

**2018 NATIONAL RURAL MAIL COUNT  
STAND-UP TALK**

In accordance with Article 9.2.C.3.a.(2) of the 2015-2018 National Agreement between the United States Postal Service and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, a national mail count will be conducted for twelve (12) working days beginning February 24 and ending March 9, 2018, for all routes except those routes which both the regular carrier or rural carrier associate (Designation Code 79) and management agree in writing not to count.

All vacant regular routes with no regular carrier assigned as of February 9, 2018, will be scheduled for the national rural mail count and no option election is available.

During the period from January 22 through February 2, 2018, regular rural carriers or rural carrier associate (Designation Code 79) wishing to exercise their option out election should request a copy of the "2018 National Rural Mail Count Option Out Election Form" from their manager, complete the form, and return it to their manager no later than COB February 2, 2018. A copy of the completed form will be returned to the carrier as soon as practicable but no later than February 9, 2018.

Local management will provide a completed copy of a "2018 National Rural Mail Count Option Out Election Form" to each rural carrier during the period from January 22 through February 9, 2018. If the carrier is unavailable during this time period, a copy of the form will be provided upon the carrier's return to the office.

In order to ensure that all rural carriers are fully aware of these procedures for the 2018 national rural mail count, this stand-up talk will be posted on the office bulletin board.