



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

NEWS RELEASE



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TEXAS FARMER SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR FRAUD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 2001—The U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General announced today that a Clarksville, Texas, farmer was sentenced Dec. 19 to 33 months in prison for filing false claims to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Donnie Gene Greiner, 54, also was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay restitution of \$632,771 by a U.S. District Judge in Beaumont, Texas. He was excluded from all USDA programs effective June 1, 2001.

In a related conviction, John Houchin, 57, a farmer from McCurtain County, Okla., pled guilty in February 2000 to conspiracy to defraud FCIC. Several months later, he was sentenced to 4 months home confinement and ordered to pay restitution of \$39,680. Greiner's wife, Sylvia Faye Greiner, 53, a Clarksville crop insurance agent, pled guilty in April 2000 to defrauding FCIC. In January 2001, she was sentenced to 33 months imprisonment, fined \$10,000, ordered to pay restitution of \$591,816, and excluded from all USDA programs. (See OIG news release dated January 31, 2001.)

OIG conducted this investigation jointly with the Southern Compliance Region of USDA's Risk Management Agency. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas prosecuted the case.

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