

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm
- ☐ 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145
- ☐ 150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 325
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- ☐ 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- ☐ 131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 180
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On January 9, 2012, you released your "Blueprint for Stronger Service," which contained your plan for finding cost savings in the Department of Agriculture through office closings and creating other efficiencies. I am encouraged that you are looking for ways to save taxpayer dollars and create a more efficient USDA. That being said, I don't need to explain to you how important the functions performed by county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices are to Iowa farmers. Iowa farmers rely on their local FSA office to provide guidance and assistance with the many farm programs available to them.

In the press release announcing the proposed closings, and in briefings to congressional staff, USDA has stated the main criteria used for choosing which offices to close are the guidelines set by Congress in P.L. 110-246 (Sec. 14212), in short, the office proposed for closure needs to have two or fewer employees and be within twenty miles of the next nearest FSA office. However, there have been questions raised about inconsistencies with what USDA has stated regarding the criteria used for selecting offices for closure.

- One concern raised by constituents is that none of the Iowa offices slated for closing are in fact within twenty miles of another FSA office.
 - For Appanoose County, the FSA office is located at 501 N. 12th St., Centerville, Iowa. The nearest FSA office is located up Highway 5 in Monroe County, with an address of 1701 South B. St., Albia, Iowa. Even with the most direct route on Highway 5, these offices are more than 20 miles apart.
 - For Union County, the FSA office located at 904 E. Taylor St., Creston, Iowa. The nearest FSA office is located in Adams County, which is west on Highway 34. The Adams County office is located at 2243 Loomis Ave., Corning, Iowa. Taking the most direct route along Highway 34, these offices are separated by more than 23 miles.

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

- For Decatur County, the FSA office located at 303 SW Lorraine St., Leon, Iowa. The nearest FSA office is located in Wayne County, which is east on Highway 2. The Wayne County office is located at 300 S. Lafayette St., Corydon, Iowa. Taking the most direct route along Highway 2, these offices are separated by more than 23 miles.
- Another concern is the conflicting information we have received regarding whether or not these offices have two or more employees. As of December 6, 2011, the Decatur County office had 4.75 employees (See enclosed USDA staffing summary for Iowa). A constituent has informed us that three employees from this office retired as of December 31, 2011, and one retired as of January 3, 2012. USDA officials have indicated they had looked at the staff numbers in "mid-December" in order to confirm the offices slated for closing had two or fewer employees. In addition, USDA has indicated planned retirements did not factor into whether a county office had two or fewer employees.

Could you please address these inconsistencies and concerns? In addition, could you please answer the following questions constituents have raised:

- What, if any, additional criteria did USDA consider when deciding to close the FSA offices in Iowa?
- What are the estimated annual savings for each of the three FSA offices being closed in Iowa?
- What does USDA plan to do to address the needs of the farmers who operate farms in the counties that will no longer have FSA offices?
- What is USDA going to do regarding the county committee structure in the affected counties to ensure farmers in those counties have their interests represented at the county committee level?
- What weight and significance is USDA going to give to the information, questions, and concerns raised at the public meetings to be held in each affected county?
- Enclosed is the FSA "Iowa Staffing Summary," which details what county offices in Iowa are overstaffed, understaffed, and each office's level of productivity based upon the number contracts. Please describe how this information was utilized in deciding which offices to close in Iowa.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Iowa Staffing Summary - Work Units/ County

☒ CO PT's ☐ Temp
☒ CED ☐ GS PT
☐ Shared Management Adj.

Rank	Dist	FIPS	County	Current Staffing Equivalent
				Total*
1	6	19001	Adair	5.00
2	6	19003	Adams	3.00
3	2	19005	Allamakee	6.00
4	7	19007	Appanoose	2.00
5	3	19008	Audubon	5.00
6	4	19011	Benton	6.00
7	4	19013	Black Hawk	5.00
8	4	19015	Boone	5.00
9	2	19017	Bremer	5.00
10	5	19019	Buchanan	6.00
11	1	19021	Buena Vista	5.00
12	2	19023	Butler	7.00
13	3	19025	Calhoun	5.00
14	3	19027	Carroll	6.00
15	6	19029	Cass	5.00
16	5	19033	Cedar	6.00
17	2	19035	Cerro Gordo	5.00
18	1	19037	Cherokee	6.00
19	2	19039	Chickasaw	6.00
20	6	19041	Clarke	4.00
21	1	19043	Clay	5.00
22	5	19045	Clayton	5.00
23	5	19047	Clinton	6.00
24	3	19049	Crawford	6.00
25	4	19051	Dallas	5.00
26	7	19053	Davis	4.25
27	6	19055	Decatur	4.75
28	5	19057	Delaware	7.00
29	7	19059	Des Moines	5.00
30	1	19061	Dickinson	5.00
31	5	19063	Dubuque	6.00
32	1	19065	Emmet	5.00
33	5	19067	Fayette	8.00
34	2	19069	Floyd	6.00
35	2	19071	Franklin	5.00
36	6	19073	Fremont	3.50
37	3	19075	Greene	5.00
38	4	19077	Grundy	4.75
39	3	19079	Guthrie	6.00
40	2	19081	Hamilton	5.00
41	2	19083	Hancock	6.00
42	4	19085	Hardin	5.00

2010				
Work	Work Units/ Staff (FTE)	%	Staffing Share	
793	159	109%	4.59	
677	226	77%	3.91	
1,066	178	97%	6.16	
719	359	48%	4.15	
862	172	100%	4.98	
1,061	177	98%	6.13	
804	161	108%	4.65	
984	197	88%	5.69	
813	163	106%	4.70	
973	162	107%	5.62	
820	164	106%	4.74	
1,150	164	105%	6.65	
961	192	90%	5.55	
1,093	182	95%	6.32	
791	158	109%	4.57	
977	163	106%	5.65	
844	169	102%	4.88	
646	108	161%	3.73	
1,077	179	96%	6.22	
652	163	106%	3.77	
754	151	115%	4.36	
1,403	281	62%	8.11	
1,007	168	103%	5.82	
729	122	142%	4.22	
858	172	101%	4.96	
775	182	95%	4.48	
720	152	114%	4.16	
1,172	167	103%	6.78	
683	137	127%	3.95	
503	101	172%	2.91	
1,019	170	102%	5.89	
580	116	149%	3.35	
1,560	195	89%	9.02	
1,069	178	97%	6.18	
980	196	88%	5.66	
748	214	81%	4.33	
902	180	96%	5.22	
732	154	112%	4.23	
1,132	189	92%	6.54	
933	187	93%	5.39	
842	140	123%	4.87	
941	188	92%	5.44	

3-Year Average 2008, 2009, 2010				
Work	Work Units/ Staff (FTE)	%	Staffing Share	
831	166	109%	4.6	
715	238	76%	3.9	
1,137	189	96%	6.3	
772	386	47%	4.2	
886	177	103%	4.9	
1,125	187	97%	6.2	
842	168	108%	4.6	
1,006	201	90%	5.5	
874	175	104%	4.8	
1,017	170	107%	5.6	
871	174	104%	4.8	
1,185	169	107%	6.5	
1,002	200	91%	5.5	
1,086	181	100%	6.0	
835	167	109%	4.6	
1,029	171	106%	5.7	
900	180	101%	5.0	
667	111	163%	3.7	
1,130	188	96%	6.2	
697	174	104%	3.8	
798	160	114%	4.4	
1,485	297	61%	8.2	
1,092	182	100%	6.0	
783	131	139%	4.3	
891	178	102%	4.9	
844	199	91%	4.6	
730	154	118%	4.0	
1,202	172	106%	6.6	
720	144	126%	4.0	
531	106	171%	2.9	
1,079	180	101%	5.9	
627	125	145%	3.5	
1,650	206	88%	9.1	
1,126	188	97%	6.2	
1,009	202	90%	5.6	
791	226	80%	4.4	
916	183	99%	5.0	
740	156	117%	4.1	
1,169	195	93%	6.4	
972	194	93%	5.4	
879	147	124%	4.8	
961	192	95%	5.3	

12/6/2011		Over or Under	CED vacancy
		0.4	
		(0.9)	
		(0.3)	
		(2.2)	
		0.1	
		(0.2)	
		0.4	
		(0.5)	
		0.2	
		0.4	
		0.2	
		0.5	
		(0.5)	
		0.0	
		0.4	
		0.3	
		0.0	
		2.3	
		0.2	
		(0.2)	
		0.6	
		(3.2)	
		(0.0)	
		1.7	
		0.1	
		(0.4)	
		0.7	
		0.4	
		1.0	
		2.1	
		0.1	
		1.5	
		(1.1)	
		(0.2)	
		(0.6)	
		(0.9)	
		(0.0)	
		0.7	
		(0.4)	
		(0.4)	
		1.2	
		(0.3)	

☒ CO PT's ☐ Temp
☒ CED ☐ GS PT
☐ Shared Management Adj.

Current Staffing Equivalent

Rank	Dist.	FIPS	County	Total*
43	3	19065	Harrison	6.00
44	7	19087	Henry	4.25
45	2	19089	Howard	6.00
46	1	19091	Humboldt	5.00
47	3	19093	Ida	5.00
48	4	19095	Iowa	5.00
49	5	19097	Jackson	6.00
50	4	19099	Jasper	5.00
51	7	19107	Jefferson	5.00
52	5	19103	Johnson	6.00
53	5	19105	Jones	6.00
54	7	19107	Keokuk	6.00
55	1	19109	Kossuth	7.00
56	7	19111	Lee	4.50
57	5	19113	Linn	6.00
58	5	19115	Louisa	5.00
59	7	19117	Lucas	4.00
60	1	19119	Lyon	5.00
61	6	19121	Madison	5.00
62	7	19123	Mahaska	4.00
63	7	19125	Marion	5.00
64	4	19127	Marshall	6.00
65	6	19129	Mills	3.50
66	2	19131	Mitchell	5.00
67	3	19133	Monona	5.50
68	7	19135	Monroe	4.00
69	6	19137	Montgomery	4.50
70	5	19139	Muscatine	5.50
71	1	19141	O'Brien	6.00
72	1	19143	Osceola	4.00
73	6	19145	Page	5.50
74	1	19147	Palo Alto	5.00
75	1	19149	Plymouth	6.00
76	1	19151	Pocahontas	6.00
77	4	19153	Polk	6.00
78	3	19155	Pott.E	3.50
79	3	19156	Pott.W	3.50
80	4	19157	Poweshiek	6.00
81	6	19159	Ringgold	5.00
82	3	19161	Sac	6.00
83	5	19163	Scott	4.50
84	3	19165	Shelby	6.00
85	1	19167	Sioux	6.00
86	4	19169	Story	6.00
87	4	19171	Tama	6.50
88	6	19173	Taylor	6.00

2010

Work	Work Units/ Staff (FTE)	%	Staffing Share
856	143	121%	4.95
1,099	258	67%	6.35
954	159	109%	5.52
726	145	119%	4.20
629	126	137%	3.64
1,013	203	85%	5.86
1,013	169	102%	5.86
1,080	216	80%	6.24
984	197	88%	5.69
962	160	108%	5.56
1,020	170	102%	5.89
1,211	202	86%	7.00
1,330	190	91%	7.69
784	174	99%	4.53
982	164	106%	5.68
677	135	128%	3.92
618	155	112%	3.58
718	144	121%	4.15
754	151	115%	4.36
1,028	257	67%	5.94
835	167	104%	4.83
837	140	124%	4.84
657	188	92%	3.80
704	141	123%	4.07
668	121	142%	3.86
630	157	110%	3.64
681	151	114%	3.94
724	132	131%	4.18
779	130	133%	4.50
641	160	108%	3.71
964	175	99%	5.57
932	186	93%	5.39
905	151	115%	5.23
975	162	106%	5.64
605	101	172%	3.50
691	197	88%	3.99
589	168	103%	3.41
893	149	116%	5.16
792	158	109%	4.58
799	133	130%	4.62
601	134	129%	3.48
865	144	120%	5.00
1,095	182	95%	6.33
967	161	107%	5.59
1,283	197	88%	7.42
890	148	117%	5.15

3-Year Average
2008, 2009, 2010

Work	Work Units/ Staff (FTE)	%	Staffing Share
910	152	120%	5.0
1,133	267	68%	6.2
1,039	173	105%	5.7
754	151	120%	4.2
652	130	139%	3.6
1,047	209	87%	5.8
1,083	180	101%	6.0
1,104	221	82%	6.1
1,018	204	89%	5.6
1,032	172	106%	5.7
1,050	175	104%	5.8
1,277	213	85%	7.0
1,409	201	90%	7.8
817	182	100%	4.5
1,026	171	106%	5.6
712	142	127%	3.9
657	164	111%	3.6
752	150	121%	4.1
774	155	117%	4.3
1,080	270	67%	5.9
869	174	104%	4.8
857	143	127%	4.7
678	194	94%	3.7
758	152	120%	4.2
713	130	140%	3.9
679	170	107%	3.7
724	161	113%	4.0
779	142	128%	4.3
799	133	136%	4.4
664	166	109%	3.7
1,002	182	100%	5.5
978	196	93%	5.4
958	160	114%	5.3
1,026	171	106%	5.6
631	105	173%	3.5
719	206	88%	4.0
615	176	103%	3.4
927	155	118%	5.1
834	167	109%	4.6
853	142	128%	4.7
619	138	132%	3.4
897	150	121%	4.9
1,133	189	96%	6.2
1,006	168	108%	5.5
1,453	223	81%	8.0
965	161	113%	5.3

Over or Under

CED Vacancy

1.0
(2.0)
0.3
0.8
1.4
(0.8)
0.0
(1.1)
(0.6)
0.3
0.2
(1.0)
(0.8)
(0.0)
0.4
1.1
0.4
0.9
0.7
(1.9)
0.2
1.3
(0.2)
0.8
1.6
0.3
0.5
1.2
1.6
0.3
(0.0)
(0.4)
0.7
0.4
2.5
(0.5)
0.1
0.9
0.4
1.3
1.1
(0.2)
0.5
(1.5)
0.7

☒ CO PTs ☐ Temp
☒ CED ☐ GS PT
☐ Shared Management Adj.

Current Staffing Equivalent			2010			
Rank	Dist.	FIPS	County	Total*	Work	Staffing Share
89	6	19175	Union	2.00	667	334
90	7	19177	VanBuren	3.00	704	235
91	7	19179	Wapello	4.00	740	185
92	6	19181	Warren	6.00	917	153
93	7	19183	Washington	6.00	1,472	245
94	6	19185	Wayne	4.00	780	195
95	4	19187	Webster	6.00	1,184	197
96	2	19189	Winneshieago	4.00	681	170
97	2	19191	Winneshiek	6.00	1,463	244
98	3	19193	Woodbury	7.00	877	125
99	2	19195	Worth	4.00	628	157
100	2	19197	Wright	6.00	1,031	172
Total				521.50	88,390	169
Work Units/Staff					172.98	102%
						511.00

3-Year Average 2008, 2009, 2010							
Work	Work Units/ Staff (FTE)	%	Staffing Share	Work	Work Units/ Staff (FTE)	%	Staffing Share
697	349	52%	3.8	759	253	72%	4.2
775	194	94%	4.3	996	166	109%	5.5
1,542	257	71%	8.5	831	208	87%	4.6
1,230	205	89%	6.8	727	182	100%	4.0
1,547	258	70%	8.5	941	134	135%	5.2
665	166	109%	3.7	1,041	174	105%	5.7
92,817	178	102%	511.0	181.64			

Over or Under	
(1.8)	CED Vacancy
(1.2)	
(0.3)	
0.5	
(2.5)	
(0.6)	
(0.8)	CED Vacancy
(0.0)	
(2.5)	
1.8	
0.3	
0.3	
10.5	

* The Current Staffing Equivalent comes from the Input tab. It includes all CO employees plus the adjustment for CO performing FLP work and GS performing Farm Program work.

2012 Target Non-Federal Ceiling =	517.0
Minus Current COTs =	-6
Balance of FTEs to Distribute to County Offices =	511.0

Work #s Work Units/Staff
 88,390 172.98
 92,817 181.64

CO Personnel On Board =	529
Minus ceiling COTs =	-5
One non-ceiling COT	1
	525
Minus Target Ceiling	-517
Over on Funded Ceiling	8

Staffing Updated		12/06/11	Staffing			
District	FIPS	County	CO-PT FTE's Contributed to FP	CED Contribution	CO FTEs Contributing to FLP	GS FTEs Contributing to FP
6	19001	Adair	4.00	1.00		
6	19003	Adams	3.00			
2	19005	Allamakee	5.00	1.00		
7	19007	Appanoose	1.00	1.00		
3	19009	Audubon	4.00	1.00		
4	19011	Benton	5.00	1.00		
4	19013	Black Hawk	4.00	1.00		
4	19015	Boone	4.00	1.00		
2	19017	Bremner	4.00	1.00		
5	19019	Buchanan	5.00	1.00		
1	19021	Buena Vista	4.00	1.00		
2	19023	Butler	6.00	1.00		
3	19025	Calhoun	4.00	1.00		
3	19027	Carroll	5.00	1.00		
6	19029	Cass	4.00	1.00		
5	19031	Cedar	5.00	1.00		
2	19033	Cerro Gordo	4.00	1.00		
1	19035	Cherokee	5.00	1.00		
2	19037	Chickasaw	5.00	1.00		
6	19039	Clarke	3.00	1.00		
1	19041	Clay	4.00	1.00		
5	19043	Clayton	4.00	1.00		
5	19045	Clinton	5.00	1.00		
3	19047	Crawford	5.00	1.00		
4	19049	Dallas	4.00	1.00		
7	19051	Davis	3.00	1.00	-0.75	1.00
6	19053	Decatur	5.00	1.00	-1.25	
5	19055	Delaware	5.00	1.00		1.00
7	19057	Des Moines	4.00	1.00		
1	19059	Dickinson	4.00	1.00		
5	19061	Dubuque	5.00	1.00		
1	19063	Emmet	4.00	1.00		
5	19065	Fayette	7.00	1.00		
2	19067	Floyd	5.00	1.00		
2	19069	Franklin	4.00	1.00		
6	19071	Fremont	3.00	0.50		
3	19073	Greene	4.00	1.00		
4	19075	Grundy	4.00	1.00	-0.25	
3	19077	Guhrrie	5.00	1.00		
2	19079	Hamilton	4.00	1.00		
2	19081	Hancock	5.00	1.00		
4	19083	Hardin	4.00	1.00		
3	19085	Harrison	5.00	1.00		
7	19087	Henry	4.00	0.50	-0.75	0.50
2	19089	Howard	5.00	1.00		
1	19091	Humboldt	4.00	1.00		
3	19093	Ida	4.00	1.00		

Years to Include in Average Calcula									
Final Year Selected will constitute the "Current Year"									
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009			
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒			

Updated		9/20/11	Origin of Codes Use	
Co-Efficient			ACRE Benchmark + Actual +	
ACRE	0.13		DCP	
DCP	0.02		Not used - spi	
BLANK4	0		Not used - spi	
BLANK3	0		WI 367	
SURE	0.28		WI 160	
MAL	0.39		Not used - spi	
BLANK2	0		WI 1501, 1	
FSFL (New)	2.31		WI 11	
FSFL (Existing)	0.07		WI 302	
TRACTS	0.01		Not used - spi	
MILC	0		WI 526, 15% of 527, 528, W	
CRP	0.21		W	
Recons	0.06		W	
POLYGONS	0.01		Not used - spi	
GRP	0		Not used - spi	
Admin	0		Not used - spi	
Blank	0		Not used - spi	
PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY	0.16		WI 339, 10%	
New CRP	0.49		WI 525, 527,	

4	19095	Iowa	4.00	1.00		
5	19097	Jackson	5.00	1.00		
4	19099	Jasper	4.00	1.00		
7	19101	Jefferson	4.00	1.00		
5	19103	Johnson	5.00	1.00		
5	19105	Jones	5.00	1.00		
7	19107	Keokuk	5.00	1.00		
1	19109	Kossuth	6.00	1.00		
7	19111	Lee	4.00	0.50		
5	19113	Linn	5.00	1.00		
5	19115	Louisa	4.00	1.00		
7	19117	Lucas	3.00	1.00		
1	19119	Lyon	4.00	1.00		
6	19121	Madison	4.00	1.00		
7	19123	Mahaska	4.00			
7	19125	Marion	4.00	1.00		
4	19127	Marshall	5.00	1.00		
6	19129	Mills	3.00	0.50		
2	19131	Mitchell	4.00	1.00		
3	19133	Monona	5.00	1.00	-0.50	
7	19135	Monroe	3.00	1.00		
6	19137	Montgomery	4.00	1.00	-0.50	
5	19139	Muscatine	5.00	0.50		
1	19141	O'Brien	5.00	1.00		
1	19143	Osceola	3.00	1.00		
6	19145	Page	6.00	1.00	-1.50	
1	19147	Palo Alto	4.00	1.00		
1	19149	Plymouth	5.00	1.00		
1	19151	Pocahontas	5.00	1.00		
4	19153	Polk	5.00	1.00		
3	19155	Pott. E	3.00	0.50		
3	19156	Pott. W	3.00	0.50		
4	19157	Poweshiek	5.00	1.00		
6	19159	Ringgold	3.00	1.00		1.00
3	19161	Sac	5.00	1.00		
5	19163	Scott	4.00	0.50		
3	19165	Shelby	5.00	1.00		
1	19167	Sioux	5.00	1.00		
4	19169	Story	5.00	1.00		
4	19171	Tama	6.00	1.00	-0.50	
6	19173	Taylor	5.00	1.00		
6	19175	Union	2.00			
7	19177	VanBuren	2.00	1.00		
7	19179	Wapello	3.00	1.00		
6	19181	Warren	5.00	1.00		
7	19183	Washington	5.00	1.00		
6	19185	Wayne	3.00	1.00		
4	19187	Webster	6.00			
2	19189	Winnebago	3.00	1.00		
2	19191	Winneshek	5.00	1.00		
3	19193	Woodbury	6.00	1.00		
2	19195	Worth	3.00	1.00		
2	19197	Wright	5.00	1.00		

432.0	92.0
524	