

BIDDER: NC Farm to School Cooperative, Inc.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Purchasing Section 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001	INVITATION FOR BID NO. 10-IFB-005959
	Bids will be publicly opened: June 10, 2011, <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 PM</p>
	Contract Type: Agency Specific
Refer <u>ALL</u> Inquiries to: Amy Cannady Telephone No. (919) 707- 3056	Commodity: 393-28 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
E-Mail: amy.cannady@ncagr.gov	Using Agency Name: Food Distribution, Farm to School
(See page 4 for mailing instructions.)	

NOTICE TO OFFEROR: Bids subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received at this office (NCDA&CS) until 3:00 PM on **June 10, 2011** and then opened, for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein. Refer to page 4 for proper mailing instructions. Return all pages as your response. Failure to do so may cause your bid to be rejected.

BIDS SUBMITTED VIA telegraph, facsimile (FAX) machine, telephone, and electronic means, including but not limited to email, in response to this Invitation for Bid will not be acceptable. Bids are subject to rejection unless submitted on this form.

Please review the new addition to the Instructions to Bidders, which are found in new paragraph 22 ("Confidentiality of Bids") which prohibits certain types of communications during the procurement process.

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Request for Quotes, and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are offered, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein. By executing this offer, I certify that this quote is submitted competitively and without collusion, that none of our officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and that we are not an ineligible vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1. False certification is a Class I felony.

Failure to execute/sign quote prior to submittal shall render bid invalid. Late bids are not acceptable.

OFFEROR:		
<u>NC Farm to School Cooperative, Inc</u>		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
<u>7802 Sadie Road</u>		
CITY & STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO (800)
<u>Kent, NC 27542</u>	<u>252-237-1260</u>	
PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:	FAX NUMBER:	
<u>James Sharp President</u>	<u>252-237-6133</u>	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	E-MAIL:
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>6-8-11</u>	<u>jsharp@freshpic.com</u>
N.C.G.S. § 133-32 and Executive Order 24 prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services employee of any gift from anyone with a contract with the Department, or from any person seeking to do business with the Department. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been made, offered, or promised by any employee of your organization.		

Offer valid for 45 days from date of opening unless otherwise stated here: _____ days (See Instructions for Quotes, Item 5). Prompt Payment Discount: _____ % _____ days (See Instructions for Quotes, Item 6).

ACCEPTANCE OF BID

If any or all parts of this bid are accepted, an authorized representative of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall affix their signature hereto and this document and the provisions of the Instructions to Bidders, special terms and conditions specific to this Invitation for Bids, the specifications, and the North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions shall then constitute the written agreement between the parties. A purchase order will be issued to the successful offeror.

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FOR STATE USE ONLY

Offer accepted and contract awarded this _____ day of _____, 2011,

by _____ (Authorized representative of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services).

In an effort to support the sustainability efforts of the State of North Carolina we solicit your cooperation in this effort.

It is desirable that all responses meet the following requirements:

- All copies are printed **double sided**.
- All submittals and copies are printed on **recycled paper with a minimum post-consumer content of 30%** and indicate this information accordingly on the response.
- Unless absolutely necessary, all bids and copies should **minimize or eliminate use of non-recyclable or non reusable materials** such as plastic report covers, plastic dividers, vinyl sleeves, and GBC binding. Three-ringed binders, glued materials, paper clips, and staples are acceptable.
- Materials should be submitted in a format which allows for **easy removal and recycling** of paper materials.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS: Mail only one fully executed bid document, unless otherwise instructed, and only one bid per envelope. Address envelope and insert bid number as shown below. It is the responsibility of the bidder to have the bid in this office by the specified time and date of opening.

The Department recommends submitting responses through a company that offers a tracking/monitoring system.

<u>DELIVERED BY US POSTAL SERVICE</u>	<u>DELIVERED BY ANY OTHER MEANS</u>
Allow at least 5 days for delivery	
BID NO. 10-IFB-005959 NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Purchasing Section 1001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1001	BID NO. 10-IFB-005959 NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Purchasing Section, Room 226 2 West Edenton Street Raleigh, NC 27601

Bids sent by US Mail are routed through the State mail Service Center. If your bid is not delivered by the State mail Service Center by the opening date and time shown above, the bid will not be considered.

ATTENTION: This is NOT an e-procurement solicitation. See paragraph #19 of the attached General Contract Terms and Conditions does not apply.

If not already registered, within two business days after notification of intent to award the contract, the vendor must register in NC E-Procurement @ Your Service at the web address listed above. Call Customer Service at 1-888-211-7440. Please read the Terms and Conditions of this contract carefully.

Scope: The Department Agriculture and Consumer Services, Food Distribution Division on behalf of NC Public Schools, is soliciting quotes from NC Growers to promote agriculture within the State of North Carolina and to provide quality products to North Carolina Schools. Offers are to be accepted from qualified growers as defined in the Award Criteria. The Department shall be responsible for:

- > Coordinating pickup and delivery of fresh produce from the NC Grower and packing facility to the NC Schools
- > Assuring quality of produce from pickup to delivery
- > Invoicing to schools and payments to Growers

Contract Administrator: Ted Fogleman or designee of Food Distribution Division, is listed as the Contract Administrator for this contract. This will be the contact person **only** after an award has been made. 919-575-4490

Clarifications and Questions: Bidder is to notify purchaser in writing by email to amy.cannady@ncagr.gov, by 2:00 PM, EDT June 3, 2011 if bidder believes 1) there may be an error in specifications, 2) if bidder is uncertain about the intent of a specific requirement/specification, terms and conditions including instructions to bidders or 3) if bidder has general questions. Questions submitted in less than 5 days before the bid opening date may not be addressed. The State will prepare written responses to all written questions submitted and addenda to this IFB will be posted to the Interactive Purchasing system (IPS - <http://www.state.nc.us/ips/pubmain.asp>, search by bid number). Bidders supply questions will not be identified in the addenda, only the questions and answers will be posted. Oral answers by any agent or representative of the State are not binding on the State. It is the bidders responsibility to review all addenda to this IFB and, if need be, sign and return addenda with the bidder's response.

Confidentiality of Bids: In submitting its bid, the bidder agrees not to discuss or otherwise reveal the contents of its bid to any source outside of the using or issuing agency, government or private, until after the award of the contract. All bidders are advised that they are not to have any communications with the using or issuing agency during the evaluation of the bids (i.e., after the public opening of the bids and before the award of the contract), unless the State's purchaser contacts the bidder(s) for purposes of seeking clarification. A bidder shall not: transmit to the issuing and/or using agency any information commenting on the ability or qualifications of any other bidder to provide the advertised good, equipment, commodity; defects, errors and/or omissions in any other bidder's bid and/or prices at any time during the procurement process; and/or engage in any other communication or conduct attempting to influence the evaluation and/or award of the contract that is the subject of this IFB. Bidders not in compliance with this provision may be disqualified, at the option of the State, from the contract award. Only those communications with the using agency or issuing agency authorized by this IFB are permitted.

Transportation Charges: Department will pick up from predetermined location as agreed between NC Grower and Food Distribution. Product shall be FOB at the NC Grower location.

Contract Period: This is an Agency Specific Term Contract beginning from date of award through August 15, 2011. Quantities are estimates and the State reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as needed. The State is responsible only for items ordered and received. No quantities are guaranteed.

Award Criteria: As provided by Statute, award will be based on the lowest and best bid(s) (most advantageous to the State) as determined by consideration of:

- 1) Price
- 2) Quality of produce offered
- 3) Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Certified
- 4) North Carolina grown product
- 5) Member of NC Goodness Grows Program
- 6) Suitability of produce for intended use
- 7) Conformity with intent of specifications herein
- 8) Guaranteed delivery schedule

Award of Contract: It is the general intent to award this contract to a single overall bidder on all items. The right is reserved, however, to make awards on the basis of individual items or groups of items, if such shall be considered by the State to be most advantageous or to constitute its best interest. Bidders should show unit prices, but are requested also to offer a lump sum price.

General Specifications:

1. All produce shall be grown and packaged in North Carolina by a NC Department of Agriculture "NC Goodness Grows" member certified in Good Agriculture Practices (GAP). Grower must send in GAP Certification with Bid.
2. Product must be identified by label indicating the farm from which it came. If the cases of the product does not have the name of the farm it came from, the product will be refused and not picked up.
3. Product must be held at the proper temperature as noted in product specifications to begin the cold chain and the cold chain shall not be broken.
4. Product not satisfying specifications shall be rejected by the NCDA&CS warehouse.
5. Apple varieties may be substituted based on availability due to weather conditions.
6. Schools shall have forty-eight (48) hours from time of delivery to report any problem to NCDA&CS.
7. Exact quantities cannot be guaranteed by NCDA&CS at time of award. Quantities are our best estimates for the year. Schools will submit their orders after award.
8. Notification of quantities shall be provided to Grower a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of four weeks before required pickup from the Grower. NCDA&CS and NC Schools reserve the right to increase the quantity of produce indicated herein within seventy-two (72) hours of pickup from Grower with no change in the price offered.
9. In the event the Grower is unable to fulfill the contract, notification shall be submitted to NCDA&CS Marketing Specialist in his area by 12:00 noon on the Friday before scheduled pickup of the product.

Tommy Fleetwood	Elizabeth City	252-331-4773
Nick Augustini	Kinston	252-527-7125
Laurie Wood	Burgaw	910-532-4208
Jack Ruff	Asheville	828-253-1691
Kevin Hardison	Raleigh	919-707-3123
Heather Lifsey	Raleigh	919-707-3127

10. In the event of a product recall of a delivered item, the successful Grower will immediately notify NCDA&CS Food Distribution.
11. The successful bidder shall have product ready for pickup at assigned date and time defined herein and location or pickup point designated by NCDA&CS, Food Distribution Division.
12. All produce is to be the current season's harvest.

Responsibilities of NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

1. Coordinating pickup and delivery of fresh produce from the NC Growers and packing facility to the NC Schools.
2. Assuring quality of produce from pickup to delivery
3. Invoicing the schools and payments to the growers.

Return all pages as your response. Failure to do so may cause your bid to be rejected.

Item	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Extended Price
1	<p>Seedless Watermelons <u>Packed:</u> 2 to 3 melons per box, melons shall weigh between 10-15 pounds a piece, case weight 30-35 pounds <u>Quality:</u> melons shall be US Grade A No. 1, melons should be packed in NC Farm to School watermelon boxes. Handling temperatures 50 to 60 degrees F from harvest to final destination. Melons must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Seedless Watermelons 150 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Delivery: Seedless Watermelons 150 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Delivery: Seedless Watermelons 200 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	500	Box	\$ 8.25	\$ 4,125 ⁰⁰
2	<p>Cantaloupes <u>Packed:</u> 9 to 12 count, a 35-40 pound case <u>Quality:</u> Athena or Iroquois variety, US Grade A No.1, cantaloupes must be washed in 100-150 parts per million chlorine solution, handling temperatures 36-41 degrees F from harvest to final destination. Cantaloupes must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Cantaloupes 150 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Delivery: Cantaloupes 150 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Delivery: Cantaloupes 200 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	500	Case	\$ 12.50	\$ 6,250 ⁰⁰

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3	<p>Tomatoes <u>Packed:</u> 10 pound case <u>Quality:</u> US Grade A No. 1, pink number three color, 5 by 6 size, tomatoes must be washed, variety should be Mountain Fresh, Phoenix, or Crista. Handling temperature 62-68 degrees F from harvest to final destination. Tomatoes must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Tomatoes 50 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Tomatoes 50 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Tomatoes 60 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	160	Case	\$ 8,95	\$ 1,432 ⁰⁰
Item	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Extended Price
4	<p>Grape tomatoes <u>Packed:</u> 12 / one pint clam shells <u>Quality:</u> US Grade A No. 1, color red, firm, small to medium size, must be washed, handling temperatures 62-68 degrees F from harvest to final destination. Tomatoes must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Grape tomatoes 50 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Grape Tomatoes 50 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Grape Tomatoes 60 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	160	Box	\$ 13,95	\$ 2,232 ⁰⁰

Item	Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Extended Price
5	<p>Peaches <u>Packed:</u> 50-60 peaches per 25 lb. box <u>Quality:</u> US No. 1, size 2 ½ and up. Yellow or White variety depending on availability, peaches must be stored at 40 degrees, peaches must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Peaches 200 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Peaches 200 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Peaches 200 cases to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	600	Box	\$ 15.00	\$ 9,000.00
6	<p>Apple Slices <u>Packed:</u> 100 two ounce bags packed per case, apple slices are to be packed in a modify atmosphere bag, <u>Quality:</u> rome, gala, golden delicious variety, apples slices are to be stored at 34-38 degrees F.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Apple slices 100 cases to be purchased and picked up at packing facility on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Apple slices 100 cases to be purchased and picked up at packing facility on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Apple slices 100 cases to be purchased and picked up at packing facility on August 6, 2011.</p>	300	Case	\$ 26.50	\$ 7,950.00

7	<p>Squash Packed in ¼ bushel box weighing 30 lbs. <u>Quality:</u> Squash should be US Grade No. 1 and be kept at 40-45 degrees. Squash must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Squash 40 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Squash 40 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Squash 40 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	120	Box	\$ 14. ⁰⁰	\$ 1,680 ⁰⁰
8	<p>Zucchini Packed in ½ bushel boxes weighing 30 lbs. <u>Quality:</u> Zucchini should be US Grade No. 1 and kept at 40-45 degrees. Zucchini must arrive at school systems receiving point within 48 hours of harvest.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Zucchini 40 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Zucchini 40 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Zucchini 40 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	120	Box	\$ 14. ⁰⁰	\$ 1,680 ⁰⁰
9	<p>Sprite Melons Packed in 15, 18, 20, 24, and 28 count cartons. <u>Quality:</u> All sprite melons should have soluble solids (sugar level) of 12% or higher to ensure good flavor. The melon should be ¾ to 2 pounds. It is recommended that temperatures be held in the 45 degree to 55 degree F. range.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Sprite melons 100 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Sprite melons 100 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Sprite melons 100 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	300	Box	\$ 11.50	\$ 3,450 ⁰⁰

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10	<p>Sweet Corn <u>Packed</u> in white bound box or sacks containing 4 1/2 - 5 dozen ears. <u>Types:</u> Yellow, White, Bicolor or Supersweets <u>Quality:</u> Corn shall be US No. 1. Corn shall be hydro, vacuum or forced air cooled and maintained as near 34 degrees as practical.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Sweet corn 50 containers to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Sweet corn 50 containers to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Sweet corn 50 containers to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	150	Container	\$ 16.95	\$ 2,542.50
11	<p>Cucumbers <u>Packed</u> in 1/2 bushel box <u>Quality:</u> USDA Grade 3A or Deal 1. Temperature shall be 45 to 55 degrees from harvest to final destination.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Cucumbers 60 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 9, 2011.</p> <p>Cucumbers 60 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on July 23, 2011.</p> <p>Cucumbers 60 boxes to be purchased and picked up at the farm on August 6, 2011.</p>	180	Boxes	\$ 14.00	\$ 2,520.00

TOTAL COST \$ 42,861.50