

May 9, 2003

SUBJECT: Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area Competitive Sourcing Studies for 2003

TO: All ERS Employees

FROM: Susan Offutt
Administrator

As a follow on to Under Secretary Jen's April 2 message on competitive sourcing to all employees in the REE Mission Area, this memorandum is to notify you that the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has selected several specific work functions for competitive sourcing studies in 2003. These activities are located at Ames, Iowa and the Beltsville Area /National Agricultural Library. ERS will not initiate any competitive sourcing studies in FY 2003.

The ARS functions that will be studied at Ames are facilities operations and maintenance services supporting the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) and the National Soil Tilth Laboratory, as well as research support services at NADC. Functions under study at the Beltsville Area (including the U.S. National Arboretum) and at the National Agricultural Library are facilities operations and maintenance services, research farming services, and security services. The ARS studies are scheduled to begin May 8, 2003, and are expected to be completed within 18 months.

REE has established a Competitive Sourcing website at <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/initiatives/a-76/>. This website includes a Communications Plan, with the key actions and timelines required to conduct the studies, as well as answers to some of the frequently asked questions about competitive sourcing. Please refer any further questions to ERS Associate Administrator Phil Fulton.