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New Service Center Open At Wagoner

WAGONER — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's new agricultural service center, the pilot facility for hundreds which the USDA hopes to establish nationally, was formally dedicated here Saturday morning.

Efficiency Cited

The service center will consolidate the county offices of the Agricultural Stabilization Committee, the Soil Conservation Service and the Farmers Home Administration, a concept first proposed by Sunday Oklahoman agri-business columnist Ferdie Deering in a book published 21 years ago by the University of Oklahoma Press.

In his book, "USDA, Manager of American Agriculture," Deering cited the cost-saving efficiency of such a consolidation plan, as well

as the time-saving advantages to the farmer.

Sen. Henry Bellmon presented a letter to Deering from Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz at Saturday's dedication, crediting him with the impetus for the service center project.

"Your contributions to agriculture have been outstanding and your leadership has borne fine results," Butz wrote.

Movement 'Fast'

"Thirty-one years may seem like a long time in Oklahoma for an idea to become a reality, but in Washington that's moving pretty fast," Bellmon told a gathering of several hundred persons attending the 10 a.m. dedication.

Also participating in the program were Joseph Wright, a Tulsa native now assistant secretary for administration with the USDA in Washington, and Harold V. Hunter, Stillwater, state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service director.

Wright

from

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