

## Black Farmers Settlement Agreement

### Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to a new era of excellence in which USDA is recognized as one of the premier organizations in the government and a worldwide leader. On December 8, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law H.R. 4783, the “Claims Resolution Act of 2010” which included funding for the agreements reached in the Pigford II lawsuit, also known as the Black Farmer’s settlement agreement.

### Background

Pigford II is a class action lawsuit against USDA that alleges that USDA discriminated against African-Americans who applied for farm loans or other farm benefits between January 1, 1981, and December 31 1996. The settlement only applies to earlier class action known as *Pigford v. Glickman*.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has made civil rights a top priority for USDA. “President Obama and I made a firm commitment not only to treat all farmers fairly and equally, but to right the wrongs in USDA’s past,” said Vilsack, “I applaud those who took this historic step to ensure black farmers who faced discrimination by their government finally receive justice.”

News Release: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c4/04\\_SB8K8xLLM9MSSz-Py8xBz9CP0os\\_gAC9-wMJ8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXw2ALU\\_2CbEdFAF-soRU!/?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/02/0073.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSz-Py8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMJ8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXw2ALU_2CbEdFAF-soRU!/?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/02/0073.xml)

For more information about USDA’s commitment to civil rights visit:  
[www.ascr.usda.gov](http://www.ascr.usda.gov)

### Claims Information

USDA cannot provide legal advice, or advice on how to file a claim. For information please refer to [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547.

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