United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 13 2005

TO: AGRICULTURAL OFFICE
U.S. EMBASSY

FROM: Karen Stuck
Assistant Administrator
Office of International Affairs

SUBJECT: Meat and Poultry Inspection Seminars for International Government Officials

For the past 15 years, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has sponsored an inspection seminar for international government officials to familiarize them with U.S. inspection regulations and procedures used by USDA to assure that the nation's meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled. FSIS is pleased to announce three Meat and Poultry Inspection Seminars for the coming year. The seminars cover issues from farm to table, including HACCP and Pathogen Reduction; animal production; import and export procedures; and the roles of FDA, State, and local inspection agencies. This year, the three seminars will be held at three separate locations.

The first seminar is scheduled for **May 16 to June 2, 2006**, and will be held in cooperation with the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. The 3-week seminar will include an overview of FSIS, including introduction to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), pathogen reduction, import and export policies and procedures, equivalence, animal production, and field visits to import and export locations and processing and slaughter plants. This seminar will be conducted entirely in the Spanish language. Participation will be limited to thirty (30) individuals. The University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, requires a registration fee of $700.

The second seminar is scheduled for **July 17 to August 4, 2006**, and will be held at the USDA Rural Development Headquarters Conference & Training Center, located in Washington, DC. This 3-week seminar will also provide an overview of FSIS, including introduction to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), pathogen reduction, import and export policies and procedures, equivalence, animal production, and field visits to import and export locations and processing and slaughter plants. Fluency in the English language is a prerequisite for this seminar. Participation in this seminar will be limited to thirty-five (35) individuals.

The third seminar is scheduled for **September 11 to 22, 2006**, and will be held at the FSIS Technical Service Center located in Omaha, Nebraska. The seminar will be a 2-week in-depth seminar for senior international government officials focusing on verification and enforcement of HACCP and pathogen reduction regulations. This is a highly developed seminar intended for officials who have a working knowledge of HACCP principles and their application in a meat or poultry processing plant. Fluency in the English language is also a prerequisite for this seminar. Participation in this seminar will be limited to thirty-five (35) individuals.

PLEASE NOTE: ***Applicants MUST be government meat and poultry inspection officials. Applicants must be fluent in the Spanish language for the seminar in Puerto Rico and fluent in the English language to attend the seminars in Washington, DC, and Omaha, Nebraska. Because of the limited spaces available, applicants will be admitted to only*** **one** ***of the seminars listed above. The seminar in Omaha, Nebraska is recommended for those Officials who have 5 or more years of experience in the field of meat and poultry inspection.***

Applicants must complete the enclosed application form. The completed form must be submitted by the applicant's financial sponsor and received by the FSIS Office of International Affairs, Room 2137-South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250, no later than **January 20, 2006.** If possible, please submit the application by e-mail to mpis@fsis.usda.gov, or by facsimile transmission to Office of International Affairs at 202-205-3469. Applicants must include an e-mail address and/or a FAX number on their application for proper notification.

Applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis, as the class size is limited. FSIS receives more than twice the number of applications than can be accommodated. Early submittal of applications is therefore encouraged. Participants who are selected to attend the seminars in Puerto Rico and Washington, DC will be notified by **February 17, 2006.** Participants selected to attend the seminar in Omaha will be notified later in the year.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining financial sponsors for their round trip air transportation to the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez; Washington, DC; or Omaha, Nebraska, for their lodging, meals, and other miscellaneous expenses.

The application form is enclosed and may be used to sign up for any one of the three seminars. Additional information about the meat and poultry inspection seminars may be obtained by visiting the FSIS Web Site at:
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/2005_events/index.asp

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Meat and Poultry Inspection Seminars for International Government Inspection Officials

Application Form

Section I. Please check the seminar you prefer to attend:

_____ May 16-June 2, 2006, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez ***(Spanish)***

_____ July 17-August 4, 2006, Washington, DC ***(English)***

_____ September 11-22, 2006, Omaha Nebraska ***(English)***

Section II. Personal Information (Please type or print clearly):

Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms): _____

Position/Title/Name of Agency: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Business Mailing Address: _____

Business Telephone # and FAX #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person to Contact in Case of Emergency:

_____

_____

Section III. To be completed by the Inspection Director or Financial Sponsor:

I nominate the above named Government Official to attend the 2006 Meat and Poultry Inspection Seminar. For those officials nominated to attend the session in Puerto Rico, I certify that the applicant is fluent in the Spanish language. For those officials nominated to attend one of the sessions taught in English, I certify that the applicant is fluent in the English language.

Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone and FAX No: _____

Send completed form to Office of International Affairs by FAX at (202) 205-3469
***or* by email at mpis@fsis.usda.gov by January 20, 2006.**