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**Women Farmers' Discrimination Suit Against USDA Seeks Class  
Certification;  
Hotline Available For More Information**

**Washington** – The lawyers representing a group of women farmers in a discrimination case against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have submitted a motion for class certification in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, in the case *Love v. Veneman, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture*. The plaintiffs seek class certification for women who were refused applications to apply for farm loans on the basis of gender; and for women who applied for farm loans, but were denied them on the basis of gender. In support of their motion for class certification, plaintiffs submitted more than 930 declarations from women located throughout the country who were discriminated against by USDA when they sought farm loans from the agency.

“Thousands of women have been systematically refused applications or denied loans because of a perception that farming is not appropriate work for women,” said Kristine J. Dunne, counsel for the plaintiffs and an attorney with the law firm Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC, in Washington, D.C. “The USDA has a longstanding pattern of gender discrimination against minority farmers, including women, which must be stopped.”

Women farmers who applied or attempted to apply to the USDA for a farm operating loan, farm ownership loan, or emergency farm loan anytime between 1981 to 1996, or October 19, 1998 to the present are urged to call the hotline at 1-877-208-4342 to get information about the case. Other information is available on the web at [www.womenfarmers.com](http://www.womenfarmers.com).

The women plaintiffs in *Love v. Veneman* are being represented pro bono by lawyers at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the Washington, D.C. office of Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC, and others.

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