

## *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### KANSAS FSA OFFICE CONSOLIDATION PLAN APPROVED

Manhattan, Kansas, June 19, 2007 --- Today, Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency, announced that USDA Secretary Mike Johanns has approved the final plan to consolidate Kansas FSA County Offices.

"The 15 month process of conducting public meetings, receiving producer input, and listening to spirited debate has resulted in a plan that makes it possible for the Agency to continue outstanding customer service," said Fuller. "Operating with fewer staff and declining budgets are realities we are forced to face," emphasized Fuller.

Fuller acknowledges changing the structure of FSA that has been in existence since the 1930's is a cause of concern for some producers and staff, but believes it positions the Agency to provide even better customer service in the future.

Affected Kansas FSA County Offices include:

- Chase County (Cottonwood Falls) will be consolidated with Lyon County (Emporia).
- Johnson County (Olathe) will be consolidated with Miami County (Paola).
- Geary County (Junction City) will be consolidated with Riley County (Manhattan).
- Woodson County (Yates Center) will be consolidated with Wilson County (Fredonia).
- Wabaunsee County (Alma) will be consolidated with Pottawatomie County (Westmoreland). The office in Westmoreland will be relocated to Wamego.
- Atchison County (Effingham) and Leavenworth/Wyandotte County (Leavenworth) will be separated as shared management counties. Leavenworth/Wyandotte County will be consolidated with Jefferson County (Oskaloosa). Atchison County (Effingham) will be a stand-alone county office.
- Comanche County (Coldwater) will be consolidated with Barber County (Medicine Lodge).
- Elk/Chautauqua County (Howard) will be de-combined. Chautauqua County will be combined with Montgomery County (Independence) and Elk County will be consolidated with Greenwood County (Eureka).

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The office consolidation process includes a 120 day period, beginning June 18, the day the Kansas plan was approved, when a number of events will occur. Producers in affected counties will be sent a letter asking if they prefer to select any contiguous county, rather than the receiving county, to conduct their FSA business.

- Chase County producers can move their FSA records to Lyon, Morris, Marion, Butler, or Greenwood counties.
- Johnson County producers can move their FSA records to Miami, Douglas, or Franklin counties; or Cass or Jackson counties in Missouri.
- Geary County producers can move their FSA records to Riley, Clay, Dickinson, or Morris counties.
- Woodson County producers can move their FSA records to Wilson, Greenwood, Neosho, Allen, Anderson, or Coffey counties.
- Wabaunsee County producers can move their FSA records to Riley, Morris, Lyon, Osage, Shawnee, or Pottawatomie counties.
- Leavenworth/Wyandotte County producers can move their FSA records to Atchison, Jefferson or Douglas counties; or Platte County in Missouri.
- Comanche County producers can move their FSA records to Barber, Kiowa, or Clark counties; or Harper or Woods counties in Oklahoma.
- Elk County producers can move their FSA records to Cowley, Butler, Greenwood, Wilson, or Montgomery counties.
- Chautauqua County producers can move their records to Cowley or Montgomery counties; or Osage County in Oklahoma.

In addition, the current county committees will determine whether the new combined county committee will have 3 or 5 members, and they will establish new local administrative area boundaries for the election of the new multi-county committee.

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