



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Service
Agency

SD State FSA Office
Fed. Bldg. Rm 308
200 4th St SW
Huron, SD 57350

Phone: 605-352-
1160
Fax: 605-352-1195

To: All SD FSA Permanent Employees

From: Steven Cutler
State Executive Director

Date: July 13, 2006

Subject: Invitation to Future of FSA All Employee Meetings

All permanent employees that have not already seen my Power Point presentation on the 'Future of FSA' are invited to attend one of three meetings I am hosting the last week in July. I already showed the power point to the District Directors, 2 CEDs and Chiefs at the last DD Conference and to the State Office employees.

Meeting Information:

- No per diem or overnight expenses are authorized.
- All meetings will begin at 10:30 am and conclude by noon.
- All permanent employees are invited and encouraged to attend.
- Offices are to remain open using a DD, or a field man, or a sister agency employee to answer phones and direct traffic.
- Offices can post signage listing the time frame they will be out of the office for the meeting.
- Any appointments already scheduled should be rescheduled for a different day.
- Counties are advised not to schedule any appointments during the time expected to be out of the office for their meeting.
- Employees shall car pool and shall travel in a government vehicle where available.

Note: The meetings are set up so that all permanent employees can travel to their designated location and back on the same day within an 8/9 hour schedule.

Please see the table on page 2 for meeting dates, locations, and counties scheduled to attend:

Page 2

Memo Subject: Invitation to Future of FSA All Employee Meetings

Counties Attending	Meeting Date and Location
Brule/Buffalo, Campbell, Corson, Dewey, Edmunds, Faulk, Gregory, Hughes/Stanley, Hyde, Jones, Lyman, McPherson, Mellette/Todd, Potter, Sully, Tripp, Walworth, Ziebach	Tuesday, July 25 Best Western Ramkota, Pierre 920 West Sioux Amphitheater Room #2
Bennett/Shannon, Butte/Lawrence, Fall River/Custer, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Meade, Pennington, Perkins	Wednesday, July 26 Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, Rapid City 505 North 5 th St Hammons Room
Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison/Hanson, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, Yankton	Thursday, July 27 Crossroads Event Center, Huron 100 4 th St SW New Ballroom

Please direct attendance questions to Executive Officer Tom Kostel at 352-1170.

Lindquist, Kathy - Huron, SD

From: Lindquist, Kathy - Huron, SD
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 3:10 PM
To: Decker, Corey - Huron, SD
Cc: Cutler, Steven - Huron, SD
Subject: RA and DLs Request Formfor State Review email address.doc
Attachments: RA and DLs Request Formfor State Review email address.doc

Corey:

Attached is the form you provided me with to request the new email account.

My plan is to post the email address to our SD FSA Website and also provide the email address at the various meetings and forums Mr. Cutler is hosting to gather input, comments and suggestions he will review before preparing the SD plan.

My vision is that the email address will be: state_review@sd.usda.gov and that both Steve Cutler and myself (Kathy Lindquist) would have access to the emails that are sent to that address.

Please let me know if I didn't complete the form properly or if there is anything else I need to do.

How long will this take to set up?

Thank you.

Kathy Lindquist
SD State FSA Office
Public Affairs Specialist

NEWS- Farm Service Agency
Public Affairs Staff
Rm 308
200 4th St SW Fed Bldg
Huron, SD 57350

Release 2006.12

For immediate release

Kathy Lindquist (605) 352-1163
kathy.lindquist@sd.usda.gov

SD Farm Service Agency Hosting Six “Future of FSA” Forums

HURON, SD, August 1, 2006 – Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Steve Cutler announced today that he will host six “Future of FSA” public forums during the month of August. Producers, Farm Organizations, Commodity Groups, Policy Makers, and Community Leaders are all invited to attend.

Each state is required to prepare a State Plan to identify the optimum network of FSA office staffing and facilities. Public comments and suggestions gathered at the forums, submitted over the internet, and in writing, will all be considered when the Review Team begins developing the State Plan.

Cutler said, “These forums will give all stakeholders an opportunity to join me in a candid, thorough, and realistic review of the SD Farm Service Agency delivery system. FSA must prepare for the future in this era of diminishing resources. Declining staffing levels, shrinking budget allocations and increasing program responsibilities are challenges we must deal with today.”

The forums are being held at various fairs taking place across the state. They include:

Date	Event	Forum Location	Time
August 9	Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls, SD	Front Porch	12:30 – 1:30 pm
August 15	Turner County Fair, Parker, SD	Freedom Stage	3:00 – 4:00 pm
August 16	Dakotafest, Mitchell, SD	Forum Tent	3:00 – 4:00 pm
August 17	Brown County Fair, Aberdeen, SD	Kesslers Tent	1:15 – 2:15 pm
August 22	Central States Fair, Rapid City, SD	Sale Ring	11:00 am - noon
August 31	SD State Fair, Huron, SD	Dakotaland Stage	3:00 – 4:30 pm

SED Cutler will give an overview of the SD FSA as it operates today and ask for comments and suggestions from the attendees. Interested parties can also provide comments to the email address of: sdstate.review@sd.usda.gov.

#

For more information contact: SED, Steve Cutler 605-352-1160 or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/sd/

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**United States Department of Agriculture
SD State Farm Service Agency
Steve Cutler, State Executive Director**

200 4th St SW, Federal Building •Room 308•Huron, SD 57350
(605) 352-1160•Fax: (605) 352-1195
Email: steven.cutler@sd.usda.gov

Contact: Kathy Lindquist, (605) 352-1163

Email: kathy.lindquist@sd.usda.gov

Media Alert – Future of FSA Forums being hosted by SED Steve Cutler

July 24, 2006 - Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Steve Cutler is hosting six 'Future of FSA Forums' during the month of August. **All media is invited to attend.**

The forums are an opportunity for the public and all interested parties to provide comments and recommendations to Farm Service Agency SED Cutler. FSA must prepare for the future in this era of diminishing resources and gathering input from the public is an important part of the process.

Public comments and suggestions gathered at the forums, submitted over the internet, and in writing, will all be considered when the Review Team begins developing the State Plan.

Following are the forum dates, locations and time frames. The attached PDF file is an event poster.

Date	Location	Time
August 9	Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls, SD, Front Porch	12:30 – 1:30 pm
August 15	Turner County Fair, Parker, SD, Freedom Stage	3:00 – 4:00 pm
August 16	Dakotafest, Mitchell, SD, Forum Tent	3:00 – 4:00 pm
August 17	Brown County Fair, Aberdeen, SD, Kesslers Tent	1:15 – 2:15 pm
August 22	Central States Fair, Rapid City, SD, Sale Ring	11:00 am - noon
August 31	SD State Fair, Huron, SD, Dakotaland Stage	3:00 – 4:30 pm

If you have any questions regarding the events contact Kathy Lindquist at 605-352-1163.

Lindquist, Kathy - Huron, SD

From: Lindquist, Kathy - Huron, SD
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 9:38 AM
To: All FSA Employees
Cc: Dennis Batteen (batteen@nvc.net); John C Gross (sdgross@rapidnet.com); Marietta Lakness; Stanley Porch (Sporch@gwtc.net); Tom Olsen (tolsen@venturecomm.net)
Subject: PI #55 Press Release, Future of FSA Forums
Attachments: SD FSA Forums.doc; Media Alert.doc; State Meeting Dates Flyer.pdf

PI Message 2006.55

To: All Employees
Date: 8-1-06
Subject: SD FSA Press Release- SD Farm Service Agency Hosting Six "Future of FSA" Forums

The attached press release and media alert was provided to state media today and posted to our SD FSA website.

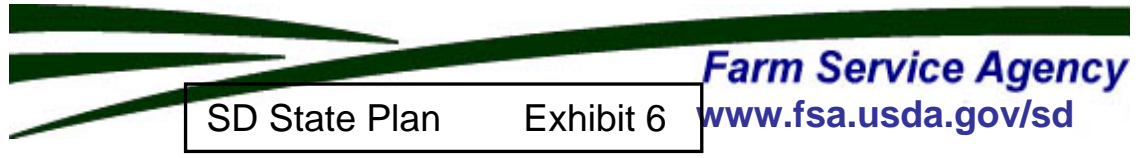
Also attached is a poster which counties can print and post at appropriate locations within the counties to publicize the forums.

At these events, SED Cutler will be going through the same information he shared with employees at the meetings last week held in Pierre, Rapid City and Huron. Employees can attend these meetings at their own expense and on their own time. We are also in the process of preparing a State Office Newsletter that will be sent to all producers with information on the forums. This newsletter will be prepared and printed by the State Office with no county office action required. A final copy will be provided to all counties. SED Cutler is also sending a notification letter to all County Committee Members and Advisors. Their letter will include the forum schedule and invite them to attend on their own time and expense.

As provided at the employee meetings, you are invited to submit comments to the email address of: sdstate.review@sd.usda.gov.

Thank you.

Kathy Lindquist
Public Affairs Specialist, and
SD eGov Coordinator
USDA-Farm Service Agency
SD State FSA Office
605-352-1163
email: kathy.lindquist@sd.usda.gov



Future of FSA Forums

**Attention: Producers, Farm Organizations,
Commodity Groups, Policy Makers,
and Community Leaders!**

South Dakota **Farm Service Agency** (FSA) State Executive Director **Steve Cutler** is holding public forums to gather input for the purpose of preparing a State Plan to identify the optimum network of SD FSA staffing and facilities. FSA must prepare for the future in this era of diminishing resources.

You are invited to attend the forums and provide comments and recommendations. This is an opportunity for the public to express their expectations on the structure of FSA Offices.

Recommendations can also be sent by:
Regular mail to:
Atten: State Review
SD State FSA Office
Rm 308, Fed. Bldg
200 4th St SW
Huron, SD 57350
E-mail to: sdstate.review@sd.usda.gov

August 9
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Sioux Falls
Sioux Empire Fair
On the Front Porch

August 15
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Parker
Turner County Fair
Open Class Ex. Hall

August 16
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Mitchell
Dakotafest
Forum Tent

August 17
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Aberdeen
Brown County Fair
Kesslers Tent

August 22
11:00 a.m. - Noon
Rapid City
Central States Fair
Sale Ring

August 31
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Huron
SD State Fair
Dakotaland Stage



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Service
Agency

South Dakota State
FSA Office
200 4th St SW,
Fed. Bldg. Rm 308
Huron, SD 57350

Phone: 605-352-1160
Fax: 605-352-1195
www.fsa.usda.gov/sd/
steven.cutler@sd.usda.gov

August 2, 2006

«AddressBlock»

Dear «F3» «F1»:

I am hosting public forums to gather input for the purpose of preparing a State Plan to identify the optimum network of SD FSA staffing and facilities. I am also sending a State Office Newsletter to all SD farmers and ranchers this week. This newsletter includes information on the six forums.

The enclosed flyer lists the date, time and location information for each of the six forums. I provided all offices with this flyer and asked them to post the flyers in the community.

I invite you and your neighbors to attend one of the forums as your schedule permits. No per diem or travel is authorized. I will be sharing some of the same information that I shared with all FSA employees at the meetings I held last week in Pierre, Rapid City and Huron.

If you cannot attend any of the forums, you can provide comments by:

E-mail to: sdstate.review@sd.usda.gov , or

Regular mail to:

Attn: State Review
SD State FSA Office,
Rm 308 Fed. Bldg
200 4th St SW
Huron, SD 57350

This is an opportunity for you and your fellow farmers and ranchers to get an update on FSA operations and then to respond with comments or suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the forums.

Sincerely,

Steven K Cutler
State Executive Director

Lindquist, Kathy - Huron, SD

From: Lindquist, Kathy - Huron, SD
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2006 2:51 PM
To: 'All FSA Employees'
Cc: Dennis Batteen (batteen@nvc.net); John C Gross (sdgross@rapidnet.com); Marietta Lakness; Stanley Porch (Sporch@gwtc.net); Tom Olsen (tolsen@venturecomm.net)
Subject: PI #57 Future of FSA STO Newsletter & COC Letter
Attachments: COC Invitationb.pdf

PI Message 2006.57

To: All Employees
Date: 8-7-06
Subject: Future of FSA STO Newsletter and COC Letter

The attached letter was sent to all COC members including advisors. The State Office Newsletter was sent to all owners, operators and facilities and is posted on the [SD FSA web](#).

As SED Cutler indicated at the employees meetings held in Pierre, Rapid City and Huron; COC members are invited to attend the "Future of FSA Forums" but will not be paid salary, per diem or travel. ***PI #55 included employee attendance information.

Kathy Lindquist
Public Affairs Specialist, and
SD eGov Coordinator
USDA-Farm Service Agency
SD State FSA Office
605-352-1163
email: kathy.lindquist@sd.usda.gov

Organization	Meeting Date	Day	Time	Location
SD Dairy Assoc.				No Response
SD Ethanol Industry	N/A			Responded with No
SD Pork Producers				No Response
Ag Unity 2006 - Native Americans	June 13	Tues	1:00 pm	Holiday Inn, Spearfish, All 9 Native American Reservations invited
SD Ag Bankers Assoc.	June 15	Thurs	1:00 pm	Deadwood Gulch Resort
SD Farm Bureau	June 22	Thurs	Noon	Chamberlain, Luncheon at Cedar Shore Resort
SD Wheat Growers Assoc.	June 29	Thurs	1:00 pm	Pierre
KSFY & Governors Office Panel on Drought/Disaster	July 24	Mon	7-8 pm	Highmore Sale Barn, Mark Johnston of Governor's office contacted SED
Future of FSA for FSA Employees	July 25	Tues	10:30 - noon	Ramkota in Pierre
Future of FSA for FSA Employees	July 26	Wed	10:30 - noon	Rushmore Holiday Inn Plaza in Rapid City
Future of FSA for FSA Employees	July 27	Thurs	10:30 - noon	Crossroads Hotel & Convention Center in Huron
Herseth & Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS) Farm Bill Hearing	July 31	Mon	9:30 am	Wall High school Auditorium 401 South Boulevard West
Governors Drought Panel	July 31	Mon	7:30 pm	Mobridge, Governor, SED, and Sec. Gabriel
SD FFA	Aug 08	Tues	2:00 pm	State Conference of Ag, Brookings
Sioux Empire Fair	Aug 09	Wed	11:00 am	Ag Appreciation Day & Capital for a Day
SD Farmers Union	Aug 10	Thurs	10:00 am	FU Bldg in Huron
SD Corn Growers	Aug 11	Fri	1:00 pm	Sioux Falls, 5109 S. Crossing Place, Ste 1 Contact person: Katrina
Turner County Fair Parker, SD	Aug 15	Tues	3:00-4:15 pm	Open Class Exhibit Hall Contact: Larry Kindopp
Dakotafest, Mitchell	Aug 16	Wed	3:00 pm	Forum Tent
Brown County Fair	Aug 17	Thurs	1:15 to 2:30 pm	Brown County Fair Kesslers South Tent
Central States Fair	Aug 22	Tues	11:30 am	Arena (Outdoor Arena following sale)
SD Cattlemen's Assoc.	Aug 28	Mon	3:00 pm.	Pierre, Matthews Training Center, same as DENR, meeting begins at 1:00 pm
SD State Fair	Aug 31	Thurs	3:00 pm	Value Added Day (Follows Dairy)
SD Soybean Growers	Sept 12	Tues	1:30 pm	Board Meeting in Sioux Falls, Ramkota
SD Stockgrowers	Sept 14	Thurs	11:15 am	Spearfish, Holiday Inn, Willow Room
SD Assoc of Conservation Districts	Sept. 18	Mon	1:10 pm	(Angela Ehlers) Fall Meeting, Sept. 17-19, Pierre-Ramkota, Mon. Sept. 18
SD Congressionals	Sept. 25	Mon	2:00 pm	At Johnson's Sioux Falls Office, others can video conference in.
Tribal Relations Committee for Standing Rock Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes	Sept. 27	Wed	2:00 pm	Pierre
SD Ag Unity	Sept. 28	Thurs	10:00 pm	Pierre (Rescheduled from August 29)
SD Assoc. of County Supervisors	Sept. 28	Thurs	3:00 pm	SDACS and SDASE employees
SDASCOE	Sept. 29	Fri	7:00 pm	SDASCOE-Fall Board Meeting, Mobridge
SD Ag Statistics Service, Carter Anderson	Oct. 19	Thurs	6:00 pm	Annual meeting of phone enumerators.



United States Department of Agriculture

FSA State Office News

SD State FSA Office

Federal Building
Room 308
200 4th St SW
Huron, SD 57350

Phone: 605-352-1160

Fax: 605-352-1195

www.fsa.usda.gov/sd

State Executive Director

Steven K. Cutler
steven.cutler@sd.usda.gov

State Committee

Dennis Batteen-Chairman
John Gross
Marietta Lakness
Tom Olsen
Stanley Porch

**State Executive Director (SED)
Hosting Public Forums**

SED Steve Cutler is hosting public forums to gather input for the purpose of preparing a State Plan to identify the optimum network of SD FSA staffing and facilities.

FSA must prepare for the future in this era of diminishing resources.

You are invited to attend the forums and provide comments and recommendations. This is an opportunity for everyone to express their expectations on the structure of FSA Offices.

Recommendations may also be sent by:

Regular mail to:

Atten: State Review
SD State FSA Office
Rm 308 Fed Bldg
200 4th St SW
Huron, SD 57350

E-mail to:

sdstate.review@sd.usda.gov

Public comments and suggestions gathered at the forums, submitted over the internet and in writing, will all be considered when the Review Team begins developing the State Plan that will outline the Future of FSA in South Dakota.

<p>August 9 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Sioux Falls Sioux Empire Fair On the Front Porch</p>
<p>August 15 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Parker Turner County Fair Open Class Exhibit Hall</p>
<p>August 16 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mitchell Dakotafest Forum Tent</p>
<p>August 17 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Aberdeen Brown County Fair Kesslers Tent</p>
<p>August 22 11:00 a.m. – Noon Rapid City Central States Fair Sale Ring</p>
<p>August 31 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Huron SD State Fair Dakotaland Stage</p>



Producers Offered Opportunity to Select Administrative County

Producers who feel they have been inconvenienced because of reduced office staff may request a transfer of their farm program records to a contiguous county office. This option to transfer farm program records is being offered to ensure that SD farmers and ranchers are not adversely affected if they are currently doing business in an understaffed office. All applications for transfer of files will be acted on by the State FSA Committee.

Producers interested in this option must complete and submit form FSA-179, Transfer of Farm Records Between Counties, directly to the South Dakota State FSA Office at: Room 308, 200 4th St SW, Huron, SD 57350. The form is available at any county office, at the State Office in Huron and on the internet. All land owners and operators involved in the farm must sign the FSA-179 transfer application.

End-of-Year Reviews for Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility

End-of-Year Reviews are conducted annually to verify that farming operations were carried out as represented on the CCC-502 Farm Operating Plan when the initial eligibility determinations were made.

If your operation is selected for review, you will be required to provide information to substantiate specific contributions of capital, equipment, land, labor and management. These contributions are reviewed and evaluated to determine if they meet requirements for "actively engaged in farming" and "cash-rent tenant" provisions of payment limitation. Failure to meet these requirements requires refund of program benefits that are subject to payment limitation provisions for the program year(s) for which the determination is made.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Payments

Counter-cyclical (CC) payments are calculated by taking the target price for a crop minus the effective price. The final 2005 CC payment rates for wheat and oats are zero because their effective price exceeds their respective target prices. Offices are now authorized to make the final CC payments for barley of \$.025 per bushel.

The CC payments for Corn, Grain Sorghum and Soybeans will be calculated following the 2005 marketing year that ends August 31, 2006. If a final 2005

CC payment is earned for these crops, payments will be issued in October.

The advance CC payments for the 2006 crop can be issued in October. The first advance issued in October will be 35 percent of the calculated CC rate. A second advance could be issued in February.

Direct payments are made to eligible producers on farms with approved DCP contracts. The payment rates are set for each year and are multiplied by the established yield times 85%. The **2007** payment rates are:

Crop	Direct Rate
Wheat (bu)	\$0.52
Barley (bu)	\$0.24
Oats (bu)	\$0.024
Corn (bu)	\$0.28
Grain Sorghum (bu)	\$0.35
Other Oilseeds (lb)	\$0.008
Soybeans (bu)	\$0.44

Starting December 1, 2006, counties can issue advance direct payments for the 2007 DCP program. Producers select the month they want to receive the 22% advance.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Several South Dakota counties are experiencing severe drought conditions for the 5th year in a row. As of August 1, 2006, there are 31 counties approved for the program and 6 counties pending approval from the National Office.

Approved Counties are: Bennett, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Corson, Dewey, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, Haakon, Hand, Harding, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, McPherson, Meade, Mellette, Pennington, Perkins, Potter, Sanborn, Shannon, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Walworth and Ziebach

Pending approval are: Aurora, Beadle, Davison, Douglas, Hanson and Lyman,

Over 5 million dollars have been requested. South Dakota was allocated \$1.9 million, which was sent to 23 counties.

Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acres

As of August 1, 2006, forty (40) South Dakota counties have been approved for 2006 Emergency Haying/Grazing of CRP acres. Those counties are Aurora, Beadle, Brown(partial), Brule, Buffalo, Butte,

Campbell, Clark, Codington, Corson, Davison, Dewey, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Gregory, Haakon, Hamlin, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lyman, McPherson, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Pennington, Perkins, Potter, Sanborn, Spink, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, Walworth and Ziebach. A link to the current counties released for emergency haying and grazing can be found on the SD FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov/sd.

To emergency hay or graze on CRP, participants must:

- request approval from the local County FSA Office to hay or graze eligible acres
- obtain a modified conservation plan which includes haying or grazing requirements
- leave at least 25% of each field or contiguous field ungrazed for wildlife or graze at not more than 75% of the stocking rate
- leave at least 50% of each field or contiguous field unhayed for wildlife
- be assessed a 10% payment reduction based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed, times the rental payment.

Hay and Feed Finder Resources

Two websites linked on the SD FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov/sd provide a way for producers to list hay/feed available to others and to search for hay/feed for themselves.

1. **SDSU's Feed Finder** is located at <http://feedfinder.sdstate.edu:8080/>. Producers without computer access should contact their local Extension Agent for assistance.
2. **USDA/FSA Have Hay** is located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet/>. FSA employees can assist producers who do not have computer access.

What is NAP?

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP offers:

- risk protection during the time when your crops are most vulnerable
- individualized risk protection based on your ability to produce the crop
- guaranteed benefits when catastrophic loss occurs due to natural disaster, at minimal cost

- opportunity for reduced risk when diversifying your farming operation
- disaster relief that does not require special legislation or funding
- up to \$100,000 in benefits per crop year for each participating "person."

Reporting Losses for NAP Benefits

To report a loss you must notify your local FSA office by completing Part B, Notice of Loss, on Form CCC-576, Application for Payment. This notice must be made within 15 calendar days of the:

- natural disaster occurrence, or
- final planting date, if prevented from planting due to natural disaster, or
- date of damage to crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you, or
- normal harvest date.

FSA will send a certified loss adjuster to inspect the crop. FSA must inspect the damage before any other use is made of the land; such as destroying and replanting or grazing.

Beneficial Interest Clarified

The FSA national office clarified its policy on open storage. Producers who deliver and place grain in open storage to a Commodity Credit Corporation approved, federally or state-licensed warehouse must be able to receive a negotiable warehouse receipt or other form of acceptable production evidence, if requested.

Contact your local county office for more information.

FSA Emergency Loans Available in Disaster Designated Counties

Farmers and ranchers in both primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for low interest emergency loans at 3.75% interest through the FSA provided eligibility requirements are met.

Applicants have eight months after the designation to apply for Emergency Loans and must own or operate land in a designated county, be an established family farm operation, have suffered at least a 30% loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock. Applicants must have an acceptable credit history, be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources and have security and repayment ability for the proposed loan.

Contact your local FSA office for county specific disaster designation and program information.

County Committee (COC) Election Update

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election closed Tuesday, August 1. County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them.

Farmers and ranchers serving on local COC's make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors.

- Nov 3, Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec 4, Last day to return voted ballots
- Jan 1, 2007, Newly elected COC members take office.

More COC Election information online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

Dates to Remember	
August 1	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
August 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year
Sept. 4	Labor Day - Federal Holiday. All FSA offices closed
Sept. 30	Final date for 2006 DCP contract revisions
Oct. 2006	Final '05 Counter-Cyclical Final '06 Direct Advance '06 Counter-Cyclical
Nov. 3	County committee election ballots mailed
Dec. 2006	Advance '07 Direct Payment
Dec. 4	Last day to return voted ballots in COC election

Visit Our Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sd>



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SED/STC REVIEW PANEL

Meeting Location: Chamberlain, SD
 Meeting Date: November 14-15, 2006

The following persons are members of the 2006 SED/STC Review Panel:

	Name	Title, Location
1.	Steve Cutler	SED
2.	Dennis Batteen	STC Chairman
3.	Tom Olsen	STC
4.	Marietta Lakness	STC
5.	John Gross	STC
6.	Stanley Porch	STC
7.	Tom Kostel	EO, STO
8.	Kathy Lindquist	PAS, STO
9.	Arnie Claeys	FLC, STO
10.	Kevin Steckelberg	DD, Yankton
11.	Mark Taylor	DD, Pierre
12.	Joe Schultz	CED, Charles Mix County
13.	Joe Knippling	CED, Moody County
14.	Mark Stearns	FLM, Lake County
15.	Scott Nielsen	FLM, Butte/Lawrence County
16.	Mary Held	FLO, Brookings County
17.	Christie Borgers	PT, Miner County
18.	Arla Kopren	PT, Perkins County
19.	Deb Krull	PT, Hughes/Stanley County
20.	Sara Holland	PT, Marshall County
21.	Barbara Weidenbach	PT, Hutchinson County
22.	Steve Graber	COC, Turner County
23.	Arlan Hagen	COC, Lincoln County

Also Attending: Deb Olerud, SED Secretary

Key:

SED-State Executive Director
 STC-State Committee
 STO-State Office
 EO-Executive Officer
 PAS-Public Affairs Specialist
 FLC-Farm Loan Program Chief
 DD-District Director
 CED-County Executive Director
 FLM-Farm Loan Manager
 FLO-Farm Loan Officer
 PT-Program Technician
 COC-County Committee

AGENDA
SED/STC REVIEW PANEL
November 14-15, 2006

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

1:00 – 1:15 SED welcome and introductions
1:15 – 1:30 SED opening comments, setting parameters, reaching consensus
1:30 – 1:45 STC welcome and opening comments, Dennis Batteen-Chairman
1:45 – 2:30 SED “Future of FSA Presentation”

2:30 – 2:45 BREAK

2:45 – 3:45 Background Information

- Administrator’s Direction, FSA and NRCS
- DAFO Ceiling Memo 2003/2004/2007
- SED Presentation Schedule through 2006
- News Articles and Letters to Review Panel
- Public Comments from Producers, Employees and others
- General Information about FSA

3:45 – 4:00 BREAK

4:00 – 4:30 Review Panel Brainstorming-Criteria to Consider
4:30 – 5:30 Specific County FSA Information

- Farm Loan Statistics
- Farm Program Statistics

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

7:30 – 8:30 Further Discussion on Farm Loan and Farm Program Statistics
8:30 – 9:00 Management Problems Created by Budget/Staffing Shortages

9:00 – 9:15 BREAK

9:15 – 10:00 Management Options and Solutions – Short Term

- Present Tools Being Used
- Review Panel Suggestions

10:00 – 11:00 Management Options and Solutions – Long Term

- Review Panel Suggestions

11:00 – 11:15 BREAK

11:15 – 12:00 Summary

SED/STC REVIEW PANEL MEETING MINUTES

November 14-15, 2006
Chamberlain, South Dakota

Steve Cutler, SED, convened a meeting of the SED/STC Review Panel at 1:00 PM on November 14, 2006 at the Comfort Inn in Chamberlain, South Dakota. All members of the Review Panel were present. Attachment A is a list of the members. SED Cutler opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of all members. SED opening comments included the objectives and goals of the Review Panel. The goal is to establish criteria for an equitable comparison of county workload and county attributes, and to establish consensus on strategies and suggested management tools recommended for future use by the SED and State Committee. All present agreed that FSA needs to maintain a high degree of professionalism with continued great service to the producers of South Dakota.

Dennis Batteen, STC Chairman, welcomed the Review Panel members and thanked them for their service on this committee. Chairman Batteen explained that the STC was seeking input and recommendation on strategies to efficiently utilize available resources in FSA.

In preparation for the process of preparing a state plan, SED Cutler prepared a power point presentation that was given publicly at several county fairs, the State Fair, Dakota Fest, and major commodity organization meetings during the months of June through October. These presentations provided stakeholders with an opportunity for input. All input gathered as a result of these presentations was provided to all panel members in a manual with additional background information. This power point presentation was reviewed with the panel members and included general FSA information on programs, resources, budget limitations and currently used management tools.

Each panel member received a manual with background information. Along with the SED power point presentation, additional background information included memos from FSA Administrator Teresa Lassiter and former NRCS Chief Bruce Knight. Other information included South Dakota staff ceiling memos, newspaper articles on office consolidation, public comments regarding the power point presentation, and FSA employee comments regarding the power point presentation. All comments received by the State Office concerning the public appearances by the SED and/or the power point presentation, were given to the Review Panel. These comments were received via e-mails, letters, and phone calls.

After the background information was discussed, the Review Panel held a "brainstorming session" to discuss criteria that could be considered to equitably compare county workload and available resources. By common consent, the Review Panel agreed that the following criteria be used as a resource for county office comparisons:

SED/STC Review Panel Minutes Continued

1. Three-year average of FSA workload numbers showing employees needed per office.
2. Road miles between offices as well as geography issues.
3. Number of producers per county measured by the following methods.
 - a. Number of actively engaged producers
 - b. Number of farms
 - c. Number of producers using NASS census data
 - d. Number of DCP contracts
4. Administrative Costs per county.
5. Number of FLP borrowers per county weighted according to the complexity of the types of loans.

Additional recommendations from the panel included the following considerations.

1. Individual staff capabilities.
2. Work that could be out-sourced to another county office such as:
 - a. Administrative duties
 - b. Travel authorizations and reimbursement
 - c. GIS responsibilities
 - d. FSA programs fully available on the WEB.
3. Possibility of splitting counties along recognizable boundaries for service in neighboring counties.
4. Re-assignment of producers to neighboring counties.
5. More producer education needed on the number of county office visits actually needed to complete FSA business.
6. Potential of closing county offices to the public during designated or announced hours or days.

Farm Loan Chief, Arnie Claeys, presented farm loan statistical information showing farm loan workload in each county office. Farm loan information presented to the Review Panel included:

1. FLP staff in each county office
2. Number of farm loan officers in each county office
3. Number of direct borrowers in each county office
4. Number of guaranteed borrowers in each county office
5. Number of new loan applications (3 year average)
6. Composite score for each county office weighted for complexity

The Review Panel held a second “brainstorming session” to consider all possible management tools available to maximize efficiency using present resources and staffing. Management options that were considered included:

1. Use of temporary staffing positions for emergency county office allocation.
2. Temporary detailing of county office employees from adequately staffed offices to understaffed offices.

SED/STC Review Panel Minutes Continued

3. Directed reassignment of employee duty station from one county office to another.
4. Use of shared management (1 CED, more than 1 county office) where feasible considering workload and distance. Grow into this through attrition.
5. Out-sourcing of employee workload to neighboring counties if possible.
6. Farm loan file consolidation to fewer county offices.
7. Satellite Offices. (Offices without permanent staff that are open for business 1 day/week using neighboring county employees who would travel to the satellite office.)
8. Closing of the county office to the public during designated days/week or hours/day to allow employees to “catch up” on their work.
9. Reduced flexibility for FSA employees. (No maxi-flex or compressed days.)
10. County Office consolidation.
11. Employee incentives to re-locate such as cash bonus and/or moving costs.
12. Upper management consolidation such as DDs, CORs, and STO personnel.

Of these 12 management tools, the Review Panel chose NOT to recommend item number 7 (Satellite Offices), item number 8 (Closing of county office on some days), and item number 9 (Reduced flexibility for employees). All other management tools were recommended for possible use by the SED/STC.

The Review Panel had a lengthy discussion on how county office consolidation and farm loan file consolidation affects FSA employees with respect to the following questions:

1. What employee positions are assigned to another county office?
2. What employees are expected to relocate?
3. Do any employees lose their jobs?
4. Do any employee position descriptions change?
5. Do displaced managers have re-employment rights?

The Review Panel reached a consensus that South Dakota FSA needs more program technicians and fewer managers to ensure efficiency within the present staffing allocation. The Review Panel acknowledged that the three ways to accomplish this goal are (1) shared management, (2) farm loan file consolidation, and (3) county office consolidation. The panel recommended using a combination of these 3 options depending on the specifics of the counties involved.

The Review Panel concluded at 11:30 a.m. on November 15, 2006.

Steven K. Cutler, SED
SD State FSA Office

SED/STC Review Panel Minutes Continued

Attachment A

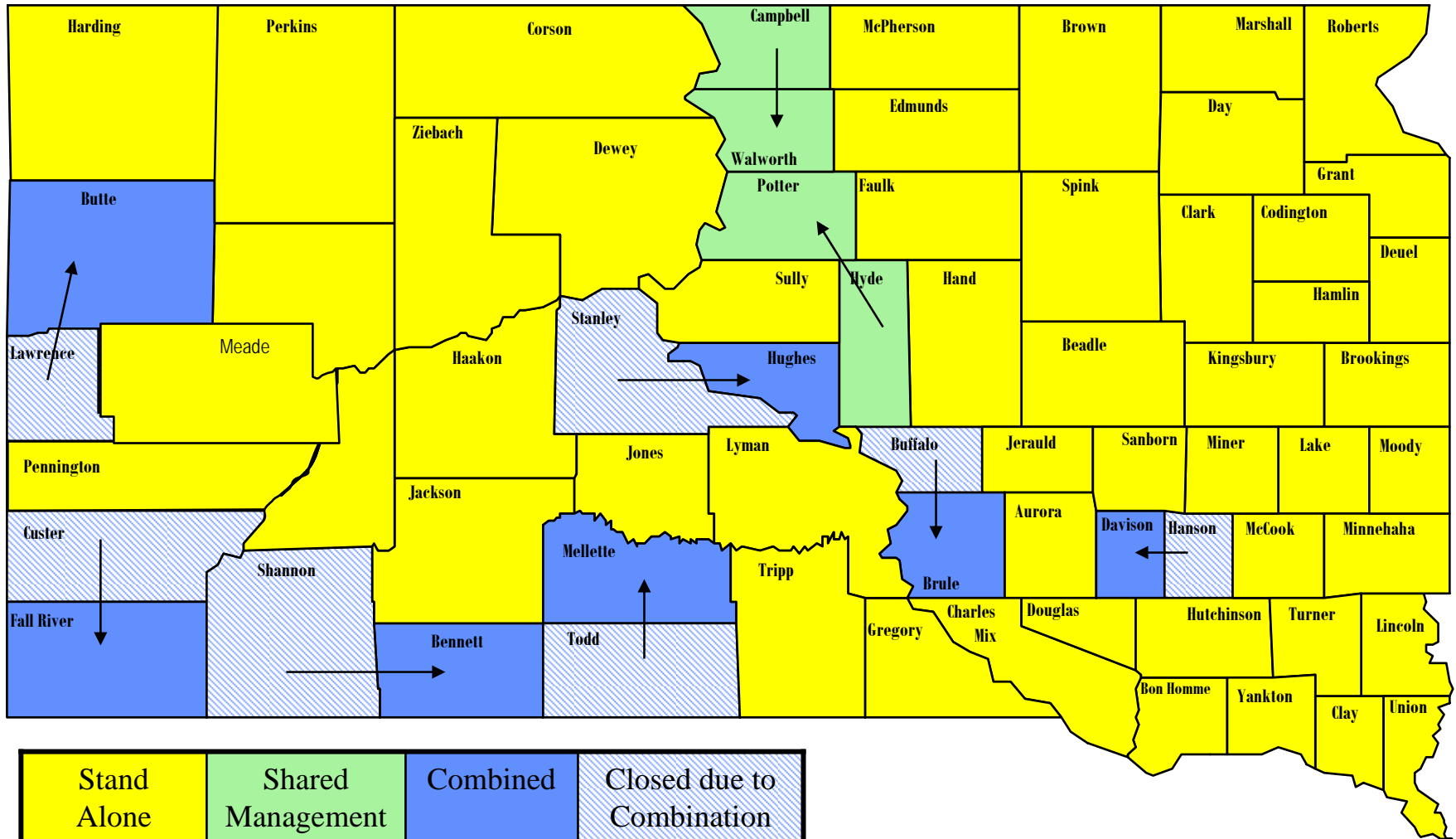
SED/STC REVIEW PANEL

The following persons are members of the 2006 SED/STC Review Panel:

1. Steve Cutler, SED, STO
2. Dennis Batteen, STC
3. Tom Olsen, STC
4. Marietta Lakness, STC
5. John Gross, STC
6. Stanley Porch, STC
7. Tom Kostel, EO, STO
8. Kathy Lindquist, PAS, STO
9. Arnie Claeys, FLC, STO
10. Kevin Steckelberg, DD
11. Mark Taylor, DD
12. Joe Schultz, CED, Charles Mix Co.
13. Joe Knippling, CED, Moody Co.
14. Mark Stearns, FLM, Lake Co.
15. Scott Nielsen, FLM, Butte/Lawrence Co.
16. Mary Held, FLO, Brookings Co.
17. Christi Borgers, PT, Miner Co.
18. Arla Kopren, PT, Perkins Co.
19. Deb Krull, PT, Hughes/Stanley Co.
20. Sara Holland, PT, Marshall Co.
21. Barb Weidenbach, PT, Hutchinson Co.
22. Steve Graber, Turner Co. Committee
23. Arlan Hagen, Lincoln Co. Committee

Current Farm Program County Offices

Exhibit 15

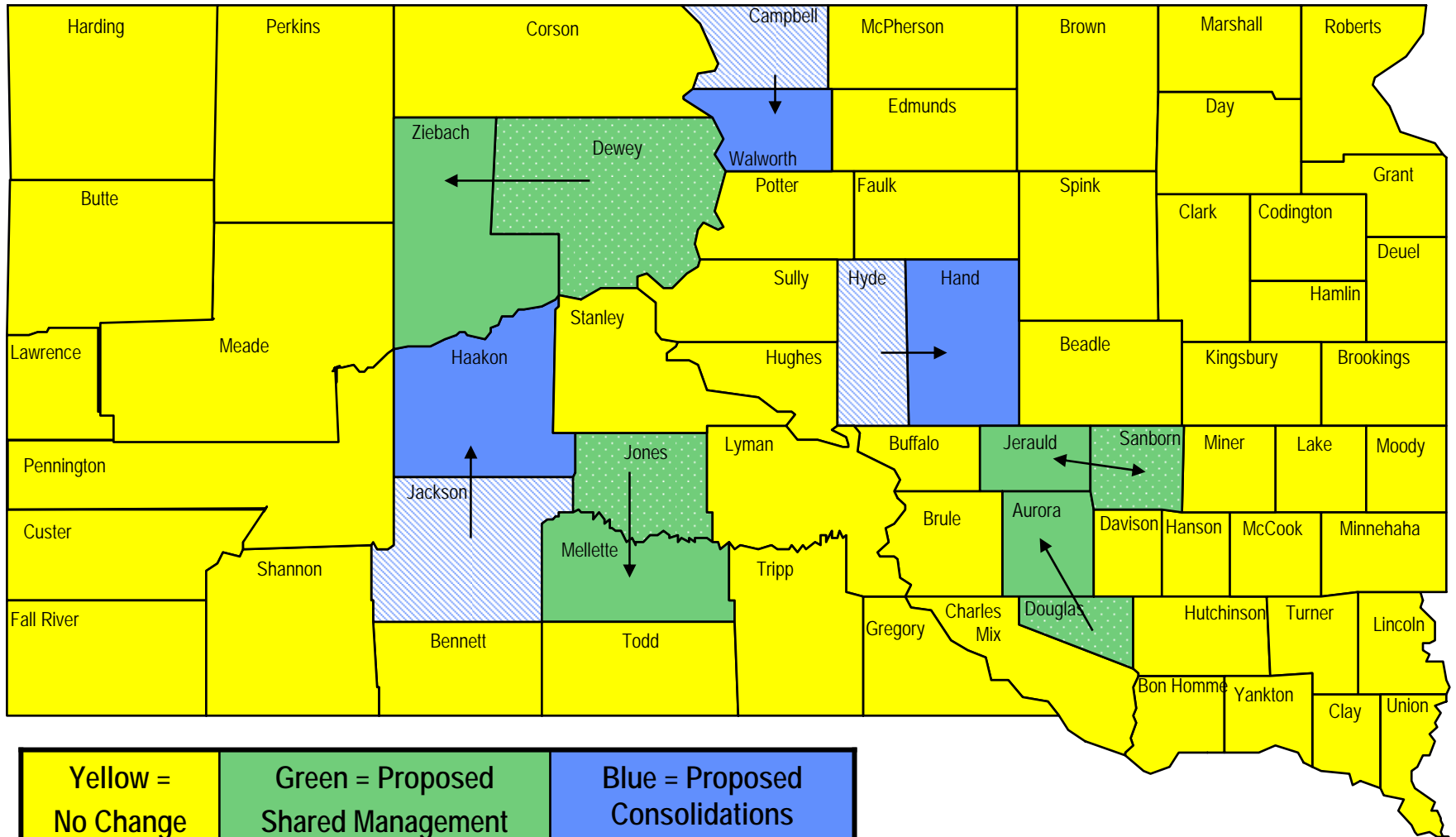


SD State Plan Exhibit 15

Stand Alone	Shared Management	Combined	Closed due to Combination
48	2	7	7

Proposed - County Consolidations & Shared Management (Farm Programs Only)

Exhibit 16-Final



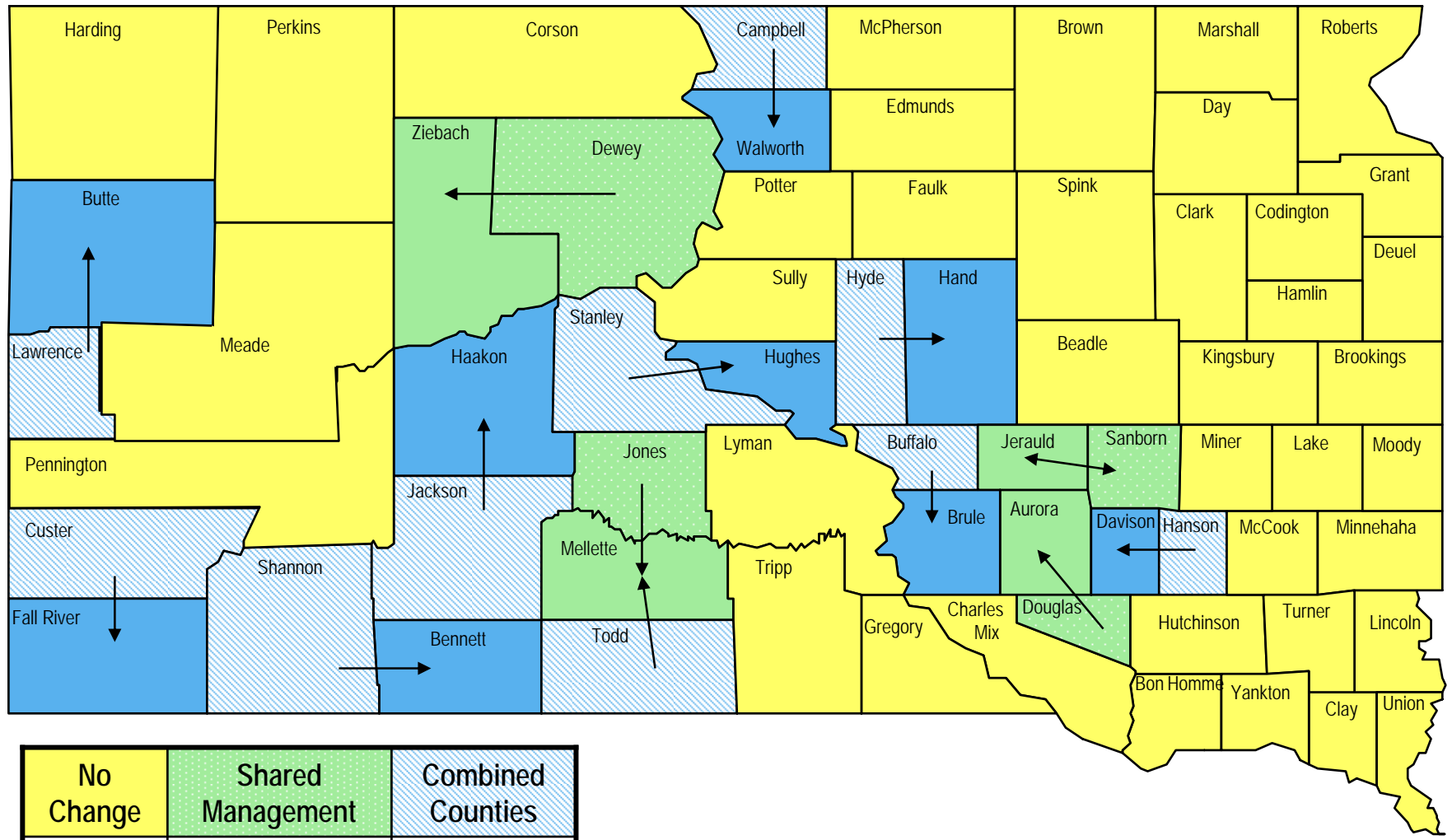
Final SD State Plan Exhibit 16

Yellow = No Change	Green = Proposed Shared Management	Blue = Proposed Consolidations
	4	3

Final September 7, 2007

Final - Farm Programs Only Shared Management & Combined Counties

Exhibit 17-Final



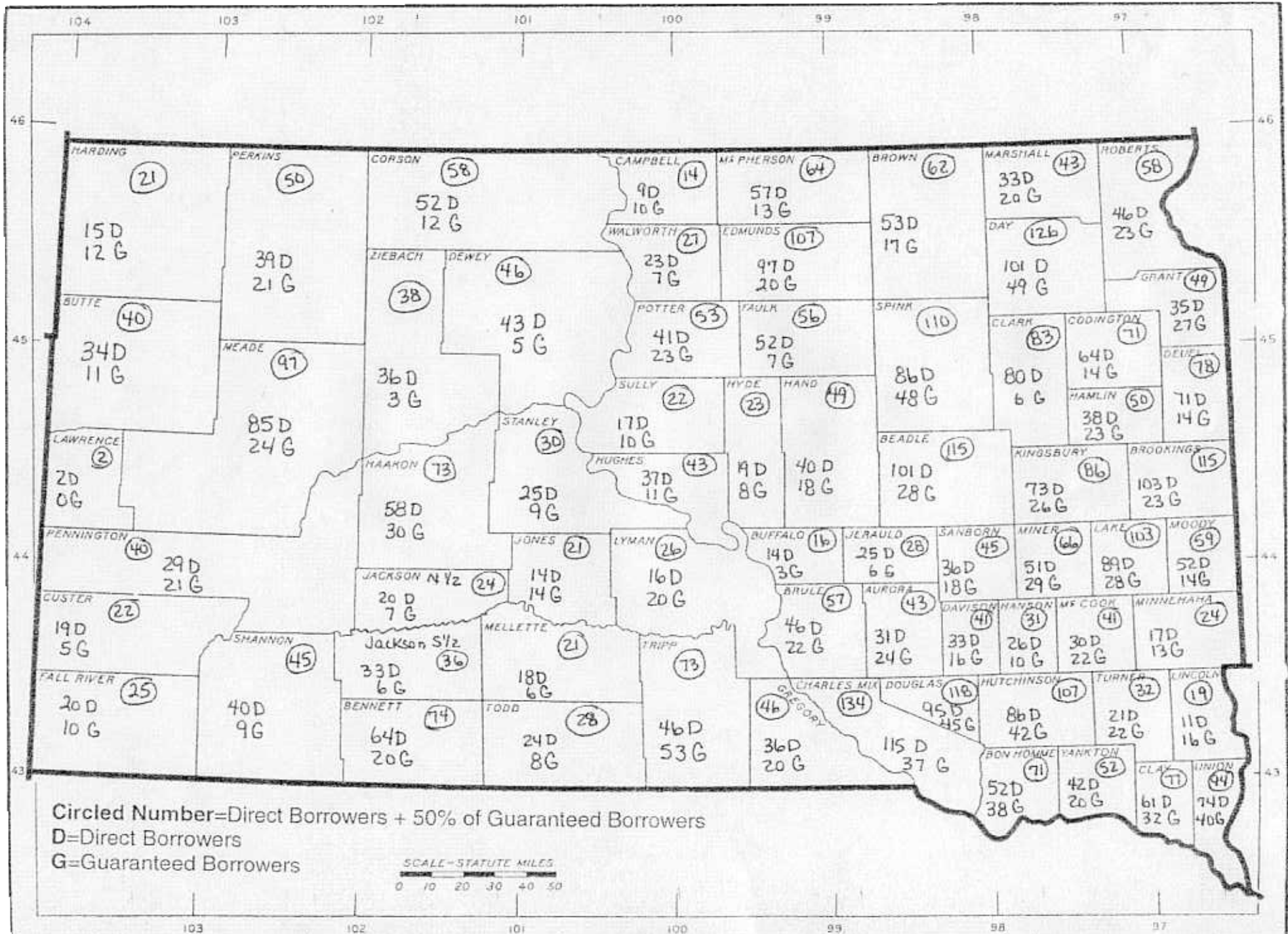
Final SD State Plan Exhibit 17

No Change	Shared Management	Combined Counties
39	4	9

Final September 7, 2007

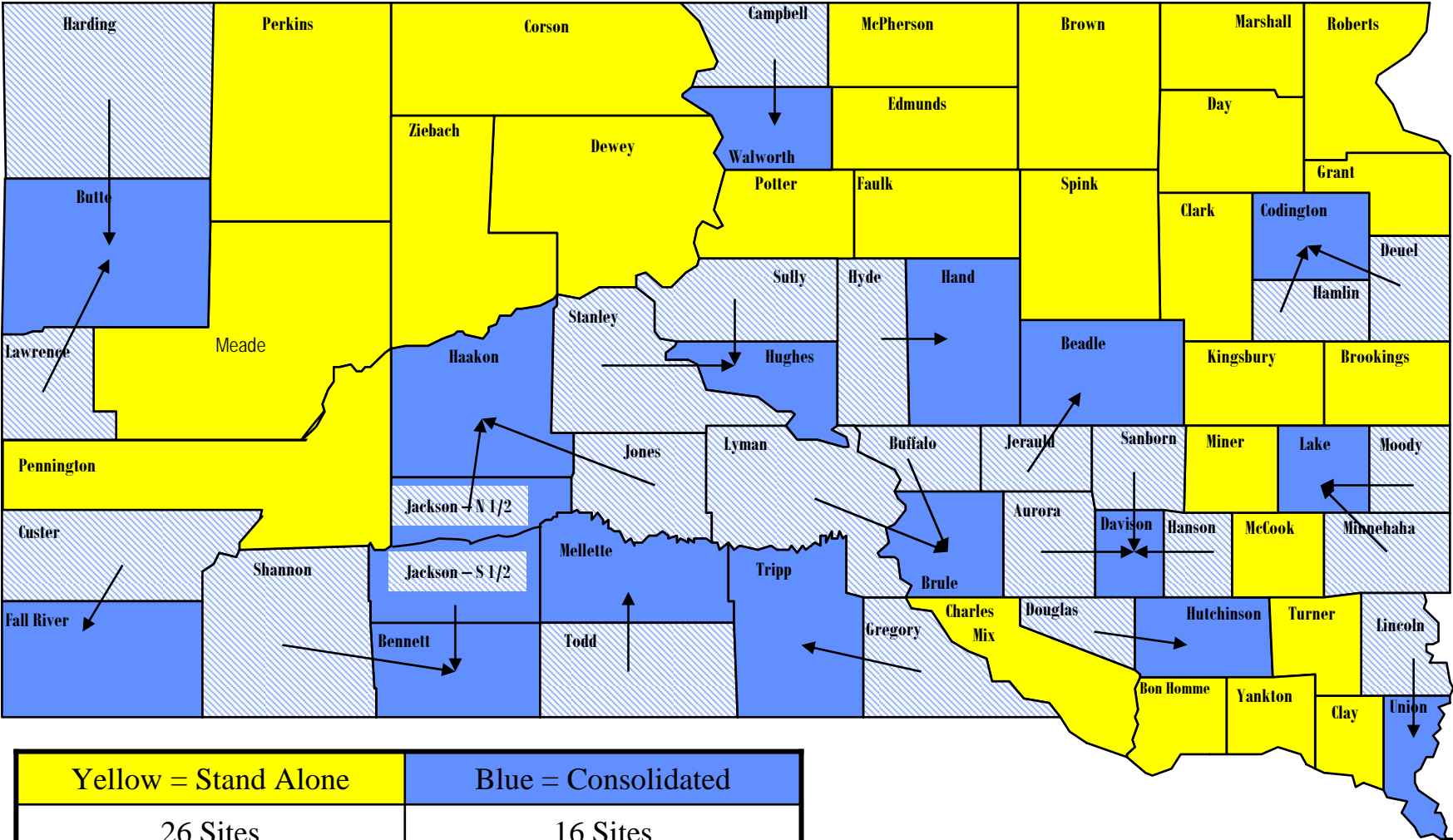
**South Dakota State Plan
South Dakota FSA
FLP Borrower Caseload 9-30-06**

Exhibit 18



Current Farm Loan Program (FLP) Sites

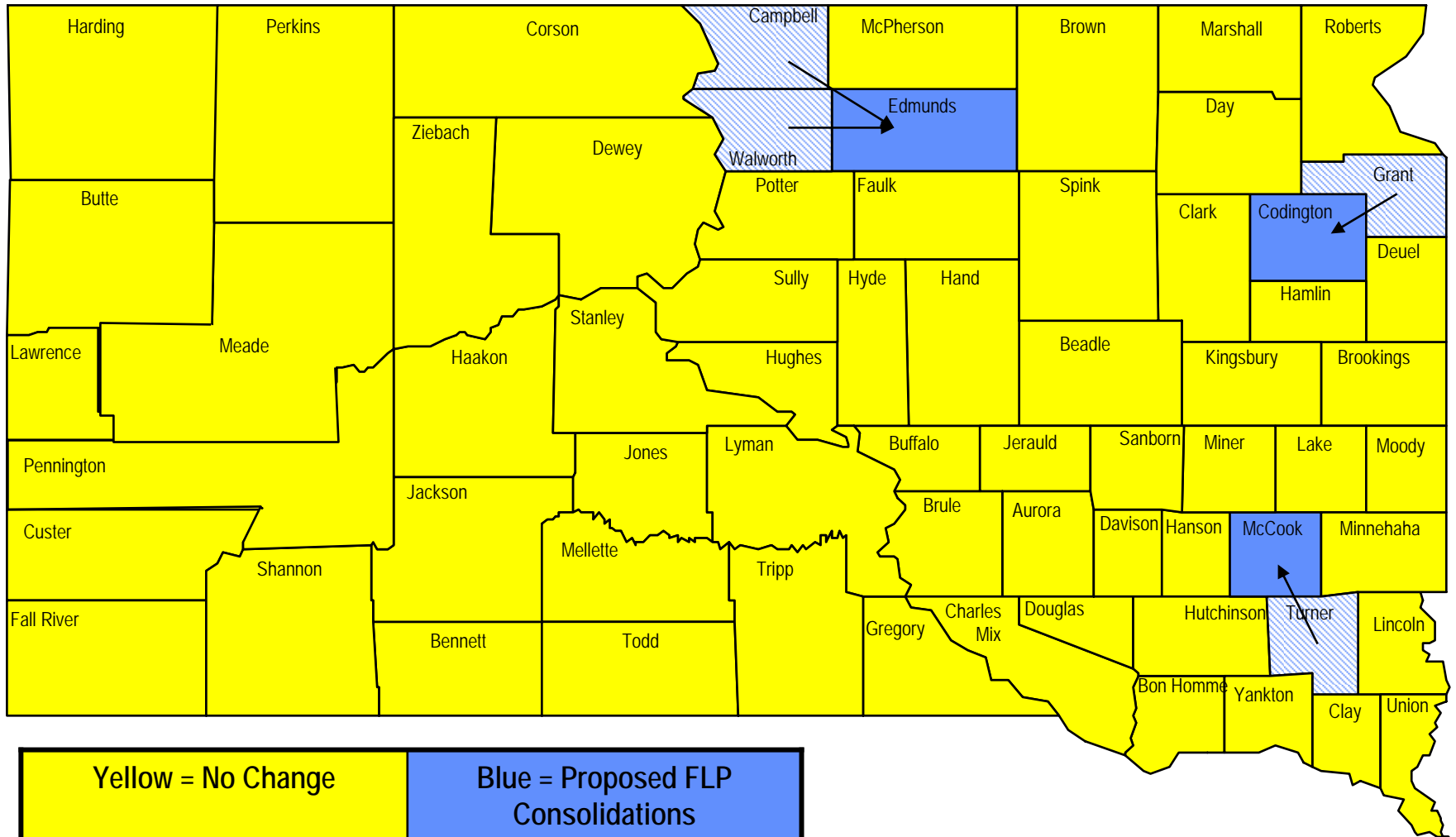
Exhibit 19



SD State Plan Exhibit 19

Proposed Farm Loan Program (FLP) File Consolidations

Final Exhibit 20



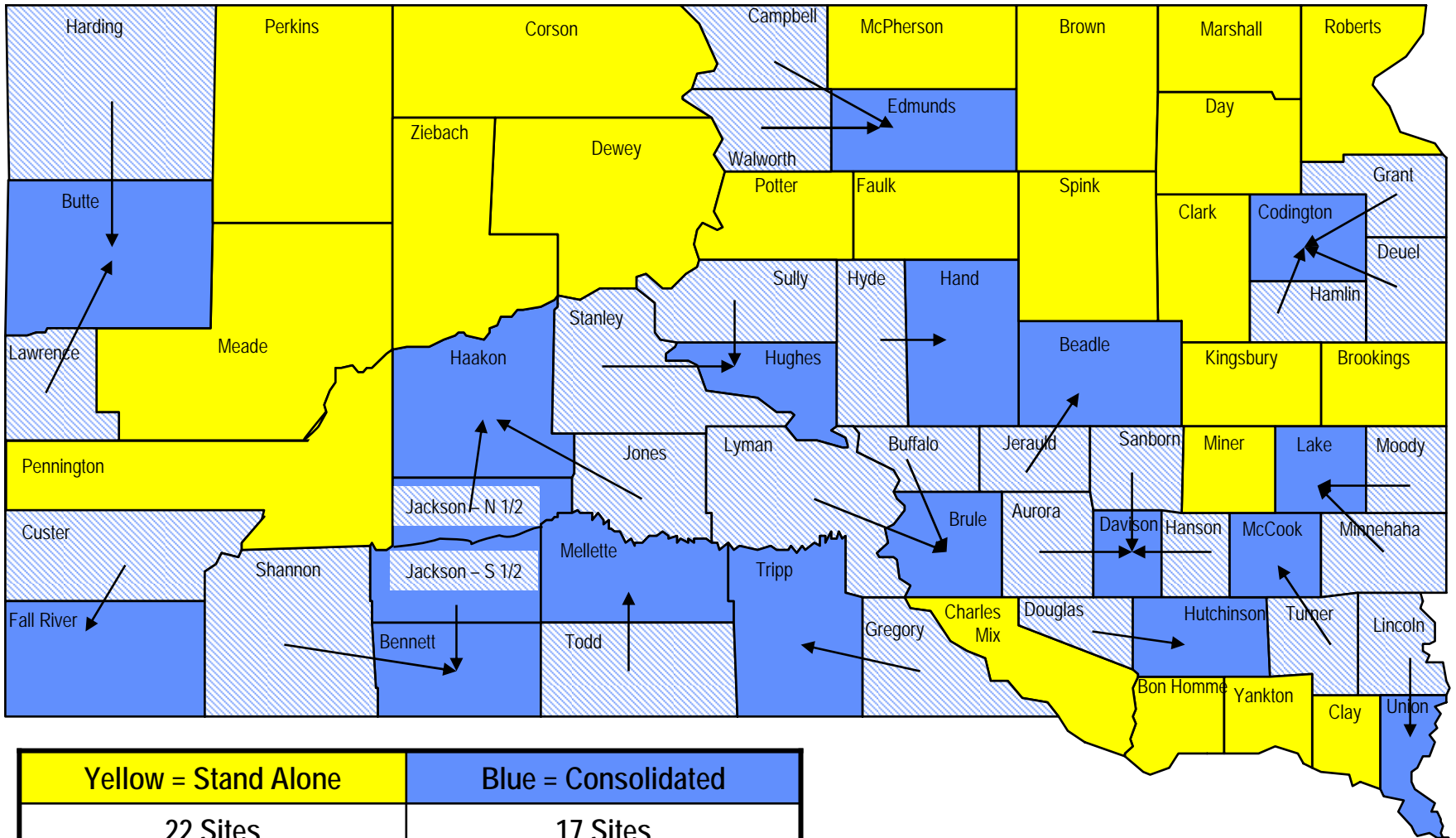
Final SD State Plan Exhibit 20

Yellow = No Change	Blue = Proposed FLP Consolidations
	3

Final September 7, 2007

Final - All Proposed FLP Sites

Final Exhibit 21



Final SD State Plan Exhibit 21

Yellow = Stand Alone	Blue = Consolidated
22 Sites	17 Sites

Final September 7, 2007