

News Release

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NEBRASKA'S USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICIALLY MERGES 10 OFFICES

LINCOLN, NE, December 8, 2007 — Nebraska Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Milton Rogers today announced that as of December 8, 2007, ten county FSA offices have merged. FSA office closings include Banner, Boyd, Dakota, Deuel, Frontier, Burwell District (Garfield, Loup and Wheeler counties), Greeley, Hitchcock, Sherman and Thedford District (Thomas, Grant, Hooker and Blaine counties). “The mergers will allow new efficiencies, and improve FSA’s service to Nebraska farmers and ranchers,” said Rogers.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is USDA’s largest field agency. It is charged with the administration of federal farm programs by providing direct assistance in the form of federal program payments, commodity loans, disaster programs, and conservation programs. FSA administers USDA’s largest conservation program, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and provides federal compliance support for the crop insurance program. FSA also offers credit programs through farm loan programs.

“Familiar faces from the closed county offices have become part of consolidated staffs and there will be no break in service to ranchers and farmers being served from new offices,” according to Rogers. Farmers and ranchers that selected an alternative administrative office will have service available at the new office effective for 2008 programs.

December and January is an opportune time for office moves and for staffs to adjust and prepare for working with new customers. The timing also works well for farm program administration since FSA is between farm bills.

Rogers noted, “Providing service to our agricultural producers in delivering USDA and FSA programs is our primary goal. We believe this reorganization in these times of FAX machines, cell phones, the internet and e-mail will help position Nebraska FSA for the future. Our offices and dedicated staff will work to accommodate our customer needs in the months and years ahead. Change is never easy. The quality service Nebraska FSA customers expect and are entitled to will continue.”

Merged county offices include:

- Banner County consolidated with Scotts Bluff County (Scottsbluff).
- Boyd County consolidated with Holt County (O'Neill).
- Dakota County consolidated with Dixon County (Ponca).
- Deuel County consolidated with Garden County (Oshkosh).
- Frontier County consolidated with Red Willow County (McCook).
- Burwell District (Loup, Garfield and Wheeler Counties) consolidated with Valley County (Ord).
- Greeley County consolidated with Howard County (St. Paul).
- Hitchcock County consolidated with Hayes County (Hayes Center).
- Sherman County consolidated with Buffalo County (Kearney).
- Thedford District (Thomas, Grant, Hooker and Blaine Counties) consolidated with Cherry County (Valentine).