In regards to the litigation settlement, below is an updated. Please note that no payments will be made until all claims are reviewed and decided. That being said, ALL claims being decided upon were to be POSTMARKED by no later than May 11, 2012.

Judge Freidman granted final approval of the Settlement on October 27, 2011.

What’s Next?

Winter/Spring 2013 —> Claims Adjunctions— All claims submitted by Class Members before the end of the Claim Submission Period will be decided by a neutral third parties to determine if they are valid. This process is expected to take a number of months and is now estimated to be completed in the first part of 2013.

Winter/Spring 2013 —> Distribution of Awards— After all of the timely filed claims have been decided by the neutral third parties, and it is determined how much each successful claimant is entitled to receive, the Claims Administrator will distribute payments to successful claimants. It is currently projected that the payments will be mailed in the first part of 2013.

For any other information, feel free to log on to the website: http://www.blackfarmercase.com
Quincy, FL- On Friday, December 14, 2012, over 50 people attended the 2012 Fall Farm Fest at the FAMU Research & Extension Center in Quincy, Florida.

The program was presided by Dr. Lawrence Carter, Director of Outreach Activities and Mrs. Vonda Richardson, Interim Director of Cooperative Extension.

A special “Thank you” to all of the attendees, especially the featured speakers:

- Dr. Robert Taylor, Dean & Director of Land Grant Programs (CAFS)
- Mr. Glyen Holmes II, SDA farmer/ Farm to School Program
- Mr. James Hill, 1890 Land Grant Liaison, Southern Region SARE Program
- Mr. Alejandro Bolques, FAMU Extension Agent-Gadsden County
Research presentation....

..and presentation of awards.
Cooperative Extension’s Veterinary Technology Program

Dr. Glen Wright, DVM

In the last year Veterinary Technology Program has made significant progress toward our ultimate goal of accreditation. We currently have a number students officially enrolled in the program, and expecting a strong number of new students in the fall of 2013. For the first time, in the fall of 2011 we officially administered classes under the prefix ATE. 11 of our 15 courses have been approved by the university and state systems. The final four are pending. We have started holding classes and hands on activities consistently at our Veterinary Technology facility at the FAMU Research and Extension center in Quincy, FL. The Veterinary Technology program has started a collaborative arrangement with Tallahassee Animal Services (Animal Shelter) in March 2012. This will serves as additional opportunity for hands on learning for the Veterinary Technology students.

We currently have a goal of becoming accredited by the AVMA by the year 2014. We have reassembled the Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee. The committee met in October 2011 and April 2012.

The Veterinary Technology program for the first time, hosted an internship program for at least 4 selected animal science/veterinary technology students in the summer of 2012. The interns gained valuable skills in animal care and husbandry. The interns also sharpened their clinical laboratory skills. The Veterinary Technology Program has also started an official volunteer program at the FAMU Research and Extension Center in Quincy, FL.

In the fall of 2012, the Veterinary technology program was involved in multiple student projects. Thus fostering the spirit of research, teaching, and collaboration. Current Veterinary Technology/Animal Science students are involved in multiple volunteer efforts in the Tallahassee area, including the animal shelter, dog shows, rabies clinics, the North Florida fair and other activities.

The Veterinary Technology Program is active in recruiting and also increasing its visibility in the community and the state. Our recruiter has contacted and forged relationships with over 100 schools within the state and has made contact with over 200 potential students. Our recruiter has attended multiple symposia, college career fairs, and community events promoting our program.

The Veterinary Technology Program is also involved in university extension. The 3 veterinarians on staff are involved in extension visits and activities. The Veterinary Technology staff is also heavily involved the summer programs, Ag Discovery and Ag Tech Century 21.

The Florida A&M Veterinary Technology Program is a very active program and providing immeasurable benefits for many, including students, staff, faculty, the university and the community.

We at the FAMU Research and Extension Center and the Veterinary Technology Facility love visitors. We encourage you the schedule a visit/tour or plan to attend one of our field days or other activities held at the Center in Quincy. Please call  (850) 875-8555, for more information.
Upcoming Events.....

USDA’s 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum
Crystal Gateway Marriott
Arlington, Virginia

PUBLIC
Full Registration – 2 day
Package: $375
(Includes 2 working luncheons, dinner & coffee breaks)

PUBLIC
One day Registration
Package: $275
(Includes 1 working luncheon & coffee breaks)

USDA Employees
News Media
Prices increase January 21, 2013

Group Registrants: You may register up to 15 registrants consecutively online. Questions? Please call 1-877-572-6043 or email usda@ameetingplace.com.

For hotel reservations, please call 877-212-5752 and reference the USDA AG Forum.

Florida A&M University
College of Agriculture & Food
Sciences
Cooperative Extension Programs

SPRING FALL FEST 2013
Date: TBA
FAMU Extension & Research
Center
Quincy, Florida

The 2012 Census of Agriculture

All farmers and ranchers should have received a Census form in the mail by early January 2013.

Completed forms are due by February 4, 2013.

For more information, please call 888-4AG-STAT or log on to http://www.agcensus.usda.gov

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

AG Discovery 2013 June 9–22, 2013
AG Tech Century 21 July 14–19, 2013

Ag Discovery: Students will live on the Tallahassee campus and work with a variety of animal species. In addition, students are exposed to opportunities in animal science to help them better understand and refine their career paths. Funding provided by USDA/APHIS’ Animal Care program.

Ag Tech Century 21: Non-residential Enrichment Program- is a local outreach summer program to help middle to high school students learn about careers in agricultural sciences through experiential learning. Funding provided by USDA/NIFA.

For more information, contact: Carmen Lyttle-N’guessan, M.S., M.Ed., (850) 412-5363, carmen.lyttlenguessa@famu.edu; or Dr. Ray Mobley, (850) 599-3546, ray.mobley@famu.edu. Check the website at www.famu.edu/herds
Microloans up to $35,000 aim to assist small farmers, veterans, and disadvantaged producers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 2013 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a new microloan program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designed to help small and family operations, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers secure loans under $35,000. The new microloan program is aimed at bolstering the progress of producers through their start-up years by providing needed resources and helping to increase equity so that farmers may eventually graduate to commercial credit and expand their operations. The microloan program will also provide a less burdensome, more simplified application process in comparison to traditional farm loans.

“I have met several small and beginning farmers, returning veterans and disadvantaged producers interested in careers in farming who too often must rely on credit cards or personal loans with high interest rates to finance their start-up operations,” said Vilsack. “By further expanding access to credit to those just starting to put down roots in farming, USDA continues to help grow a new generation of farmers, while ensuring the strength of an American agriculture sector that drives our economy, creates jobs, and provides the most secure and affordable food supply in the world.”

The new microloans, said Vilsack, represent how USDA continues to make year-over-year gains in expanding credit opportunities for minority, socially-disadvantaged and young and beginning farmers and ranchers across the United States. The final rule establishing the microloan program will be published in the Jan. 17 issue of the Federal Register.

Administered through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) Operating Loan Program, the new microloan program offers credit options and solutions to a variety of producers. FSA has a long history of providing agricultural credit to the nation’s farmers and ranchers through its Operating Loan Program. In assessing its programs, FSA evaluated the needs of smaller farm operations and any unintended barriers to obtaining financing. For beginning farmers and ranchers, for instance, the new microloan program offers a simplified loan application process. In addition, for those who want to grow niche crops to sell directly to ethnic markets and farmers markets, the microloan program offers a path to obtain financing. For past FSA Rural Youth Loan recipients, the microloan program provides a bridge to successfully transition to larger-scale operations.

Since 2009, USDA has made a record amount of farm loans through FSA—more than 128,000 loans totaling nearly $18 billion. USDA has increased the number of loans to beginning farmers and ranchers from 11,000 loans in 2008 to 15,000 loans in 2011. More than 40 percent of USDA’s farm loans now go to beginning farmers. In addition, USDA has increased its lending to socially-disadvantaged producers by nearly 50 percent since 2008.

Producers can apply for a maximum of $35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles, and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As their financing needs increase, applicants can apply for an operating loan up to the maximum amount of $300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA’s Guaranteed Loan Program.

USDA farm loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, or be to construct buildings or make farm improvements. Small farmers often rely on credit cards or personal loans, which carry high interest rates and have less flexible payment schedules, to finance their operations. Expanding access to credit, USDA’s microloan will provide a simple and flexible loan process for small operations.

Producers interested in applying for a microloan may contact their local Farm Service Agency office.

The Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack’s leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers.
The Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program is an equal employment/educational opportunity access organization which provides research-based educational information and other services only to eligible individuals and institutions regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status.