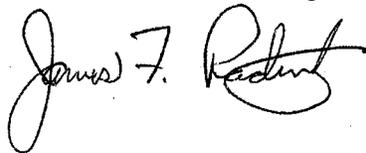


For: FSA Offices

**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 finalized settlement was approved on October 27, 2011, by the Federal Judge overseeing the litigation. **The claims process period began on November 14, 2011, and ended on May 11, 2012.**

**B Purpose**

This notice:

- provides updates to FSA personnel on the status of the settlement
- provides contact information for inquiries that FSA offices may receive about *Pigford II* cases
- obsoletes Notice FLP-598.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
October 1, 2013	All FSA Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice FLP-624

### 1 Overview (Continued)

#### C State and County Office Action

State and County Offices will continue to service the loans according to 4-FLP and 5-FLP until notified otherwise. 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 Rick Stewart, LSPMD, at 202-720-1654.

#### 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. You may hire an attorney, and/or contact the Black Farmers Claims Administrator at 1-877-810-8110 or [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) for additional information. You may also contact the *In re Black Farmers* Ombudsman at 1-866-686-8682 or [www.inreblackfarmersombudsman.com](http://www.inreblackfarmersombudsman.com) for additional information.

#### C Media

Members of the media should be referred to Charles Miller, DOJ, by either of the following:

- e-mail at [charles.s.miller@usdoj.gov](mailto:charles.s.miller@usdoj.gov)
- telephone at 202-514-2007.