

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

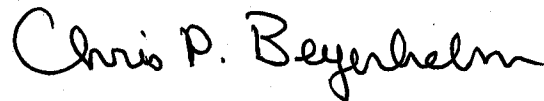
Notice FLP-559

5-FLP

For: FSA Offices

Contact Information for “Pigford II” Cases

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Loan Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Section 14012 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) (Pub. L. 110-246), enacted on June 18, 2008, permits any *Pigford* claimant who had not previously obtained a determination on the merits of their claim under the Consent Decree judicial recourse in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

On February 18, 2010, USDA settled a lawsuit brought by African American farmers who filed according to the 2008 Act. The settlement, *In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation*, (D.D.C), which will take effect if sufficient funds for its operation are appropriated by Congress, establishes a class that creates alternative dispute resolution process somewhat similar to those established by the *Pigford* Consent Decree and under which claims can be resolved.

B Purpose

This notice:

- provides the following:
 - updates to FSA personnel on the status of the settlement
 - contact information for inquiries that FSA offices may receive about *Pigford II* cases
- obsoletes Notice FLP-558 to correct the language in subparagraph 2 B.

C State and County Office Action

While procedures for implementing the settlement agreement may be put in place, it is **not** expected that State and County Office personnel will be required to review any claims nor be involved in the settlement process. If any actions are required, future notices will be issued.

Disposal Date	Distribution
March 1, 2011	All FSA Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2 Contact Information

A State and County Offices

If there are questions about this notice:

- County Offices shall contact the State Office
- State Offices shall contact LSPMD at 202-720-4572.

B Individuals

Individuals contacting FSA personnel for information about the settlement agreement and the process should be advised to use the following language.

In re Black Farmers Discrimination Lawsuit (Pigford II Inquiries)

Thank you for your inquiry [Mr./Mrs./Miss _____]. It appears your inquiry pertains to the Black Farmers case pursuant to Section 14012 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

It would be inappropriate for USDA to provide any assistance, advice, or counsel to persons regarding the settlement. We recommend that you hire an attorney, and/or contact 1-866-472-7826 for additional information.

C Media

Members of the media should be referred to Melissa Schwartz, DOJ, by either of the following:

- telephone at 202-514-2007
- e-mail at melissa.schwartz@usdoj.gov.