



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
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September 19, 2012

FSA and NRCS Employees,

As recently announced by US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, the Hispanic/Women Farmer Rancher claims process will open on September 24, 2012. It will remain open for 180 days.

Outreach regarding this claims process is a top priority for Sec. Vilsack. Each agency is responsible for conducting outreach to help ensure information about the claims process reaches as many of our customers as possible.

This process includes continued extensive outreach and notice efforts to Hispanic and women farmer communities so that all eligible farmers will be given an opportunity to participate. We must remember these potential claimants may not be currently involved in farming or agriculture and that is the reason that extensive outreach is so important. USDA employees are critical in the success of this effort.

We as the heads of Iowa's FSA and NRCS agencies are committed to this outreach effort. All employees must take part in this effort. The attached instructions and other material provide guidance to what outreach efforts should be made as joint USDA agencies. Additional outreach efforts may also be provided by our individual agencies as well as reporting requirements.

We are committed to treating all of our customers fairly and equitably, and we know that our employees are as dedicated as we are.

We know you are busy, but this outreach and helping to inform all farmers and ranchers of this process is crucial to truly moving the USDA into a new era of civil rights. We appreciate your help. Together we are building a stronger USDA for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Whitaker".

John R. Whitaker
State Executive Director
Farm Service Agency

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Hubbert".

Jon Hubbert
Acting State Conservationist
NRCS