

COMMUNITY FACTS AINSWORTH, NEBRASKA

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MAY 2006

POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2004 Est.</u>
Ainsworth	1,862	1,776
Brown County	3,525	3,430
Labor Market*	13,707	13,239

*Includes Brown County and contiguous counties

Economic Development Department
Nebraska Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
www.nppd.com
sites.nppd.com

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INTRODUCTION

The following pages contain basic information about Ainsworth, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the North Central Development Center, Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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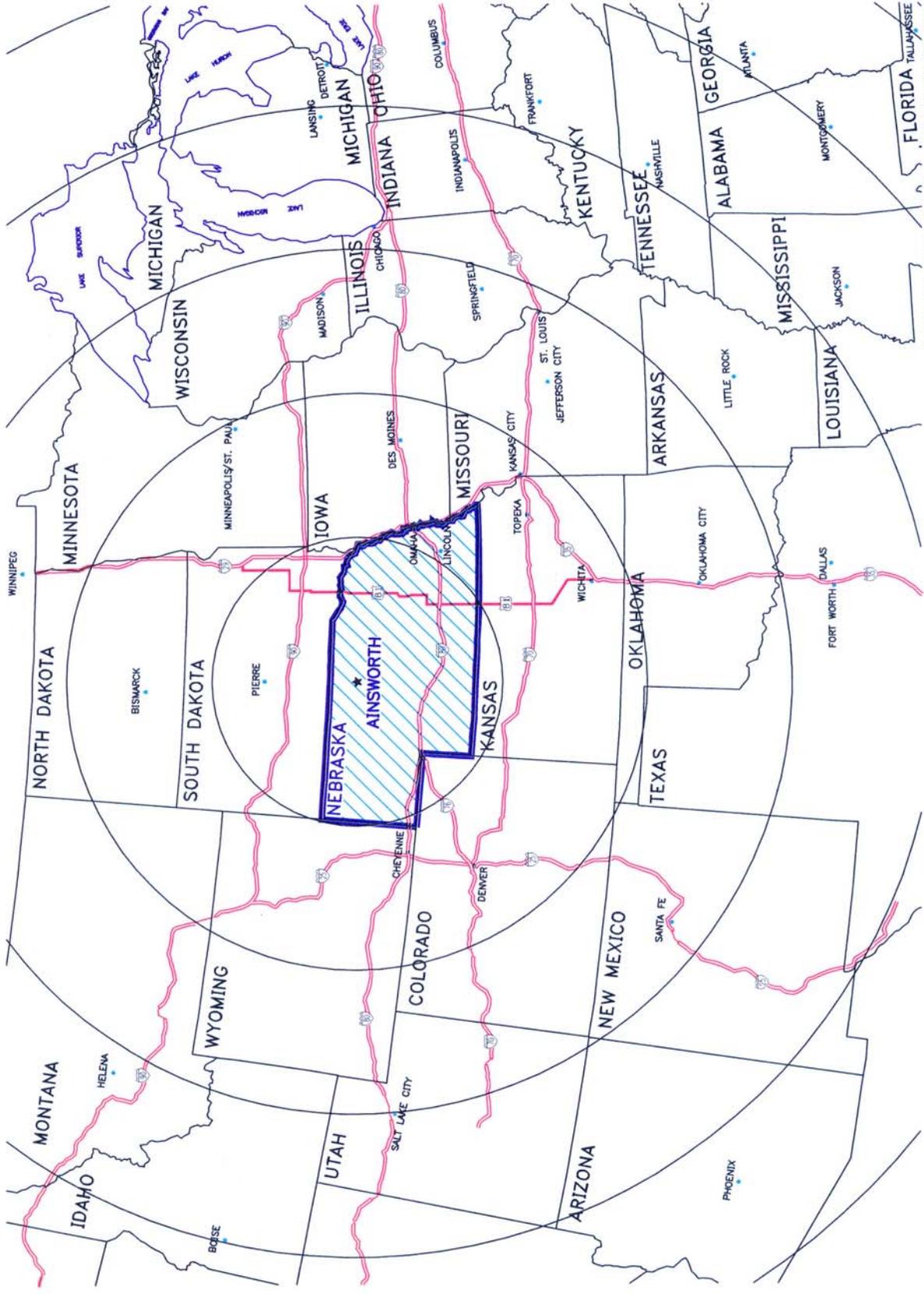
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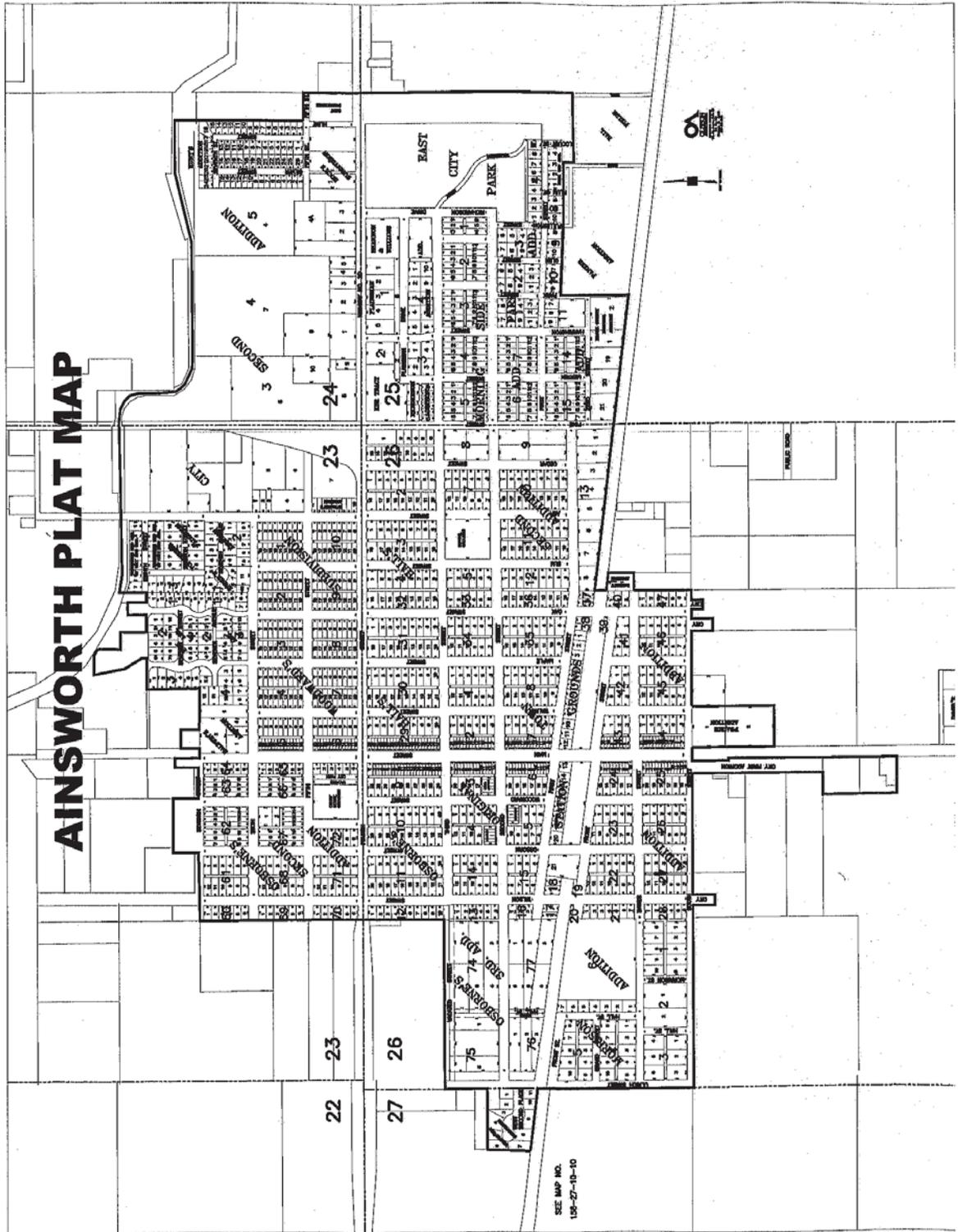
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

AINSWORTH PLAT MAP



SEE MAP NO.
135-27-10-10

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Ainsworth, the county seat of Brown County, is located in north-central Nebraska. U.S. Highway 20 and State Highway 7 intersect in Ainsworth. Ainsworth is approximately 191 miles from Sioux City, 282 miles from Omaha, and 429 miles from Denver.

POPULATION (U.S. Census)

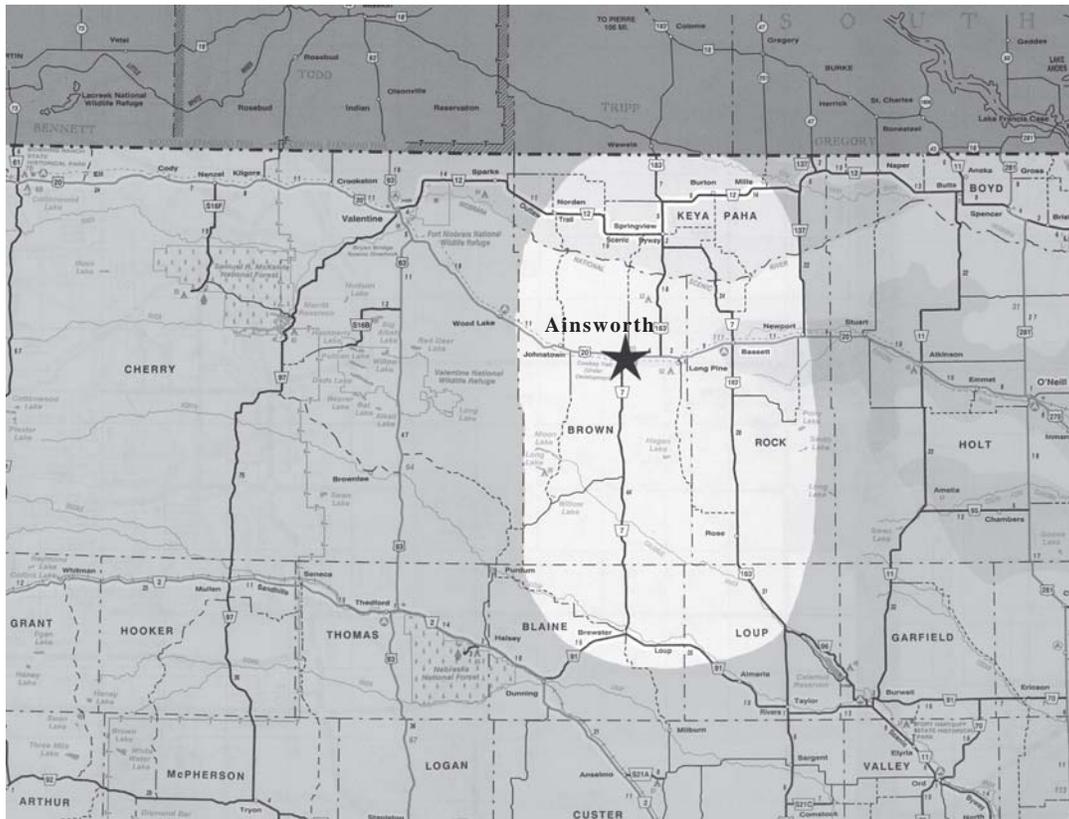
Year	Ainsworth	Brown County
1970	2,073	4,021
1980	2,256	4,377
1990	1,870	3,657
2000	1,862	3,525
2004 (Est.)	1,776	3,430

Brown County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000 U.S. Census

One race	3,503
White	3,477
Black or African American	1
American Indian and Alaska Native	7
Asian	9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1
Some other race	8
Two or more races	22
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	29

The 2004 U.S. Census estimates 13,239 people live within Brown County and the contiguous Nebraska counties of Blaine, Cherry, Keya Paha, Loup, and Rock.

People in the Ainsworth area who are fluent in a second language include four in Spanish, two in French, two in German, one in Korean, and one in Japanese.



Primary Retail Trade Area

LOCAL ECONOMY

Basic economic activities of Ainsworth, a county seat town, are cattle feeding, ranching, farming, retailing, and tourism.

The primary retail trade area extends approximately 19 miles northwest, 34 miles north, 26 miles east, and 46 miles south and contains an estimated 4,480 people. Retail firms in Ainsworth reported 2004 net taxable retail sales of \$23,403,488 while Brown County reported retail sales of \$25,417,667. Wholesale firms in the community distribute concrete, corrals, steel buildings, feed, and supplies.

Changes in the local economy since 2000 include the Residences, new housing duplexes; Cottonwood Villa, an assisted living center; and Dollar General Store. A new community center, built in 2001, is home to city offices, a conference room, kitchen, walking track, exercise room, and gymnasium. Two cemeteries received a face-lift in 2001—new fences were installed, trees were removed, and a directory was created. Technogent/Your Selling Team, a California-based sales and marketing support company, opened in 2003 with 60 new jobs. Mid-America Land and Realty opened for business in 2004, and an Alco store opened in 2005.

Nebraska Public Power District constructed a 36-unit wind energy facility six miles south of Ainsworth. The facility began operations in late 2005. Each of the 36 turbines are capable of generating 1.65 megawatts of energy. The site was selected for its excellent wind speeds, transmission availability, and topography.

In July 2005, Governor David Heineman awarded Ainsworth a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant to help build an 8,200 square foot building to serve as the new fire and rescue station. The building will accommodate all fire and ambulance equipment and support personnel, in addition to providing space for a training area and kitchen. Ainsworth and Brown County will share operations, maintenance, and responsibilities for operating the new station. Fire protection for Brown County is provided by the Ainsworth and Long Pine fire departments and Brown County Rural Fire Department.

ELEVATION

Ainsworth is 2,518 feet above sea level.

TOPOGRAPHY

Typical of the Great Plains region of the central United States, land surfaces are nearly level to gently undulating. Along the river valleys are steep slopes, canyons, and gullies.

Areas of Brown County south of U.S. Highway 20 and the areas north of U.S. Highway 20 west of Plum Creek are mostly rolling and hilly sandhills and nearly level valleys that have a seasonal high water table. The soils formed in sandy eolian or alluvial material are mostly deep and sandy. The areas north of U. S. Highway 20 east of Plum Creek generally are nearly level tableland and bottomland and very steep canyons.

Soils in Brown County include Valentine, Simeon-Valentine, Valentine-Els-Tryon, Valentine-Els-I page, Loup-Els-Tryon, Johnstown-Jansen, Jansen-O'Neill-Meadin, Valentine-O'Neill-Pivot, Valentine-Ronson-Tassel, McKelvie-Tassel-Ronson, and Labu-Sansarc-Almeria associations. The infiltration rates of surface soils are moderately rapid; however, soils have sufficient water-holding capacity and natural fertility for excellent production under irrigation. The Niobrara and North Loup rivers and their tributaries drain Brown County.

HISTORY

The Ed Cook and Dr. George Towar families established a ranch near Bone Creek in 1873. In 1879 they hired Nannie J. Osborne as cook and housekeeper. As head of a household, she also filed for a land patent and received title to 160 acres. Located along the railroad right-of-way, Ms. Osborne platted the land into lots in 1883 with building sites provided for the First Congregational Church and the United Methodist Church.

Nannie Osborne was an astute business woman, seemingly far ahead of the times. She filed a deed in Osborne's 2nd Addition, designating one full block as "Courthouse Block." The county was

organized and Ainsworth was named as the seat of government. A marker was dedicated in her honor by the Brown County Historical Society in 1981.

Ainsworth was named for Captain James E. Ainsworth, the chief construction engineer of the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad, who arrived at the town site in June 1882. Pioneers were pushing west, setting up shops and businesses. Many also filed for homesteads on the free land, claiming 160 acres under provisions that certain improvements be made.

Ainsworth was the site of Brown County's special commissioners meeting in 1883. Brown County, bordered on the north by the Niobrara River, was established by the Legislature on February 19, 1883, and originally included what is now Rock and Keya Paha counties. The county was named for two members of the Legislature by the name of Brown, who carried the bill to organize the county.

The new town continued to grow. By 1885 the town covered nearly 30 blocks, and Main Street was crowded with shops.

A two-story, red-brick grade school, built in 1884, served three generations in many families before being torn down in 1955. A gray cement high school was built in 1910. These buildings have been replaced over the years by a new grade school, a new high school, the "Learning Center addition," and a gymnasium.

Churches were formed even before the town was established, starting with the Methodist in 1881, Congregational-United Church of Christ in 1883, and Lutheran in 1893. Eight other denominations have been added—Assembly of God, Berean Parkside, Catholic, Church of the Nazarene, Baptist, New Apostolic, Jehovah Witnesses, and Evangelical Free.

The first courthouse was completed in 1888 and served the county until Easter morning 1958 when it was destroyed by fire. Most of the records, locked in vaults, were saved. A new Brown County Courthouse was dedicated on June 12, 1960.

During World War II, Ainsworth was the site of a 2,496 acre air base that trained crews flying B-17s, P-38s, and P-47s. After the war, the airfield was turned over to the city. The 50th anniversary of the air base was celebrated in July 1992.

Merritt Dam, 72 miles from Ainsworth, was dedicated in 1964 and provides irrigation to 34,500 acres of farmland north and east of Ainsworth. To the south and west of town are the beautiful Sandhills, covered with many different grasses, wild flowers, and shrubs.

An active historical society maintains the Coleman Farmhouse and helped gain recognition of the Lakeland School house used during the Depression years from 1934–41; it was the only known sod high school in the nation. A book, *Pioneer Stories of Brown, Keya Paha, and Rock Counties*, published in 1980 and edited by Shirley Marie Skinner, was also a project of the Brown County Historical Society. The city of Ainsworth maintains the Sellors Cabin, donated by Elizabeth Sellors Deer. A new addition to the museum was completed 1993 and is known as the Barton Addition in honor of a pioneer family.

The town and the schools have kept pace with the times. The old windmill and water towers have given way to the new; the original hospital site is now apartments; and a modern county clinic and hospital were built. A new senior center provides for many of the social and physical needs of the community's citizens. North Central Development Center, which also houses a technology center, has brought the city of Ainsworth, as well as Brown County, into the "technology age."

In 2000 Ainsworth won first place for Public Works from the Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) and won overall second place in its Class IV division. In addition to being named Community of the 21st Century by the NCIP in 2001, Ainsworth was presented the Governor's Showcase Community Award for demonstrating exceptional capacity during the prior 10 years by Governor Mike Johannes. In 2002 Ainsworth received a Class IV Special Award from the NCIP for its arts and humanities and a Class IV Special Award for its tourism promotion and development in 2003.



Downtown Ainsworth



North Central Development Center and Ainsworth Area Chamber of Commerce

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Ainsworth Ready-Mix Inc. 1965	Concrete feed bunks & silos	Local	3 1*	0	None
Buckley Steel Construction 1976	CNC machining, tool & die products	National	3	1	None
Dan-D Manufacturing 1994	Metal fabrication	Local	3	1	None
Daniels Manufacturing, Co. 1958	Agricultural equipment	National	12	3	None
Farmers Ranchers Co-Op 1931	Livestock feed farm/ ranch supplies, appliances & auto repair	Regional	62	25	None

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 10 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
ALCO	Discount center	6 Total 18 *		None
Ainsworth Care Center	Nursing care	2 1*	33 15*	None
Ainsworth City Schools	Education	19 3*	51	NSEA
Ainsworth Feed Yard Company	Feeder livestock	35 4*	9 1*	None
Brown County	Government	17 22*	14 18*	None
Brown County Hospital	Medical	50 Total 21*		None
Chevrolet Olds Inc.	Automobile sales, renting, repair & parts supply	9	1	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
City of Ainsworth	Government	7 2*	3 2*	IBEW
		12 Seasonal		
Commercial National Bank	Financial	4 1 *	10	None
Comfort Inn	Lodging	0	1 15*	None
Nebraska Department of Agriculture	Government	3	5 2*	None
Nebraska Department of Roads	Government	20 1*	5	NAPE
First National Bank	Financial	4	8 5*	None
H & R Food Store	Grocery	4 12*	8 2*	None
		2 Seasonal		
KBR Rural Public Power District	Electric utility	14 2*	2	None
Niobrara Valley Equipment	Farm/ranch supplies	16 2*	1 1*	None
Pizza Hut	Restaurant	2 9*	3 6*	None
Rolling Stone Feedlot	Commercial feedlot	8 4*	2 2*	None
Subway	Restaurant	2 3*	2 3*	None
Super 8 Motel	Lodging	1 1*	2 6*	None
Technologent/Your Selling Team	Computer service	8	46 1*	None
The Depot	Restaurant	1 2*	7	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Union</u>
United States Post Office	Government	4	1	APWU/
		2*	5*	NALC

*Part-time and/or seasonal

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The North Central Development Center, Central Nebraska Economic Development District, Brown County Foundation, Ainsworth Area Chamber of Commerce, and Brown County Development work with the city for industrial development in the area.

In 1993 six local entities formed the North Central Development Center to serve as the economic development office for north-central Nebraska. Funds are generated from annual dues from city and county governments, as well as grants. The center, operated by an executive director, has become an information office providing business development, chamber of commerce, and visitor information. Currently, seven entities and three at-large members support the center, including area cities and villages, counties, schools, and chambers of commerce.

Ainsworth Area Chamber of Commerce is comprised of approximately 150 members. The chamber's mission is to enhance the economic activities and improve the quality of life by providing assistance, leadership, and direction to the area. The Chamber works in conjunction with a retail-trade organization as well as Northeast Community College in Norfolk and is a resource for visitors and residents, with a vast amount of tourism brochures available.

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District is a 15-county regional development organization that encourages cooperation between local government officials, community-based organizations, and the private sector. The district provides the link between federal and state programs and the local level where development occurs.

The Brown County Foundation was established in 1995. This foundation was organized to receive all gifts and memorials and disburse the monies to allowable activities within the area. These projects are selected by the Foundation's advisory board.

Brown County Development, Inc., established in 1982, is a group of local investors designed for area development. The organization donated a building to a new business that came to Ainsworth in 2003.

Approximately 500 acres of land in and adjacent to Ainsworth are zoned for industry. The price of industrially zoned land ranges from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre.

INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE

Click here to go to Nebraska Public Power District's [searchable sites and building database](#).



Buckley Steel Construction



Dan-D Manufacturing



Daniels Manufacturing Co.



Farmers Ranchers Co-Op

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Ainsworth labor market which is defined as the whole of Brown County and the total labor market consisting of Brown County and the contiguous counties of Blaine, Cherry, Keya Paha, Loup, and Rock (annual average, 2005):

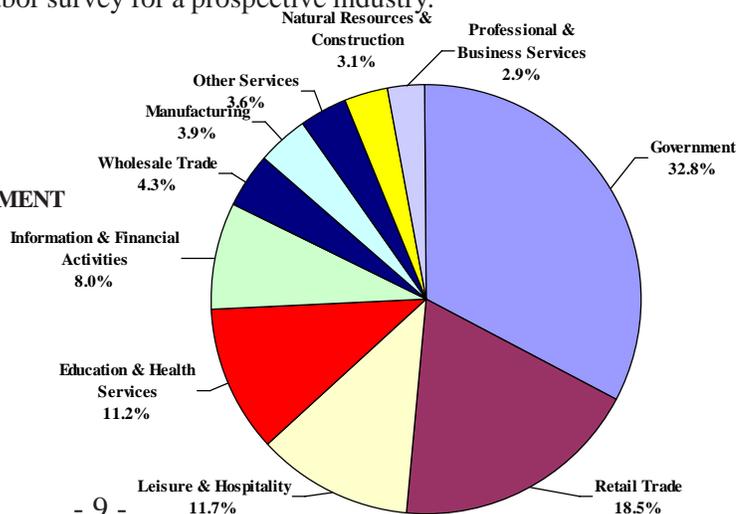
<u>Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)</u>	<u>Brown County</u>	<u>Total</u>
Goods-Producing	84	4,173
Manufacturing	47	(D)
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	37	(D)
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	302	4,951
Wholesale Trade	51	(D)
Retail Trade	222	(D)
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	28	(D)
Information	(D)	(D)
Financial Activities	(D)	(D)
Professional & Business Services	35	(D)
Education & Health Services	134	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	140	(D)
Other Services	43	(D)
Government	394	4,075
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	1,200	20,889
Farm Employment*	432	2,295
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	1,833	26,128
B. Commuting Out of County	171	N/A
C. Unemployment	63	1,091
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	1,896	27,220
D. Estimated number of homemakers, seasonal and part-time workers, and workers who would shift from low-paying jobs who could be expected to work for industry	120	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	50	
TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	404	

(D) Data withheld because of disclosure suppression

*Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2002

Ainsworth is willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industry.

**NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BROWN COUNTY
ANNUAL AVERAGE, 2005**

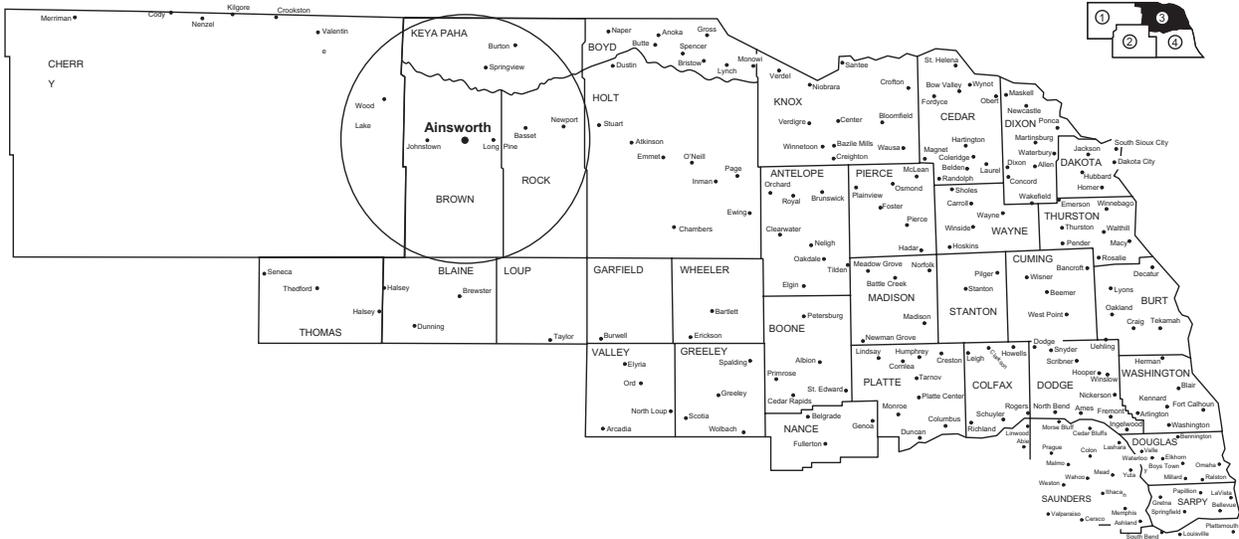


Location	2000 POPULATION DATA					Median Household Effective Buying Income (2005)
	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
Brown Co.	2.9	22.5	43.1	83.3	17.2	\$28,692
Nebraska	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$36,910
U.S.	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$39,324

Brown County had 2,541 eligible voters in 2004; 70.0 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, www.census.gov
 Sales and Marketing Management, 2005
 Statewide General Election 2004 Results, www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE AINSWORTH AREA



POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2004 Estimate		
City of Ainsworth	—	1,776
Brown County	—	3,430
30-Mile Radius	—	6,064

Brown County Population by Age/Gender, 2004		
Ages	Male	Female
18–24	159	142
25–44	341	359
45–64	461	473

UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right-to-work provision in its constitution. In 2004, 10.8 percent of Nebraska's manufacturing workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 12.9 percent. Union membership in Nebraska is concentrated in the railroad and packinghouse industries.

Labor organizations operating in Ainsworth:

Company	Union
Ainsworth City Government	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Ainsworth School District	Nebraska State Education Association
Nebraska Department of Roads	Nebraska Association of Public Employees
Nebraska Health and Human Services	American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees
Kinder Morgan	Communications Workers of America
Qwest	Communications Workers of America
United States Post Office	American Postal Workers Union National Association of Letter Carriers

It is estimated that less than 1 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Ainsworth is unionized. There have been no known strikes during the last ten years.

WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Professional			
Accountants & Auditors	15.57	22.56	35.02
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	18.28	27.14	35.34
Electrical Engineers*	21.27	34.33	50.30
Industrial Engineers	18.40	26.56	36.45
Mechanical Engineers	18.52	25.55	34.71
Computer Programmers	13.48	24.59	34.87
Computer Systems Analysts	18.80	34.20	53.53
Registered Nurses	15.93	21.48	27.75
Retail			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.05	8.04	9.46
Retail Salespersons	6.02	8.15	16.39
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.27	11.47	19.10
Driver/Sales Workers	6.02	9.28	21.81
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.44	9.42	13.80
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	7.91	12.75	17.07

*Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Clerical			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	7.87	10.98	16.31
Customer Service Representatives	6.29	9.38	14.74
Data Entry Keyers	7.56	10.50	13.64
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.13	10.47	13.87
Office Clerks, General	6.34	9.25	13.51
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.77	9.41	11.66
Telemarketers	6.84	8.23	10.53
Unskilled			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	7.02	10.42	13.44
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.01	9.62	13.18
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	8.99	11.69	13.88
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	7.44	9.62	12.17
Semi-Skilled			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.59	11.90	14.73
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.50	14.68	21.10
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	11.85	17.00	21.23
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	11.38	13.78	17.45
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	9.61	11.69	17.06
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.*	9.54	12.52	16.18
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	10.32	12.63	15.27
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.*	8.63	11.03	14.95
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	8.77	12.66	16.97
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	10.09	14.84	17.33
Skilled			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	7.05	11.86	24.57
Electricians	12.69	17.87	21.57
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	12.30	16.10	21.21
Machinists	10.08	13.56	17.63
Tool & Die Makers	15.60	19.41	22.87
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.29	12.95	17.61
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters*	10.54	13.38	17.83
Technical			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	11.10	24.17	33.30
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	14.26	20.20	27.12
Computer Operators	9.64	13.23	20.83

*Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Fourth Quarter 2005 wage estimates, All Industries, Northeast Region, www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiwages/toc000.htm

Local production workers are paid on a straight time basis.

FRINGE BENEFITS

Fringe benefits range from 15 to 20 percent of wages.



Nebraska Historical Marker



Scenes from Brown County



Tubing in Long Pine Creek



Scenes from the Niobrara River

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

The nearest rail service is provided by BNSF Railway Company, which runs east-west along Highway 2, 59 miles south of Ainsworth. Nebraska Northeastern Railway Company, runs a spur east-west from O'Neill, 65 miles east of Ainsworth, to Sioux City, Iowa.

MOTOR

Highways

Ainsworth is located on east-west U.S. Highway 20 and north-south Nebraska Highway 7. Interstate 90 in South Dakota is 114 miles north and Interstate 80 is 150 miles south of Ainsworth. Both interstates run east-west. The nearest four-lane highway is north-south U.S. Highway 81 in Norfolk, 141 miles east of Ainsworth.

The Nebraska Department of Roads 2006–2010 program, includes resurfacing 13.4 miles on U.S. Highway 183, five miles east of Ainsworth, at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	277
Omaha	282
Chicago	717
Dallas	816
Denver	429
Detroit	983
Kansas City	468
Los Angeles	1,441
Minneapolis	514
New York	1,491
St. Louis	719
San Francisco	1,557
Sioux City	191

Trucklines

There are 8,000 licensed motor carriers based in Nebraska with connections around the world to serve businesses in Ainsworth.

Brown Transfer Company has a terminal in Ainsworth.

Bus Line

K & S Express provides passenger and package delivery services with a 12-passenger minivan. One round trip is made weekly along U.S. Highway 20 from Norfolk to Chadron with stops in Ainsworth.

AIR

The Ainsworth Municipal Airport is located seven miles northwest of the city on U.S. Highway 20. The 2,500-acre facility has served the Sandhills for 55 years. The airport has two lighted concrete runways (6,824 feet and 5,501 feet), hangers, 100 low lead and jet fuel, beacon, windsock, tie downs, automated weather observation, remote communication outlets, instrument landing system, 50-foot by 50-foot helipad, and a VOR-DME facility. Nine private planes are hangared there. A \$3 million improvement project was recently completed at the airport. The elevation at the airport is 2,589 feet, the latitude is 42°34', and the longitude is 99°59'. For more information, log onto www.airnav.com/airport/kanw.

Commercial air service is available at the North Platte Regional Airport, 151 miles southwest, and the Central Nebraska Regional Airport near Grand Island, 178 miles southeast of Ainsworth. Passenger, air freight, and air express services are provided.

Airline serving these points:

Airline	Flights Daily	Destination
Grand Island		
Great Lakes Aviation	3	Denver
North Platte		
Great Lakes Aviation	3	Denver

WATER

Ainsworth has no nearby water transportation.



Ainsworth Municipal Airport

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

Ainsworth is provided retail electric service by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Service is supplied by a 34.5 kV substation with two incoming feeds at 34.5 kV and two outgoing feeds at a voltage of 7.2 kV. A 5 MW transformer supplies the community. These substations are tied into the statewide grid system.

A 36-unit wind energy facility began operations six miles south of Ainsworth in 2005. This facility, supported by a 115,000 kV substation, adds approximately 60 megawatts to NPPD's total generation.

BASE ELECTRIC RATES (effective 2/1/03)

Summer bills run from June – September.

Residential Service (electric water heat):

Customer Charge: \$13.00 per month	
Summer Winter	
8.51¢	6.26¢ per kWh for the first 750 kWh used per month
6.98¢	3.74¢ per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

General Service:

Customer Charge:	
Single Phase	\$15.00 per month
Three Phase	\$18.50 per month
Summer Winter	
9.72¢	7.56¢ per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month
7.75¢	5.62¢ per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month
7.75¢	5.02¢ per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

Commercial Electric Space Heating:

Customer Charge:	
Single Phase	\$27.50 per month
Three Phase	\$32.50 per month
Summer Winter	
8.40¢	5.17¢ per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.40¢	2.22¢ per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

General Service Demand:

Customer Charge:	
Single Phase	\$60.00 per month
Three Phase	\$70.00 per month
Summer Winter	
8.20¢	5.62¢ per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.25¢	2.35¢ per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations. This rate is also subject to various adders and discounts depending upon the customer's requirements, metering, etc.

NPPD has an off-peak and curtailable service rate available to qualifying customers.

Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Customer Billed ¢/kWh ¹
100	30,000	6.55
100	36,000	5.99
300	90,000	6.36
300	150,000	5.09
500	150,000	6.33
500	180,000	5.80

¹Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

High Tension Service*:

Customer Charge: \$250.00 per month			
Monthly Demand Charges (Base Rate charge per kW):			
Summer:	\$11.00 per kW of billing demand		
Winter:	\$ 6.00 per kW of billing demand		
Spring/Fall:	\$ 6.00 per kW of billing demand		
Monthly Energy Charges (Base Rate charge per kWh):			
Seasons	On-Peak	Mid-Peak	Off-Peak
Summer	4.77¢	3.78¢	3.03¢
Winter	2.57¢	2.06¢	1.48¢
Spring/Fall	2.44¢	N/A	1.48¢
Summer rate applies to the Customer's demand and energy use from July 1 through August 31.			
Winter rate applies to the Customer's demand and energy use from December 1 through March 31.			
Spring/Fall rate applies to the Customer's demand and energy use from April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through November 30.			

*Industries must take delivery at or be adjacent to a substation and own and maintain the primary dedicated line and any other facilities beyond the substation delivery point.

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

NPPD has several off-peak and curtailable service rates available to qualifying customers.

Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Customer Billed ¢/kWh ¹
150	30,000	7.46
150	100,000	4.08
500	100,000	6.79
500	300,000	4.02
1,000	200,000	6.65
1,000	650,000	3.87

¹Includes Lease Payment. Does not include Gross Revenue Tax.

The ¢/kWh cost is estimated using the following assumption concerning the distribution of electricity use during on-peak, mid-peak, and off-peak periods which are specified in the National Data Standards adopted by the International Economic Development Council.

Seasons	On-Peak %	Mid-Peak %	Off-Peak %
Summer	31.0	30.2	38.8
Winter	38.2	23.6	38.2
Spring/Fall	54.5	N/A	45.5

Prospective customers should contact Nebraska Public Power District, (877) ASK-NPPD or (877) 275-6773, www.nppd.com, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

The KBR Rural Public Power District, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District, serves the rural area surrounding Ainsworth. For more information regarding electrical services in the KBR Rural Public Power District service area, contact Rich Walters, manager, Ainsworth, Nebraska, (402) 387-1120, richkbr@threeriver.net, www.kbrpower.com.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is supplied and distributed to the community of Ainsworth by Kinder Morgan, Inc., through a four-inch transmission pipeline, with an operating pressure of approximately 800 pounds per square inch.

Kinder Morgan is also the distributor of natural gas within the community, serving approximately 710 residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Natural gas is available for residential and commercial uses. Availability of natural gas for industrial uses is subject to individual situations. As specific requirements of an industrial prospect become available, information on gas service availability and applicable rates can be obtained from Kinder Morgan's service center, (800) 563-0012.

OTHER FUELS

LP Gas

LP gas is available in Ainsworth at Farmers Ranchers Co-Op, Sandhill Oil Company of Thedford, Galyen Petroleum Company of Atkinson, and Murphy's Propane of Springview for all residential, commercial, and industrial uses and Madison's Great Western for residential and some commercial uses.

Oil

Oil is available in Ainsworth from Farmers Ranchers Co-Op, Sandhill Oil Company of Thedford and Galyen Petroleum of Atkinson for residential, commercial, and industrial uses and Madison's Great Western for residential and some commercial uses.

WATER

The municipal water system in Ainsworth is supplied by four wells, which have an average depth of 360 feet. The system, serving 100 percent of the population in Ainsworth, has a combined pumping capacity of 3,250 gallons per minute and

an overhead storage capacity of 400,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 441,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 1,502,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 5,080,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 54 pounds and the residual pressure is 50 pounds per square inch.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 400-foot well will produce 1,200 gallons of water per minute. The quality of water in Ainsworth does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly in the last five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 253. The average tap water temperature varies from 48° in winter to 54° in summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	6.2
Calcium	22
Total Solids	110
Magnesium	2
Iron	0.1
Nitrate	1.5
Manganese	1
Chloride	0.4
Fluoride	0.2
Sulfate	1
Total Alkalinity	1.8
Sodium	6
Total Hardness	253
Potassium	5

WATER RATES (effective 6/02)

A connection fee of \$90.00 is charged for new water service.

Residential:

Base Fee: \$9.00 per month
\$1.25 per 1,000 gallons/mo. for the first 10,000 gallons used per month
\$1.35 per 1,000 gallons/mo. in excess of 10,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$9.00 per month

Commercial & Industrial:

Rates based upon usage

In 2004 a new well was constructed and fire hydrants, valves, and water lines were replaced. The project was financed with a state revolving loan fund through the Department of Environmental Quality.

SEWERAGE

Ainsworth has a municipal sanitary sewerage system. The sequencing batch reactor sewerage treatment plant was built in 1993. The system has a daily capacity of 270,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 140,000 gallons and the historic peak daily discharge is 500,000 gallons.

SEWER-USE CHARGES (effective 6/05)

A connection fee of \$30.00 is charged for new sewer service.

Residential & Light Commercial*:

\$14.00 per month for first 3,000 gallons
\$ 1.30 per 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$14.00 per month

*Charges based on average monthly water usage during the months of January, February, and March.

Industrial & Commercial*:

\$14.00 per month for first 3,000 gallons
\$ 1.30 per 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$14.00 per month

*Charges based on water usage during the current month.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Municipal solid waste removal services are available in Ainsworth. Wastes are collected at a transfer station located at Ainsworth and hauled to a disposal site in Lexington, 174 miles south of Ainsworth. There are 8–11 years of capacity left at the current site. Plans to begin construction of a new cell are being considered.

SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES (effective 4/05)

Residential:

\$ 8.00 per month - multiple-family
\$11.00 per month - single-family
\$16.00 per month - heavy single-family

Commercial & Industrial:

\$11.00 per month - light commercial/industrial
\$16.00 per month - regular commercial/industrial
\$21.00 per month - heavy commercial/industrial

RECYCLING

The recycling program in Ainsworth consists of a five-compartment recycling trailer. Bins are available to accommodate aluminum, paper, magazines, cardboard, and plastic. Steel (tin) cans and glass are not accepted.



Nebraska Public Power District's
Wind Farm near Ainsworth

COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications services are provided to the Ainsworth area by Three River Communications and Qwest.

Three River Communications provides telecommunication services to the Ainsworth area with a digital central office. Installation and maintenance personnel are located in this equal access community. The office has DMS 10 switching. Extended area service is available to Long Pine and Johnstown.

TARIFFED RATES

Residential Line	\$16.84
Business Line	\$25.30

Qwest provides telecommunication services to the Ainsworth area with a digital, central office. The Ainsworth community is fiber fed, and additional fiber can be buried if warranted. ISDN is available. Extended area service is available to Long Pine. Installation and maintenance personnel are located in this equal access community.

INTERNET

Local Internet access is provided by Three River Communications, (402) 387-1353, www.threeriver.net; NNTC, (800) 805-4747, www.nntc.net; and Carroll's Web, (800) 290-4599, www.carrollswab.com. Three River Communications provides high-speed Internet access with ADSL, dial-up, wireless, and satellite Internet services.

POST OFFICE

The post office in Ainsworth provides house-to-house delivery and has one mail receipt and one dispatch daily. The nearest general mail facility is in North Platte, 130 miles south, which includes next-day delivery in Nebraska.

Postal receipts for the past five fiscal years:

Year	Receipts
2005	\$377,470
2004	\$393,368
2003	\$398,647
2002	\$377,084
2001	\$372,543

PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

United Parcel Service and Federal Express services are available at several businesses in Ainsworth.

	Federal Express	UPS	U.S. Postal Service
Latest Pick-up Time	10 a.m.	3 p.m.	4:15 p.m.
Earliest Delivery	6 a.m.	7 a.m.	9 a.m.
Next Day Delivery Guarantee	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saturday Delivery Guarantee	No	No	No

NEWSPAPER

The Ainsworth Star-Journal, the local weekly newspaper, has 2,100 subscribers. Other newspapers delivered locally are the Omaha World-Herald and Norfolk Daily News.

RADIO

Radio stations which carry local news include:

Call Letters	Frequency	Location
KBRB	92.7 MHz	Ainsworth, NE
KBRB	1400 KHz	Ainsworth, NE
KMNE	90.3 MHz	Bassett, NE
KBRX	102.9 MHz	O'Neill, NE
KBRX	1350 KHz	O'Neill, NE
KVSH	940 KHz	Valentine, NE
KWYR	93.7 MHz	Winner, SD
KWYR	1260 KHz	Winner, SD

TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news include:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KPLO	6	Reliance, SD
KMNE	7/15	Bassett, NE
KOLN/KGIN	10/11	Lincoln/ Grand Island

Cable television is available on 57 basic and 3 premium channels.



Three River Communications



Ainsworth Post Office

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – CITY OF AINSWORTH

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 77 percent of its actual value. Personal property that is used in a trade or business and is depreciable is subject to tax at its “net book value.” All other personal property is exempt from taxation.

	Actual Valuation		
	2003	2004	2005
Real Estate	\$42,020,713	\$42,355,089	\$47,127,418
Personal Property	1,717,203	1,632,722	4,141,091
Special (railroad and utilities)	<u>873,384</u>	<u>743,055</u>	<u>702,900</u>
TOTAL	\$44,611,300	\$44,730,866	\$51,971,409

TAX RATE (dollars and cents per \$100 of actual value)

	2003	2004	2005
City	\$0.499982	\$0.500000	\$0.451415
County	.455860	.465358	.464602
School District	1.275455	1.275634	1.151251
Community College	.081123	.082711	.089622
Educational Service Unit	.014996	.014997	.014968
Natural Resource District	<u>.028213</u>	<u>.037268</u>	<u>.035676</u>
TOTAL	\$2.355629	\$2.375968	\$2.207534

The 2005 tax rate at the industrial sites outside the city limits is \$1.791517 per \$100 of actual value.

CITY SALES TAX

A 1 percent city sales tax is imposed in Ainsworth.

LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of October 15, 2005:

City—Revenue Bonds	None
City—General Obligation Bonds	\$1,125,000
School District	\$3,130,000
County	None

CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 10/15/05	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
General Obligation Refunding	8/99	\$1,350,000	\$1,125,000	4.65-1.5	10/15

SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 10/15/05	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Building	1/99	\$3,760,000	\$3,130,000	1.2	12/18



Sellors Barton Museum



Brown County Courthouse

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Brown County is divided into three voting precincts and nine townships. The county is governed by three county commissioners who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2006. The actual budget for 2005–06 is \$1,345,181. The county belongs to the Central Nebraska Economic Development District, involving 15 counties. County zoning classifications are:

AG	Agriculture
AZR	Overlay of Airport with Agricultural Zone
RC-1 & RC-2	Rural Conservation
RR	Rural Recreation
HC	Highway Commercial
I	Industrial

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Ainsworth, a second-class city, has a mayor-council form of government. The next election will be held in 2006. The 2005–06 budget was \$3,554,233. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
Elected	
Mayor	4 Years
Elected at Large	
Council Members (4)	4 Years
Appointed	
City Clerk-Treasurer-Administrator	Indefinite
City Attorney	Indefinite

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided in the community by the Ainsworth Volunteer Fire Department with a 36-member team. The department provides protection for areas outside the city limits by operating the Brown County Rural Fire District's

equipment and by mutual aid calls in the communities of Johnstown and Long Pine.

Ainsworth has one fire station and 126 fire hydrants. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 6; outside it is 9-10. Annual expenditures for fire protection during the last three years averaged \$40,000.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
City	
1966 Ford	750 gal. per min. pumper
1994 Ford	1,000 gal. per min. pumper
Rural	
1986 Ford	500 gal. per min. pumper
City/Rural	
1976 Chevy	Rescue truck
1977 Kaiser	900 gal. per min. grass rig/tanker 6X6
1978 Ford	900 gal. per min. grass rig/tanker
2000 Sterling	1,000 gal. per min. grass rig/tanker
1992	Command truck

Fire losses in Ainsworth for the past five years:

Year	Amount
2005	\$ 195,000*
2004	\$ 260,000
2003	\$ 90,000
2002	\$ 75,000
2001	\$ 123,000

*Fire losses for Brown County

A \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant was received to assist in building an 8,200 square foot fire and rescue station. Ainsworth and Brown County will share operations and maintenance of the new building.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Department

The city of Ainsworth contracts with the Brown County Sheriff’s Department to provide law enforcement in the community.

Sheriff’s Department

The Brown County Sheriff’s Department employs six officers, three reserve deputies, and four full-time and two part-time support personnel. The department has six patrol vehicles, 24-hour dispatching, high band radio with scrambler capability, 911 emergency service, jail facilities, dispatching radio system, radars, in-car video cameras, National Criminal Justice Information System, and other standard equipment. Sheriff’s patrol and protection is provided.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in Brown County in 2004 was 16.3 compared to a state crime rate of 37.7 and a national rate of 39.8.

State Patrol

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Norfolk and serves 23 counties. Three patrolmen are stationed in Ainsworth.

STREETS

There are 52.61 miles of streets in Ainsworth; 43.71 miles are hard-surfaced with concrete or asphalt. Truck routes have been established in Ainsworth. Seventy-five percent of the streets have curbs and sixty percent have sidewalks.

The street maintenance program includes contract street-sweeping, as well as citywide snow removal,

patching, crack filling, sprinkling of sand and salt, and armor coating.

BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS

The 2001 International Building Codes are enforced in Ainsworth.

Local zoning classifications are:

AG	Agricultural
R-1, R-2	Residential
R-3	Mobile Home
C-1	Commercial
B-1	Business
M-1	Limited Industrial
M-2	Industrial

PLANNING

Ainsworth has a planning commission comprised of seven members who are appointed by the mayor-council for three-year staggering terms.

A Comprehensive Plan for Ainsworth was prepared in 1980 by R.M. Wozniak of Ainsworth. The city received a grant in November 2005 for \$23,500 to be used to prepare a comprehensive plan and preliminary engineering report for the city’s wastewater system.



Ainsworth City Offices and Conference Center



Brown County Ambulance in Ainsworth



Ainsworth Fire Department



Antique Equipment in Ainsworth Fire Department

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Ainsworth School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary (K–4)	13	165	1:12	1:2
Middle School (5–8)	9	173	1:12	1:1
High School (9–12)	20	204	1:13	1:2

School District No. 10 in Brown County covers 550 square miles and has an actual valuation of \$168,546,338. Ainsworth Community School District is a Class 3, Type K–12 district accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and the North Central Accreditation Association. The district operates: McAndrew Elementary School (K–4); Ainsworth Middle School (5–8); and Ainsworth High School (9–12). Ainsworth Community Schools utilize newly remodeled school facilities, climate controlled classrooms, and technology to focus on student achievement.

The elementary school was built in 1958 and the middle school was built in 1922. The high school, originally built in 1922, had additions in 1948, 1975, and 1999.

The 2004–05 school operating expenses totaled \$5,214,150, with an average cost per pupil of \$9,219. The actual valuation per pupil was \$331,132.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Grade	100	67
Terra Nova CAT-6		
ACT	74	22.3

It is estimated that 100 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 78 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, 15 percent of the seniors enter the job market, and 7 percent enter the military immediately after graduation.

Vocational programs in the high school include business, vocational agriculture, family and consumer science, and industrial technology.

Adult educational programs are available in the high school in conjunction with Northeast Community College. Internet access is available.

Special education teachers provide services in the elementary, middle, and high schools; one teacher is located at each school.

Raven, Highland Grove, and Buffalo Flats are Class 1, Type K–8 rural elementary schools in the area.

Educational Service Unit

Ainsworth is a member of Educational Service Unit 17, which is headquartered in Ainsworth and serves four counties. General services available include media library, health screening, audio-visual repair, Starlab, computer repair, in-service training of staff, Internet, distance-learning classrooms, implementing registered nurses in schools, supervision of Class 1 schools, special education, and statewide cooperative purchasing.

Community College

Ainsworth is part of the **Northeast Community College (NECC)** service area. The college, governed by an 11-member elected board, serves 20 counties in northeast Nebraska from the main campus located in Norfolk, 142 miles east of Ainsworth, and through regional education centers located in O’Neill, South Sioux City, and West Point.



Ainsworth Schools



Playground Equipment at Ainsworth School

Enrollment at NECC for 2004–05 included 7,291 students taking credit courses and 19,007 students taking noncredit, continuing education classes.

NECC offers more than 70 technical, vocational, business, and liberal arts majors preparing students for immediate employment or transfer to a four-year college or university. In May 2005 the college awarded 671 diplomas and degrees. According to the latest Graduate Employment Report, some 99 percent of the 2004 graduates seeking employment found jobs.

The Graduate Employment Report also showed that 29 percent of the 2004 graduates chose to continue their education, with most transferring to a four-year school. Other data confirms that college transfer students from NECC who continue their educations at four-year institutions do as well as or better than native and other transfer students.

The Business and Industry Division at NECC works with area industries, retail and service establishments, agriculture, and other agencies in planning employee development and training. The programs can be delivered on site at the company or at the state-of-the-art facilities at NECC. Training is arranged at any time of the day or evening to meet the organization’s special needs.

The Business and Industry Division served 247 employers and trained more than 5,500 employees through customized training workshops and seminars in fiscal year 2004–05.

The division also worked with 18 communities on strategic planning and economic development initiatives. More than 40 individuals seeking to start or expand their businesses received assistance through this division. An additional 15 minority-owned businesses were provided start-up assistance and consulting services. NECC also assisted in recruiting several new companies and divisions to the region, resulting in more than 600 new jobs.

The 205-acre main campus includes 19 buildings with classroom, shop, and lab facilities; library/resource center; student center; an activities center with gym and theater; the Lifelong Learning Center; residence hall for students; and two apartment buildings for student living. Burkhardt Hall, a 147-bed residence hall addition, and the \$2.4 million Agriculture Complex, one mile east of the main campus, were dedicated in 2004. The Agriculture Complex includes a 550-seat arena and four classrooms. NECC also owns a 566-acre college farm with all facilities necessary for teaching farm operations.

The college is one of the best computer-equipped educational institutions in the state. In 2005 a \$2.57 million addition to the Cox Activity Center was completed. The addition includes 30 rooms that now house the radio/TV broadcasting, audio recording technology, and music departments.

The South Sioux City Education Center moved into a new 10,000-square-foot facility in South Sioux City in 2005. The state-of-the-art

Northeast Community College Representative Sample of the Class of 2005		
Program	Degree/Certificate	Conferred
Administrative Assistant	A.A.S.	19
Administrative Assistant	1-year diploma	10
Agriculture	A.A.S.	72
Audio Recording Technology	A.A.S.	5
Auto/Auto Body Technology	A.A.S.	40
Computer Science/MIS	A.A.S.	19
Electromechanical	A.A.S.	9
General Studies (academic transfers)	A.A.S. & A.A.	61
Nursing-LPN	1-year diploma	42
Nursing-ADN	A.A.S.	25
Utility Line	A.A.S.	36

education center houses several classrooms, a large business-industry training room, computer lab, distance-learning classroom, conference rooms, and administrative offices. The center has classes leading to an associate of arts degree with a business administration or general studies emphasis and associate of applied science degree in administrative assistant-medical and business management. The presidents of NECC and Wayne State College signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a proposed campus in South Sioux City. When the campus is complete, students will be able to take their freshman- and sophomore-level courses from NECC and then take junior- and senior-level or graduate-level courses from Wayne State College at the same location in South Sioux City.

For more information on Northeast Community College, call (800) 348-9033 or visit www.northeastcollege.com.

Lifelong Learning Center

The **Lifelong Learning Center** at Northeast Community College (NECC) in Norfolk serves the business and professional community through a variety of uses. The 20,000-square foot educational wing includes two classrooms which can be opened into one large room, two distance learning classrooms, a computer center for software training, and the conference center that can be divided into six rooms and accommodate up to 700 people. Full technology and food services are available to make the center a highly desirable location for meetings, training activities, and conferences.

In addition to the associate degree and continuing education programs offered through NECC, the Lifelong Learning Center serves as a clearinghouse for educational offerings from Educational Service Unit 8, Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, UNL Northeast Research and Extension Center, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Madison County, and Wayne State College, as well as other public and private institutions. Using state-of-the-art distance education technology and live instruction, several bachelor's, master's, and

doctorate degrees are offered, including computer science and engineering, industrial management systems engineering, and two M.B.A. programs.

For more information on the Lifelong Learning Center, its programs and facilities, call the facility's coordinator at (402) 844-7246.

Colleges

Wayne State College (WSC) located in Wayne, 162 miles from Ainsworth, serves approximately 3,400 students from throughout Nebraska and Iowa as well as more than 29 other states and 20 foreign countries. At the undergraduate level, WSC offers more than 70 nonteaching majors and minors plus 38 various teaching endorsements in four academic schools including arts and humanities, business and technology, education and counseling, and natural and social sciences. Masters degrees are also available in business and education.

Of those undergraduate students declaring a major, approximately 14 percent major in the arts and humanities, 20 percent in education and counseling, 29 percent in business and technology, and 37 percent in natural and social sciences.

Founded in 1891, the college became a State College in 1909. The picturesque 128-acre campus serves as a state arboretum and features a walking/jogging trail, numerous indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, a renovated and expanded Student Center, a state-of-the-art business building, and a new studio arts building.

The Office of Continuing Education at Wayne State College offers undergraduate and graduate coursework via Internet and distance learning. In addition, a variety of courses are also offered on-site in several area cities. Schedules and course offerings vary.

For more information, contact Wayne State College at (800) 228-9972 or visit www.wsc.edu.

Program	Wayne State College			
	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Majors*	Degrees**	Majors*	Degrees**
Applied Human & Sport Physiology	20	1	—	—
Art	42	5	—	—
Business	534	147	60	16
Chemistry	47	24	—	—
Computer Information Systems	69	19	—	—
Computer Science	31	1	—	—
Counselor Education/Counseling	0	0	72	13
Criminal Justice	172	29	—	—
Curriculum & Instruction	0	0	306	149
Early Childhood	73	12	—	—
Elementary Education	363	74	—	—
English	83	18	—	—
Exercise Science	68	15	4	3
Family & Consumer Sciences	47	19	—	—
French Education	2	—	—	—
Geography	24	9	—	—
Graphic Design	47	7	—	—
Health & PE	55	12	—	—
History	41	6	1	—
Human Service Counseling	88	29	—	—
Industrial Technology	90	16	—	—
Interdisciplinary Studies	6	2	—	—
Life Sciences	103	20	—	—
Mass Communications	54	10	—	—
Mathematics	42	14	—	—
Middle Level Education	24	—	—	—
Modern Language and Culture	0	—	—	—
Music	49	4	—	—
Natural Sciences	7	3	—	—
Physical Science	0	1	—	—
Political Science	28	7	—	—
Pre-Professional	192	—	—	—
Psychology	73	25	—	—
School Administration	0	0	61	23
Social Sciences	47	10	5	3
Sociology	25	6	—	—
Spanish	30	3	—	—
Special Education	47	8	2	4
Speech Communications	55	11	2	2
Sport Management/Leisure Services	98	18	17	6
Technology	11	3	—	—
Theatre	20	7	—	—
Undeclared	351	—	—	—

* Includes first and second majors as of fall 2005

**Degrees awarded December 2004 through August 2005

Other Schools

Colleges, universities, and community colleges frequently attended by Ainsworth High School graduates include:

Community/College or University	Mileage
Norfolk Northeast Community College	141
Kearney University of Kearney	160
Wayne Wayne State College	162
North Platte Mid-Plains Community College	165
Chadron Chadron State College	183
Hastings Hastings College	202
Lincoln University of Nebraska-Lincoln	277
Omaha University of Nebraska at Omaha	282

CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Assembly of God	1
Berean	1
Catholic	1
Church of the Nazarene	1
Congregational Christian	1
Congregational United Church of Christ	1
Elsmere	1
Evangelical Free	1
Followers of Christ	1
Jehovah's Witnesses	1
Lutheran, LCMS	1
Lutheran, Missouri	1
United Methodist	1

HEALTH CARE

There are approximately 30 physicians within a 50-mile radius of Ainsworth.

Hospital

The Brown County Hospital, opened in 1971, is licensed by the state of Nebraska as a 25-bed critical-access facility and is certified by the federal government to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The hospital is also dually licensed for 25 swing beds and 4 newborn bassinets. Medical services include mammography, ultrasound, surgery, recovery room, labor and delivery room, nursery, two coronary care units, one intensive care unit, emergency room, laboratory, radiology, blood bank, pharmacy, EKG, respiratory and physical therapy, stress testing, and ultrasound. Limited home health and volunteer hospice care are also available. Other services include helicopter and Lifeline.

There are eight outpatient clinics. Special clinics are held at the hospital for urology, ear/nose/throat, orthopedic, cardiology, ophthalmology, podiatry, and general surgery. Mobile units include MRI and CT scan.

The hospital anticipates renovation and expansion in the near future, with focus upon implementing an operating room, ER with physical therapy, and rehab services.

Regional medical centers are located in Norfolk, 141 miles; North Platte, 165 miles; Kearney, 160 miles; Sioux City, 191 miles; Lincoln, 277 miles; and Omaha, 282 miles.

Clinics

Brown County Clinic, opened in 1971 and accredited in 1999, operates in association with Brown County Hospital. Four doctors and two nurse practitioners staff the facility. Specialty clinics are available for podiatrists, cardiologists, two orthopedic groups, and eye group specialists. The clinic offers eye surgery, MRIs, CAT scans, basic lab services, nuclear and cardiovascular testing, OB care, immunizations, pediatrics, and basic healthcare/maintenance.

Ainsworth Family Clinic, established in 1978 and operating in a facility built in 2000, offers OB services as well as emergency care, routine

healthcare, pre-employment physicals, and on-site lab and x-rays. One full-time physician, one part-time physician, and one part-time nurse practitioner staff the facility.

Avenues to New Horizons Mental Health Services is an outpatient mental health clinic staffed with trained personnel. Counseling sessions for individuals, families, or groups may focus on marital problems, depression, anxiety, abuse, parenting, communications, and alcohol and drug abuse. Psychiatric and psychological assessments, consultations, and education are available. A psychologist and two community support employees are available upon request.

Rescue Squad

Brown County Ambulance, a countywide ambulance service, has four ambulances, one of which is used primarily for transfer. Three are stationed in Ainsworth, and one is located in Long Pine. The squad is comprised of 30 volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians. The ambulances are licensed by the state, and personnel carry radio pagers for 24-hour calls. Training includes a 128-hour course with an additional 30 hours of certification required every three years.

NURSING HOMES

Ainsworth Care Center is a 46-bed, skilled nursing facility built in 1964. Certified by Medicaid/Medicare, the center offers 24-hour

professional nursing care, long-term health care including physical therapy, IV therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, dietary services, nutritional support services, special diet accommodations, tracheotomy care, advanced wound care, discharge planning services, social services, recreational activities, laundry, housekeeping, maintenance, family support group, family and resident counseling, community re-entry assessment and planning, outpatient therapy programs, secure Alzheimer's and dementia unit, and exercise program. Transportation to the doctor and the local senior center is provided.

LIBRARY

The **Ainsworth Public Library** (www.ainsworthlibrary.com) contains approximately 24,000 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 22,639; circulation is automated. Other items available for checkout include puzzles, cake pans, CD-ROMs, Magic School Bus CD-ROMs, cassettes, magazines, newspapers, and videos. Library activities include a summer reading program, adult book-discussion groups, and a talking book service. The library has a junior and adult volunteer group. A CD-rom computer is on site with living books, encyclopedias, and reference books. Services include inter-library loan, GED classes, Microsoft Office, microfilm, FC Search Database, and a video conference room. A scanner, fax, copy machine, and two printers are available for public use.



Ainsworth Care Center

RECREATION

Ainsworth has four-parks covering 50 acres, including East City Park, Courthouse Park, Catterson Park, and a mini-park. Facilities include a swimming pool, lighted ball fields, picnic areas, camping areas with RV and dump, lighted tennis courts, lighted horseshoe pits, outdoor basketball court, rest rooms, fountain, and sand volleyball court. The Parks Department employs one full-time and one part-time seasonal personnel and has an average annual budget of \$89,000. There are also four playgrounds with new playground equipment.

Ainsworth Area Facilities:

- Boating — Long Pine Creek, 10 miles; Niobrara River, 15 miles; Alkali Lake in Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, 30 miles; Long Lake State Recreation Area, 30 miles; Keller Park State Recreation Area, 33 miles; Cub Creek Recreation Area, 38 miles; Merritt Reservoir, 43 miles; Atkinson Lake State Recreation Area, 47 miles; and Calamus Lake State Recreation Area, 90 miles
- Bowling — Eight-lane bowling alley in Atkinson, 47 miles
- Campgrounds — East City Park in Ainsworth; Long Pine State Recreational Area, 10 miles; Bassett Historical Park, 17 miles; Long Lake State Recreation Area, 30 miles; Keller State Recreation Area, 33 miles; Cub Creek Recreation Area, 38 miles; Atkinson Lake State Recreation Area, 47 miles; Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area, 71 miles; and Calamus Lake State Recreation Area, 90 miles
- Fishing — Bass, bluegill, bullheads, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike, rainbow trout, trout, yellow perch, and walleye

- Golf Courses — Nine-hole grass greens course with clubhouse in Ainsworth; one public 9-hole grass greens course with clubhouse in Bassett, 17 miles
- Hiking/Biking Trails — 136-mile Cowboy Trail through Ainsworth; Atkinson Lake SRA 1-mile trail, 47 miles; 231-mile Outlaw Trail, 24 miles north on State Highway 12; and Long Pine SRA, (1-mile trail), 10 miles
- Horseshoe — Twenty-four lighted regulation courts in City Park (home of the 1986 and 1998 World Horseshoe Tournaments)
- Hunting — Deer, antelope, turkey, pheasant, grouse, duck, dove, quail, and prairie chicken
- Racquetball — One court in Ainsworth
- Sand Volleyball — One court in East City Park
- Skating — Ice skating in park
- Swimming — Ainsworth public pool; Bassett municipal pool, 17 miles
- Tennis — Two lighted courts in Ainsworth
- Theaters — Royal Theater with seating capacity of 254 in Ainsworth
- Other — Scenic drives along the Niobrara River Valley and surrounding countryside

Annual celebrations in Ainsworth are the “Middle of Nowhere” and Carnival Days in June, Sandhills Discovery Experience in July, Annual National Country Music Festival in August, the Brown County Fair in September, and a Christmas pageant supported by a combined choir of all the church choirs in the community.

Ainsworth has hosted the **Annual National Country Music Festival** for 35 years. The Nebraska Legislature designated Ainsworth as the “Country Music Capital of Nebraska” in 1992. The 2004 festival, involving 6,800 hours from 235 volunteers, recorded 80 contestants. The festival was attended by more than 2,000 people, from numerous states. Participants ranged from pre-teens to over 55-years old.



Ainsworth Municipal Pool



Playground Equipment in East Park



Long Pine Nature Trail in Long Pine State Recreation Area



Ainsworth Municipal Golf Course

Summer recreation programs include baseball, softball, T-ball, fishing, derbies, horseshoe pitching, golf, gymnastics, racquetball, and tennis.

The **Senior Citizens Center**, built in 1981, serves noon meals Monday through Friday. Activities include pool, exercise class, pitch, cribbage, daily cards, Bible study, sewing, blood pressure clinics, kitchen band, home-delivered meals, visually-impaired support group, caregivers support group, bridge, and weekend activities.

Sandhills Discovery Experience features experts in the fields of ecology, geology, paleontology, and hydrology. Additional attractions to the event include tours, exhibits, and vendors.

The **Cowboy Trail**, the longest rails-to-trails conversion in the nation, will span 321 miles through northern Nebraska when completed. Today, 136 miles of the trail are open to the public for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. This includes a 102-mile continuous segment from Norfolk to Stuart, a 16-mile segment from Bassett to Ainsworth, and an 18-mile stretch at Valentine that crosses over the Niobrara River on a 148-foot-high bridge, and numerous community trails. A new 21-mile section under construction between Stuart and Bassett should be completed by the end of 2006. This trail follows the gentle slopes of the old Chicago and North Western rail line.

Two **historical markers** are located on Highway 20 between Ainsworth and Johnstown. One commemorates the only sod high school in Nebraska. The second marker notes Ainsworth Airbase, a significant base during World War II. The airbase, now utilized as a commercial airport, has the longest runway between Rapid City, South Dakota, and Omaha, Nebraska.

The **Rodeo Bible Camp** is a youth event offered during the summer. It is divided into junior and senior camps and held at the Brown County fairgrounds. The senior camp is scheduled in May, and the Junior camp is scheduled in June. More than 100 campers learn fundamental skills with participation in rodeo events and studying Bible lessons. Each day begins and ends with spiritual devotions.

Seven Springs Water is bottled in Long Pine from the natural springs that supply the city. Many people visit Long Pine to tour the bottling plant.

The **Niobrara Valley Preserve of the Nature Conservancy** headquarters is located 26 miles northwest of Ainsworth. This 50,000-acre area is dedicated to preserving a unique biological crossroads of five ecological zones, including both Sandhills and Riverine ecologies. Two self-guided hiking trails and a growing herd of bison are available for visitors to enjoy.

Fort Niobrara Wildlife Refuge near Valentine, approximately 45 miles northwest, encompasses 19,131 acres and sustains a rich diversity of wildlife including birds, bison, elk, and plants. The Niobrara River flows eastward, crossing nine miles of the refuge.

McKelvie National Forest, immediately north of Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area 45 miles northwest of Ainsworth, offers grouse hunting with its thousands of acres of grassy sandhills.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are located in Brown County, including Pine Glen WMA, north of Ainsworth along U.S. Highway 183; South Pine WMA, south of Long Pine; South Twin Lake WMA, south of Johnstown; and Plum Creek Valley WMA, directly south of Johnstown.

Cultural Activities

The **Sellors Barton Museum** in Ainsworth was dedicated in 1936; another room was added in 1967 and Barton Memorial was completed in 1992. Numerous antique articles, mounted birds, bird eggs, Civil War guns, farm equipment, household goods, pictures, valuable papers, and clothing are among the many interesting items on display, as well as an interpretive display about the Sandhills.

The **Brown County Historical Society**, located in the Coleman House, displays books, furniture, clothing, machinery, memorabilia, genealogical file, and other historical artifacts which were donated by citizens in Brown County.

Cultural events are provided by the Brown County Arts Council and the Ainsworth Art Guild. An art gallery is also located in Ainsworth.

The **Brown County Arts Council**, comprised of approximately 20 members, sponsors performing arts and occasional art displays. Each year the council sponsors a fine arts awards program for the high school and presents an outstanding fine arts scholarship. Every other year a Missoula Children's Theatre is sponsored.

The **Ainsworth Art Guild**, with membership open to the public, serves Brown County as well as other areas. The guild participates in various projects, painting, and artist studies. Its mission is to support the arts and local communities. A spring art show is hosted each year at the Ainsworth Public Library and an artist is featured at the library each month from September to May.

HOUSING

New Construction

Two new homes were built in Ainsworth during 2003 and 2004, and two were built in 2005. In the past five years building permits were issued for 6 apartment houses with 12 units. The average cost of new home construction is approximately \$85 per square foot.

Brown County Housing Market (as of 1/06):

Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family - 23

Avg. Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home

2,500 sq. ft. - 4 bedrooms \$140,000
 2,300 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms \$122,500
 1,000 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms \$ 40,000

Townhouses

1,500 sq. ft. - 2 bedrooms \$28,000

Rentals

New 2 bedroom home \$650
 Apartment Vacancy Rate less than 70%

Number of Single Family Homes

for Sale by Price (New and Existing)

Less than \$100,000 18
 \$100,001-\$150,000 2
 \$150,001-\$200,000 0
 \$200,001-\$250,000 3

Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing

Ainsworth Park Homes is a low-income housing development with priority given to the elderly or disabled. Rent is based on each tenant's individual income. This 30-unit complex was built in 1966 by the federal government. There are 28 one-bedroom apartments and 2 two-bedroom apartments. A meeting room is available to the tenants and local service clubs. Each month a potluck supper is held for the tenants. Facilities include a laundry room, gazebo, community room, and lawn area.

Colonial Estates is a low-income housing development for low-income families and the elderly or disabled. There are 18 units, including 6 ground units and 12 garden-level units. Appliances, air conditioning, electricity, snow removal, heating, lawn care, solid waste services, water, and furniture are furnished.

Assisted Living

Cottonwood Villa is a state-licensed assisted living facility built in 2000 with 29 units. The facility is Medicaid-waiver certified. One nurse and numerous ADL assistants staff the facility. Services include grounds keeping, maintenance, dressing, bathing, housekeeping, laundry, transportation, monthly wellness checks, 24-hour call system, full activities program, and three meals per day. Facilities include a beauty shop, whirlpool spa, exercise program, and resident-council meetings.

FINANCIAL

As of January 2006:

Name	Capital		
	Accounts	Deposits	Loans
-----thousand dollars-----			
Commercial National Bank	\$ 8,196	\$61,177	\$40,101
First National Bank	\$ 4,658	\$30,611	\$29,932
Union Bank & Trust*	\$14,305	\$1,102,850	\$1,490,632

*Branch bank; figures represent headquarters

Commercial Bank offers a 24-hour telebank and First National Bank offers a 24-hour deposit taking ATM.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL

Attorneys	3
Auctioneers	2
Certified Public Accountants	1
Chiropractors	1
Dentists	1
Medical Doctors (residing in Ainsworth)	
—general practitioners	2
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff)	
—cardiologists	19
—ear, nose & throat	2
—general practitioners	6
—general surgeons	2
—ophthalmologists	3
—orthopedic surgeons	2
—pathologists	3
—radiologists	5
—other	4
Nurse Practitioners	2
Nurses, Registered	20
Optometrists	2
Pharmacists	1
Podiatrists	1
Veterinarians	4

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies	2
Agricultural Implement Dealers	2
Antique Shops	5
Apparel Stores—combination	7
Appliance Stores	1
Auto Repair & Service	7
Auto Supply Parts	7
Automobile Dealers (new & used)	4
Automobile Renting & Leasing	2
Bakeries	1
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums	8
Beauty Salon	8
Bed & Breakfast	1 (5 rooms)
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums	8
Carpet & Rug Dealers	1

Child Care Services	9	
Caterers	4	
Contractors—building	3	
—carpentry	6	
—concrete	1	
—electric	4	
—excavating	3	
—flooring	1	
—heating & air conditioning	2	
—painting	5	
—plumbing	2	
—remodeling & repairing	6	
—roofing	3	
—well digging	2	
Convenience Stores	3	
Copying & Duplicating Services	2	
Craft Stores	3	
Department Stores	2	
Discount Stores	3	
Drug Stores	1	
Employment Services, Temporary	1	
Farm/Ranch Supplies	4	
Feedlots (commercial & private)	7	
Fertilizers	3	
Floral Shops	2	
Garbage Collection	1	
Gift Shops	8	
Grain Dealers	1	
Grocery Stores	4	
Hardware Stores	4	
Health Clubs	1	
Insurance Companies	7	
Interior Decorators & Designers	1	
Jewelry Stores	1	
Landscaping Equipment & Supplies	5	
Lawn Services	3	
Lumberyards	2	
Machine Shops	2	
Meat Lockers	3	
Motels	3	(91 rooms)
Nurseries & Garden Centers	6	
Office Machine Repairs	2	
Office Equipment Services & Supplies	3	
Photography Studios	2	
Preschools	2	

Printers 3

Real Estate Firms 4

Restaurants 8

Service Stations 4

Shoe Stores 4

Specialized Shops (testing labs, special equipment repair, etc) 1

Television & Radio Repair 2

Theaters 1

Tool & Die Makers 1

Travel Agencies & Bureaus 2

Variety Stores 4

Welding Shops 4



Cottonwood Villa



Commercial National Bank



First National Bank



Union Bank & Trust Company

AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

AGRICULTURE

2002 Statistics	Brown County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	311	49,355
Land in Farms (acres)	686,466	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	2,207	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$93,317,000	\$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$300,055	\$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	52,330	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	7.6%	16.6%
Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2000-2004)		
All Alfalfa Hay	13,988 tons	4,572,600 tons
Corn for Grain	5,688,000 bu.	1,107,650,000 bu.
Soybeans	438,220 bu.	195,251,000 bu.
Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2001-2005)		
All Cattle	102,200	6,360,000

Source: National Agriculture Statistics Service 2000–2005
2002 Census of Agriculture

RAW MATERIALS

High-quality sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in commercial quantities; however, metallic minerals are not available locally. Quantities of low-analysis limy sandstone rock are found in the vicinity north of Ainsworth. To date, little commercial use of this resource has been found.

Approximately 80 percent of the 7,000 acres of forested land in the Ainsworth area are covered with hardwoods and the remaining areas are pine forest. This area averages 71 trees per acre. Cordwood volumes range from 0 to 4.110 cords per acre, with an average of .64 cord. This area is bounded on the east by U.S. Highway 183, on the south by U.S. Highway 20, on the north by the Niobrara River, and on the west by Fairfield Creek.

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity*	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	11.9	22.8	33.6	0.42	5.3	76	62
February	16.8	27.8	38.9	0.63	6.4	78	64
March	23.9	35.5	47.0	1.25	8.1	79	60
April	35.3	48.0	60.7	2.25	5.2	77	52
May	46.8	59.2	71.6	3.42	0.3	79	53
June	56.4	68.8	81.1	3.69	0.0	80	52
July	62.0	74.9	87.7	3.13	0.0	79	51
August	60.3	73.2	86.0	2.62	0.0	80	52
September	50.5	63.7	76.9	2.29	0.2	77	49
October	39.0	52.0	65.0	1.34	1.6	75	50
November	25.7	36.6	47.5	0.81	5.2	76	57
December	16.2	26.7	37.2	0.45	5.6	75	61
Annual	37.1	49.1	61.1	22.30	37.9	78	55

*Recorded at Valentine Weather Station

FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring	May 3
Average date of first frost in fall	October 4
Average length of growing season	154 days
Average number of “heating degree days” based on 65° Fahrenheit	6,643
Average number of “cooling degree days” based on 65° Fahrenheit	872
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average)	9
Prevailing wind direction (annual average)	Northwest

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1948–2004, www.hprcc.unl.edu