

Keepseagle settlement deadline nears; claims must be filed by Dec. 27

From indianfarmclass.com

A \$760 million settlement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been reached in the Keepseagle v. Vilsack class action lawsuit. The lawsuit claimed the USDA discriminated against Native Americans by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm Loan Program.

The lawsuit claims that USDA denied thousands of Native American farmers and ranchers the same opportunities to

get farm loans or loan servicing that were given to white farmers and ranchers. Plaintiffs also claim that USDA did not do outreach to Native American farmers and ranchers or provide them with the technical assistance they needed to prepare applications for loans and loan servicing.

The class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

Farmed or ranched or attempted to farm or ranch between Jan. 1, 1981, and Nov. 24, 1999; and

- Sought, or attempted to seek, a farm loan from the USDA during that period; and
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA orally or in writing on their own or through a representative, such as a Tribal government, during the same time period.

Excluded are claims of class members who either:

- Experienced discrimination only between Jan. 1 and Nov. 23, 1997; or

- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and Nov. 23, 1997.

You may be eligible for a payment of up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some or all outstanding USDA loans if you qualify as a class member.

The court in charge of this case has approved the settlement. Once the time has passed for any appeals, the claims process will begin.

For more information, visit indianfarmclass.com.

Important information and deadlines for the college-bound Tribal senior

December

- If you haven't already done so, take this last SAT test for seniors.
- Get FAFSA forms, available for federal and state financial aid.
- Apply for FAFSA pin number – student/parents must apply separately.
- Mail or submit all revised, complete college applications before the holiday break.
- Start scholarship essays.
- Start OSAC (Oregon Student Assistance Commission).

January

- FAFSA forms can be submitted Jan. 1. Do not delay – do this ASAP!
- Complete scholarships that are due.
- Check for Student Aid Report (SAR) on the FAFSA website several days after filing out the FAFSA).

- Request mid-year transcripts be sent to colleges to which you have applied.
- Request transcripts needed for OSAC scholarship application.
- Send thank you notes to people who have helped you.
- Students who plan to apply for Tribal assistance for college must apply for FAFSA no later than Jan. 31 at fafsa.ed.gov.

February

- First semester grades and mid-year reports are sent to some colleges.
- Check your school counseling office or ASPIRE center for scholarship information.
- Complete scholarships.
- Check with colleges applied to for verification they have received all necessary documents. Continue to monitor status of submitted applications.

- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Wrap up any scholarship applications, essays and activities chart (for OSAC). Early bird deadline is in February for OSAC.

March

- Check for three Tribal scholarships at ctsi.nsn.us.
- Complete scholarships.
- Start working on Tribal higher education or adult vocational training grant application. This can be found on the Tribe's website and is due June 30.
- Review the Student Aid Report (SAR).
- You should start receiving admission responses.

April

- Send thank you notes to people who have helped you.
- Make final decision about which college or university you will attend.
- If you decide to decline enrollment to a college or university to which

you have been accepted, send notice indicating this to the college's admissions office.

May

- This is the deadline for final decisions for universities.
- Send letter of intent to registrar.
- Line up a summer job.
- Attend your Senior Awards Night.
- Review any award letters and be sure you understand the terms and conditions that accompany each type of aid.
- If necessary, arrange for housing and a meal plan (at school).
- Send thank you notes to any person/committee from which you received a scholarship.

June

- Tribal higher education and adult vocational training applications are due June 30!
- Attend graduation – congratulations!
- Make arrangements for your final grades to be sent to colleges and universities.
- Good luck!

Siletz Diabetes Talking Circle 2011-2012

Third Thursday of every month, 12:00-1:30
At Tillicum Fitness Center, 1016 West Buford, Siletz

Please come if you have diabetes or want to help control or prevent diabetes in your family! Free lunch is followed by roundtable and special speakers:

- September 15, 2011—Gene Moe, PT, Physical Therapist
Incorporating Exercise in Your Daily Activities
- October 20—George Nagel, LCSW, Mental Health Specialist
Mental Health and Diabetes
- November 17—Lisa Taylor, FNP, Medical Officer
What to Expect from Your Diabetes Care
- December 15—Megan Saxton, DMD
Dental Health and the Systemic Relationship
- January 19, 2012—Warren Sparks, MD
Vasculopathy
- February 16—Lindy Taylor, MD, Community Health Director
Foot Care and Skin Care
- March 15—Sky Schroeder, Optometrist
Diabetic Retinopathy

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