

# NEWS

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## GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES CIVIL RIGHTS LISTENING SESSIONS, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1996--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today announced that the Department of Agriculture will hold 13 listening sessions around the country from January 6 to January 24 to hear from the public, especially socially disadvantaged and minority farmers and USDA employees, concerning civil rights issues facing the Department in both program delivery and employment.

The Secretary's newly appointed Civil Rights Action Team will use information from the forums for its recommendations to the Secretary expected by mid-February.

"We have a real opportunity to make positive change in the area of civil rights enforcement at USDA, and to ensure that both our employees and customers are treated fairly and with dignity," Glickman said. "I am committed to bringing about that change."

At each session, there will be a listening panel consisting of Secretary Glickman or Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger, Action Team Leader Pearlie S. Reed, and members of the Civil Rights Action Team and the State Food and Agriculture Council, which is made up of USDA state agency heads and coordinates USDA activities in the state.

### Locations and dates for the listening sessions are:

Albany, Georgia - January 6  
Albany Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
New Orleans, Louisiana\* - January 7  
Memphis, Tennessee - January 7  
Halifax, North Carolina - January 8  
Tulsa, Oklahoma - January 10  
Brownsville, Texas - January 11  
Window Rock, Arizona - January 13  
Salinas, California - January 16  
Sacramento, California\* - January 17  
Rapid City, South Dakota - January 18  
Washington, D.C.\*\* - January 22  
Belzoni, Mississippi - January 24

Further details will be announced.

Secretary Glickman also announced members of the Civil Rights Action Team, which is headed by Pearlie S. Reed, associate chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The USDA mission areas and their representatives are:

Office of the Secretary: Samuel Thornton, Special Assistant to the Secretary, (202) 720-5881; fax: (202) 690-1131.

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service: Randy Weber, Associate Administrator, Farm Service Agency, (202) 720-3467; fax: (202) 720-9105.

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services: Floyd Wheeler, Director, Human Resources Division, Food and Consumer Service, (703) 305-2326; fax: (703) 305-2299.

Food Safety: Karen Messmore, Branch Chief, Employment and Employee Benefits Branch, Food Safety and Inspection Service, (202) 720-5362; fax: (202) 690-1666.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs: Joyce Willis, Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, MRP, (202) 720-5059; fax: (202) 720-7692.

Natural Resources and Environment: Jerry SESCO, Deputy Chief for Research, Forest Service, (202) 205-1665; fax: (202) 205-1530.

Research, Education, and Economics Programs: John Bottum, Associate Deputy Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, (202) 401-4879; fax: (202) 401-4888.

Rural Development: Leonard Hardy, Deputy Administrator, 202-720-7015; fax: (202) 720-1062.

Office of Chief Information Officer: Robert Whiting, Chief, Information Management Division, (202) 690-2118; fax (202) 205-2831.

Office of Chief Financial Officer: Gary Barber, Director, Executive Services Staff, (202) 720-1221; fax (202) 690-2568

At-Large Member: Mon Yee, Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon, (202) 720-8388; fax (202) 720-9030.

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- These two sessions are for USDA employees.
  - \*There will be two sessions in Washington, D.C.--one for employees and one on program delivery for customers and partner groups.

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