

By Jan Rahn

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According to recent news released by the United States Postal Service, hours at some rural post offices through the country could be reduced as plans move forward to cut costs.

Several post offices in western Nebraska could be affected by a proposal to cut hours of operation.

In Perkins County, The post offices in Venango, Madrid and Elsie could be cut to four hours of operation. Wallace Post Office in Lincoln County is also on the list for four-hour operation.

According to Brian Sperry, spokesperson for the USPS, a survey will be circulated in communities that might be affected.

In order to give residents a chance to voice their opinion, public meetings will be held over the next two years in those rural communities.

The survey gives residents four options. They include: 1) keep the post office open and reduce hours of operation, 2) establish curbside pickup, 3) place a post office in a local business, or 4) establish box service at a post office in a nearby community.

Letters and surveys will be sent out 30 days prior to the community meeting, according to Sperry. A schedule of meetings for the postal patrons in Venango, Madrid, Elsie and Wallace has not been released.