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Local NRCS Office Among USDA Closures

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By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor

In what it calls a “streamlining” and “cost-cutting measure,” the U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to close nearly 260 offices and labs across the country – including one in Dexter.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Dexter is among the 259 offices across the country that received word it will be closed in USDA’s “Blueprint For Stronger Service.”

The local office in Dexter employs three staff members. An office of Rural Development in Jackson is also scheduled to close; it employs two staff members. The NRCS office in Dexter is the only Stoddard County USDA office slated for closure.

There are ten offices scheduled to be closed in Missouri:

- Farm Service Agency, Hillsboro
- Farm Service Agency, Buffalo
- Farm Service Agency, Versailles
- Food & Nutrition Service, St. Louis
- Food & Nutrition Service, Kansas City
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, Dexter

- Rural Development Office, Hillsboro
- Rural Development Office, Jefferson City
- Rural Development Office, Carthage
- Rural Development Office, Jackson

The announcement was made this week by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a Washington, D.C. news conference.

"The USDA, like families and businesses across the country, cannot continue to operate like we did 50 years ago," said Vilsack. "We must innovate, modernize, and be better stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. We must build on the record accomplishments of farm communities in 2011 with a stronger, more effective USDA in 2012 and beyond."

As a result of its study, USDA will close the offices, which include Farm Service Agency, Rural Development offices, Food Safety Inspection and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices.

Link Of Interest

[USDA "Blueprint For Stronger Service"](https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/ulrp/Local-NRCS-Office-Among-USDA-Closures)

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