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## Industry News

Last Updated ( Friday, 01 July 2011 07:58 )



This month in *Greenline*:

- [Women and Hispanic Farmer/Rancher Discrimination Claims Process](#)
- [Taylor, St. Johns, Flagler, Lee and Duval Counties Adopt Resolutions to Conserve Native Wildflowers](#)
- [Study Reveals Insights into Consumer Perceptions of Agricultural Messages](#)

### Women and Hispanic Farmer/Rancher Discrimination Claims Process

The United States government is establishing a claims process to make available \$1.3 billion or more to farmers who alleged discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on being female or based on being Hispanic, in making or servicing farm loans during certain periods between 1981 and 2000. If you qualify and submit a timely claim, you could receive an award of up to \$50,000 in cash. USDA will also provide a total of up to \$160 million in debt relief to successful claimants who currently owe USDA money for eligible farm loans. Successful claimants may also receive an additional amount, equal to 25 percent of the combined cash award plus debt relief, to help pay federal taxes that may be owed.

You can [request a Claim Package](#), which will include forms and instructions for filing a claim or call 1-888-508-4429.

### Taylor, St. Johns, Flagler, Lee and Duval Counties Adopt Resolutions to Conserve Native Wildflowers

Five counties recently passed resolutions to conserve and preserve Florida's native wildflowers. The resolutions adopted by Taylor, St. Johns, Flagler, Lee and Duval counties raise awareness of wildflowers' environmental, historical and cultural significance. They also identify properties and roadsides within the counties as candidates for planting and reduced mowing, which allows naturally occurring wildflowers to thrive while saving county resources.

Besides being beautiful, Florida's native wildflowers are essential to healthy ecosystems and the support of crop pollinators. They also create civic pride while contributing to the sense of place that is unique to *La Florida*, "land of flowers."

With the 500th anniversary of *La Florida* approaching in 2013, counties that pass wildflower resolutions can be ready for the celebration. "It is clear officials in these counties understand that bountiful native flowers also hold the potential for economic benefits through increased ecotourism and beautification," said Foundation Board Chairman Terry L. Zinn.

The counties join Lake, Volusia, Brevard, Marion, Leon, Wakulla, Putnam and Gadsden in adopting wildflower resolutions. [Learn more about Wildflower Resolutions](#) being adopted across the state.

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**George Hackney**  
Past President, FNGLA

