

DO THE FARM PROGRAMS IN YOUR AREA DISCRIMINATE?

The new Civil Rights Act has a section (Title VI) that requires that all Federally-assisted programs be made available to everyone without regard to their race, color or national origin.

This check list is meant to help you determine to what extent the services the government pays for are being offered to farmers without discrimination.

The Department of Agriculture has so many programs for helping farmers the only way to determine if its regulations against discrimination are being observed is to consider each of these six major programs separately.

EXTENSION SERVICE

The Extension Service is responsible for making available to farmers and farm families information and assistance that would help them improve their living conditions. It does this through demonstration projects, training courses, publication of pamphlets, etc. But its chief means of carrying out its duties is through the office of the county agent.

1. Does your county agent:

Give colored farmers the same service he gives white farmers?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Have colored assistants?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Let white employees service colored farmers and colored employees serve white ones?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Have separate offices, separate times or separate desks or entrances for colored persons using his office?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Let colored farmers participate in planning for his yearly program?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If he does let colored farmers participate, hold integrated meetings?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Have an integrated advisory committee?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Conduct integrated meetings, demonstrations, field days, tours, exhibits?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there a 4-H Club in your community? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

3. If so:

Is it integrated? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

Do colored 4-H Club members  
participate without discrimination  
in state award programs? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

In trips to the 4-H Club Con-  
ference in Washington and the  
Congress in Chicago? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

#### THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

The Farmers Home Administration (FHA) makes insured mortgage loans on farm properties, farm operating loans and emergency loans to farmers unable otherwise to secure financing, but who meet FHA credit standards. It also makes: Loans available for non-farm homes and housing for the elderly; outright grants for the repair of older rural homes; and loans to non-profit organizations (churches, lodges, etc.) and to individuals for building recreational facilities such as golf courses, swimming pools, etc.

FHA is a Federal agency, run by Federal employees. Each State has a Director and a State Advisory Committee, appointed by the Federal Administrator. Each county has a county supervisor and other employees and an FHA Committee which in fact determines who gets loans. The Committee is appointed by the State Director.

1. Are colored residents of your area aware  
of these programs? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do they participate in them? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the FHA office in your community:

Have an integrated staff?

Let white employees serve colored  
applicants and vice versa? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

Offer the same services to colored  
and white applicants?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Have any segregated facilities -  
desks, chairs, rest rooms, drink-  
ing fountains, etc.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Make loans available to colored  
farmers as readily as to white ones?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(If not, what kinds of loans are hard  
to get \_\_\_\_\_)

Appoint colored members to the committee  
that certifies eligibility for FHA in  
your county?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Let such colored members, if any,  
serve as Regular members \_\_\_\_\_ or alternates \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Check one)

4. If there are any FHA-supported golf  
courses or swimming pools in your area?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Are they integrated?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: If you have the names of any colored citizens you think  
are eligible to serve on the county committees that approve  
FHA loans, assuming there are no colored representatives now,  
please submit them to the headquarters of the organization  
listed below.)

#### AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

This agency (ASC) is responsible for administering acreage  
allotments, marketing quotas, the soil bank and other price and  
income support programs. The discriminatory administration of  
ASC can close the door of opportunity and even force people out  
of farming. It is operated as a Federal program. Crop allotments  
and other vital activities are determined by the County ASC Committee

In each township, three committeemen are elected by ballot or  
in meetings. They are nominated by a nominating committee, or by  
petition, and write-in candidates are possible. These township  
committeemen in turn elect the three County ASC Committee members,  
who hire the office manager and staff.



1. Do colored farmers participate in the elections for the committees that determine crop allotments? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are there colored members on your local committee? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
3. What method of election do colored farmers in your area prefer:  
Check one: General meetings \_\_\_\_\_  
By mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Polling booths \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do colored farmers in your area get fair allotments? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are they treated fairly and without discrimination at ASC offices YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Service assists cooperating farmers, through its staff, in solving problems of soil erosion, water conservation, best use of land, etc. In doing so, it determines the type and amount of Federal aid available for various purposes. (Soil Conservation Districts?)

1. Does your soil conservation agent:  
Have an integrated office staff? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Make all the facilities in his office - rest rooms, drinking fountains, etc. - available to everyone? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Serve colored farmers without discrimination? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Let white and colored employees serve without regard for race? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Give colored farmers all the benefits to which they are entitled? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do colored farmers participate in selecting the board of directors for your soil conservation area? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do any colored persons serve on the board? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

The Rural Electrification Administration is a Federal Agency in the USDA which makes loans for electric and telephone system to serve rural families, largely through cooperatives. Each of these cooperatives hold an annual meeting at which the Board of Directors is elected. The Directors hire the manager who hires the staff. Discrimination is likely to show up most clearly in (1) the conduct of annual meetings, including the work of a nominating committee which makes up the ballot (2) the kind of directors elected (3) the hiring of managers and employees and (4) the fixing of rates for service.

1. Do colored applicants have any difficulty getting electric and phone service from local REA co-ops? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are they treated differently from white applicants? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can colored attend annual REA co-op membership meetings without encountering discrimination? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are any of the members of your REA Board of Directors colored? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many employees does your REA have? \_\_\_\_\_ How many are colored? \_\_\_\_\_ How many of these are skilled? \_\_\_\_\_ Unskilled? \_\_\_\_\_.

MARKETING SERVICE

The Service, among other things, is in charge of the surplus food, school lunch and special milk programs.

1. Lunch programs:

Is there a school lunch program  
in your local school? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

A free milk program? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Are school lunch and milk programs ad-  
ministered differently for white and  
colored schools? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

2. Surplus Food:

Is such food distributed in your  
community YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If so, do colored eligibles get the  
same food as whites? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

The same amounts? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Are there separate days for  
distributing the food to white  
and colored? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Separate lines? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Is distribution seasonal \_\_\_\_\_ or year round \_\_\_\_\_?  
(Check one)

3. Food Stamp Programs:

Is there a good stamp program in  
your community? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If so, do colored receive fair  
treatment in the distribution of  
food stamps? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



Is distribution of stamps on  
a segregated basis?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Will stores accept food stamps from  
colored as well as white customers?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL

Are there any complaints of discrimination in Federally-  
assisted agricultural programs not listed above?

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IF THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS SHOW A PATTERN OF SEGREGATION  
OR DISCRIMINATION, send a complaint and a copy of this question-  
naire to:

(Name and Address of Organization)

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Also send copies to:

Joseph M. Robertson  
Administrative Assistant Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
The Mall, between 12th and 14th Streets, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20250

and to:

William Taylor  
General Counsel  
U. S. Civil Rights Commission  
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20245