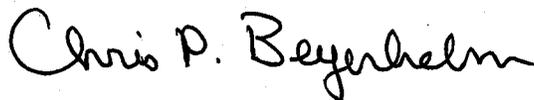


For: State and County Offices

Outreach Program for Applicants/Borrowers Who Are Members of SDA Groups

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Loan Programs



1 Overview

A Background

On occasion, there are questions concerning the requirements of FmHA Instruction 1943-A, section 1943.13, "Outreach program for applicants/borrowers who are members of socially disadvantaged groups." This section requires offices to conduct SDA outreach and specifically refers to the Farm Ownership (FO) Direct Loan and Acquired Property Outreach Programs, as well as credit sales.

The law once required FSA to give priority to SDA's for the purchase of acquired property. This requirement is no longer in the law. FSA is now required to give priority to beginning farmers and ranchers, which is referenced in FmHA Instruction 1955-C, section 1955.107. In addition, Congress has not appropriated credit sale funds for over 10 years. The current regulations have not been updated to reflect these statutory changes. References to the Acquired Property Outreach Program, credit sales, and related language will be removed when FLP streamlining is implemented.

B Purpose

This notice reminds offices of special media outreach activities required by FmHA Instruction 1943-A, section 1943.13 (b)(6).

C Contact

Direct questions about this notice to LMD at 202-720-1472.

Disposal Date	Distribution
April 1, 2008	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice FLP-466

2 Responsibilities

A State Office Responsibilities

FmHA Instruction 1943-A, section 1943.13 also requires State Offices to publicize the FO direct loan program to SDA's. However, FLP publicity activities are not and should not be limited to the FO direct loan program, but should cover all direct and guaranteed loan programs.

States shall use broader media coverage other than FSA newsletters to inform the public that FSA targets direct and guaranteed funds to SDA's. Most States have been informing the public of FSA's loan programs and SDA funding through newspaper articles, radio announcements, and television broadcasts. Any States that have not used broader media, or have made minimal use of it, should begin efforts to do so as soon as possible to support program goals and meet civil rights objectives.