

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Notice CM-598****For:** State Offices**2008 Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference (UC)****Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs**1 Overview****A Background**

ESRI holds an annual UC. ESRI UC is the largest in the world devoted to geospatial information systems (GIS). Users from more than 120 countries come to learn new skills, share information, and discover best practices. The 2008 ESRI UC will be held August 4 through 8, 2008, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California.

FSA generally sends staff from the National Office, APFO, and the Kansas City Information Technology Centers. For the past 3 years, SED's were invited to nominate State GIS specialists to attend UC's. The following States sent State GIS specialists to previous UC's.

<b>2005 ESRI UC Attendees</b>	<b>2006 ESRI UC Attendees</b>	<b>2007 ESRI UC Attendees</b>
Hawaii	Kentucky	Arkansas
Illinois	Missouri	Indiana
Montana	New Hampshire	South Dakota
North Carolina	New Mexico	Vermont
West Virginia	Wyoming	Texas

FSA State GIS specialists will again represent each region at this year's conference.

**B Purpose**

This notice:

- invites SED's, whose State has not been represented at the ESRI UC in the past, to nominate State GIS specialists to attend in 2008
- provides the selection process for 2008 ESRI UC State GIS specialist attendees
- informs State Offices that only 1 State GIS specialist from each region will be selected to attend the 2008 ESRI UC.

**Disposal Date**

September 1, 2008

**Distribution**

State Offices

## **2 2008 ESRI UC Nomination and Selection Process**

### **A Nominations**

SED's are encouraged to nominate their State GIS specialist to attend the conference. To nominate a GIS specialist, SED's shall e-mail the name of the nominee to Shirley Hall, GIS Program Manager at **shirley.hall@wdc.usda.gov**.

**Note:** The deadline for nominations is **May 9, 2008**.

### **B Personnel Exempt from Nominations**

Nominations will be accepted **only** from States that did **not** send GIS specialists to previous ESRI UC's. FSA sends only a limited amount of staff to UC's. This restriction will allow GIS specialists from all States the opportunity to eventually attend UC.

### **C Selection Process**

On **May14, 2008**, 1 GIS specialist will be selected from each region by random drawing. SED's and State GIS specialists will be notified of the selection shortly thereafter with details about the conference and travel authorization information.