Highlights Achieved by the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

* **The Office of Advocacy and Outreach** was established, providing a coordinated function on small, beginning and socially disadvantaged producers at USDA.
* **The Farm worker Coordinator** – position was established to serve as a liaison and advocate for farm workers at USDA, based in the Office of Advocacy and Outreach
* **Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Producer Program** – was relocated to the Office of Advocacy and Outreach and funding was increased from $3 million to $18-$20 million annually.
* **Transparency and Accountability** – The Secretary must compile annual application and participation rate data, including numbers and percentages, for each county or parish and state in the United States, organized by race, gender, and ethnicity.
* **Receipt for Service** – USDA programs serving farmers must provide a receipt to producers who request one, noting the outcome of their visit and any further action needed.
* **Preserve Commodity Payments** - The 2008 Farm Bill cut commodity base payments to farms under 10 acres but added a waiver to continue payments to socially disadvantaged producers.
* **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program** – includes language requiring each state to develop and submit a plan for reaching socially disadvantaged producers in their application to USDA.
* **Civil Rights Claims** – The Farm Bill reopened the *Pigford v. Glickman* Consent Decree to provide for resolution of late claims of African American producers. Over $1.25 billion has been provided.
* The Farm Bill also instructed USDA and DOJ to resolve all civil rights claims and class actions brought against the department by socially disadvantaged producers leading to settlements of $750 million the Keepseagle case (Indian producers, filed 11/24/1999) and pending settlements of $1.3 billion in the Garcia (Latino producers, filed 10/13/2000), Love (Women producers, filed 10/19/2000) class action suits.

For More information Visit:

Rural Coalition, [www.RuralCo.org](http://www.RuralCo.org)

and

<http://otrans.3cdn.net/e2170cebf5d665ca73_9jm6ivhka.pdf>