

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES  
WITH THE USDA's**

**RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS MISSION AREA**

**Narrative for the REE  
FY 2004  
PROCUREMENT FORECAST  
(Revised September 2003)**

Consisting of the

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE  
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

## **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**

ARS is the designated contracting activity for the Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area agencies (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)). In support of these agencies, ARS procures a wide variety of supplies, services, and equipment. In addition, ARS procures major construction services such as small buildings, greenhouses, repair, maintenance, and energy retrofitting.

ARS is responsible for developing through basic, applied, and developmental research, new knowledge and technology which will ensure an abundance of high quality, nutritious, reasonably priced food and other agricultural products to meet domestic and world needs while maintaining natural resources and environmental quality.

Purchasing is accomplished at the lowest level possible in ARS and over 100 decentralized locations throughout the United States to maintain operational support close to the mission activity units. Most items and services described above are purchased through the competitive bidding process (i.e., sealed bids or negotiated procurements, which may be set-aside for small or HUBZone businesses). Federal Supply Schedule contracts are also a significant source of supplies.

## **Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)**

The goal of CSREES is to strengthen Federal, State, and local partnerships in research, education, and extension activities. CSREES facilitates the advancement of science and technology in the nationwide agricultural research system by providing federal resources, participating in cooperative program planning and evaluation, including developing a forum for coordination between State Agricultural Experiment Stations, USDA, and Federal research scientists. CSREES responds educationally to critical national issues affecting food and agricultural systems.

## **National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS)**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) gives coordinated leadership to statistical reporting, research, and service programs of USDA. It provides a channel for the orderly flow of statistical intelligence about the agricultural economy and the country. The primary responsibilities of NASS are the national and state crop and livestock estimates including coordination and improvement in the USDA's statistical requirements.

## **Economic Research Service (ERS)**

The Economic Research Service (ERS) develops and carries out a program of economic research designed to benefit farmers and the general public. The findings of this research are made available to farmers and others through research reports and through economic outlook and situation reports on major commodities, the national economy, and the international economy.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS**

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