

# NEWS

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## Statement

by  
**Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickmanon**  
**Farm Loan Foreclosure Actions**  
December 18, 1996

"Today I ordered our Farm Service Agency to temporarily halt foreclosure sales on delinquent farm loans until a determination can be made on each case as to whether there is any evidence of discrimination or inconsistency in program delivery.

"I called for this action after hearing the concerns that have been raised over the past several weeks about inconsistencies and discrimination in some U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, including farmer loan programs where foreclosures are being processed.

"I have compassion for anyone who faces losing their farm for any reason. But it is simply unacceptable to me if the potential loss of a farm stems from any unequal treatment or discrimination by this Department. It is for this reason that I have asked for an expedited review of all pending foreclosure sales to ensure that there are no unresolved discrimination complaints or allegations of discrimination.

"In general, foreclosure sales will be delayed until the files have been reviewed for compliance with all program requirements as well as compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and departmental civil rights procedures and regulations.

"It is anticipated that foreclosure sales will resume upon completion of the review on individual cases where the review plainly demonstrates that there are no issues regarding discrimination or inequitable treatment. We hope the full review will be completed by February 1. In addition, any case which raises questions or issues regarding discrimination or inequitable treatment will be forwarded to Washington immediately for review.

"As we enter the new year, we intend to focus all of USDA on how we better manage civil rights issues. We want to create an environment in which every customer who comes to a USDA office is treated fairly, effectively, and efficiently.

"On December 10, I called for a national forum on program delivery and customer service at USDA (USDA News Release No. 0631.96) and two days later I established a Civil Rights Action Team (USDA News Release No. 0634.96) to conduct a thorough audit of USDA civil rights issues inside and outside the department.

"I am committed to ensuring that USDA is a diverse, civil department to both its employees and its customers."

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