

8. *Advancing key phytosanitary concepts: Prepare a discussion document on diversion from intended use.* Clearly organize the concepts of diversion from intended use into a discussion document to serve as future reference. The reference document was presented to the NAPPO Executive Committee on October 31, 2016.

Provide guidance on assessing the likelihood of establishment component of a pest risk analysis (PRA) for quarantine pests. Assess feasibility of developing harmonized regional guidance to assess the likelihood of pest establishment when developing a PRA. The results are aimed to refocus the application of risk management measures on only those pests that are likely to cause harm. During the first half of 2016, upon thorough assessment of relevant standards and existing guidance, the expert group determined that existing guidance was adequate. Therefore, the expert group proposed a change in project scope, approved by the NAPPO Executive Committee in July 6, 2016, to instead develop a NAPPO discussion paper on interpretation of existing guidance in standards for the evaluation of the likelihood of establishment in PRAs.

Organize an international symposium on inspection sampling to support proper and harmonized implementation of ISPMs 23 (Guidelines for Inspection) and 31 (Methodologies for sampling of consignments) in the NAPPO region and internationally. The international symposium on risk-based sampling, targeted to take place in the summer of 2017, will examine the relevant scientific and statistical concepts associated with inspection sampling, the operational and regulatory challenges of implementation, the outreach/in-reach efforts needed for acceptance and capacity building, and opportunities for harmonization. The purpose of the symposium is to bring together government agencies, researchers and analysts, industries and international organizations to collaborate in the development and implementation of risk based sampling methods for phytosanitary inspection. Symposium proceedings will be created as an enduring reference.

9. *Potato: Revise the pest list for RSPM 3, Movement of potatoes into a NAPPO member country.* Undertake the annual revision of the pest list.

Work to finalize the review of the existing RSPM 3, *Movement of potatoes into a NAPPO member country*, to align it with ISPM 33, *Pest free potato (Solanum sp.) micropropagative material and minitubers for international trade*, and discuss any

adjustments required by NAPPO member countries. Review comments received from the country consultation of the draft revision and make adjustments as required.

Revise Annex 6, *Pre-shipment testing for PVY^N*, while undertaking a full 5-year review of RSPM 3, *Movement of potatoes into a NAPPO member country*. Update the current Annex 6 of RSPM 3, based on the PVY TAG Science and Technology document finalized in 2013, while undertaking the 5-year review of RSPM 3.

10. *Seeds: Develop harmonized criteria for evaluating phytosanitary seed treatments.* Develop a discussion document providing a list of criteria for evaluating phytosanitary seed treatments, as well as the identification of data gaps and research needs where they may exist.

11. *Foundational/Procedural documents: Revision/update of various foundational or procedural documents.* In 2016, NAPPO's Advisory and Management Committee has been working to update various NAPPO foundational and procedural documents. On July 6, 2016, NAPPO's Executive Committee approved an updated version of NAPPO's Constitution and By-Laws as well as the 2016–2020 NAPPO Strategic Plan. Edits in the Constitution and By-Laws were minor in nature to update terms and practices and to streamline the document. The new Strategic Plan outlines how NAPPO will be guided by regional priorities, core goals, and focus over the next 5 years. The documents were signed during the 2016 NAPPO Annual Meeting.

The PPQ Deputy Administrator, as the official U.S. delegate to NAPPO, intends to participate in the adoption of these regional plant health standards and projects, including the work described above, once they are completed and ready for such consideration.

The information in this notice contains all the information available to us on NAPPO standards under development or consideration. For updates on meeting times and for information on the expert groups that may become available following publication of this notice, visit the NAPPO Web site or contact Ms. Patricia Abad (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Information on official U.S. participation in NAPPO activities, including U.S. positions on standards being considered, may also be obtained from Ms. Abad. Those wishing to provide comments on any of the topics being addressed in the NAPPO work program may do so at any time by responding to this notice (see

ADDRESSES above) or by transmitting comments through Ms. Abad.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of November 2016.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2016–27791 Filed 11–17–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Applications for Licensing as a Non-Leveraged Rural Business Investment Company Under the Rural Business Investment Program

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the acceptance of applications from newly-formed Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs) or new funds from existing RBICs who are interested in obtaining a licensed fund as non-leveraged RBICs under the Agency's Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP).

DATES: The Agency began accepting applications for non-leveraged status on August 6, 2012, and will continue to accept applications for non-leveraged status on a continuous basis until such time the Agency determines otherwise.

ADDRESSES:

Address for Application Submission: Completed applications must be sent to Specialty Programs Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room Number 4204–S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–3226.

Address for Requesting Information: Application materials and other information may be requested by writing to Kristi Kubista-Hovis, Acting Director, Specialty Programs Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4204–S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–3226.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Detailed information on the RBIP, including application materials and instructions, can be found on the Agency's Web site at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-investment-program>. You also may request information from the Agency by contacting David Chesnick, Program Manager, Rural Business Investment Program, Specialty Programs Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4221–S, 1400

Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20250-3226, at (202)
690-0433.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 defines “collection of information” as a requirement for “answers to * * * identical reporting or recordkeeping requirements imposed on ten or more persons” (44 U.S.C. 3502(3)(A)). The collection requirement associated with this Notice is expected to receive less than 10 respondents and therefore the Act does not apply.

Overview Information

Federal Agency Name. Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Opportunity Title. RBIP for Non-leveraged RBICs.

Announcement Type. Subsequent announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number. The CFDA number for the program impacted by this action is 10.860, Rural Business Investment Program.

Dates. The Agency began accepting applications for non-leveraged status on August 6, 2012, and will continue to accept applications for non-leveraged status until such time the Agency determines otherwise. *Availability of Notice.* This Notice is available on the USDA Rural Development Web site at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-investment-program>.

I. Opportunity Description

A. Background. The purpose of Subtitle H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2009cc *et seq.*) is to promote economic development and the creation of wealth and job opportunities in rural areas and among individuals living in those areas through venture capital investments by for-profit RBICs.

Prior to August 6, 2012, the Agency issued licenses to qualified RBICs as leveraged RBICs only. A notice published in the **Federal Register** on July 5, 2012, (77 FR 39675), informed the public that the Agency would begin accepting non-leveraged RBIC license applications on August 6, 2012.

The purpose of this current Notice is to notify interested RBICs that the Agency is still accepting applications from qualified RBICs for licensing as non-leveraged RBICs under the RBIP. The Agency will continue to accept such applications until such other time the Agency determines otherwise.

B. Program Authority. Subtitle H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural

Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2009cc *et seq.*) establishes the RBIP.

C. Definition of Terms. The terms defined in 7 CFR part 4290 are applicable to this Notice.

II. Licensing Information

A. Number of Licenses. The Agency intends to issue approximately two non-leveraged RBIC licenses a year, subject to sufficient resources. However, additional applications for licenses may be considered if sufficient resources are made available.

B. Type of License. Non-leveraged.

III. Eligibility Information

Applicants and their applications are subject to the provisions of this Notice and to the provisions of 7 CFR part 4290. In order to be eligible for non-leveraged status under this Notice, the applicant must demonstrate that one or more Farm Credit System (FCS) institution(s) will invest in the RBIC and, individually or collectively, hold 10 percent or more the applicant's total capital.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Where to Obtain Applications. Applicants may obtain applications and other applicable application material from the Agency's Specialty Programs Division, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice. Because applications will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, the Agency recommends that potential applicants who plan to request application materials via mail request such materials as soon as possible.

Application materials may also be obtained via <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-investment-program> or by contacting the Agency at the address and phone number provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

B. Prior to Preparing Application. The Agency recommends that those interested in applying for non-leveraged licensing contact the Agency at the address and phone number provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice to determine the status of the non-leveraged program in order to avoid unnecessary expenditure of resources by the applicant. As noted earlier in this Notice, the Agency intends to issue approximately two non-leveraged licenses a year, due to limited resources, the Agency may not be able to review more than the two applications in any 1 fiscal year.

C. Content and Form of Submission. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the application

instructions contained in this Notice and in 7 CFR 4290. Applicants must submit complete initial applications in order to be considered. Applications must be submitted in hard copy form and on a USB flash drive; applications sent by facsimile will not be accepted.

Contents of the initial application include RD Form 4290-1, “Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP) Application,” Part I, Management Assessment Questionnaire (MAQ), and RD Form 4290-2, “Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP) Application,” Part II, Exhibits (exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, L, P, V, and Z).

Submit two complete, original hard copy sets of the RD Form 4290-1 and RD Form 4290-2 (excluding Exhibit P, which is required in electronic form only). Place each of the two original sets in a large 3-ring binder. Label the binders with the RBIC's name. Submit one complete and unbound one-sided hard copy of the MAQ and Exhibits suitable for photocopying (*i.e.*, no hole punches, staples, paper clips, tabs, or binders).

Applicants must enclose in their submission a nonrefundable licensing fee of \$500 in the form of a check payable to USDA.

D. When to Submit. The Agency is accepting applications for non-leveraged status until such time the Agency determines otherwise.

E. Where to Submit. The applicant must submit the application material to the Agency's Specialty Programs Division as specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

F. How to Submit. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications via package/parcel service.

V. Program Provisions

This section of the Notice identifies the procedures the Agency will use to process and select applicants for licensing as a non-leveraged RBIC. More information about the RBIP is available in the regulation at 7 CFR part 4290.

The Agency will review each application it receives in response to this Notice with regard to eligibility and completeness. If the application is incomplete, the Agency will notify the applicant of the information that is missing. The applicant must then provide the missing information in order for the Agency to further review the application.

The Agency will select applicants for licensing as a non-leveraged RBIC on a first-come, first-served basis. The Agency will determine the order of applications based on the date the Agency receives a complete application.

For example, if an application is received on July 1, but is incomplete, and the applicant supplies the Agency with the missing information on August 1, then that application will be considered for selection on the basis of the August 1 date—the date on which the application was complete. Therefore, the Agency encourages applicants to ensure their applications are complete prior to submitting them.

Only those applications that are eligible will be processed further for determining whether the applicant will be licensed as a non-leveraged RBIC. However, not all applications received in response to this Notice will receive this further processing. For each application that receives further processing, the Agency or its designee will focus its assessment of the application on the consistency of the newly formed RBIC's business plan with the goals of the RBIP program and on the applicant's management team's qualifications. Following this assessment, if the initial recommendation is favorable, the Agency or its designee will interview the applicant's management team.

Based on the assessment and interview, a preliminary determination will be made as to whether or not to select the applicant for non-leveraged status. If the preliminary determination is favorable, the Agency will send to the applicant a Letter of Conditions (also known as a "Green Light" letter) and the applicant will be invited to submit an updated RD Form 4290-1, Part I, Management Assessment Questionnaire, and RD Form 4290-2, Part II, Exhibits. Upon receipt of the Letter of Conditions, the applicant has 24 months to raise their private equity capital. Once a selected applicant has achieved full compliance with the regulations governing licensing as an RBIC, the Agency will issue the non-leveraged license to the RBIC.

VI. Administrative Information Applicable to This Notice

A. Notifications

1. *Eligibility.* The Agency will notify the applicant in writing whether or not the application is determined to be eligible for participation in the RBIP. If an applicant is determined by the Agency to be ineligible, the Agency will provide the reason(s) the applicant was rejected. Such applicant will have review and appeal rights as specified in this Notice.

2. *License.* Each applicant receiving a "Green Light" letter will be notified whether or not the RBIC will be licensed after the Agency's review of the updated

RD Form 4290-1, Part I, Management Assessment Questionnaire, and RD Form 4290-2, Part II, Exhibits.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. *Review or Appeal Rights.* A person may seek a review of an adverse Agency decision under this Notice or appeal to the National Appeals Division in accordance with 7 CFR part 11.

2. *Notification of Unfavorable Decisions.* If at any time prior to license approval it is decided that favorable action will not be taken, the Agency will notify the applicant in writing of the decision and of the reasons why issuing a non-leveraged license was not favorably considered. The notification will inform the applicant of its rights to an informal review, mediation, and appeal of the decision in accordance with 7 CFR part 11.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information about this Notice or for assistance with the program requirements, please contact the Specialty Programs Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 4204-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3226. Telephone: (202) 720-1400.

VIII. Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program

Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) *Mail:* U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights: 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410;
 - (2) *Fax:* (202) 690-7442; or
 - (3) *Email:* program.intake@usda.gov.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: November 9, 2016.

Samuel H. Rikkers,
Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-27731 Filed 11-17-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) Inviting Applications for the Rural Business Development Grant Program To Provide Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice is to invite applications for grants to provide Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation (RT) systems under the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program pursuant to 7 CFR part 4280, subpart E, 2 CFR chapter IV and 2 CFR part 200 for fiscal year (FY) 2017, subject to the availability of funding to provide Technical Assistance for RT systems and for RT systems to Federally Recognized Native American Tribes' (FRNAT) (collectively "Programs") and the terms provided in such funding. This Notice is being issued before the FY 2017 appropriation has been enacted in order to allow applicants sufficient time to leverage financing, prepare and submit their applications, and give the Agency time to process applications in FY 2017. This Notice is based on the assumption that the FY 2017 appropriation will be identical to its successors. Should that not be the case, this Notice will be amended to reflect those changes. Successful applications will be selected by the Agency for