

May 16, 2001

TO: All FSA Federal Field Office Employees
Except Kansas City and WDC Headquarters Employees

FROM: James R. Little
Acting Administrator



SUBJECT: President Bush's Initiative on Competition for Government Services

This memorandum is to inform you of some actions that are currently taking place within the Agency in response to the President's commitment to improve the management and performance of the Federal Government. Part of his initiative requires the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to develop and/or update its fiscal year (FY) 2002 performance plans to include performance goals for Government-wide reforms and agency-specific reform proposals. Of major concern is expanding A-76 competitions and more accurate Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act inventories. Based on directions from the Office of Management and Budget, letter dated March 9, 2001, Subject: Performance Goals and Management Initiatives for the FY 2002 Budget, all Government agencies are to complete public-private or direct conversion competitions on not less than 5 percent of the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions listed on their FAIR inventories. These plans must include the number of FTE's by function and location being competed, training requirements, and planned A-76 contractor document preparation support. The President has committed to open at least one-half of the Federal positions listed on the FAIR Act inventory of commercial functions to competition with the private sector over the next 4 years.

FSA was tasked to provide to the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the Chief Financial Officer, by April 19, 2001, a plan for implementation of the President's Government-wide management reform initiative on contracting commercial functions. This is to inform you of the instructions this Agency has been given and our preliminary plan to meet those requirements. The FAIR Act inventory is available for review on the Internet at www.usda.gov/ocfo. Our initial review required us to identify 5 percent of the listed positions that can be put up for contracting consideration. We have tentatively identified the first group to include:

- KCFO, Kansas City, Debt Collections - 24 positions
- ITSTO, Kansas City, Telecommunications Division, Hardware Management Branch - 11 positions
- ITSD, Wash DC, Customer Services & Operations Branch, Computer Operations & Services Sec - 11 positions

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At this time the initial identification of positions has been provided to USDA for review. We do not know, yet, if these proposals have been accepted. Upon approval of any plan, as part of the A-76 process, we are authorized to submit a bid to keep the work within the Agency. The unions in Kansas City and Washington D.C., have been invited to participate on the A-76 planning team with management to develop the Statement of Work and the internal Agency bid to retain the work.

Our intent is to provide periodic updates on the status of our competition for Government services requirements and efforts, and to share any additional information that becomes available. Employees and unions with bargaining unit employees assigned to areas identified as part of this process will be provided with additional details. In those instances where a contract bid is accepted, all efforts will be made to assist employees with internal and external placement assistance.

If you have any questions, they may be referred to Mr. Sam Gill, Personnel Division, Kansas City Administrative Office, at (816) 823-3142.