



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm  
Service  
Agency

Rural  
Development

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

March 23, 2009

**KS FAC NOTICE: 2009-2**

**TO:** All Kansas CES, FSA, NRCS, and Rural Development and Conservation District Offices

**FROM:** State Food and Agriculture Council (FAC)

**SUBJECT:** Conduct in USDA Service Centers

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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees are frequently the only federal Civil Service employees in the city and county in which they are employed. As such, we create the professional image of the federal government by our personal conduct and behavior. The level of trust, respect, and cooperation our serviced clientele grants us is directly impacted by their assessment of our words and actions.

Conversations regarding our official duties and our personal opinions when offered during hours of duty, or in the USDA Service Centers, represent our employing agencies, the USDA, and the executive branch of the United States of America. Discourteous and negative comments regarding clients, co-workers, elected officials, and the public are not appropriate in a USDA Service Center, off-site meeting, or anywhere else that USDA employees conduct the business of the United States Government. Such comments reflect poorly on us and our agencies—even when the recipient appears to be a willing listener or appears to agree with the comment.

President Truman stated:

“The maintenance of unusually high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and conduct by Government employees . . . is essential to assure the proper performance of the Government business and the maintenance of confidence by citizens in their Government.”

His statement was true half a century ago and is true today. All persons, federal employees, state employees, contractors, and volunteers are requested to conduct themselves in a professional manner that supports the accomplishment of the Government’s business.

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Acting State Executive Director  
Farm Service Agency

DARLA J. BUCKMAN  
Acting State Director  
Rural Development

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources  
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