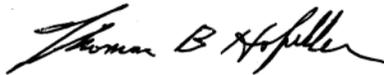


For: FFAS Employees

2008 Optimas Awards

Approved by: Associate Administrator for Operations and Management



1 Overview

A Background

USDA has been invited to submit nominations for the 2008 Optimas Awards, sponsored by the editors of "Workforce Management". Since 1991, the Optimas Award has been the source of ideas, direction, and inspiration for workforce management professionals, giving recognition to initiatives that create positive business results for organizations.

B Purpose

This notice:

- informs FFAS employees of the award announcement
- requests award nominations by **COB April 11, 2008**.

2 Nomination Process

A Eligibility

All Federal agencies are eligible. There are no restrictions regarding scope, size, or focus of the workforce management initiative. Entrants from all countries are welcome.

B Timeline

Submit nominations by **COB April 11, 2008**, electronically to Stephanie S. Brown, Human Resources Specialist at stephaniesybil.brown@wdc.usda.gov. Upon approval from the Administrator, Stephanie S. Brown will submit the nomination online at <http://www.workforce.com/global/optimas.php> by the April 18, 2008, deadline.

Note: See subparagraph D for submitting nominations.

Disposal Date May 1, 2008	Distribution All FAS, FSA, and RMA employees; State Offices relay to County Offices
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2 Nomination Process (Continued)

C Optimas Award Categories

Optimas Award categories are as follows:

- Competitive Advantage
- Ethical Practice
- Financial Impact
- Global Outlook
- Innovation
- Managing Change
- Partnership
- Service
- Vision
- General Excellence.

D Submitting Nominations

Any person familiar with the business challenges, programs, how those challenges were addressed, and results of the initiative of the agency may make a nomination. Nominations **must** be submitted electronically by COB April 11, 2008, to Stephanie S. Brown, Human Resources Specialist at stephaniesybil.brown@wdc.usda.gov.

Note: The nomination form can be found online at <http://www.workforce.com/global/optimas.php>. Submit answers to the questions asked on the online form in Microsoft Word.

E Contacts

If there are questions or additional information is needed, contact either of the following:

- Stephanie S. Brown, Human Resources Specialist at 202-401-0694
- Angela Jackson, Human Resources Assistant at 202-401-0679.