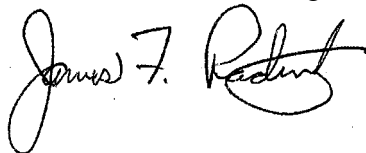


For: FSA Offices

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, *In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation*, (D.D.C.), brought by African American farmers who filed according to the 2008 Act. The settlement establishes a class and creates a nonadversarial, nonjudicial claims process under which claims can be resolved. On December 8, 2010, the President signed the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-291) into law, providing \$1.15 billion in funding for the settlement in addition to the \$100 million allocated by the 2008 Act, for a total of \$1.25 billion. The settlement must now be finalized based on the legislation and approved by the Federal Judge overseeing the litigation.

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-559.

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

Notice FLP-583

1 Overview (Continued)

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 Offices will be required to review any claims nor be involved in the settlement process. If any actions are required, future notices will be issued.

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 provided 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 and/or Section 201 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010.

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 1-866-950-5547 or 1-866-472-7826 or www.blackfarmercase.com 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.