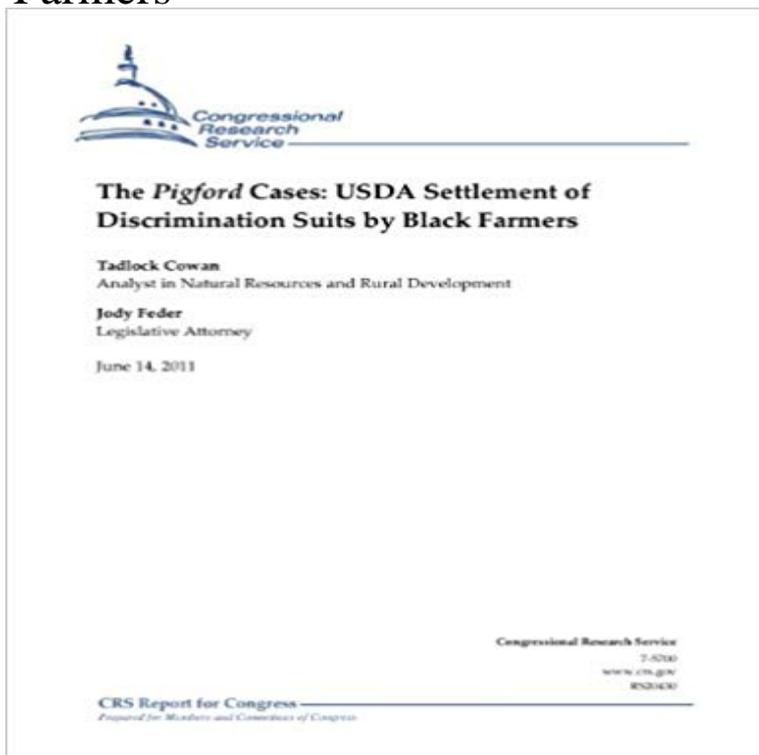


The Pigford Cases: USDA Settlement of Discrimination Suits by Black Farmers



On April 14, 1999, Judge Paul L. Friedman of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia approved a settlement agreement and consent decree in *Pigford v. Glickman*, a class action discrimination suit between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and black farmers. The suit claimed that the agency had discriminated against black farmers on the basis of race and failed to investigate or properly respond to complaints from 1983 to 1997. The deadline for submitting a claim as a class member was September 12, 2000. As of November 2010, 15,642 (69%) of the 22,721 eligible class members had final adjudications approved. Many voiced concern over the structure of the settlement agreement, the large number of applicants who filed late, and reported deficiencies in representation by class counsel. A provision in the 2008 farm bill (P.L. 110-246) permitted any claimant who had submitted a late-filing request under *Pigford* and who had not previously obtained a determination on the merits of his or her claim to petition in federal court to obtain such a determination. A maximum of \$100 million in mandatory spending was made available for payment of these claims, and the multiple claims that were subsequently filed were consolidated into a single case, *In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation* (commonly referred to as *Pigford II*). On February 18, 2010, Attorney General Holder and Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack announced a \$1.25 billion settlement of these *Pigford II* claims. However, because only \$100 million was made available in the 2008 farm bill, the *Pigford II* settlement was contingent upon congressional approval of an additional \$1.15 billion in funding. After a series of failed attempts to appropriate funds for the settlement agreement, the Senate passed the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (H.R. 4783) to provide the \$1.15 billion

appropriation by unanimous consent on November 19, 2010. The Senate bill was then passed by the House on November 30 and signed by the President on December 8 (P.L. 111-291). Like the original Pigford case, the Pigford II settlement provides both a fast-track settlement process and higher payments to potential claimants who go through a more rigorous review and documentation process. A moratorium on foreclosures of most claimants farms will remain in place until after claimants have gone through the claims process. On May 13, 2011, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary approval of the settlement agreement. The actual process for adjudicating the individual claims has not been finalized, and it is unclear when payments to successful claimants will be made. No payments will be made until all the merits of all claims have been heard. This report highlights some of the events that led up to the original Pigford class action suit and the subsequent Pigford II settlement. The report also outlines the structure of both the original consent decree in Pigford and the settlement agreement in Pigford II. In addition, the report discusses the number of claims reviewed, denied, and awarded under Pigford, as well as some of the issues raised by various parties under both lawsuits. It will be updated periodically.

DD_Report_The Pigford Cases: USDA Settlement of Discrimination Suits by Black Farmers Free Film Screening at Farm Aid 2016, Join Us! Cowan, Tadlock (2010-04-21). The Pigford Case: USDA Settlement of a Discrimination Suit by Black Farmers. Black farmers call on Trump to accept ruling in suit against USDA Black Farmers and Agriculturists Association to hear that their case against the U.S. a settlement of a class-action suit brought by African-American farmers As the current USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack is the named defendant in the class action suit at this time. Pigford v. Glickman, 182 F.R.D. 341 (D.D.C. 1998). The ECOA prohibits discrimination against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or source of income. The Pigford Case: USDA Settlement of a Discrimination Suit by Black Farmers. Article with 4 Reads. Cite this publication. Stephen R Vina. Black farmers win \$1.25 billion in discrimination suit The settlement of the case, known as Pigford II, is contingent on Congress approving farmer Timothy Pigford, was filed against the USDA in 1997, and settled two years Like the original Pigford case, the Pigford II settlement provides both a fast-track . In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation (Pigford II) .Pigford v. Glickman. Hearings for Farmers Help Right A Wrong (click for pdf) 1999 civil rights case stemming from years of being denied farm loans from the U.S. through the Pigford Class Action lawsuit settlement for discrimination on the part of the USDA. USDA Class Action Law Suit prior to September 14, 2001. Pigfords case resulted in the largest civil rights settlement in the history of the United States. Yet, many black producers who joined

As many as 90,000 Black farmers may be eligible to receive this settlement. Many of the original claimants in the case are now deceased. There are many farmers who paid people and organizations to get into the Pigford I lawsuit. A milestone on the long road to justice for discrimination by USDA against Black farmers. In 1997, three African-American farmers filed a class action civil rights lawsuit against application and (3) filed a discrimination complaint on or before . with the Pigford case, including the court-appointed monitor. A class action lawsuit against the USDA alleging that it willfully discriminated against them and.