for Soil Taxonomy.

The Soil Survey Laboratories, in concert with University collaborators, led in the development of laboratory procedures for physical, chemical, and mineralogical methods in support of the NCSS. Historically, geomorphic projects constituted prominent research activities.

The Soil Survey Division has funds for selected proposals and will utilize these funds specifically for research and development within its budget.

DATES: The solicitation release date is June 10, 1997. Request for Proposal must be received on or before July 10, 1997. Proposals received after July 10, 1997, will not be considered for funding.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to the following address: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Business Management Center, FWFC, Bldg. 23, 501 Felix St., P.O. Box 6567, Ft. Worth, TX 76115–0567. The telephone number is (817) 334–5461; Internet: jlowe9ftw.nrcs.usda.gov. Hand-delivered proposal, including those submitted through an express mail or a courier service, must be submitted to the following address: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Business Management Center, FWFC, Bldg 23, 501 Felix St., Ft. Worth, TX 76115. The telephone number is: (817) 334–5461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Kimble, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Soil Survey Center, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508–3866; telephone (402) 437–5376; jkimble@nssc.nrcs.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that under the authority for Soil Survey, awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be awarded for support of any one proposal, regardless of the amount requested. The total amount of funds available for proposals is \$300,000.

Eligibility and Limitations on Use of Funds

Under this program, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may award proposal to land-grant colleges and universities, State agricultural experiment stations, colleges, universities, private entities, and to Federal laboratories having a demonstrable capacity in soil research. Proposal received from scientists at non-United States organizations or institutions will not be considered for support.

This request for proposal is subject to the provision found in 7 CFR part 3019, the Uniform Administrative

Requirement for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-profit Organizations, which sets forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals, processes regarding the awarding of grants, and regulations relating to the post-award administration of grant projects. In addition, other Federal statutes and regulations, such as 7 CFR 3051, the Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions, and OMB Circular A–110 and A–21, apply to this program.

Specific Areas of Research To Be Supported in Fiscal Year 1997

A research framework has been developed to advance the fundamental goals of understanding and portraying (T.E.C.) the pedosphere, to develop and quantify soil interpretations, and to provide efficient technology transfer relevant for the NRCS and its cooperators. Methods development is important within this framework. In the past, much of the laboratory's focus was on development and improvement of laboratory methods. These efforts need to be continued. Also, additional needs are to focus more on field methods used to help in mapping, scaling of data, and model development for prediction of soil properties and extension of single point information for use in description of complex natural ecosystems. Within the critical research issues, both methods development (laboratory and field) and information delivery techniques are extremely important.

This framework includes the following integrative elements:

1. Soil-Water and Temperature
2. Geomorphic Modeling
3. Soil Quality/Soil Health
4. Soil Biological Processes in Soils and Carbon Cycling
5. Soil Genesis and Taxonomy
6. Spatial Variability & Scaling

Critical Research Issues

Research is needed in the following general focus areas:

1. *Utilization of the NRCS Soil database.* The NRCS has an excellent and extensive database consisting of measured soil physical, chemical, and mineralogical properties from soils throughout the world. The database is an under utilized tool that has significant potential for use in improving soil quality, increasing agricultural production, and providing information to our customers. Development of new uses for the soils data is encouraged.

2. *New and developing issues in agriculture.* Site specific management (production maximization and critical area management) and soil quality are current examples of new areas holding promise of improving agricultural production while maintaining or improving soil conditions.

3. *Global Climate Change.* Studies in this area include understanding future effects on agriculture and forestry of climate change, whether natural or human caused. Priority areas are effects of soil carbon sequestration and release, monitoring changes in soil moisture and temperature over time, and contributions of agriculture and forestry to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emission and to project the capability to adapt to these changes. Studies related to developing data on soil properties that can be used by others in Global Climate research are also of interest.

4. *Use-dependent and temporal soil properties.* Studies in these areas may be closely related to other research activities such as site specific management or to development of long-term soil climate indices through analyses of continuously-monitored properties such as soil water status and soil temperature.

5. *Relationship of the pedosphere to other "spheres."* The relationship of the pedosphere to the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere should be investigated in a globally integrated manner. Included in this area is the development of models linking the soil environment to global models of the earth's interactions.

6. *Paleo-environment.* Studies of paleo-environmental parameters, as proxy models, can be used to predict climatic effects. This is an extremely important area in this era of global climate changes.

7. *Scaling data.* Included in this area are the needs to aggregate data from different sources and different scales and to develop means for dealing with geographically variable data.

8. *Ecosystem management.* Studies should be oriented to integrated units such as watersheds rather than individual farm fields, political areas such as counties, individual soil map units or point-location. The concept of soil landscape should be developed and refined.

How to Obtain Application Materials

Copies of this solicitation, and the Administrative provisions for this program (7 CFR and 3019) may be obtained by writing to the address or calling the telephone number which follows: USDA, National Business Management Center, Acquisition

Management, Attn: Mr. James Lowe, P.O. Box 6567, 501 Felix Street, Ft. Worth, TX 76115-0567, (817) 334-5461. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for proposal information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-2791.

These materials may also be requested via internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail) and phone number, to jlowe@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov. The material will be mailed to you as quickly as possible.

Preparation and Submission of Proposals

Proposals submitted in response to this announcement for research opportunities must be submitted in accordance with the following guidelines.

Proposals shall be less than 10 pages in length. They must contain target dates and deadlines for the proposed research. The research proposal must include the hypotheses to be tested, expected results, and detailed budget, project (executive summary), statement of problem(s), a brief literature review, benefits of the proposed research to NCSS, science and society, proposed outreach program, and existing facilities/equipment. When the project is to be carried out in a cooperative nature with the NRCS, with an NCSS partner, or with another entity, the responsibilities of each partner must be described.

A two page curriculum vitae for each researcher(s) needs to be included with the proposal. A description of the qualifications of the scientist(s) (including degrees, publications, related grants, and past work). Failure to provide full and complete information may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Proposal Review

Proposal will be reviewed by NRCS and outside reviewers to ensure that they are within the areas outlined under critical issues and within established procedures of the NRCS. Strong consideration will be given to proposals that have the potential for enhancing the use of the existing data and information presently available at the NSSC.

In accordance with Federal statutes and regulation and USDA, NRCS policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving

financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture. Entities or individuals will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities support by this award of assistance.

Roy R. Twidt,

Director, National Business Management Center.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: July 7, 1997.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodities and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and services to the Government.