

Approved: March 6, 2007
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 7:30 P.M. on February 16, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Bill Fuller, State Executive Director, Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided the state review executive summary of the Farm Service Agencies' facilities and staff (Attachment 1). He submitted a reorganization proposal for various counties in the state. Mr. Fuller advised the committee of the news release on February 15, 2007 proposing the consolidation of eleven FSA County offices for the purpose of efficiently managing a declining budget and diminishing staff.

Submitted by,
Florence Deeter
Committee Assistant

meeting around the State 2/16/07
J.H. May, Sec., KS.

Kansas

County Office Restructuring Plan

Submitted by:

Bill R. Fuller

**State Executive Director
Kansas Farm Service Agency**

Galen Swenson, Chairperson

Almeda Edwards

Kenneth Frahm

Susan Roenbaugh

Dan Thiessen

**State Committee
Kansas Farm Service Agency**

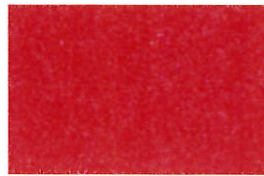
USDA

Farm Service

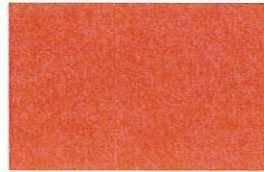


HS AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2-16-2007
ATTACHMENT 1

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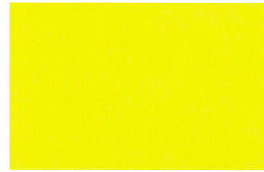
Executive Summary



Reorganization Proposal



Exhibits



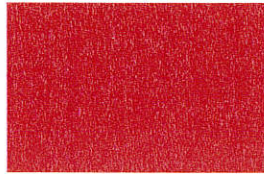
Informational Presentation



News Release



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Executive Summary



Farm Service Agency

United States Department of Agriculture

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December 21, 2006

TO: Steven A. Connelly,
Deputy Administrator Field Operations
USDA, Farm Service Agency

FROM: Bill R. Fuller,
State Executive Director
Kansas Farm Service Agency

SUBJECT: Kansas FSA State Review Executive Summary

In January 2006, FSA Administrator Teresa Lasseter asked each of the State Executive Directors (SEDs) to conduct an independent, local-level review of the efficiency and effectiveness of FSA offices in their states.

The goal of the review was to identify what the optimum network of FSA facilities, staffing, training and technology should be for the state, within existing budgetary resources and staffing ceilings. In February, a state-driven review of Kansas was initiated.

Since 1992, the USDA under various Administrations has considered a number of plans to consolidate county offices. Even though none of the national proposals were implemented to any significant degree, the challenges dealing with staffing, budget, and workload continue to become more serious each year.

We believe this new approach for States to develop and submit proposals to our National Office can and will be successful. In fact, we welcome this opportunity for Kansans to develop a Kansas proposal on how best to deliver FSA programs to our Kansas farmers and ranchers.

It is essential we redirect our shrinking resources now as we prepare the Agency for the future. We in Kansas have already experienced success in reorganizing a major program area of FSA. Kansas producers are now benefiting from the extensive reorganization of the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) delivery system completed in 2003. We refocused our declining resources on the areas of the state where workload had become the greatest. In the process, we closed two FLP offices, created one new FLP office, and relocated a number of staff. One positive result is the fact Kansas FSA has achieved all FLP National Goals the past two years -- a major turn-around and a first-ever accomplishment!

As a first step in reorganizing our county office structure, three FSA Stakeholder Meetings across Kansas were scheduled, promoted, and conducted: March 28 in Garden City, March 29 in Great Bend, and March 30 in Topeka. At these meetings, producers, farm organizations, commodity groups, policy makers, community leaders and other interested parties received information on FSA programs, structures, and challenges. Most importantly, the bulk of the time was allocated for listening to stakeholders outline their expectations and present recommendations.

While these preliminary meetings were not required, we believe the public input process was essential. The information presented at these meetings gave a clear picture of the challenges Kansas faces as we operate with declining budgets, reduced staffing levels, expanded workload, and an increased need to upgrade electronic and technical capabilities. It became obvious to participants that Kansas FSA must focus their limited resources and reduce unnecessary spending in order to continue our State's highest priority of providing outstanding service to Kansas farmers and ranchers.

In addition to a media campaign of news releases; informational letters to congressional delegations and County Committees; and flyers announcing the stakeholder meetings, Kansas implemented the state.review@ks.usda.gov email address as a medium for receiving questions, concerns, and/or recommendations on the state review process. Every attempt was made to make this a very public and transparent process.

To further expand on Administrator Lasseter's instruction for SEDs and State Committees (STCs) to form a review committee, Kansas established a 15-member Review Committee. The Committee included managers, technicians and district directors associated with the Agency who have many years of experience in delivering farm programs and farm loan programs. In addition, two members of County Committees and the five-member State Committee provided input from seven active farmers.

In April, the Review Committee met to establish criteria, review data for the State, and develop the timetable for delivering a recommendation. The Committee discussed criteria such as distance, efficiencies, workload, trade center locations, agriculture populations, agriculture land location, and employee and customer demographics in addition to feedback from interested groups and individuals, geographic and economic barriers, migration and travel routes, populations, county office conditions, farming/industry trends, and general good business sense, etc.

The Committee discussed other consolidations (school attendance centers, county extension services, social service offices, post offices, drivers license exam stations, farm machinery dealerships, agriculture supply businesses, etc.); whether trade centers and the availability of farm related business and shopping resources should be cause for greater consideration than terminal elevator locations; customer service versus hardships to customers; the disparity between the nature and size of operations in the western part of the state as compared to those in the eastern Kansas; and the dynamics affecting some counties that do not affect other counties (military bases, urban sprawl, livestock operations, customer logistics, recreational areas, public lands, etc.).

The statistics were revealing. It became obvious that for a number of years, Kansas FSA had been working with limited, actually declining human resources. Staff is spread thin in maintaining the 103 offices. Unfortunately, the number of shared managed offices had grown to include 32 counties, resulting in inefficiencies and additional travel expenses. There are a number of offices in Kansas with relatively small workloads. Maintaining a full time office with adequate staff in some of these locations is becoming more challenging and difficult to justify.

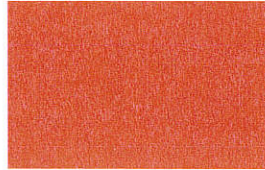
While Kansas FSA stood firm for many years on the policy of maintaining an office in every county, it has become a tradition we can no longer afford. In fact, our surrounding states have made the tough decision and have consolidated some of their offices the past few years. They are working on more consolidations at this time. Of the 105 counties in Kansas, a FSA county office is present in 103 counties (98%). This number is considerably more than our neighboring states today even before they make any further consolidations; Missouri at 86%, Nebraska at 87%, and Oklahoma at 84%.

In July, after more research, study, and consideration of numerous alternatives, the Review Committee was convened to debate the numbers and define the optimum network of FSA facilities and staffing. They agreed there must be changes in Kansas FSA's program delivery system when we take into account limited program participation, excessive program delivery costs, a shrinking workforce and an extremely tight budget. The review committee proposed the consolidation of ten county offices in Kansas. The SED and the STC added another, resulting in this proposal to consolidate 11 of the 103 FSA County Offices in Kansas. Approval of this recommendation would result in 88% of Kansas Counties continuing to have FSA offices.

In October, we conducted a briefing for the leadership and staff associated with farm organizations and commodity groups. While we did not name the county offices under consideration for consolidation, information concerning criteria and the process was reviewed. An active dialogue developed and valuable input was received.

Any decision that impacts our customers is not easy to make. This Kansas proposal has been thoroughly studied, utilizes a broad range of important criteria, and has received considerable public input. Therefore, we sincerely believe this reorganization proposal prepares the Agency for the future and will result in even better service to our farmers and ranchers over the years ahead.

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Reorganization Proposal

Reorganization Proposal

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Kansas FSA State Review Proposal

Chase County ► Lyon County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Chase County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$225,808. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.18). Yearly rent for the Chase County Office is \$27,808.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Chase County 2nd in the state for the least amount of cropland (82,377 acres).

Distance: The Chase County Office is 20.1 miles to the Lyon County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Chase County is 2nd in the state for the fewest owner/operators (182).

Program Payments: Chase County issued the least amount of program payments for the state during 2004 (\$722,480) and 2005 (\$1,250,441).

Staffing: The Chase County Office is staffed by a CED and two PTs.

Workload: Average normal workday numbers (NWD) from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Chase County as having the 5th smallest workload in the state (757).

Impact: The Lyon County Office can accommodate the additional PTs and program participant's farm record files; however, the consolidation will cause the displacement of a CED.

Comanche County ► Clark County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Comanche County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$151,714. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected an above average cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.05). Yearly rent for the Comanche County Office is the lowest in the state (\$10,940); a factor that allows for the cost of benefits to also be nearer average.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Comanche County 16th in the state for the least amount of cropland (171,390 acres).

Distance: The Comanche County Office is 29.8 miles to the Clark County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Comanche County is 7th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (299).

Program Payments: During 2005, Comanche County issued the 11th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$3,323,953).

Staffing: The Comanche County Office, currently in a shared management arrangement with Kiowa County, is staffed by a half-time CED and two PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Comanche County as having the 9th smallest workload in the state (824).

Impacts: The Clark County Office can facilitate the additional PTs and program participant's farm record files. The consolidation could be accomplished as a smooth transition and would not cause displacement of any staff.

Johnson County ► Miami County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Johnson County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$220,939. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 5th highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.12). Yearly rent for the Johnson County Office is the \$43,440.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Johnson County 3rd in the state for the least amount of cropland (88,043 acres).

Distance: The Johnson County Office is 22.6 miles to the Miami County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Johnson County is 5th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (255).

Program Payments: During 2005, Johnson County issued the 5th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$1,838,865).

Staffing: The Johnson County Office, currently in a shared management arrangement with the Miami County Office, is staffed by a half-time CED and two PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Johnson County as having the smallest workload in the state (627).

Impacts: The Miami County Office can facilitate the additional PTs and program participant's farm record files. The consolidation could be accomplished as a smooth transition and would not cause displacement of any staff. The urban sprawl of Johnson County, continuing to reduce the limited amount of cropland in the county, is expected to continue at a fast pace.

Geary County ► Riley County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Geary County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$241,861. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 4th highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.14). Yearly rent for the Geary County Office is \$53,726.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Geary County 1st in the state for the least amount of cropland (76,322 acres). This ranking is due primarily to Junction City, Fort Riley and Milford Reservoir.

Distance: The Geary County Office is 19.5 miles to the Riley County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Geary County is 3rd in the state for the fewest owner/operators (198).

Program Payments: During 2005, Geary County issued the 4th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$1,791,202).

Staffing: The Geary County Office, currently in a shared management arrangement with Riley County, is staffed by a half-time CED and three PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Geary County as having the 11th smallest workload in the state (842).

Impacts: The Riley County Office can facilitate the additional PTs and program participant's farm record files. The consolidation could be accomplished as a smooth transition and would not cause displacement of any staff.

Elk County ► Greenwood County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Elk County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.), which also included Chautauqua County costs, totaled \$231,334. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 3rd highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.14). Yearly rent for the Elk County Office is \$11,366. The cost benefit factor is not positively affected even though the rent cost is the next lowest in the state.

Cropland: Even with having been combined with Chautauqua County, the 2002 Census of Ag ranking causes Elk/Chautauqua Counties to fall into 9th in the state for the least amount of cropland (139,454 acres). (Greenwood County ranked 11th.)

Distance: The Elk County Office is 28.1 miles to the Greenwood County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Elk County is 1st in the state for the fewest owner/operators (131). Greenwood County comes in a close second with 148.

Program Payments: During 2005, Elk County issued the 2nd lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$968,061).

Staffing: The Elk County Office, formerly in a shared management arrangement with Chautauqua County but combined in October 2005, is staffed by a CED and two PTs.

Workload: Even combining Chautauqua County's NWD numbers with Elk County's, average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Elk County as having the 2nd smallest workload in the state (701).

Impacts: Greenwood County ranks 8th in NWDs using the workload averages as indicated above. Having Elk County consolidate into Greenwood County due to better access for services and related economic functions makes best business sense. Additionally, Greenwood County's administrative costs are low due to more competition in services available to businesses. This consolidation will cause the displacement of a CED.

Woodson County ► Wilson County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Woodson County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$212,858. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 16th highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.08). Yearly rent for the Woodson County Office is \$48,098.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Woodson County 5th in the state for the least amount of cropland (110,854 acres).

Distance: The Woodson County Office is 30.3 miles to the Wilson County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Woodson County is 6th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (225).

Program Payments: During 2005, Woodson County issued the 9th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$2,714,568).

Staffing: Woodson County, currently in a shared management arrangement with Wilson County, is staffed by a half-time CED and two PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Woodson County as having the 4th smallest workload in the state (740).

Impacts: The transition of Woodson County into Wilson County will enable many customers a variety of servicing options based on the location and the geographic dynamics of the area. Staff can be shifted to other neighboring counties if needed and no displacement of the CED will occur.

Barber County ► Pratt County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Barber County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$192,528. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected an above average cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.05). Yearly rent for the Barber County Office is \$34,096.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Barber County 33rd in the state for the least amount of cropland (224,482 acres).

Distance: The Barber County Office is 30.5 miles to the Pratt County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Barber County is 18th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (397).

Program Payments: During 2005, Barber County issued the 21st lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$4,234,554).

Staffing: Barber County, currently in a shared management arrangement with Pratt County, is staffed by a half-time CED and three PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Barber County as having the 6th smallest workload in the state (767).

Impacts: The transition of Barber County into Pratt County will also enable many customers a variety of servicing options based on the midway proximity to the Clark and Harper County Offices. Staff can be shifted to those neighboring counties if needed and no displacement of the CED will occur. Currently, the Pratt County Office is in need of new or modified office space. The addition of staff and program participant's farm record files will not affect the current need -- it already exists.

Morton County ► Stevens County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Morton County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$211,185. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected a below average cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.02). Yearly rent for the Morton County Office is \$22,721.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Morton County 51st in the state for the least amount of cropland (283,339 acres). Currently, Morton County has met the maximum acreage on CRP acreage enrollment. Morton County is also home to the Cimmaron National Grassland, managed by the USDA Forest Service.

Distance: The Morton County Office is 40 miles to the Stevens County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Morton County is 54th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (604).

Program Payments: During 2005, Morton County issued the 53rd lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$8,935,235).

Staffing: Morton County, currently in a shared management arrangement with Stevens County, is staffed by a half-time CED and three PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Morton County as having the 13th smallest workload in the state (860).

Impacts: While most of the above identified statistics (other than NWDs) do not appear to justify a change in the county office structure or location, other factors apply. Due to the small and inadequate space of the Morton County Office, Kansas FSA is under pressure to enter into an arrangement with the Forest Service and NRCS to construct a new office building. Staff can be shifted to those neighboring counties if needed and no displacement of the CED will occur.

The recommendation to consolidate the Morton County Office allows for balance due to the proposal's effects on the eastern portion of the state, eliminates a shared management situation, and resolves a new-construction or new-lease issue.

Wabaunsee County ► Pottawatomie County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Wabaunsee County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$275,856. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 13th highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.08). Yearly rent for the Wabaunsee County Office is \$30,742.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Wabaunsee County 10th in the state for the least amount of cropland (139,658 acres).

Distance: The Wabaunsee County Office is 29.3 miles to the current location of the Pottawatomie County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Wabaunsee County is 11th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (343).

Program Payments: During 2005, Wabaunsee County issued the 12th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$3,382,233).

Staffing: The Wabaunsee County Office is staffed by a CED and two PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Wabaunsee County as having the 17th smallest workload in the state (986).

Impacts: More efficiency could be recognized with a strategically located, consolidated office in Wamego, Kansas, versus the current Westmoreland, Kansas, site. In addition to being a major trade center in Pottawatomie County, Wamego is a hub of agricultural businesses. Staff can be shifted to other neighboring counties if needed; however, displacement of a CED will occur.

Leavenworth County ► Atchison County

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Leavenworth County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$258,286. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 9th highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.10). Yearly rent for the Leavenworth County Office is under a General Services Administration lease is \$24,205.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Leavenworth County 6th in the state for the least amount of cropland (119,727 acres).

Distance: The Leavenworth County Office is 40.5 miles to the Atchison County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Leavenworth County is 9th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (337).

Program Payments: During 2005, Leavenworth County issued the 6th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$2,433,588).

Staffing: Leavenworth County, currently in a shared management arrangement with Atchison County, is staffed by a half-time CED and three PTs.

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Leavenworth County as having the 28th smallest workload in the state (1,114).

Impacts: As with Johnson County, Leavenworth County is experiencing urban sprawl with new homes and developments being built to accommodate Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth, and Lansing. The boundaries created by the Missouri River and the reduction of the amount of cropland in the county due to this expansion is expected to continue at a fast pace. Employees are willing to transfer and there would be no displacement of the CED. In addition, the COCs, CED and DD agree consolidation would achieve efficiencies in resources and customer service.

Gove County ► Logan County

The USDA Service Center building in Gove, Kansas, is a major reason to consolidate Gove County with the Logan County Office. The building is an old store front that has been reconfigured several times. There is no practical or effective opportunity for remodeling. Additionally, the landlord has not indicated any desire for significant remodeling. No responses have been received when solicitations were issued for new space.

There are many problems with the building. A central masonry wall separates the FSA and NRCS portions of the building; making significant remodeling impossible. Temperature controls for part of the FSA office are managed in the NRCS space causing portions to be uncomfortably cool or warm at times. Storage space is inadequate requiring some file cabinets, office equipment, and supplies to be stored in the conference room. The office of the CED is cramped, without a window, and provides little opportunity for confidential discussions with employees or customers. Narrow toilet facilities are located along a wall within the Program Technicians' work area.

There are also a number of health and safety concerns with the facility. Several employees have been plagued with serious health issues. Radon concerns were investigated and addressed in 2005. The duct work was cleaned due to mold problems in 2006. Drinking water must be filtered through an osmosis system before being adequate to drink.

Gove, Kansas, is the county seat of Gove County. It has a combination grocery store/café, museum, seed/feed store, post office and antique store. Gove is not considered a trade-center as it has no schools, medical facilities, machinery dealerships, motels or grain elevators. The infrastructure in Gove is severely lacking. According to 2004 population figures, the population of Gove is 98, well below the four other towns in the county: Quinter at 874, Grinnell at 308, Grainfield at 307, and Park at 141.

Cost Benefit/Efficiencies: During FY2005, Gove County administrative costs (payroll, travel, rent, utilities, custodian, postage, supplies, etc.) totaled \$258,905. This cost, associated with the amount of program payments issued, reflected the 96th highest cost for the state to provide a dollar of benefits (\$.02). Yearly rent for the Gove County Office is \$16,288.

Cropland: The 2002 Census of Ag ranked Gove County 86th in the state for the least amount of cropland (384,890 acres).

Distance: The Gove County Office is 32 miles to the Logan County Office.

Owner/Operators: Based on System 36 records, Gove County is 67th in the state for the fewest owner/operators (538).

Program Payments: During 2005, Gove County issued the 88th lowest amount of program payments for the state (\$16,260,075).

Staffing: Gove County is staffed by a CED and three PTs.

Gove County ► Logan County (Continued)

Workload: Average NWDs from 2004, 2005 and mid-year 2006, reflected Gove County as having the 43rd smallest workload in the state (1,198).

Impacts: The Logan County Office in Oakley, Kansas, is within a mile or two of the Gove County line. The recommendation to consolidate the Gove County Office with the Logan County Office is due, in part, to its close proximity (32 miles), good access by Interstate 70, and Oakley's status as a trade center and hub of agricultural businesses. The Logan County Office serves as the farm loan program headquarters for Gove County borrowers and can sustain additional staff and equipment. Displacement of a CED will occur.

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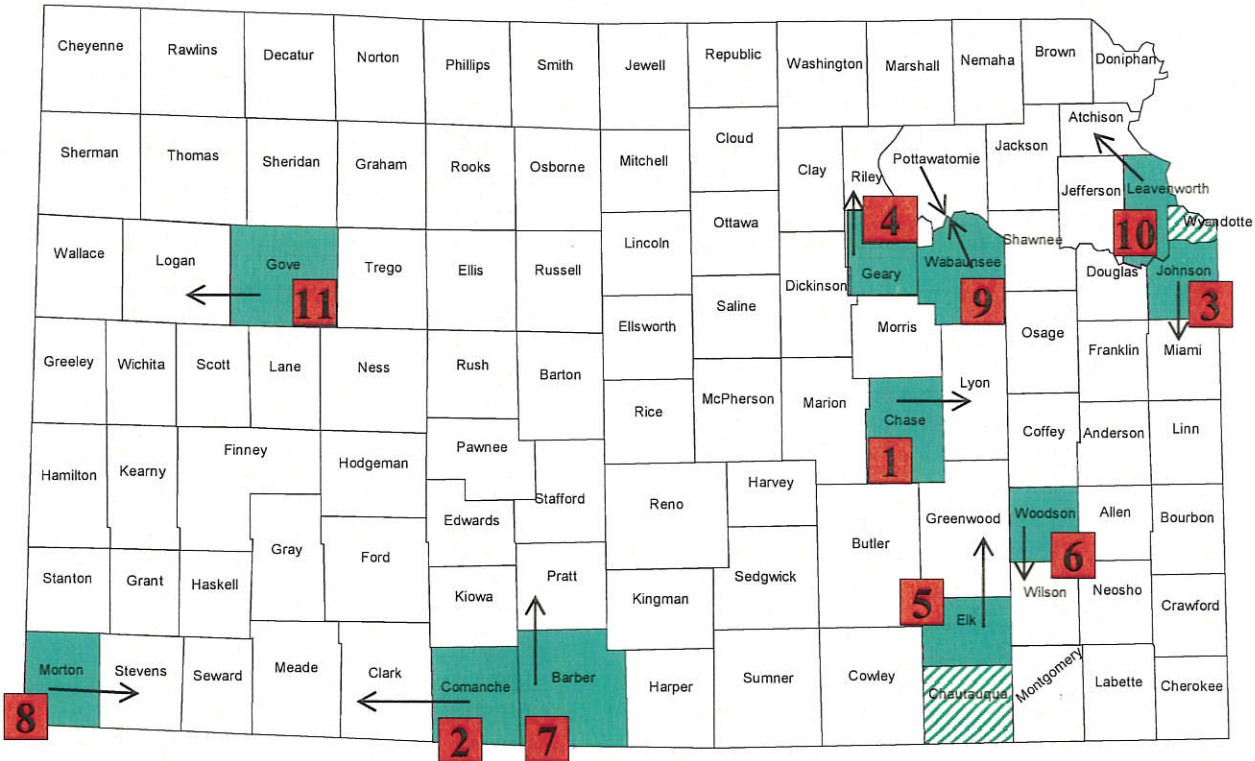
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Kansas FSA State Review Proposal

(Submitted and Recommended by the SED and STC)



FY 2005 Cost Benefit Analysis

(Administrative Cost to Issue \$1 of Farm Program Benefits)

County Name	Admin. Cost/\$ of Benefits
Chase	\$0.18
Greenwood	\$0.14
Elk/Chautauqua	\$0.14
Geary	\$0.14
Johnson	\$0.12
Bourbon	\$0.12
Miami	\$0.11
Osage	\$0.10
Leavenworth\WY	\$0.10
Douglas	\$0.09
Montgomery	\$0.09
Neosho	\$0.08
Wabaunsee	\$0.08
Franklin	\$0.08
Lyon	\$0.08
Woodson	\$0.08
Saline	\$0.08
Labette	\$0.08
Crawford	\$0.07
Allen	\$0.07
Cowley	\$0.07
Shawnee	\$0.07
Wilson	\$0.07
Coffey	\$0.07
Ellsworth	\$0.07
Riley	\$0.07
Russell	\$0.06
Morris	\$0.06
Lincoln	\$0.06
Cherokee	\$0.06
Pottawatomie	\$0.06
Ottawa	\$0.06
Linn	\$0.06
Ellis	\$0.06
Kingman	\$0.05
Butler	\$0.05
Jackson	\$0.05
Jefferson	\$0.05
Rush	\$0.05
Osborne	\$0.05
Marion	\$0.05
Harvey	\$0.05
Anderson	\$0.05
Sedgwick	\$0.05
Harper	\$0.05
Atchison	\$0.05
Comanche	\$0.05
Barber	\$0.05
Ness	\$0.05
Clark	\$0.04
Smith	\$0.04
Rice	\$0.04

County Name	Admin. Cost/\$ of Benefits
Clay	0.04
Cloud	0.04
Mitchell	0.04
Jewell	0.04
Barton	0.04
Rooks	0.04
Trego	0.04
Norton	0.04
Reno	0.04
Republic	0.04
Dickinson	0.04
Phillips	0.04
McPherson	0.04
Sumner	0.04
Logan	0.04
Washington	0.04
Graham	0.04
Brown	0.03
Kiowa	0.03
Doniphan	0.03
Lane	0.03
Hodgeman	0.03
Stafford	0.03
Pratt	0.03
Pawnee	0.03
Grant	0.03
Edwards	0.03
Seward	0.03
Cheyenne	0.03
Ford	0.03
Decatur	0.03
Marshall	0.03
Rawlins	0.03
Nemaha	0.03
Wallace	0.03
Hamilton	0.03
Morton	0.02
Kearny	0.02
Wichita	0.02
Meade	0.02
Finney	0.02
Greeley	0.02
Gray	0.02
Gove	0.02
Stevens	0.02
Sheridan	0.02
Scott	0.02
Sherman	0.02
Thomas	0.01
Haskell	0.01
Stanton	0.01
Average Cost	0.04

Cropland by County

(2002 Census of Agriculture)

County	Cropland
Elk	73,898
Geary	76,322
Chase	82,377
Johnson	88,043
Riley	107,377
Woodson	110,854
Leavenworth	119,727
Douglas	128,638
Shawnee	135,766
Wabaunsee	139,658
Greenwood	143,046
Doniphan	154,670
Atchison	155,598
Morris	157,178
Linn	168,683
Bourbon	168,765
Jefferson	169,201
Allen	170,265
Comanche	171,390
Jackson	179,267
Montgomery	185,615
Miami	188,251
Neosho	188,282
Pottawatomie	191,962
Coffey	193,375
Clark	193,412
Franklin	197,116
Wilson	201,714
Crawford	204,644
Labette	205,031
Osage	216,256
Cherokee	218,664
Ellsworth	219,016
Barber	224,482
Kiowa	228,100
Anderson	228,152
Ottawa	228,506
Lincoln	239,361
Seward	242,675
Grant	249,630
Brown	253,187
Wallace	261,730
Lyon	261,814
Clay	261,844
Cloud	266,146
Trego	268,220
Russell	269,038
Harvey	274,129
Nemaha	274,924
Saline	281,031
Decatur	282,306
Morton	283,339

County	Cropland
Cowley	286,696
Norton	288,731
Phillips	298,043
Republic	298,194
Rooks	299,305
Graham	303,928
Hodgeman	307,942
Osborne	308,084
Butler	308,447
Washington	309,724
Edwards	310,503
Rice	311,530
Rush	315,345
Ellis	316,055
Jewell	318,427
Mitchell	321,964
Smith	338,312
Haskell	338,876
Meade	340,423
Lane	343,138
Harper	347,439
Stafford	348,226
Pratt	350,434
Marion	358,640
Sheridan	360,344
Pawnee	361,782
Kingman	362,117
Wichita	365,847
Cheyenne	367,243
Dickinson	376,154
Logan	377,426
Stanton	380,867
Marshall	383,109
Gove	384,890
Scott	392,135
Kearny	398,086
Rawlins	403,183
Ness	404,377
Stevens	404,450
Hamilton	404,768
Sedgwick	409,741
Greeley	418,824
McPherson	420,432
Gray	421,888
Barton	486,510
Sherman	503,821
Ford	508,061
Reno	532,119
Thomas	566,418
Finney	600,822
Sumner	620,129

Owner/Operators by County

(Based on County Office System 36 Query)

County	Owner/Operators
Sumner	1,647
Reno	1,523
Sedgwick	1,483
Barton	1,273
Rice	1,088
McPherson	1,001
Ness	966
Harvey	928
Dickinson	926
Stafford	920
Rush	915
Kingman	910
Marshall	910
Ford	904
Marion	893
Harper	889
Pawnee	830
Butler	827
Cowley	819
Finney	814
Pratt	808
Stevens	808
Gray	798
Ellis	780
Saline	764
Grant	742
Sherman	740
Russell	729
Jewell	717
Washington	708
Republic	695
Smith	693
Hamilton	691
Rooks	691
Cloud	688
Kearny	674
Phillips	665
Greeley	657
Hodgeman	652
Cheyenne	647
Cherokee	633
Shawnee	627
Decatur	625
Crawford	622
Franklin	616
Clay	615
Haskell	615
Trego	614
Thomas	610
Osage	609
Ellsworth	606
Morton	604

County	Owner/Operators
Wichita	603
Graham	599
Stanton	599
Brown	596
Lincoln	594
Osborne	591
Scott	588
Ottawa	587
Rawlins	584
Meade	578
Coffey	574
Sheridan	567
Mitchell	566
Norton	547
Gove	538
Douglas	529
Lyon	525
Lane	512
Seward	506
Edwards	503
Logan	492
Miami	485
Nemaha	465
Allen	463
Pottawatomie	461
Wilson	459
Labette	457
Kiowa	449
Jefferson	443
Atchison	427
Neosho	424
Anderson	404
Montgomery	404
Barber	397
Jackson	363
Linn	358
Clark	355
Doniphan	354
Bourbon	345
Wallace	345
Wabaunsee	343
Riley	340
Leavenworth	337
Morris	332
Comanche	299
Johnson	255
Woodson	225
Geary	198
Chase	182
Greenwood	148
Elk	131

FY 2005 Program Payments and Farm Loans

County	Amount
Chase	1,369,883
Elk	1,822,567
Greenwood	2,026,114
Geary	2,376,237
Leavenworth	3,264,442
Woodson	3,362,829
Bourbon	3,505,846
Wabaunsee	3,682,615
Johnson	3,726,233
Miami	3,825,159
Comanche	4,266,583
Douglas	4,374,518
Riley	4,406,880
Allen	4,508,309
Neosho	4,520,343
Clark	4,801,595
Montgomery	4,951,972
Shawnee	5,391,894
Wilson	5,524,679
Linn	5,681,248
Morris	5,686,068
Pottawatomie	5,698,199
Coffey	5,821,171
Jackson	5,921,184
Franklin	6,016,838
Osage	6,035,475
Jefferson	6,595,825
Saline	6,660,232
Ellsworth	6,690,711
Lincoln	6,826,949
Lyon	6,839,900
Ellis	6,886,685
Ottawa	6,926,141
Cowley	6,988,805
Barber	7,473,975
Trego	7,550,503
Russell	7,758,176
Butler	7,776,928
Cherokee	7,779,433
Labette	8,583,808
Anderson	8,736,110
Rooks	8,736,980
Kingman	8,945,608
Osborne	8,968,871
Kiowa	9,324,141
Atchison	9,530,027
Crawford	9,681,842
Rush	9,830,757
Harvey	9,996,753
Lane	10,034,821
Morton	10,131,381
Harper	10,465,085

County	Amount
Marion	10,536,736
Hodgeman	10,551,588
Kearny	11,042,836
Hamilton	11,545,796
Graham	11,554,063
Ness	11,723,917
Grant	11,938,361
Jewell	12,255,530
Barton	12,275,371
Logan	12,406,424
Rice	12,498,569
Seward	12,574,120
Pawnee	12,610,091
Phillips	12,620,615
Mitchell	13,042,398
Wallace	13,200,204
Dickinson	13,289,181
Smith	13,350,331
Sedgwick	13,612,664
Cloud	13,694,708
Decatur	13,710,029
Meade	13,773,771
Clay	13,782,057
Pratt	14,005,131
Wichita	14,246,272
Cheyenne	14,340,074
McPherson	14,511,818
Stafford	14,626,879
Edwards	14,800,738
Doniphan	14,895,504
Scott	15,107,865
Norton	15,171,380
Rawlins	15,265,438
Stanton	15,373,384
Greeley	16,237,738
Gove	16,260,075
Ford	16,980,407
Brown	17,504,459
Republic	17,753,705
Reno	18,388,294
Stevens	18,660,021
Washington	18,881,395
Nemaha	19,029,493
Sheridan	20,296,786
Sumner	20,650,703
Marshall	20,944,629
Finney	22,049,939
Haskell	22,493,629
Sherman	23,577,231
Gray	23,853,370
Thomas	33,315,586

FSA Workload by County

(Three Year Average for Farm Programs and Farm Loan Programs)

County	Total Workload
Johnson	627
Elk	701
Clark	721
Woodson	740
Chase	757
Barber	767
Wallace	809
Greenwood	821
Comanche	824
Stanton	836
Geary	842
Hamilton	852
Morton	860
Linn	911
Greeley	937
Jefferson	961
Wabaunsee	986
Allen	1019
Rooks	1022
Morris	1035
Scott	1044
Seward	1056
Ellsworth	1073
Wilson	1085
Meade	1091
Riley	1097
Miami	1106
Leavenworth	1114
Edwards	1120
Shawnee	1127
Jackson	1132
Kiowa	1146
Lane	1147
Doniphan	1159
Neosho	1160
Haskell	1161
Hodgeman	1163
Trego	1172
Grant	1176
Ottawa	1182
Labette	1197
Decatur	1197
Gove	1198
Rawlins	1203
Kearny	1203
Pottawatomie	1222
Cherokee	1225
Anderson	1227
Wichita	1236
Douglas	1242
Pawnee	1256
Bourbon	1291

County	Total Workload
Cheyenne	1292
Butler	1306
Cloud	1309
Sheridan	1309
Coffey	1317
Ellis	1333
Harper	1343
Osage	1370
Osborne	1394
Clay	1397
Gray	1415
Harvey	1421
Kingman	1441
Jewell	1457
Lincoln	1457
Brown	1472
Phillips	1484
Rice	1485
Stafford	1,489
Rush	1,495
Mitchell	1,496
Thomas	1,597
Republic	1,630
Marion	1,664
Sedgwick	1,669
Dickinson	1,698
McPherson	1,731
Barton	1,748
Marshall	1,768
Atchison	1,905
Logan	1,909
Franklin	2,042
Montgomery	2,105
Lyon	2,133
Stevens	2,156
Graham	2,216
Ford	2,234
Finney	2,248
Sherman	2,280
Cowley	2,323
Crawford	2,325
Pratt	2,374
Russell	2,375
Saline	2,399
Ness	2,452
Norton	2,463
Nemaha	2,478
Smith	2,524
Sumner	2,546
Washington	2,837
Reno	3,046

FY 2005 National Workload Report

(Report 6A for Kansas – National Ranking of 2,353 Total Counties)

County	Ranking
Clark	2,202
Johnson	2,196
Elk	2,173
Woodson	2,146
Barber	2,095
Chase	2,020
Geary	2,017
Greenwood	1,976
Comanche	1,968
Stanton	1,939
Wallace	1,870
Morton	1,860
Linn	1,834
Hamilton	1,780
Greeley	1,737
Jefferson	1,677
Wabaunsee	1,646
Allen	1,642
Morris	1,609
Ellsworth	1,595
Wilson	1,568
Rooks	1,565
Kiowa	1,559
Meade	1,519
Miami	1,507
Jackson	1,485
Edwards	1,465
Cherokee	1,432
Seward	1,431
Shawnee	1,428
Trego	1,421
Scott	1,404
Neosho	1,399
Haskell	1,392
Riley	1,390
Pottawatomie	1,381
Ottawa	1,340
Bourbon	1,320
Anderson	1,310
Lane	1,309
Labette	1,308
Hodgeman	1,306
Doniphan	1,305
Douglas	1,273
Pawnee	1,260
Ellis	1,256
Butler	1,232
Leavenworth	1,227
Wichita	1,208
Harper	1,204
Grant	1,186
Gove	1,138

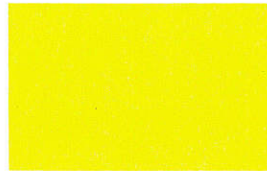
County	Ranking
Coffey	1,132
Decatur	1,108
Kingman	1,106
Osborne	1,099
Kearny	1,073
Stafford	1,070
Harvey	1,039
Cloud	1,037
Rawlins	1,017
Lincoln	1,002
Mitchell	975
Cheyenne	951
Jewell	929
Clay	928
Sheridan	921
Gray	910
Brown	900
Rush	897
Rice	879
Sedgwick	808
McPherson	789
Dickinson	741
Thomas	735
Republic	708
Marion	674
Phillips	671
Barton	635
Atchison	515
Marshall	513
Franklin	496
Lyon	438
Montgomery	413
Logan	403
Russell	350
Finney	329
Crawford	323
Saline	321
Graham	318
Osage	310
Cowley	305
Ford	299
Ness	262
Stevens	258
Pratt	232
Sherman	224
Sumner	175
Nemaha	153
Smith	150
Norton	121
Reno	54
Washington	51

Yearly Projected Cost Savings Estimate (and Other Benefits)

Ceding County	Assuming County	Space Available	Rent Savings	Utility/Custodial Savings	Distance
Chase	Lyon	Yes	\$18,238	Full Service	20.1 miles
Comanche	Clark	Yes	\$12,578	\$5,262	29.8 miles
Johnson	Miami	Yes	\$28,117	\$9,092	22.6 miles
Geary	Riley	Yes	\$26,863	Full Service	19.5 miles
Elk	Greenwood	No	\$12,705	\$6,356	28.1 miles
Woodson	Wilson	Yes	\$31,070	Full Service	30.3 miles
Barber	Pratt	No	\$24,759	\$7,847	30.5 miles
Morton	Stevens	Yes	\$19,538	\$5,063	40.0 miles
Wabaunsee	Pottawatomie	No	\$25,694	\$4,826	29.3 miles
Leavenworth	Atchison	No	\$26,148	\$1,333	40.5 miles
Gove	Logan	Yes	\$16,288	\$6,742	32.4 miles
			\$241,998	\$46,521	

- Decreased postage/shipping costs for the State Office to send normal and bulk mailings to county offices.
- Decreased State Office staff time to monitor and maintain leases, handle building issues, etc.
- Decreased State Office staff time to issue and monitor budget allocations and expenditures, etc.
- Decreased travel sites for County Operations Reviewers, District Directors and Area Specialists.
- Dissemination of excess equipment (computers, copiers, printers, fax machines, etc.) for the benefit of other FSA county offices.
- Reduction in duplicative administrative costs.
- County Committee structure changes transitioning from 6 Local Administrative Areas to 3 to 5 Local Administrative Areas for each combined county arrangement.
- County Committee structure changes will result in fewer members and/or advisors, decreasing payroll costs.

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Informational Presentation



Bill R. Fuller
State Executive Director



Kansas Farm Service Agency



SED Management Initiatives

- Farm Loan Programs Reorganized (2002-2003)
- District Director Districts Revised (2005-2006)
- County Office Reviews (2006-2007)

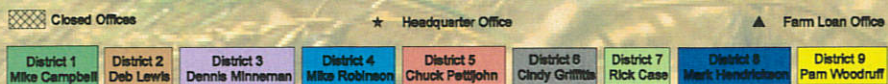
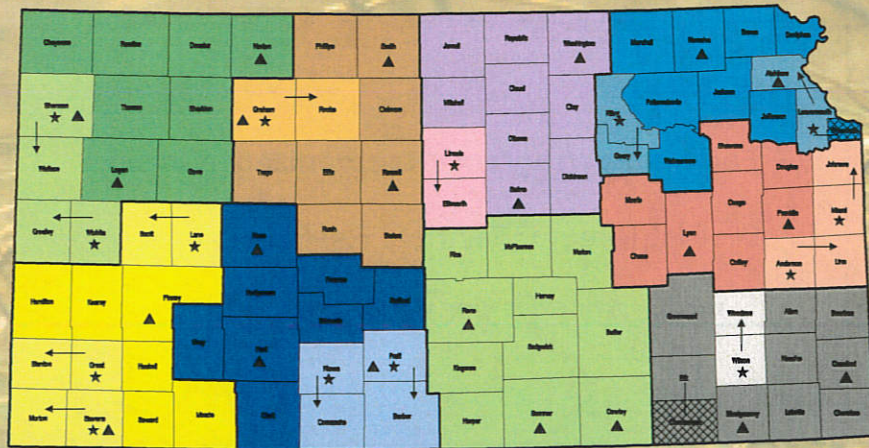
Kansas FSA... Positioning for the future !

FSA Farm Loan Programs

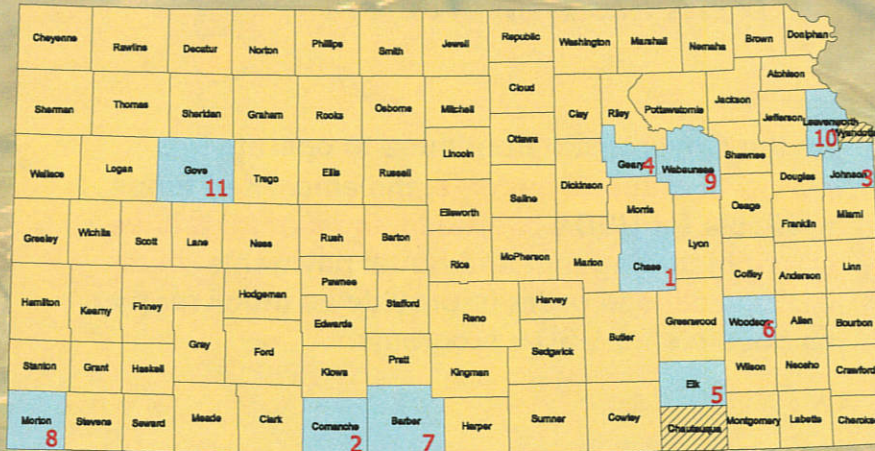
Office Locations and Areas of Responsibility



FSA Director Districts



Kansas FSA State Review Proposal



Submitted and Recommended by the SED and STC

State Reviews of FSA Offices

- Each SED will conduct an independent local-level review of FSA Offices.
- Each state will submit a proposed plan utilizing the optimum network of facilities and staffing.
- Each state must operate within existing budgetary resources and staffing ceilings.
- There are no national criteria, quotas, or goals.

Teresa C. Lasseter
Administrator
Farm Service Agency

Kansans developing a plan for Kansas !

A Delicate Balance . . .



As the Government continues to operate in a **period of reduced budgets**, the amount of funds available for USDA **overhead and administrative costs**, including rent and rental payments, **must be controlled** in order to provide as much money as possible for USDA programs.

Kansas FSA Review Criteria

- **Staffing Ceiling** — *historic, current, and future expectations*
- **Budget Allocations** — *payroll and non-payroll expenses*
- **Workload** — *current, trends, and projections*
- **Dollars Delivered**— *program payments and farm loans*
- **Efficiency** — *cost of delivering programs and loans to producers*
- **Population** — *agricultural, urban, expected changes*
- **Land Use** — *cropland, grassland, livestock operations, government lands*

more . . .

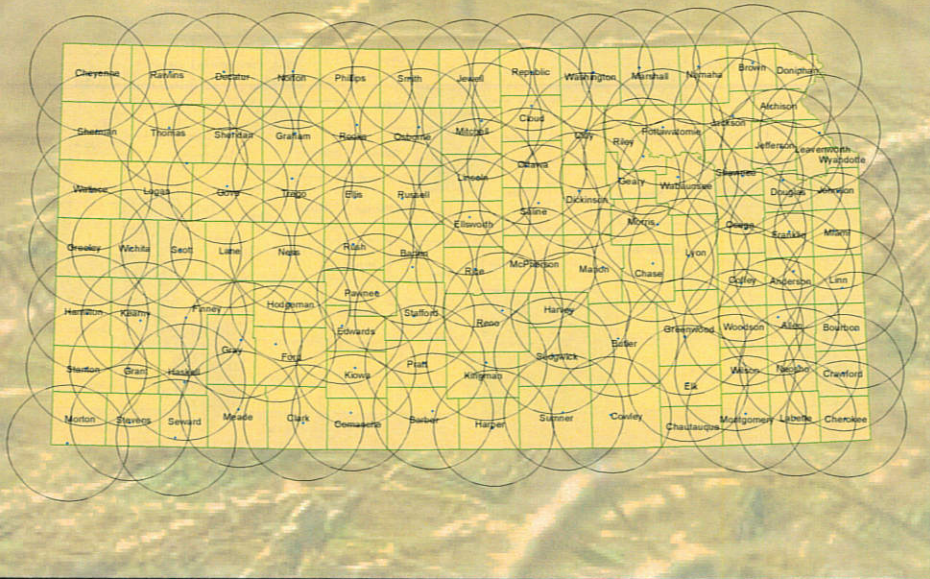
Kansas FSA Review Criteria

- **Trade Centers** - agri-business, government services, medical facilities
- **Distances** – between current and proposed consolidated offices
- **Buildings** – condition, available space, costs, potential savings
- **Partners** – NRCS, RD, Conservation Districts, RC&D's
- **Transportation** – roads and highways including projected enhancements
- **Demographics** – customer and employee

Reviewing Today . . . Positioning for the Future!
Sound judgments based upon common sense and good business sense.

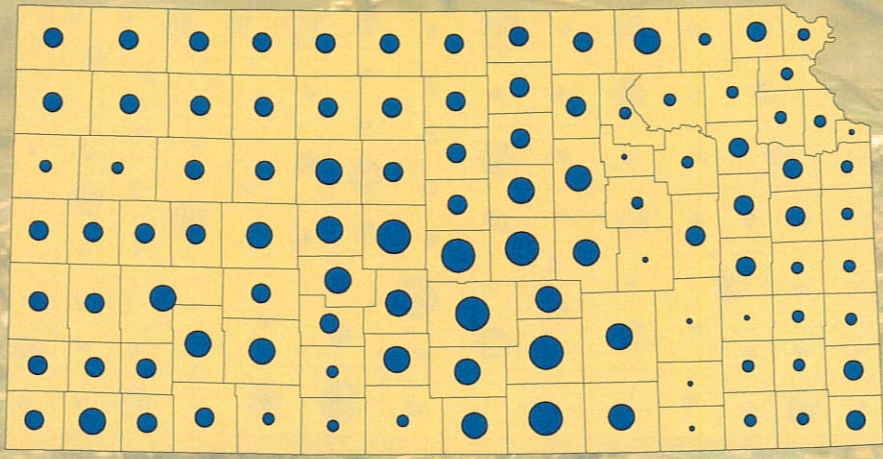
County Office Distances

(Circles represent 30 mile radius)



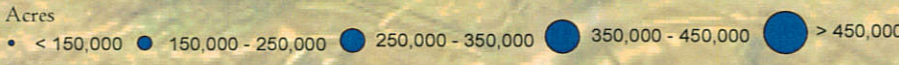
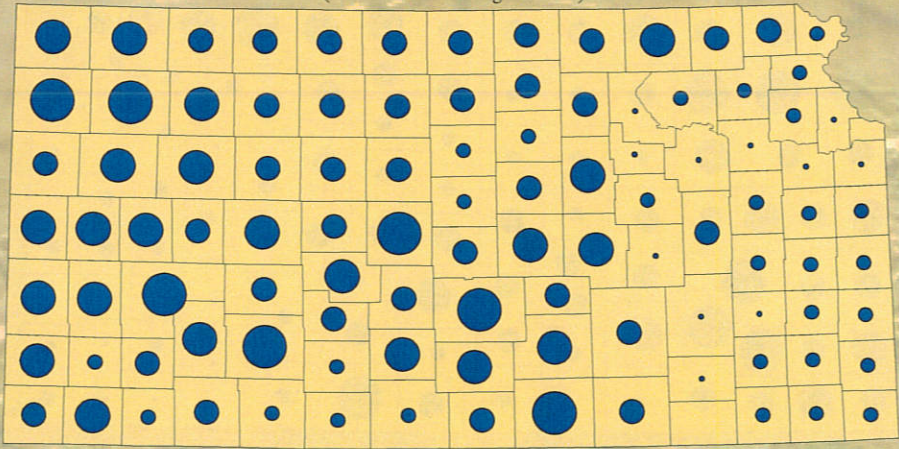
Number of Farm Operators

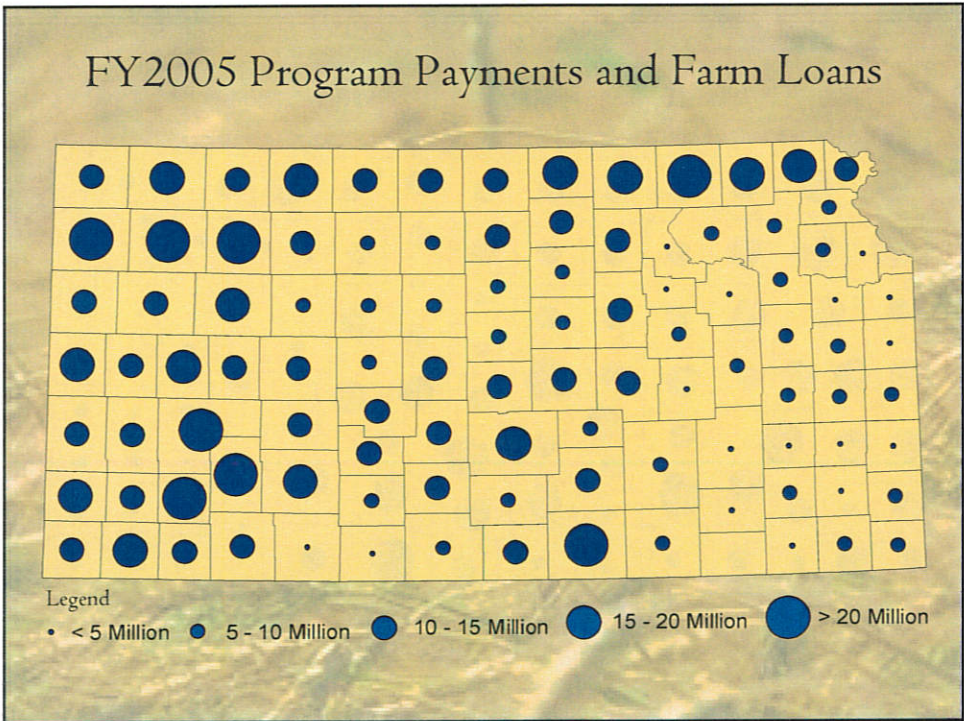
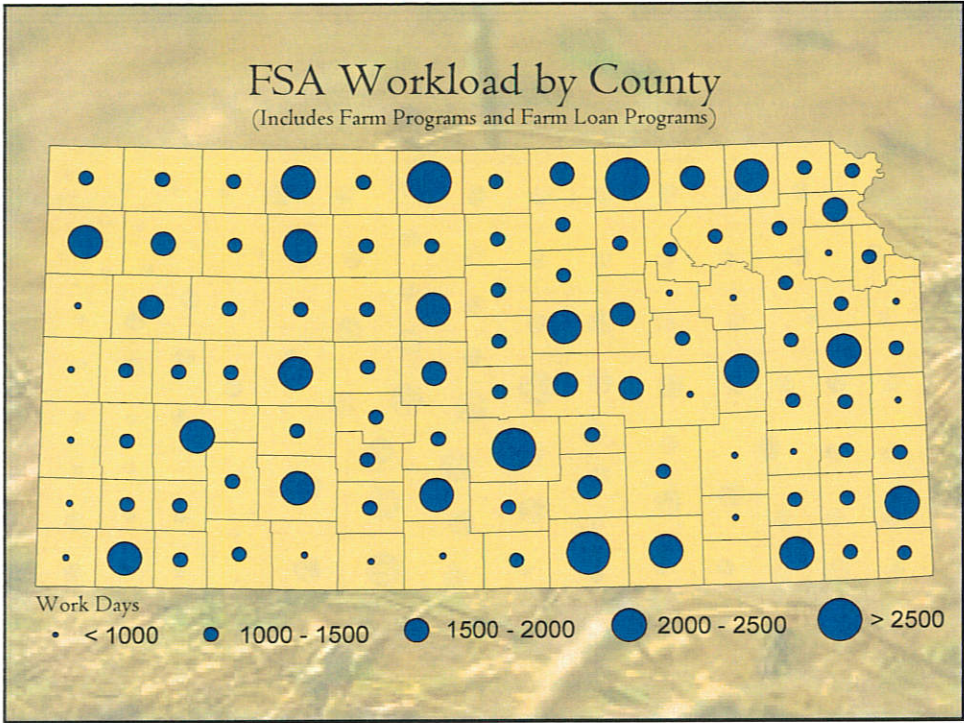
(Based on County Office System 36 Query)



Cropland by County

(2002 Census of Agriculture)





USDA Space Management

All Service Center buildings are leased:

- Space is solicited by competitive bids.
- Lease agreements are entered into for 5 years.
- All leases have clause authorizing FSA to terminate the lease or decrease the amount of space by giving 120 days notice.

USDA Buildings Expense

2006 Projected Rent :

- \$5,176,909 for the three Agencies, plus the utilities for the 37 Service Centers that are not full-service leases.
- \$2,956,956 is FSA's share...**that's \$246,413 every month.**

Congressional Guidelines

FSA Office Closings

- SED/STC present initial proposed state plan to DAFO
- DAFO will review and validate proposed changes
- Recommendations will be shared with potentially affected members of Congress
- FSA will hold public meetings in any county where there is a proposed closure
- SED/STC will consider information and submit a final proposed state plan to DAFO for approval
- Congressional Agriculture and Appropriations Committees will be sent notification letter

Pub. L. 109-97 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 provided a process for FSA office closures that must be followed.

Combined County Committees

- One **new** combined County Committee is elected to represent all producers in the new multi-county area.
- Responsibilities of the two **current** County Committees:
 - Determine whether the new combined Committee has 3 or 5 members
 - Establish new Local Administrative Area boundaries for the new multi-county area.
- **Serve three-year terms** --- *beginning terms will be 1-3 years to establish the three-year cycle for each area.*

Producer Choice

When an office is closed . . .

**Producers will be given the
option to choose**

. . . their administrative headquarters
in any contiguous county.

Kansas FSA . . . positioning for the future!

All FSA Stakeholders:

I encourage all stakeholders to join us in a candid, thorough, and realistic review of the Kansas FSA program delivery system. Time is critical!

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.

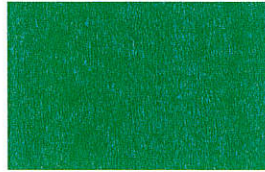
We all agree that providing a high level of support and service to our farmers and ranchers continues to be our highest priority, now and well into the 21st century.

Bill R. Fuller
State Executive Director
Kansas Farm Service Agency

E-mail to: state.review@ks.usda.gov

Mail to: Kansas FSA State Office, 3600 Anderson Ave., Manhattan, KS 66503

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News Release

News Release

Kansas Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/

3600 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66503-2511
(785) 539-3531 - Fax (785) 537-9659

Trish Halstead, Communications Coordinator
trish.halstead@ks.usda.gov

KANSAS FSA RELEASES COUNTY OFFICE RESTRUCTURING PLAN

Manhattan, Kansas, February 15, 2007 --- Today, Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the Kansas USDA Farm Service Agency, released the proposal to consolidate eleven FSA County Offices in order to effectively and efficiently manage a declining budget and shrinking staff.

"The initial goal of reviewing Kansas counties was to identify an optimum network of FSA facilities, staffing, training, and technology within existing budgetary resources and staffing ceilings," emphasized Fuller. "This process started in March 2006 when three FSA Stakeholder Meetings were held across Kansas to allow stakeholders to outline their expectations and present recommendations, while receiving information on Kansas FSA programs, structures, and challenges."

A 15-member Review Committee, consisting of managers, program technicians, district directors and farmers, considered input, selected criteria and developed recommendations.

When the review began, there were 103 Kansas FSA County Offices with 32 of those being shared management offices. This restructuring plan will eliminate shared-management resulting in reduced travel expenses, increased efficiencies and offices that are more fully staffed.

Fuller submitted the proposed restructuring plan to the FSA national office in December 2006. After approval, Fuller traveled to Washington D.C. to inform the members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation whose districts will be impacted by the proposed office consolidations.

Kansas FSA Offices submitted for closure and consolidation are as follows:

- Chase County (Cottonwood Falls) will be consolidated with Lyon County.
- Comanche County (Coldwater) will be consolidated with Clark County.
- Johnson County (Olathe) will be consolidated with Miami County.
- Geary County (Junction City) will be consolidated with Riley County.
- Elk County (Howard) will be consolidated with Greenwood County.
- Woodson County (Yates Center) will be consolidated with Wilson County.
- Barber County (Medicine Lodge) will be consolidated with Pratt County.
- Morton County (Elkhart) will be consolidated with Stevens County.
- Wabaunsee County (Alma) will be consolidated with Pottawatomie County.
- Leavenworth County (Leavenworth) will be consolidated with Atchison County.
- Gove County (Gove) will be consolidated with Logan County.

-more-

1-44

Public meetings will be scheduled in counties where consolidations are proposed. Announcement of these meetings will be provided to the media and advertised in the affected counties. The restructuring plan can be revised if new information or considerations are heard at the public meetings. Fuller will meet with FSA employees and FSA County Committees in affected counties prior to the public meetings.

"Many criteria were considered including staffing ceilings, budget, workload, dollars delivered to producers and borrowers, office efficiency, population, land use, trade centers, distances between offices, building conditions and costs, agency partners, transportation, and demographics," Fuller emphasized.

"As a convenience to producers in affected offices, they will be given the option to choose their administrative headquarters in any contiguous county office." Fuller added. "The current county committees will determine whether the new combined county committee will have 3 or 5 members, and establish new local administrative area boundaries for the new multi-county area."

The Kansas FSA County Office Restructuring Plan can be obtained at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks.

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