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 Conference 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 employes. Each State has a Director and a State Advisory Committee, appointed by the Federal Administrator. Each county has a county supervisor and other employes 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?  YES  NO

   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, drinking 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?  

2. Are there colored members on your local committee?  

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?  

5. Are they treated fairly and without discrimination at ASC offices?  

---

**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?  

   Make all the facilities in his office - rest rooms, drinking fountains, etc. - available to everyone?  

   Serve colored farmers without discrimination?  

   Let white and colored employees serve without regard for race?  

   Give colored farmers all the benefits to which they are entitled?
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 employes 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 administered 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?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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

(Name and Address of Organization)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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