



Newsletter Article

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Hispanic and Women Farmers Can Submit Discrimination Claims Until March 25

If you are an Hispanic or woman farmer who feels you were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans between 1981 and 2000, you have until March 25 to submit a claim with USDA.

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred in past decades, USDA established a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The maximum cash recovery is set at \$250,000. The process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or woman farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods.

The voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and the program does not preclude individuals who opt not to participate from pursuing their cases in court.

Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. **USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants.** Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.