



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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PRISON SENTENCE FOR NORTH TEXAS FARMER

(Sherman, TX) A North Texas man is going to prison for submitting false and fictitious claims to the government, Wes Rivers, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas announced today. **DONNIE GREINER**, 54, was sentenced on Wednesday to 33 months in prison, fined \$10,000, and ordered to pay restitution of \$632,771 by U.S. District Judge Richard Schell.

According to court documents, Greiner, a farmer in Clarksville, Texas, made false claims and statements about his crops to the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. (FCIC). Working in tandem with his wife, Sylvia Greiner, a crop insurance agent in Red River County, Texas, Greiner submitted false claims to receive crop insurance proceeds. Between February 1992 through November 1996, the Greiner's fraudulently submitted claims for themselves and others on crops located in Red River County, Texas, and McCurtin County and Choctaw County, Oklahoma, totaling more than \$500,000 in crop insurance. Greiner has been ordered to surrender by February 8, 2002.

Sylvia Greiner, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. (FCIC) and was sentenced last January to 33 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$591,816. Another co-conspirator, farmer John Houchin, 56, pleaded guilty in February 2000 to conspiracy to defraud the FCIC. He was sentenced in June 2000 to 4 months home confinement and ordered to pay restitution of \$39,680.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency and the U.S.D.A. Office of Inspector General. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Terri Hagan and Arnold Spencer prosecuted the case.

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