

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

Foreign Agricultural Service

Foreign Currencies Available for the Development of Foreign Markets

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Foreign Agricultural Service ("FAS") invites proposals from interested parties to use Tunisian or Moroccan currencies acquired by the United States government for market development projects and technical assistance activities in those countries. These currencies were acquired pursuant to agreements under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, (P.L. 480).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Evans Browne, Program Development Division, Export Credits, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4506, South Building, Stop 1034, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1034. Telephone: (202) 720-4228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title I, P.L. 480 authorizes the United States to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities to foreign governments on concessional terms. Between 1986 and 1991, the United States entered into various title I, P.L. 480 agreements with foreign governments, including Tunisia and Morocco, on terms which required repayment to the United States in local currencies. These agreements were commonly referred to as constituting the "section 108 program." Most of the foreign currency received under the section 108 program was loaned by the United States to financial institutions in the host country which would, in turn, loan the funds to local businesses in order to foster economic development. After the local financial institutions repaid the United States, the funds

could be made available for the development of markets for United States agricultural commodities. In addition, other local currency repaid to the United States could be used for agricultural technical assistance to foster and encourage the development of private enterprise institutions and infrastructure as the base for the production of food and related goods and services. Currently, Tunisian and Moroccan local currencies acquired under the section 108 program are available for the development of markets for United States agricultural commodities and for agricultural technical assistance activities.

Application Process

Responsibility for administering Departmental programs concerned with developing foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities and technical cooperation has been delegated to FAS. Parties interested in using Tunisian or Moroccan currency to develop markets for agricultural commodities, or to undertake technical assistance activities, in those countries should submit a proposal to: Evans Browne, Program Development Division, Export Credits, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4506, South Building, Stop 1034, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-1034. Telephone: (202) 720-4228. Interested parties must submit Standard Form 424 (SF-424) in conjunction with their proposal. This form is available from the above address. FAS will review all proposals in accordance with the standards in this notice. Those organizations which requested section 108 funding as part of their 1998 Unified Export Strategy (UES) application should review this notice to determine if all information requested herein has been furnished. If so, such organizations need not re-apply in response to this announcement. FAS will accept additional and supplemental information supporting proposals already submitted in the UES application.

Proposals should outline, to the extent applicable, the following points:

- A description of the project to develop or expand a commercial market for a U.S. agricultural commodity or product, or a description of the technical assistance activity;

- An indication of funding sources and amounts to be contributed by the applicant to implement the project or technical assistance activity in addition to the local currency provided by FAS. This may include amounts contributed by private industry entities or host governments. Contributed resources may include cash, goods, and services;

- The average value of U.S. exports of the commodity or product promoted by the applicant for the years 1995-97;

- The average total value of world trade of the commodity or product promoted by the applicant during the years 1995-97;

- The total dollar value of projected U.S. exports of the commodity or product promoted by the applicant during 1998;

- A results-oriented means of measuring the success of the project or technical assistance activity and a plan for reporting progress to FAS. For example, the proposals should identify the constraints or barriers to trade faced by a particular product in a particular market; describe the strategy and activity(ies) that will be implemented to overcome such impediments; and finally, identify the goals and performance indicators which will be used to measure the effectiveness of the strategy and activities in achieving those goals;

- The administrative capabilities of the participant to implement the project or technical assistance activity;

- Proposals for technical assistance activities should also describe how the technical assistance will enhance the local market's food and rural business systems, and impact on transformation of the host country's economy to a free market system.

Review Process

FAS will review the proposals to identify projects that could contribute to the effective creation, expansion, or maintenance of foreign markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and products. When reviewing proposals to undertake generic activities, FAS will give priority to organizations that are industry-wide or nationwide in membership and scope. For such activities, U.S. agricultural trade associations will be used to the maximum extent possible. Recipients must demonstrate an ability to provide U.S.-based staff capable of developing, supervising, and carrying out projects overseas, and be willing

and able to contribute resources to a joint project. FAS will also consider the likelihood of these activities influencing conditions affecting the level of U.S. exports; the size, in both budget and scope, of the proposed project; and, the likelihood of the market becoming a commercial market for U.S. agricultural commodities and products. FAS considers evaluation critical to the success of a market development project. In determining whether to approve a market development or technical assistance project, FAS will place great emphasis on the performance measures in the proposal and upon the plan for reporting progress to FAS.

Upon approval of a proposal, FAS will enter into an agreement with the entity submitting the proposal pursuant to which FAS will provide local currencies for carrying out the market development or technical assistance project. Agreements will incorporate, by reference, the proposal as approved by FAS.

General administrative requirements for implementation of any resultant agreement with non-profit institutions are found at 7 CFR part 3019, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-profit Organizations" except as may be necessitated by the use of foreign currencies or host country laws. Interested parties should familiarize themselves with these regulations.

FAS may announce in the future the availability of other local currencies in other countries for market development and technical assistance.

Signed at Washington D.C. on June 26, 1998.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-18000 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Assessment of Fees for Dairy Import Licenses

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of the fee for dairy import licenses for the 1999 quota year.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the fee to be charged for the 1999 tariff-rate quota year for each license issued to a person or firm by the Department

of Agriculture authorizing the importation of certain dairy articles which are subject to tariff-rate quotas set forth in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) will be \$158.00 per license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard P. Warsack, Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Policies and Programs Division, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-1021 or telephone at (202) 720-9439.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Licensing Regulation promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and codified at 7 CFR 6.20-6.36 provides for the issuance of licenses to import certain dairy articles which are subject to tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) set forth in the HTS. Those dairy articles may only be entered into the United States at the in-quota TRQ tariff rates by or for the account of a person or firm to whom such licenses have been issued and only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the regulation.

Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis, and each license authorizes the license holder to import a specified quantity and type of dairy article from a specified country of origin. The use of licenses by the license holder to import dairy articles is monitored by the Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Licensing Group, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Customs Service.

The Regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) provides that a fee will be charged for each license issued to a person or firm by the Licensing Authority in order to reimburse the Department of Agriculture for the costs of administering the licensing system under this Regulation.

The Regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) also provides that the Licensing Authority will announce the annual fee for each license and that such fee will be set out in a notice to be published in the Federal Register. Accordingly, this notice sets out the fee for the licenses to be issued for the 1999 calendar year.

Notice

The total cost to the Department of Agriculture of administering the licensing system during 1998 has been determined to be \$404,318 and the estimated number of licenses expected to be issued is 2,563. Of the total cost, \$243,748 represent staff and supervisory costs directly to administering the licensing system during 1998; \$50,320

represents the total computer costs to monitor and issue import licenses during 1998; and \$110,250 represents other miscellaneous costs, including travel, postage, publications, forms, and an ADP system contractor.

Accordingly, notice is hereby given that the fee for each license issued to a person or firm for the 1999 calendar year, in accordance with 7 CFR 6.33, will be \$158.00 per license.

Issued at Washington, D.C., June 23, 1998.

David J. Williams,

Licensing Authority.

[FR Doc. 98-18001 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Skipping Cow Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Skipping Cow Timber Sale. The timber sale is located in the Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area, Wrangell Ranger District, on Zarembo Island, within Value Comparison Units (VCU's) 458 and 459. The Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (1997) provides the overall guidance (land use designations, goals, objectives, management prescriptions, standards and guidelines) to achieve the desired future condition for the area in which this project is proposed. This Forest Plan allocates portions of the project area into three management prescriptions: Timber Production, Modified Landscape, and Scenic Viewshed.

The purpose and need for the project is to respond to the goals and objectives identified by the Forest Plan for the timber and move Skipping Cow Project Area toward the desired future condition. The Forest Plan identified the following goals and objectives: (1) manage the timber resource for production of saw timber and other wood products from suitable timber lands made available for timber harvest, on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis and in an economically efficient manner (Forest Plan page 2-4); (2) seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand for Tongass National Forest timber, and the demand for the planning cycle (page 2-4); and (3) maintain and