



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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WILLCOX FARMERS SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING USDA

TUCSON, Ariz. – Sergio Renteria of Willcox, Ariz., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson to one year in prison to be followed by six years of supervised release. His wife, Sandra Renteria, was sentenced to six years of probation. The Renterias also were ordered to pay restitution of over \$200,000. Both Sergio and Sandra Renteria pleaded guilty to charges of fraudulently converting to their own use property that had been pledged as collateral to the Farm Service Agency (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and fraudulently concealing property in a bankruptcy proceeding.

Sergio and Sandra Renteria and their daughter obtained loans totaling over \$800,000 from the Farm Service Agency. The Renterias failed to make payments on the loans and fraudulently sold crops and farm equipment that had been pledged as security for the loans. Subsequently, Sergio and Sandra Renteria filed for bankruptcy. During the bankruptcy proceeding they fraudulently concealed assets from the Bankruptcy Court.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The prosecution was handled by Robert Miskell and Elizabeth Wilson, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1275-TUC-CKJ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-346(Renteria)

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