

News Release

Nebraska State FSA Office

7131 A Street

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

Lincoln, NE 68510-4202

Nebraska FSA and NRCS Announce Public Meetings

Lincoln, NE, March 30, 2007 – Local meetings have been scheduled in communities where the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and, in several locations, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have proposed closing offices.

FSA and NRCS will conduct separate information meetings in each of the counties to review why the offices were chosen for consolidation, how the consolidation will happen, and options for farmers and ranchers in the county. Wolford, in conjunction with the five-member State FSA Committee, will also hear comments from the public on the proposed consolidations.

Steve Chick, NRCS State Conservationist said, “FSA and NRCS are both part of USDA but have different missions. We want people to have the opportunity to focus on the support they receive from each agency.”

Nebraska FSA is striving to maintain an optimum network of FSA facilities, staffing, training, and technology with a declining budget and shrinking staff. When the review of FSA County Offices began in 2006, there were 81 Nebraska FSA County Offices. The goal of the State Review Plan Proposal is to address the Agency’s challenges, to better support staff and to improve efficiency and service to producers.

The public is invited to attend the following meetings being held the week of April 9:

April 10, 2007 – FSA – 10:00 a.m., Loup City Community Center, 803 “O” St., Loup City, NE
NRCS – 1:00 p.m

April 10, 2007 – FSA Only – 4:30 p.m., NE School of Tech Ag.-Vet Tech Bldg., 404 E 7th,
Curtis, NE

April 11, 2007 – FSA – 10:30 a.m., Hayes Center Fair Grounds-Ag Bldg, North of Hayes Center,
NE on Hwy. 25, Hayes Center, NE
NRCS – 1:00 p.m.

April 11, 2007 – FSA – 3:30 p.m. MT, Benkelman Community Center, 906 Huron, Benkelman, NE
NRCS – 7:00 p.m. MT

April 12, 2007 – FSA – 10:00 a.m. MT, Golf Course Club House, Hwy 385 So. (1st Turn Right),
Chappell, NE
NRCS – 1:00 p.m. MT

April 12, 2007 – FSA – 4:30 p.m. MT, Banner County Public Schools Gym, Harrisburg, NE
NRCS – 7:00 p.m. MT

The Nebraska FSA County Office Restructuring Plan proposal can be obtained at www.fsa.usda.gov/ne. Comments can be provided by e-mail at fsa.offices@ne.usda.gov or by writing to: Nebraska Farm Service Agency, State Review Plan, 7131 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68510-4202. Comments will be accepted through April 27, 2007.

The Nebraska NRCS Office Business Plan can be viewed at www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov. Comments can be submitted in writing to: State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 152, Lincoln, NE 68508-3866. Comments via e-mail will also be accepted at nrcs.offices@ne.usda.gov through April 27, 2007.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend this meeting should contact Mike Sander at 402-437-5581 or e-mail at mike.sander@ne.usda.gov at least 3 days prior to the meeting date.