

**COMMUNITY FACTS**  
**ATKINSON, NEBRASKA**

[www.atkinsonne.com](http://www.atkinsonne.com)  
[www.holtcountynebraska.com](http://www.holtcountynebraska.com)

**JANUARY 2011**

**POPULATION**  
(Official U.S. Census)

|                      | <u>2000</u>   | <u>2009 Est.</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Atkinson</b>      | <b>1,244</b>  | <b>1,076</b>     |
| <b>Holt County</b>   | <b>11,551</b> | <b>10,011</b>    |
| <b>Labor Market*</b> | <b>37,054</b> | <b>32,548</b>    |

\*Includes Holt County and contiguous counties

**Economic Development Department**  
**Nebraska Public Power District**  
**Columbus, Nebraska 68601**  
[www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com)  
[sites.nppd.com](http://sites.nppd.com)

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# INTRODUCTION

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The following pages contain basic information about Atkinson, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the city of Atkinson, Holt County Economic Development, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

Additional and more detailed information about Atkinson may be obtained by contacting any of the following:

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Section headings are hot linked within this Facts Book. Click on the blue text links to jump to a new section. Clicking on the blue section headings will return you to the Table of Contents.

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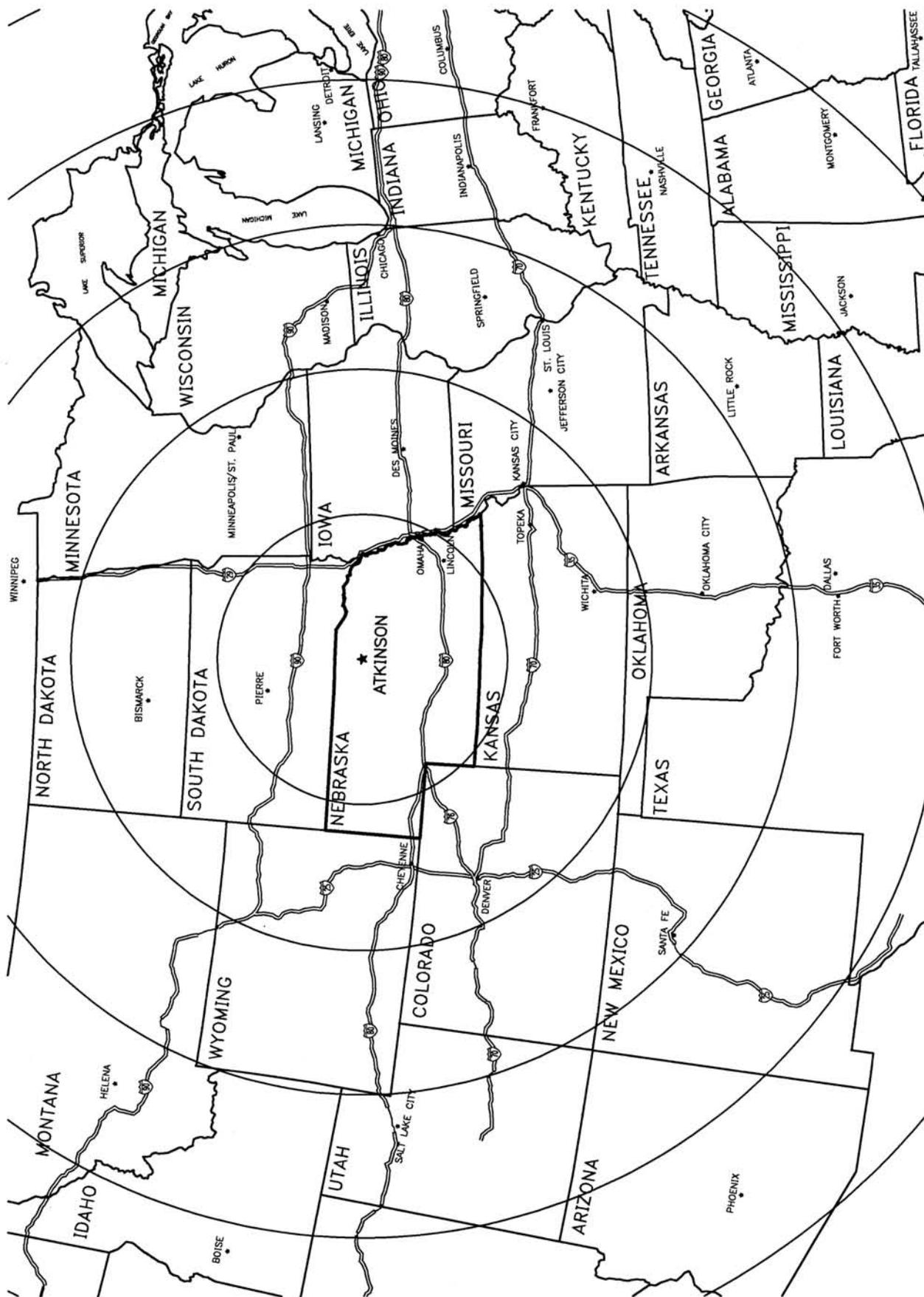
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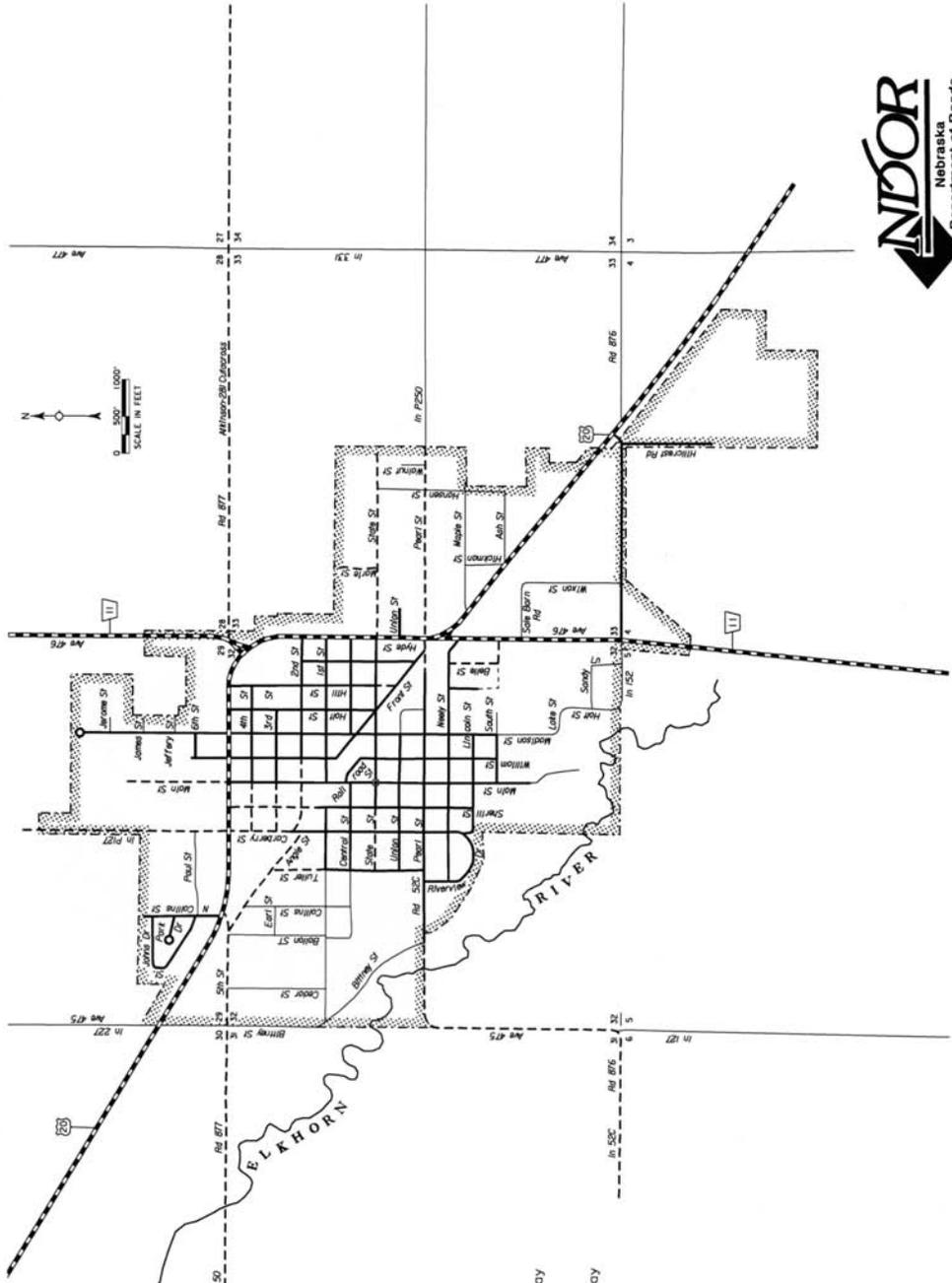
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

**ATKINSON**  
HOL T. COUNTY  
NEBRASKA



- STATE HIGHWAYS**
- Gravel or Crushed Rock
- Asphalt/Bituminous Surface
- Multiple Lane Undivided Highway
- Asphalt/Bituminous Surface
- Concrete/Brick Surface
- Multiple Lane Undivided Highway
- Concrete/Brick Surface
- CITY STREETS AND COUNTY ROADS**
- Primitive or Unimproved
- Gravel or Crushed Rock
- Asphalt/Bituminous Surface
- Concrete/Brick Surface
- Interstate Numbered Routes
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- State Numbered Spurs
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- Main St Street/Road Names
- City Center
- Corporate Limits



CORPORATE LIMITS AS OF 2009  
STATE HIGHWAYS CORRECTED TO 2009

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATION

Atkinson is located in Holt County in the north-central section of Nebraska. The city lies in the Elkhorn Valley near the north bank of the Elkhorn River. U.S. Highway 20 and State Highway 11 intersect at the southeastern edge of the city. Atkinson is 211 miles northwest of Omaha, 230 miles northwest of Lincoln, and 144 miles west of Sioux City, Iowa.

### POPULATION (U.S. Census)

| Year        | Atkinson | Holt County |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 1970        | 1,406    | 12,933      |
| 1980        | 1,521    | 13,552      |
| 1990        | 1,387    | 12,599      |
| 2000        | 1,244    | 11,551      |
| 2009 (Est.) | 1,076    | 10,011      |

| <b>Holt County Population<br/>by Race and Hispanic Origin<br/>2009 U.S. Census</b> |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>One Race</b>  |             |
| White  | 98.7%       |
| Black  | 0.1%        |
| American Indian and Alaska Native  | 0.4%        |
| Asian  | 0.2%        |
| Native Hawaiian and Other<br>Pacific Islander                                      | 0.1%        |
| <b>Two or More Races</b>   | <b>0.4%</b> |
| Hispanic or Latino Origin*   | 2.1%        |
| White Not Hispanic   | 96.9%       |

\*Hispanics may be of any race, so are also included in applicable race categories.

The 2009 U.S. Census estimates 32,548 people live in Holt County and the contiguous counties of Antelope, Boyd, Garfield, Keya Paha, Knox, Loup, Rock, and Wheeler.



## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

Basic economic activities of Atkinson include dry land and irrigated farming, tourism, cattle and hog feeding, grain storage, commercial trucking, ethanol production, manufacturing, and retail sales.

In the past five years, Atkinson experienced several new businesses which created many new jobs. These businesses include: NEDAK Ethanol, Osborne Steel and Supply, Subway, Sandhills Guest House, Triple R Tire, Atkinson Family Dentistry, and a branch of the Tri-County Bank. A new elementary and junior-senior high school opened in the 2009–2010 school year. The American Legion building was destroyed by fire and a new building adjoining the community center was built. Most recently a computer service business and a fitness center opened in the downtown area.

Firms with retail sales tax permits in Atkinson reported 2009 net taxable retail sales of \$19,573,758, while Holt County reported retail sales of \$102,389,660. Eight wholesale firms in the community distribute steel, sand and gravel, stack movers, trailers, irrigation systems and products, sheet metal, metal products, recessed airport lights, and concrete.

## **ELEVATION**

Atkinson is 2,108 feet above sea level.

## **TOPOGRAPHY**

The land is fairly level to rolling and borders the northern edge of the sandhills. The soil is predominately light sandy loam, which is well suited to irrigation and produces favorably. Drainage is excellent without serious erosion.

## **HISTORY**

Frank Bitney, who came to northeastern Nebraska with one of General O'Neill's colonies, saw the need of a way-station because the freighters could only travel eight to ten miles a day by oxen. In 1873 Bitney chose a site on the north side of the Elkhorn River that would become Atkinson,

named for his friend, Colonel John Atkinson. The first house was a soddy, at what is now First and Main Street. The first store opened in 1877 and the first mail arrived a few days later. A post office was granted in 1878. The town site of Atkinson was officially registered on August 7, 1880. Bitney persuaded the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad, later known as the Northwestern, to run its line through Atkinson in 1881. By 1883 the town covered nearly two quarters of land with a population of 800. Many German families moved closer to the railroad and began building shops and homes. Atkinson was incorporated on May 1, 1884.

As early as 1878, priests from the nearby town of O'Neill held Mass in homes. A mission church was built in 1882. The Methodist organized in 1881, and Presbyterians organized in 1882 and built a church the following year. A Lutheran church was organized and built in 1888. The church and all its records were destroyed by a prairie fire in the 1920s. A new church was constructed in 1927.

Ellen Hovey taught a three-month term of school in Frank Bitney's living room in 1878. A school house was built and the school year gradually increased to the traditional nine months.

Atkinson has been fortunate to have at least one doctor since the early 1880s, except for a time during the 1930–40s when midwives and nurses cared for people in their homes. The first hospital, named Atkinson Memorial Hospital, was opened in February 1952. Money, which amounted to more than half of the total cost of the facility, was raised from individuals and civic organizations. The hospital was deeded to and under the management of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. In 1972 the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago ceased operation of the hospital and the hospital advisory board incorporated as West Holt Memorial Hospital Association, Inc. Today, West Holt Medical Services is a testimony to the spirit and character of people in the area.

A skating rink was used for community gatherings. At the turn of the century, the Opera House was opened, which booked both traveling shows and local talent and featured silent movies,

with someone reading the script. The Crystal Ballroom, the largest hall in town, was originally built to store hay by Fred Jungman in 1926. Many famous bands played there, including Lawrence Welk's. The millpond, a five-minute walk from downtown, was a great place to swim and go fishing. Atkinson, of course, had its baseball team, and sportsmen had their choice of game to hunt. Barn dances were popular, as were families and neighbors just gathering to visit, play cards, or sing. In 1940, businesses began sponsoring a free barbecue in conjunction with "Hay Days." Hay Days continues to be a favorite local annual event, still held each year.

In the spring of 1994, the Sturdevant-McKee Foundation began restoration of two homes in Atkinson. The homes were a gift from the late

Mary Ellen McKee of Malcomb, Illinois. The McKee and Sturdevant families, physicians in the community from 1882 until 1960, lived in the Atkinson area all of their lives. The Sturdevant residence has been restored as a museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. It features the original structure, furniture, and antique fencing.

In July 1994 the Burlington Railroad was sold to the Nebraska Northeastern Railway Company in O'Neill. Soon after the trains stopped, Rails to Trails Conservancy purchased the right-of-way for the nation's longest recreational rail-to-trail project. It was named the Cowboy Trail and runs through downtown Atkinson offering biking, hiking, or horseback riding.





Alpha Galvanizing



NEDAK Ethanol, LLC



Olson Industries, Inc.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### MANUFACTURERS

| <u>Company/Year Established</u> | <u>Product</u>  | <u>Market</u> | <u>Employees</u>     |               |              |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                 |   |               | <u>Male</u>          | <u>Female</u> | <u>Union</u> |
| Alpha Galvanizing<br>1996       | Galvanizing steel products  | National      | 35                   | 4             | None         |
| Atkinson Graphic<br>1882        | Weekly newspaper & commercial printing  | State         | 1                    | 0<br>2*       | None         |
| Kramer Machine Shop<br>1938     | Stack movers, trailers, tractor winches & ranch hand bale processors                        | Regional      | 5                    | 0             | None         |
| McConnell Welding<br>1961       | Tractor winches & fertilizer trailers   | Regional      | 1                    | 0             | None         |
| NEDAK Ethanol, LLC<br>2003      | Ethanol, wet & dried distilled grain  | National      | 36 Total<br>4* Total |               | None         |
| Olson, Inc.<br>1987             | Irrigation systems & farm equipment   | National      | 2                    | 1             | None         |
| Olson Industries, Inc.<br>1983  | Sheet metal work, fabricated metal products, irrigation equipment & recessed airport lights | International | 61                   | 5<br>2*       | None         |
| Osborne Steel & Supply<br>2006  | Steel   | Regional      | 12                   | 3             | None         |
| Schaaf Redi Mix<br>1969         | Redi-mixed concrete   | Regional      | 0<br>3*              | 0<br>1*       | None         |

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

### MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 9 or more)

| <u>Employer</u>           | <u>Type of Activity</u> | <u>Employees</u> |               |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                           |                         | <u>Male</u>      | <u>Female</u> | <u>Union</u> |
| Atkinson Livestock Market | Livestock sales & cafe  | 2<br>35*         | 2<br>11*      | 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> |              |
| Braun's IGA                 | Groceries, meat processing,<br>lockers & bakery | 9<br>4*               | 7<br>10*      | None         |
| Christensen Farms           | Hog operations                                  | 109<br>2*             | 35<br>1*      | None         |
| City of Atkinson            | Government                                      | 7<br>3*               | 4<br>14*      | None         |
| First Stop                  | Fuel & snacks                                   | 1<br>3*               | 9             | None         |
| Good Samaritan Society      | Nursing care                                    | 75 Total              |               | None         |
| Great Western Bank          | Financial                                       | 2<br>1*               | 6             | None         |
| Holt County                 | Government                                      | 83 Total<br>15* Total |               | None         |
| Lech's Super Saver          | Retail groceries & meat                         | 2                     | 4<br>10*      | None         |
| Mitchell Equipment, Inc.    | Farm equipment & repair                         | 24<br>4*              | 2<br>2*       | None         |
| Oppliger Trucking & Farming | Trucking & farming                              | 18                    | 2             | None         |
| Prairie Winds               | Assisted living                                 | 0                     | 5<br>5*       | None         |
| Rhonda's Lanes & Diner      | Bowling & family dining                         | 0<br>5*               | 2<br>7*       | None         |
| Road Runner                 | Fuel & snacks                                   | 0                     | 2<br>14*      | None         |
| Subway                      | Restaurant                                      | 0<br>2*               | 0<br>14*      | None         |
| West Holt Memorial Hospital | Medical   | 7                     | 77<br>4*      | 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> |              |
| West Holt Public Schools | Education               | 17<br>2*         | 30<br>14*     | NSEA         |

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

**OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS** (within 40 miles and employing 100 or more)

| <u>Employer</u>              | <u>Type of Activity</u> | <u>Employees</u> |               | <u>Union</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                              |                         | <u>Male</u>      | <u>Female</u> |              |
| <b>O’Neill, 18 miles</b>     |                         |                  |               |              |
| Avera St. Anthony’s Hospital | Medical                 |                  | 203           | None         |
| Holt County                  | Government              |                  | 100           | None         |
| Nonpareil RDO                | Potato processing       |                  | 100           | None         |
| O’Neill Public Schools       | Education               |                  | 125           | NSEA         |

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The city of Atkinson, along with the Atkinson Economic Development; Atkinson Development Corporation; Holt County Economic Development; Central Nebraska Economic Development District, Atkinson Non-Profit Betterment Corporation; the Atkinson Community Foundation, West Holt Betterment, LLC; and the Atkinson Chamber of Commerce combine their efforts to provide a full complement of information and services for economic development in the community.

The city recently purchased a 10-acre site on the edge of town to be used as an industrial park. The community is in the process of developing the infrastructure to make the site “shovel ready” for new businesses.

Approximately 320 acres of land in and adjacent to the community are zoned for industry. The price of industrially zoned land ranges from \$500 to \$33,000 per lot.

**INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE**

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



Atkinson Livestock Market



Braun's IGA



Lech's Super Saver



Roadrunner



Atkinson New Business - Sandhills Guest House

# LABOR

## LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Atkinson labor market, which is defined as the whole of Holt County and the total labor market consisting of Holt County and the contiguous counties of Antelope, Boyd, Garfield, Keya Paha, Knox, Loup, Rock, and Wheeler (eleven-month average, 2011):

| <u>Nonfarm Employment</u> (wage and salary workers)  | <u>Holt County</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| Goods-Producing  | 346                | 986          |
| Manufacturing  | 205                | (D)          |
| Natural Resources & Construction   | 141                | (D)          |
| Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities   | 1,056              | (D)          |
| Wholesale Trade  | 301                | (D)          |
| Retail Trade   | 590                | (D)          |
| Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities  | 165                | (D)          |
| Information  | 59                 | (D)          |
| Financial Activities   | 190                | (D)          |
| Professional & Business Services   | 149                | (D)          |
| Education & Health Services  | 754                | (D)          |
| Leisure & Hospitality  | 352                | (D)          |
| Other Services   | 167                | (D)          |
| Government   | 821                | 3,337        |
| TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS  | 3,894              | 10,533       |
| Farm Employment  | 1,290              | 4,367        |
| TOTAL EMPLOYMENT   | 5,992              | 18,198       |
| B. Commuting Out of County   | 627                | N/A          |
| C. Unemployment  | 218                | 723          |
| TOTAL LABOR FORCE  | 6,210              | 18,921       |
| 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 | 3,600              |              |
| E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually   | 165                |              |
| TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)   | 4,610              |              |

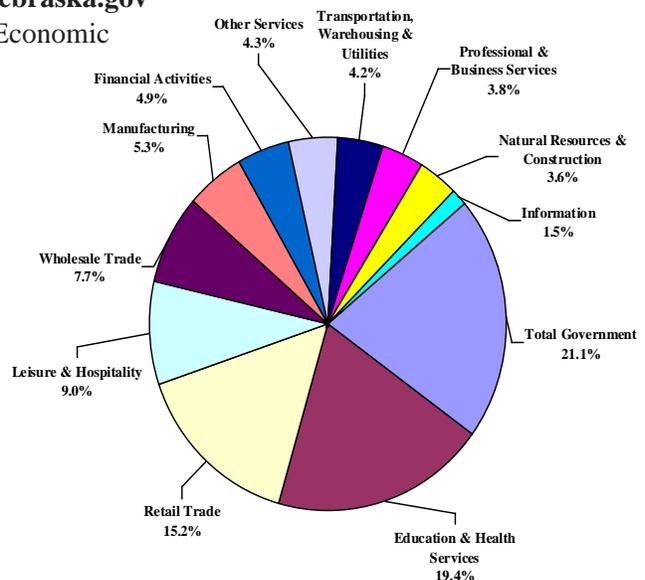
(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, [www.dol.nebraska.gov](http://www.dol.nebraska.gov)

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2008 U.S. Census

Atkinson is willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industrial customer.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
HOLT COUNTY  
11-MONTH AVERAGE, 2010**



**POPULATION DATA**

| Location | 2000             |                                  |                               | 2009             |            | 2010 (est.)                 |
|----------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
|          | Density/Sq. Mile | % High School Graduate or Higher | % Bachelor's Degree or Higher | % 65 Yrs. & Over | Median Age | County Median Family Income |
| Holt Co. | 4.8              | 84.5                             | 14.5                          | 20.5             | 46.1       | \$48,800                    |
| Nebraska | 22.3             | 86.6                             | 23.7                          | 13.4             | 35.8       | \$62,600                    |
| U.S.     | 79.6             | 80.4                             | 24.4                          | 12.9             | 36.8       | \$64,400                    |

Holt County had 7,279 registered voters in 2008; 68.7 percent voted in the national election compared to 70.2 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)  
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010  
 Statewide General Election 2008 Results, [www.sos.state.ne.us](http://www.sos.state.ne.us)

**LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE ATKINSON AREA**



**POPULATION DATA  
U.S. Census Estimates**

| 2009 Estimate    |   |        |
|------------------|---|--------|
| City of Atkinson | — | 1,076  |
| Holt County      | — | 10,011 |
| 30-Mile Radius   | — | 12,826 |

| Holt County Population<br>Ages/Gender, 2009 |             |               |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| <u>Ages</u>                                 | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
| 18–24                                       | 454         | 382           |
| 25–44                                       | 864         | 763           |
| 45–64                                       | 1,553       | 1,551         |

## UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right to work provision in its constitution. In 2008, 4.2 percent of Nebraska's private sector wage and salary workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 7.6 percent.

Labor organizations operating in the Atkinson area:

| <u>Company</u>           | <u>Union</u>                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| West Holt Public Schools | Nebraska State Education Association |

It is estimated that less than one percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Atkinson is unionized. There have been no known strikes.

## WAGES

| Occupation Title                              | Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile |       |       |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
|   | 10th                        | 50th  | 90th  |
| <b>Professional</b>                           |                             |       |       |
| Accountants & Auditors                        | 16.24                       | 23.82 | 44.42 |
| Engineers                                     |                             |       |       |
| Civil Engineers                               | 19.81                       | 33.31 | 46.53 |
| Electrical Engineers                          | 27.54                       | 33.15 | 40.75 |
| Industrial Engineers                          | 22.84                       | 30.86 | 43.52 |
| Mechanical Engineers                          | 16.66                       | 28.78 | 45.98 |
| Computer Programmers                          | 14.43                       | 30.01 | 43.14 |
| Computer Systems Analysts                     | 28.19                       | 38.06 | 48.40 |
| Registered Nurses                             | 18.66                       | 24.80 | 33.15 |
| <b>Retail</b>                                 |                             |       |       |
| Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks             | 6.92                        | 7.71  | 9.10  |
| Retail Salespersons                           | 7.08                        | 8.86  | 15.46 |
| Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services     | 7.31                        | 12.83 | 21.09 |
| Driver/Sales Workers                          | 7.62                        | 17.04 | 26.12 |
| Stock Clerks & Order Fillers                  | 7.11                        | 9.00  | 14.99 |
| Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks          | 9.32                        | 13.63 | 19.57 |
| <b>Clerical</b>                               |                             |       |       |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks     | 8.12                        | 12.69 | 18.56 |
| Customer Service Representatives              | 7.68                        | 13.05 | 20.37 |
| Data Entry Keyers                             | 7.74                        | 11.04 | 15.81 |
| Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive | 8.34                        | 11.68 | 17.02 |
| Office Clerks, General                        | 7.17                        | 10.13 | 15.58 |
| Receptionists & Information Clerks            | 7.55                        | 10.78 | 15.17 |
| Telemarketers                                 | 7.74                        | 10.29 | 12.22 |

\*Wage information taken from Balance of State

| Occupation Title                                   | Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile |       |       |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
|  | 10th                        | 50th  | 90th  |
| <b>Unskilled</b>                                   |                             |       |       |
| Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand  | 8.27                        | 12.32 | 17.56 |
| Packers & Packagers, Hand                          | 7.25                        | 10.80 | 14.88 |
| Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other                | 10.87                       | 14.51 | 17.49 |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants              | 8.47                        | 10.81 | 14.05 |
| <b>Semi-Skilled</b>                                |                             |       |       |
| Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators               | 10.99                       | 14.13 | 18.36 |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer            | 10.46                       | 17.66 | 25.19 |
| Maintenance Workers, Machinery                     | 13.87                       | 21.95 | 25.68 |
| Machine Operators                                  |                             |       |       |
| Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*      | 9.86                        | 12.91 | 19.32 |
| Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.            | 13.58                       | 16.32 | 18.44 |
| Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper. | 13.18                       | 15.32 | 20.88 |
| Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.            | 7.41                        | 11.19 | 18.28 |
| Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.         | 14.68                       | 17.86 | 22.01 |
| Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.    | 8.34                        | 12.36 | 18.01 |
| Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*               | 11.90                       | 15.30 | 19.80 |
| <b>Skilled</b>                                     |                             |       |       |
| Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics         | 9.64                        | 16.29 | 24.07 |
| Electricians                                       | 11.05                       | 17.35 | 31.36 |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics                     | 13.89                       | 18.93 | 34.08 |
| Machinists   | 10.29                       | 16.89 | 37.11 |
| Tool & Die Makers                                  | 14.90                       | 19.22 | 24.93 |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers              | 10.36                       | 13.63 | 19.57 |
| Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters       | 11.92                       | 14.72 | 18.78 |
| <b>Technical</b>                                   |                             |       |       |
| Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians*   | 15.39                       | 27.72 | 35.92 |
| Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists        | 17.64                       | 25.33 | 31.81 |
| Computer Operators                                 | 8.73                        | 12.77 | 19.72 |

\*Wage information taken from Balance of State

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Third Quarter 2010 wage estimates, All Industries, Northeast Region, <http://neblswages.nwd.ne.gov>.

Production workers are, for the most part, paid on a straight-time basis rather than an incentive basis.

## FRINGE BENEFITS

Local industries estimate fringe benefits to range from 15 to 18 percent of wages.

# TRANSPORTATION

## RAILROADS

The nearest rail service is provided by the Nebraska Northeastern Railway Company in O'Neill, 19 miles east of Atkinson.

## MOTOR

### Highways

U.S. Highway 20 (east-west) and State Highway 11 (north-south) serve Atkinson. There are no local load restrictions. Interstate 90 (east-west) is 130 miles south and Interstate 80 (east-west) is 135 miles north of Atkinson.

Highway mileage to major cities:

| Destination   | Mileage |
|---------------|---------|
| Lincoln       | 230     |
| Omaha         | 211     |
| Chicago       | 670     |
| Dallas        | 768     |
| Denver        | 476     |
| Detroit       | 936     |
| Kansas City   | 394     |
| Los Angeles   | 1,487   |
| Minneapolis   | 449     |
| New York      | 1,444   |
| St. Louis     | 644     |
| San Francisco | 1,603   |
| Sioux City    | 144     |

### Trucklines

More than 11,500 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America.

Nite Inc. in Atkinson hauls flatbed materials nationwide.

### 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. Highways 20 and 275 from Norfolk, 94 miles southeast of Atkinson, to Chadron, 248 miles

northwest. The bus travels west from Norfolk to Chadron on Tuesday afternoons and returns on Wednesday mornings, stopping at the communities of Neligh, O'Neill, Atkinson, Bassett, Ainsworth, Valentine, Gordon, and Rushville.

Atkinson Senior Center has a van that will transport within Holt County.

## AIR

The Stuart-Atkinson Airport, located three miles northwest of Atkinson, has a 4,040 foot lighted and paved runway and a 3,000 foot turf runway. Facilities include an administration building, 100 low-lead fuel, hangars, windsock, beacon, and tie downs. The elevation at the airport is 2,130 feet, the latitude is 42-33N, and the longitude is 099-02W. None of the nine private planes hangared at the airport are available for charter. The airport has not been closed a single day in the last three years due to inclement weather.

Commercial air service:

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Central Nebraska Regional Airport, Grand Island, NE</b><br/> <b>Distance:</b> 133 miles southeast (2 hr. 22 mins.)<br/> <b>Airline:</b> Great Lakes Airlines<br/> <b>Destination:</b> Denver International</p>   |
| <p><b>Sioux Gateway Airport, Sioux City, IA</b><br/> <b>Distance:</b> 144 miles northeast (2 hrs. 24 mins.)<br/> <b>Airline:</b> Delta Air Lines<br/> <b>Destinations:</b> Minneapolis</p>   |
| <p><b>Kearney Regional Airport, Kearney, NE</b><br/> <b>Distance:</b> 180 miles south (3 hrs.)<br/> <b>Airline:</b> Great Lakes Airlines<br/> <b>Destinations:</b> Las Vegas/Phoenix-Mesa</p>  |
| <p><b>Eppley Airfield near Omaha</b><br/> <b>Distance:</b> 211 miles southeast (3 hrs. 51 mins.)<br/> <b>Airlines:</b> Airtran (via Skywest)<br/>                     American Airlines<br/>                     Continental Airlines<br/>                     Delta Air Lines<br/>                     Frontier/Midwest<br/>                     Southwest Airlines<br/>                     United Airlines<br/>                     US Airways<br/> <b>Destinations:</b> Nationwide</p> |

## WATER

Barge service is not available near Atkinson.



Stuart-Atkinson Airport

# UTILITIES

## ELECTRICITY

Atkinson is provided retail electric service by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Atkinson's distribution capacity is provided by a 6.25 MVA transformer to supply the distribution system loads at 4.16 wye. A 69,000 volt line from O'Neill and an alternate source, 69,000 volt line from Ainsworth, deliver power to the substation, which is located in the northwest section of Atkinson. These lines are connected to Nebraska Public Power District's 115,000 volt statewide grid. Atkinson also has an industrial tract that is supplied power by a 12.5 MVA transformer to supply distribution loads at 12.5 kV wye. A 69,000 volt line from O'Neill and an alternate 69,000 volt line from Ainsworth deliver power to the substation, which is located in the southeast section of Atkinson.

A 36-unit wind energy facility began operations 53 miles west of Atkinson in 2005. This facility, supported by a 115,000 kV substation, is a 59.4 megawatt wind generation facility. NPPD's share of the facility is 32 megawatts and the remainder of the generation is sold to other utilities.

### BASE ELECTRIC RATES (effective 1/1/10)

Summer bills run from June–September.  
Winter bills run from October–May.

#### Residential Service:

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| <b>Customer Charge:</b>   |               | \$15.00 per month                            |
| <b>Summer</b>   | <b>Winter</b> |  |
| 8.88¢   | 7.01¢         | per kWh for the first 750 kWh used per month |
| 8.88¢   | 4.54¢         | per kWh for all additional use               |
| <b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments |               |  |

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

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:

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| <b>Customer Charge:</b>   |               |  |
| Single Phase  |               | \$17.00 per month                              |
| Three Phase   |               | \$21.00 per month                              |
| <b>Summer</b>   | <b>Winter</b> |  |
| 9.38¢   | 7.57¢         | per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month |
| 9.38¢   | 6.30¢         | per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month  |
| 9.38¢   | 6.00¢         | per kWh for all additional use                 |
| <b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments |               |  |

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

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:

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Customer Charge:</b>   |               |   |
| Single Phase  |               | \$45.00 per month   |
| Three Phase   |               | \$50.00 per month   |
| <b>Summer</b>   | <b>Winter</b> |   |
| 10.65¢  | 6.77¢         | per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month |
| 4.19¢   | 2.92¢         | per kWh for all additional use                                |
| <b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments |               |   |

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

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:**

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Customer Charge:</b>   |               |   |
| Single Phase  |               | \$80.00 per month   |
| Three Phase   |               | \$90.00 per month   |
| <b>Summer</b>   | <b>Winter</b> |   |
| 10.80¢  | 7.29¢         | per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month |
| 3.90¢   | 2.99¢         | per kWh for all additional use                                |
| <b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments |               |   |

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

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 off-peak and load management rates available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh for General Service Demand:**

| kW  | kWh     | Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup> |
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 100 | 30,000  | 8.48                              |
| 100 | 50,000  | 6.67                              |
| 300 | 90,000  | 8.24                              |
| 300 | 150,000 | 6.53                              |
| 500 | 150,000 | 8.19                              |
| 500 | 180,000 | 7.49                              |

<sup>1</sup>Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

**High Tension Service:**

|   |               |                                 |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Customer Charge:</b> \$310.00 per month  |               |                                 |
| <b>Demand Charge:</b>   |               |                                 |
| <b>Summer</b>   | <b>Winter</b> |                                 |
| \$12.75   | \$7.80        | per kW of billing demand        |
| <b>Energy Charge:</b>   |               |                                 |
| <b>Summer</b>   | <b>Winter</b> |                                 |
| 4.45¢   | 3.23¢         | per kWh for all on-peak energy  |
| 3.22¢   | 2.16¢         | per kWh for all off-peak energy |
| <b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments |               |                                 |

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

**Energy Time Periods** - For the monthly billing periods, the on-peak and off-peak hours for energy (all based on “Central” time) are as follows:

| Energy Season | On-Peak Hours                         | Off-Peak Hours  |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Summer</b> | 10:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday | All Other Hours |
| <b>Winter</b> | 8:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday  | All Other Hours |

All hours on New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day shall be considered off-peak hours.

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 off-peak and load management rates available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh for High Tension Service:**

| <b>kW</b> | <b>kWh</b> | <b>Annual Average ¢/kWh<sup>1</sup></b> |
|-----------|------------|---|
| 1,000     | 300,000    | 7.20                                    |
| 2,500     | 750,000    | 7.13                                    |
| 2,500     | 1,250,000  | 5.68                                    |
| 5,000     | 1,500,000  | 7.10                                    |
| 5,000     | 2,500,000  | 5.66                                    |
| 10,000    | 6,400,000  | 5.18                                    |

<sup>1</sup>Includes Lease Payment. Does not include Gross Revenue Tax.

The annual average ¢/kWh cost assumes 46 percent of monthly energy is consumed during on-peak hours of the four summer months and 53 percent during on-peak hours of the eight winter months.

Prospective customers should contact Nebraska Public Power District, (877) 275-6773, [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com), for further information regarding electric rates and service.

The Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District, serves the rural area surrounding Atkinson. For more information regarding electrical services in the Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation service area, contact John Hoke, manager, O’Neill, Nebraska, (402) 336-2803, [johnh@nvemc.org](mailto:johnh@nvemc.org), [www.nvemc.org](http://www.nvemc.org).

**NATURAL GAS**

Natural gas is supplied to Atkinson by SourceGas Distribution, LLC, through a 4-inch transmission pipeline with an operating pressure up to 800 pounds per square inch. The transmission provider is Kinder Morgan Interstate Gas Transmission.

SourceGas provides utility distribution service to approximately 480 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the community.

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 SourceGas’s customer service center at (800) 563-0012.

**OTHER FUELS**

**LP Gas**

LP gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Galyen Petroleum and Grassland Oil in Atkinson and Central Valley Ag in O’Neill.

**Oil**

Oil is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Galyen Petroleum, Grassland Oil, and White’s Service in Atkinson and Central Valley Ag.

**WATER**

The municipal water system in Atkinson is supplied by four wells, which have an average depth of 160 feet. The system, serving 95 percent of the city’s population, has a combined pumping capacity of 1,730 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 100,000 gallons. The average daily demand on this system is 40,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 750,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 2,591,200 gallons per day. The static pressure is 52 pounds per square inch and the residual pressure is 44 pounds per square inch.

A 100-foot well will produce 450 to 600 gallons of water per minute. The quality of water in Atkinson does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has risen 3–5 feet during the last five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness is 116 parts per million. The average tap water temperature varies from 40° in winter to 55° in summer.

### Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Hydrogen Ion Concentration | 7.7  |
| Calcium                    | 30   |
| Total Solids               | 0    |
| Magnesium                  | 289  |
| Iron                       | 0    |
| Nitrate                    | 1.0  |
| Manganese                  | 0    |
| Chloride                   | 2    |
| Fluoride                   | 0.40 |
| Sulfate                    | 0    |
| Total Alkalinity           | 149  |
| Sodium                     | 29   |
| Total Hardness             | 116  |
| Potassium                  | NA   |

NA=Not available

### WATER RATES (effective 6/8/09)

A water tapping fee of \$250.00 is charged to connect to city water.

#### Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

\$7.50 per month for the first 2,500 gallons  
\$2.00 per 1,000 gallons for all additional use  
**Minimum Bill:** \$7.50 per month

Capital improvements included adding fluoride to the system at a cost of \$10,000 in 2010 and future plans include sealing the top of the water tower in 2012 at a cost of \$25,000. This project will be funded by city funds and water revenues.

## SEWERAGE

Atkinson has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The mechanical treatment plant was built in 1966 and has a daily capacity of 149,000 gallons. The

average daily flow is 129,500 gallons and the historic peak daily discharge is 339,600 gallons.

### SEWER-USE CHARGES (effective 8/4/08)

A sewer tapping fee of \$175.00 is charged to connect to the city sewer.

#### Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

\$7.50 per month for up to 2,500 gallons  
\$3.00 for each additional 1,000 gallons used  
per month  
**Minimum Bill:** \$7.50 per month

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The city of Atkinson contracts for waste disposal with a private company from O'Neill. Wastes are hauled to O'Neill and then to the Butler County Landfill near David City, 171 miles southeast of Atkinson.

### SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES (effective 3/1/09)

#### Residential:

\$16.74 per month for one 96-gal. poly cart  
\$14.19 per month for seniors 62 & older for one 42-gal. poly cart

#### Commercial:

\$33.83 per container per month  
\$25.67 per month for 3 bags or less per week

## RECYCLING

The city of Atkinson has a drop off collection site for recyclables.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications services are provided to the Atkinson area by Qwest Communications with a digital central office fed by a self-healing fiber ring located in O'Neill. Qwest uses DMS 10 switching, which is monitored both locally and remotely. Fiber is placed based on customer needs and services. The O'Neill central office provides high speed Internet, DSL, and telecommunications services, including but not limited to business lines, long distance, frame relay, MPLS, private line (DS-1 to OC-192), IP services, voice and data equipment, and professional services. Diverse routing is available, contingent on funding approval. Atkinson's extended service area includes O'Neill and Stuart. Technicians and networking personnel reside in O'Neill, providing 24-hour on-call service.

## INTERNET

Internet access in Atkinson is provided by:

| Company/Web Address   | Phone Number   |
|---|----------------|
| <b>DISH Network</b><br><a href="http://www.dishnetwork.com">www.dishnetwork.com</a> | (888) 825-2557 |
| <b>Elkhorn Net</b><br><a href="http://www.elkhorn.net">www.elkhorn.net</a>          | (402) 924-3700 |
| <b>Internet Nebraska</b><br><a href="http://www.inetnebr.com">www.inetnebr.com</a>  | (800) 438-4638 |
| <b>Qwest</b><br><a href="http://www.qwest.com">www.qwest.com</a>                    | (800) 475-7526 |
| <b>Telebeep</b><br><a href="http://www.telebeep.com">www.telebeep.com</a>           | (800) 846-2337 |
| <b>Viaero</b><br><a href="http://www.viaero.com">www.viaero.com</a>                 | (877) 484-2376 |

## POST OFFICE

Atkinson has one mail receipt and one dispatch daily.

## PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

|                                    | Federal Express | UPS       | U.S. Postal Service |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>Latest Pick-up</b>              | 4:30 p.m.       | 4:30 p.m. | 4:30 p.m.           |
| <b>Earliest Delivery</b>           | 8:00 a.m.       | 8:00 a.m. | 7:00 a.m.           |
| <b>Next Day Delivery Guarantee</b> | Yes             | Yes       | Yes                 |
| <b>Saturday Delivery Guarantee</b> | Yes             | Yes*      | Yes                 |

\*Only with next-day or worldwide express

## NEWSPAPER

The Atkinson Graphic is the local weekly newspaper with 1,400 subscribers. Daily papers delivered via U.S. mail are the Omaha World-Herald and the Norfolk Daily News. One weekly paper, the Holt County Independent, is also delivered in Atkinson via U.S. mail.

## RADIO

Radio stations carrying local news:

| Call Letters | Frequency | Location      |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| KBRX-AM      | 1350 KHz  | O'Neill, NE   |
| KBRX-FM      | 102.9 MHz | O'Neill, NE   |
| KGRD-FM      | 105.3 MHz | O'Neill, NE   |
| KBRB         | 92.7 MHz  | Ainsworth, NE |
| KMNE         | 90.3 MHz  | Bassett, NE   |
| KWYR         | 93.7 MHz  | Winner, SD    |

## TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news:

| Call Letters | Channel | Location                 |
|--------------|---------|--------------------------|
| KOLN/KGIN    | 10/11   | Lincoln/<br>Grand Island |
| KLKN         | 8       | Lincoln                  |

Cable television service is provided by Fort Randall Cable Company with 25 basic channels and 3 pay-per-view channels. Satellite service

in Atkinson is provided by DISH Network and DIRECTV.



Atkinson Post Office



Viaero

## TAX STRUCTURE

### VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES—CITY OF ATKINSON

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agriculture land is valued at 72 percent of its market 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    |                     |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                  | 2008                | 2009                | 2010                |
| Real Estate                      | \$32,985,355        | \$34,971,750        | \$35,740,870        |
| Personal Property                | 2,139,276           | 24,501,220          | 19,645,270          |
| Special (railroad and utilities) | 1,773,797           | 1,746,122           | 2,100,163           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <u>\$36,898,428</u> | <u>\$61,219,092</u> | <u>\$57,486,303</u> |

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

|                           | 2008              | 2009              | 2010              |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Township                  | \$0.037873        | \$0.032451        | \$0.023893        |
| City                      | .537437           | .433299           | .545092           |
| County                    | .367632           | .333073           | .326273           |
| School District           | 1.061024          | 1.004381          | .727180           |
| Community College         | .090000           | .093540           | .098500           |
| Educational Service Unit  | .014990           | .014939           | .014940           |
| Natural Resource District | .024138           | .024257           | .022177           |
| Agricultural Society      | .002339           | .002165           | .001961           |
| School Bond               | —                 | —                 | .095500           |
| Fire District             | .027704           | .024530           | .023929           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <u>\$2.163137</u> | <u>\$1.962635</u> | <u>\$1.879445</u> |

The 2010 tax rate at the industrial site is \$1.879445 per \$100 of actual value.

### CITY SALES TAX

The city of Atkinson imposes a 1 percent city sales tax. One-half of the 1 percent sales tax is allocated for the library and the other half to economic development under the LB840 Economic Development Plan.

### LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of Nov. 18, 2009:

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| City—Revenue Bonds            | None        |
| City—General Obligation Bonds | \$615,000   |
| School District (as of 12/10) | \$9,218,754 |
| County (as of 8/1/10)         | \$1,910,000 |

## CITY BOND ISSUES

| Type                      | Date Issued | Original Amount | Unpaid Balance As of 11/18/10 | Interest Rate (%) | Date Due |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| <b>General Obligation</b> |             |                 |                               |                   |          |
| Paving                    | 11/12/02    | \$145,000       | \$40,000                      | 3.5–3.9           | 11/15/12 |
| Various Purpose           | 11/30/06    | \$105,000       | \$85,000                      | 3.85–4.3          | 12/1/16  |
| Various Purpose           | 7/1/09      | \$520,000       | \$490,000                     | 1.35–4.4          | 7/1/24   |

## SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

| Type                    | Date Issued | Original Amount | Unpaid Balance As of 12/10 | Interest Rate (%) | Date Due |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| West Holt Public School | 6/09        | \$10,141,000    | \$9,218,754                | 4.0               | 2028     |

## COUNTY BOND ISSUES

| Type                                  | Date Issued | Original Amount | Unpaid Balance As of 8/1/10 | Interest Rate (%) | Date Due |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Refunding & Limited Tax Building Bond | 2005        | \$2,115,000     | \$1,910,000                 | 3.70              | 6/15/27  |



Atkinson Municipal Building

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Holt County has 37 townships and is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors, who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The actual county budget for 2010–11 is \$5,323,327. The county is zoned AG-Agricultural.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Atkinson, a second-class city, has a mayor-council form of government. The 2010–11 actual budget was \$2,968,018.

Municipal officials are:

| Title                   | Term of Office |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Elected at Large</b> |                |
| Mayor                   | 4 Years        |
| Council Members (6)     | 4 Years        |
| <b>Appointed</b>        |                |
| City Clerk/Treasurer    | 1 Year         |
| Utility Superintendent  | 1 Year         |
| Police Chief            | 1 Year         |
| City Engineer           | 1 Year         |
| City Attorney           | 1 Year         |

## FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided to the city and the rural areas by a 39-member volunteer fire department; 23 members are certified Emergency Medical Technicians, and 5 are Paramedics. The ambulance service is ALS/BLS certified through the state of Nebraska and provides medical transports for surrounding hospitals. The department also provides protection to approximately 475 square miles outside the community and responds to mutual aid calls.

There are 154 fire hydrants in Atkinson. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 5; outside it is 8/9. Annual expenditures for fire protection for the past three years averaged \$241,884.

Equipment in the fire department:

| Year/Make           | Description            |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 2006 Ford           | Ambulance              |
| 2004 Ford           | Ambulance, road rescue |
| 2003 IHC SDA 4X4    | Pumper, 1,250 gpm      |
| 2001 Ford           | Ambulance              |
| 2000 Ford F350      | Grass rig              |
| 2000 GMC            | Equipment truck        |
| 2000 Ford           | Equipment truck        |
| 1993 Chevy Suburban | Personnel vehicle      |
| 1993 Chevy          | Grass rig              |
| 1981 IHC            | Pumper, 1,000 gpm      |
| 1979 IHC            | 1,200 gallon tanker    |
| 1977 GMC            | Pumper, 1,000 gpm      |
| 1975 IHC 4X4        | 1,100 gallon tanker    |

Fire losses for the past five years have been:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------|---------------|
| 2009        | \$20,000      |
| 2008        | \$20,000      |
| 2007        | \$63,000      |
| 2006        | \$90,250      |
| 2005        | \$125,300     |

Contemplated changes in the department include updating equipment in order to accommodate the addition of industrial and residential areas.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Police Department

The city of Atkinson employs three full-time police officers. Equipment in the department includes three patrol units. Average annual expenditures for police protection for the last three years were \$225,354.

### Sheriff's Department

The Holt County Sheriff's Department in O'Neill employs six sworn officers (five full-time and one part-time) and two support personnel (one full-time and

one part-time). The sheriff's department has five patrol units. Regular patrol provides protection to existing industries in the area by the police and sheriff's departments.

Crime rates per 1,000 population, 2009:

| Location    | Violent Crimes | Property Crimes |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Holt County | 0.0            | 1.5             |
| Nebraska    | 2.7            | 26.7            |
| U.S.        | 4.3            | 30.4            |

### State Patrol

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol covers a 23-county area, including Holt County. Headquartered in Norfolk, 94 miles southeast of Atkinson, Troop B is home to 50 troopers; 4 troopers are stationed in O'Neill, 19 miles east of Atkinson.

### STREETS

Atkinson has 25.05 miles of streets, 20.3 miles are hard-surfaced with concrete/asphalt. There are no load restrictions. Seventy-five percent of the streets have curbs and 50 percent have sidewalks.

Street maintenance includes street sweeping, snow removal, crack filling, and repair of curbs and street sections.

## BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS

International Building Codes are enforced within the city.

Local zoning classifications are:

|     |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| R-1 | Single Family Residential   |
| R-2 | Multiple Family Residential |
| M-H | Mobile Home Residential     |
| I-1 | Limited Industrial          |
| I-2 | General Industrial          |
| C-1 | General Commercial          |
| C-2 | Limited Commercial/Office   |
| C-3 | Town Center                 |
| TA  | Transitional Agriculture    |
| FP  | Flood Plain                 |

### PLANNING

Atkinson has a seven-member planning commission. Members are appointed by the city council and serve three-year-terms.

A comprehensive plan was completed in 2002 by CDS Mark Wimmer and RDG Crose Gardner and Shupert from Norfolk, Nebraska.



Atkinson Fire Department

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### West Holt Public Schools

| Type of School           | Classrooms | Students | Teacher/<br>Pupil Ratio | Computer/<br>Pupil Ratio |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elementary (in Atkinson) | 10         | 149      | 1:9                     | 1:4                      |
| Elementary (2 Rural)     | 2          | 11       | 1:9                     | 1:1                      |
| Jr.–Sr. High School      | 19         | 193      | 1:9                     | 1:1                      |

West Holt Public School District No. 239 in Holt County covers approximately 930 square miles. The 2010–11 actual valuation was \$557,402,832 and the actual valuation per student was \$1,792,292.

The Class 3 school is accredited by the state of Nebraska. The 2010–11 school operating expenses are \$4,507,000 and the average cost per student is \$14,491.

The West Holt Elementary School in Atkinson was built in 2009 with a maximum capacity of 200. The junior-senior high school was built in 1968 with a maximum capacity of 280. A \$6.5 million renovation project was completed in 2009. The renovation included numerous changes to the high school along with a new addition housing the elementary school, administration offices, and gymnasium.

Programs include numerous athletic opportunities. Academic programs offered include Mock Trial, Quiz Bowl, and Scholastic Contest and Fine Arts Programs including Music, Band, Art, Scpeech, Drill Team, and performing play productions. West Holt has outstanding leadership opportunities through Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) programs.

Vocational/technical preparation programs offered at the school include FFA, Industrial Technology, FCCA, and Agriculture.

#### Test Results

| Name                    | %<br>Students<br>Taking<br>Test | %<br>Proficiency |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 7th Grade Terra<br>Nova | 100                             | 72               |
|                         |                                 | <b>Composite</b> |
| ACT                     | 85                              | 23               |

It is estimated that ninety-seven percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, ninety percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, while 5 percent enter the labor market, and 5 percent join the military following graduation.

#### Parochial Schools

**St. Joseph’s Catholic School** in Atkinson provides education to 37 children in grades K–8 in four classrooms in the 2010–11 school year and has a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:9 and a computer/pupil ratio of 1:2. The average annual tuition is \$500 for the first child.

**Little Critters Preschool**, in conjunction with St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Atkinson, has one classroom and a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:9. Tuition is \$5.25 per session.

#### Educational Service Unit

Educational Service Unit 8 (ESU), headquartered in Neligh, serves seven counties including Holt County. Services provided include art, early childhood, media center, nursing, special education, and staff development.



West Holt Schools



St. Joseph's Catholic School

## Community College

Atkinson 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, 94 miles southeast of Atkinson, and through regional education centers located in O'Neill, South Sioux City, and West Point. Enrollment at NECC for 2009–10 included 7,390 students taking credit courses and 18,181 students taking noncredit classes or 3,368 full-time equivalent students. Northeast also provided adult education classes for 1,088 students in 2009–10. Those students were taking classes for the acquisition of basic math and English skills, English as a Second Language, English language civics, General Educational Development (GED) for a high school diploma, or preparation for the Naturalization Test.

NECC offers more than 95 program options preparing students for immediate employment or transfer to a four-year college or university. Some 750 students completed their studies for a certificate, diploma, or degree during the 2009–10 academic year. According to the latest Graduate Employment Report, 97 percent of the 2009 graduates seeking employment found jobs.

The most recent Graduate Employment Report also showed that 273 of the 2009 graduates chose to continue their education, with 87 percent transferring to a Nebraska institution of higher learning. Other data confirm that college transfer students from NECC who continue their education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln do as well as, or better, than native and other transfer students.

The Business and Industry Division of NECC works with area industries, retail, 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 189 employers and trained more than 5,000 employees through customized training workshops and seminars in fiscal year 2009–10. The division also worked with 12 communities on strategic planning and economic development initiatives. More than 20 individuals seeking to start or expand their businesses received assistance through this division. An additional 6 minority-owned businesses were provided startup assistance and consulting services. Seven area manufacturing plants received assistance with training through Nebraska Advantage Customized Training and Nebraska Worker Training Grants. NECC also assisted in recruiting several new companies and divisions to the region.

The **205-acre main campus in Norfolk** includes 24 buildings with classroom, shop, and lab facilities; library/resource center; student center; an activities center with gym and theater; the Lifelong Learning Center; and residence halls and two apartment buildings for student living. Northeast also owns a 566-acre college farm with all facilities necessary for teaching farm operations.

Northeast Community College's library in Norfolk, with its 26,338 books, approximately 40,000 electronic books, and 138 magazines and journals, is open to the residents of Northeast's 20-county service area. The library also offers 57 different newspapers, including those published in the 20 counties in northeast Nebraska, and 871 videotapes and DVDs. The library is part of the ONELibrary Consortium which includes the public libraries of Columbus, Norfolk, South Sioux City, Scottsbluff, Schuyler, and Wayne, and the libraries of Central Community College and Northeast Community College.

Northeast Community College continues to grow. A unique partnership between Northeast Community College and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing came to fruition in August 2010 when the 43,747-square-foot J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh College of Nursing opened. The facility houses all Northeast's nursing programs

including the basic nurse aide (commonly called the certified nurse aide), medication aide, practical nursing, and associate degree nursing, and bachelor's and graduate nursing programs from the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division. An \$11.9 million capital campaign, believed by some to be the largest capital campaign in northeast Nebraska history, was completed with a donation of well over \$1,000,000 from J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh.

The \$7.9 million, 40,025-square-foot College Welcome Center on the Northeast campus in Norfolk opened in October 2009. It houses most Student Services' and Administrative Services' functions. Designed to be a "one-stop shop," the facility includes a welcome/reception area, testing and academic advisement area, financial aid offices, student counseling facilities, and the business offices for payment of tuition and fees.

The College Welcome Center is also home to recruitment/admissions, disabilities services, adaptive technology center, career services, registration and records, and veteran's services. Prospective students begin their college tours from this facility, which also has conference rooms.

Enrollments continue to grow at the 10,000-square-foot **Northeast Community College Education Center in South Sioux City**, which opened in 2005. Currently students can earn associate degrees in academic transfer, administrative assistant-general, administrative assistant-medical, business administration, business management, behavioral science, criminal justice-corrections, and elementary education. Nursing classes are also offered, as are vocational classes, continuing education, and customized training for business and industry at this location.

Construction continues on the College Center at South Sioux City. The center is being built on 57 acres of prime real estate along U.S. Highway 77, donated to Northeast by the South Sioux City Community Development Agency. Students will be able to take their freshman and sophomore classes from Northeast Community College and continue their education

from Wayne State College, all in the same location. The Nebraska Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million for Wayne State's share of the facility. The College Center will open during the spring semester 2011.

Northeast tentatively plans to offer associate of arts degrees with an emphasis in academic transfer, accounting, behavioral science, business administration, criminal justice/corrections, early childhood education, elementary education, industrial facility drafting, journalism, and library technical assistant. Associate of applied science degrees in administrative assistant-medical or general, business-marketing option, and accounting are also tentatively planned. These programs may be delivered via a combination of traditional classes, interactive television classes, and online classes.

A 5,750-square-foot Industrial Training Building on the College Center grounds in South Sioux City opened in July 2010. Approximately 50 percent of the funds for the Industrial Training Building project are federal funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Northeast's one-year welding and industrial technician programs are housed in the facility.

The **Northeast Education Center in West Point** is comprised of 8,000 square feet in the Shirley and Jake Weber Education Center, part of the \$5.4 million Donald E. Nielsen Community Center, dedicated in 2008. Construction of NECC's portion of the building was financed with a \$500,000 grant from the Louis and Abby Faye Dinklage Foundation and a \$250,000 gift from Hank and Mona Stalp.

The Northeast Education Center contains six classrooms (two ITV classrooms, two computer labs, a science lab, and a general purpose classroom), four offices, student lounge, registration area, lobby area, workroom, and storeroom. General education, nursing, business, English as a Second Language, computer training, business/industry training, and continuing/community education classes are offered in West Point.

Northeast Community College programming continues to increase at the **Northeast Education Center in O’Neill**. In May 2010, 15 students who took most of their classes at the O’Neill Education Center joined more than 700 others who earned Northeast degrees or diplomas. A total of 86 students, including 12 nursing students, were registered in 64 different credit classes at the O’Neill Education Center at the beginning of the fall 2010 semester.

A recently completed Economic Impact Study by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc./CCbenefits Inc. of Moscow, Idaho, showed that taxpayers in Northeast’s 20-county service area see a sound return on their investment. The study revealed that area taxpayers see a return of 9.8 percent

on their annual investments in Northeast and recover all investments in 12.9 years. The study also showed that Northeast’s workforce training increased the output of local industries (where former Northeast students are employed) by \$190.5 million annually. Using the multiplier effect, Northeast’s annual payroll and benefits of \$18 million turns into \$25 million. Additionally, the study showed that for every \$1 a student invests in Northeast education, he or she will receive a cumulative \$6.10 in higher future earning for the next 30 years.

For more information on Northeast Community College, visit [www.northeast.edu](http://www.northeast.edu) or call (800) 348-9033.

| <b>Northeast Community College<br/>2009–10 Academic Year</b> |               |                |                    |
|--|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Program</b>   | <b>Degree</b> | <b>Diploma</b> | <b>Certificate</b> |
| Academic Transfer & General Studies                          | 58            | NA             | NA                 |
| Administrative Assistant                                     | 27            | 12             | 0                  |
| Agriculture  | 73            | 1              | NA                 |
| Art  | 4             | NA             | NA                 |
| Associate Degree Nursing                                     | 49            | NA             | NA                 |
| Audio Recording  | 15            | 0              | 13                 |
| Auto Body Repair Technology                                  | 12            | NA             | NA                 |
| Automotive Technology  | 19            | 0              | NA                 |
| Biology  | 1             | NA             | NA                 |
| Broadcasting   | 6             | NA             | NA                 |
| Building Construction  | 17            | NA             | NA                 |
| Business   | 57            | 4              | 2                  |
| Criminal Justice   | 6             | NA             | NA                 |
| Diesel Technology  | 25            | NA             | NA                 |
| Drafting   | 38            | NA             | NA                 |
| Early Childhood Education                                    | 7             | 1              | NA                 |
| Education  | 22            | NA             | NA                 |
| Electrical Construction and Control                          | 26            | NA             | NA                 |
| Electromechanical Technology                                 | 20            | 0              | 0                  |
| EMT Paramedic  | 2             | 0              | NA                 |
| English  | 3             | NA             | NA                 |
| Graphic Design   | 5             | NA             | NA                 |
| Health, Physical Education, and Recreation                   | 3             | NA             | NA                 |
| Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning                   | 6             | NA             | NA                 |

NA-Not available



Northeast Community College Education Center in O'Neill

| <b>Northeast Community College<br/>2009–10 Academic Year</b> |               |                |                    |
|--|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Program</b>   | <b>Degree</b> | <b>Diploma</b> | <b>Certificate</b> |
| Industrial Maintenance                                       | NA            | 7              | NA                 |
| Information Technology                                       | 18            | 0              | 0                  |
| Journalism   | 2             | NA             | NA                 |
| Music  | 3             | NA             | NA                 |
| Practical Nursing  | NA            | 41             | NA                 |
| Paralegal  | 3             | 0              | 1                  |
| Physics  | 1             | NA             | NA                 |
| Pre-Professional Studies                                     | 31            | NA             | NA                 |
| Physical Therapy   | 13            | NA             | NA                 |
| Renewable Fuels  | 5             | 2              | 0                  |
| Behavioral Science   | 29            | NA             | NA                 |
| Utility Line   | 35            | NA             | NA                 |
| Welding  | NA            | 25             | NA                 |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>641</b>    | <b>93</b>      | <b>16</b>          |

NA-Not available

### **Lifelong Learning Center**

The Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College 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, one distance-learning classroom, a computer center for software training, a general purpose classroom, and the conference center that can be divided into six rooms and accommodate up to 700 people. Full technology, including video conferencing, 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, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Northeast Research and Extension Center, UNL Extension in Madison County, and Wayne State College, as well as other public and private institutions.

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

### **Colleges & Universities**

**Wayne State College (WSC)** located in Wayne, 118 miles southeast of Atkinson, serves approximately 3,600 students from throughout Nebraska and Iowa as well as more than 32 other states and 24 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, education, and organizational management.

Of those undergraduate students declaring a major, approximately 12 percent major in the arts and humanities, 23 percent in education and counseling, 24 percent in business and technology, and 41 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, state-of-the-art business building and a 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.

The College Center of South Sioux City, opening in early 2011, is a collaborative effort of Northeast Community College and Wayne State College. Northeast and Wayne State will offer opportunities for students to earn associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees, a combination of customized training for business and industry, continuing education, licensing programs, and career and technical training. The College Center sits on 57 acres of land along U.S. Highway 77, donated by the Community Development Agency of South Sioux City.

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

| <b>Wayne State College</b>       |                      |                  |                 |                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Program</b>                   | <b>Undergraduate</b> |                  | <b>Graduate</b> |                  |
|                                  | <b>Majors*</b>       | <b>Degrees**</b> | <b>Majors*</b>  | <b>Degrees**</b> |
| Applied Human & Sport Physiology | 42                   | 4                | —               | —                |
| Art                              | 45                   | 11               | —               | —                |
| Business                         | 380                  | 122              | 82              | 20               |
| Chemistry                        | 46                   | 21               | —               | —                |
| Computer Information Systems     | 77                   | 16               | —               | —                |
| Computer Science                 | 34                   | 4                | —               | —                |
| Counselor Education/Counseling   | —                    | —                | 60              | 18               |
| Criminal Justice                 | 189                  | 28               | —               | —                |
| Curriculum & Instruction         | —                    | —                | 206             | 102              |
| Early Childhood                  | 25                   | 7                | —               | —                |
| Early Childhood Education        | 111                  | 19               | —               | —                |
| Elementary Education             | 389                  | 47               | —               | —                |
| English                          | 79                   | 20               | —               | —                |
| Exercise Science                 | 83                   | 13               | 8               | 2                |
| Family & Consumer Sciences       | 62                   | 16               | —               | —                |
| French Education                 | 1                    | 1                | —               | —                |
| Geography                        | 28                   | 5                | —               | —                |
| Graphic Design                   | 43                   | 8                | —               | —                |
| Health & Physical Education      | 86                   | 11               | —               | —                |
| History                          | 61                   | 6                | —               | —                |
| Human Service Counseling         | 96                   | 25               | —               | —                |
| Industrial Technology            | 120                  | 20               | —               | —                |
| Interdisciplinary Studies        | 4                    | 1                | —               | —                |
| Life Sciences                    | 102                  | 40               | —               | —                |
| Mass Communication               | 46                   | 9                | —               | —                |
| Mathematics                      | 37                   | 4                | —               | —                |
| Middle Level Education           | 34                   | 3                | —               | —                |
| Music                            | 70                   | 10               | —               | —                |
| Natural Sciences                 | 9                    | 1                | —               | —                |

\*Includes first and second majors for fall 2010 (as of 10/15/10)

\*\*Includes degrees awarded December 2009 through August 2010

| <b>Wayne State College</b> |                      |                  |                 |                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Program</b>             | <b>Undergraduate</b> |                  | <b>Graduate</b> |                  |
|                            | <b>Majors*</b>       | <b>Degrees**</b> | <b>Majors*</b>  | <b>Degrees**</b> |
| Organizational Management  | —                    | —                | 24              | 11               |
| Physical Science           | 6                    | 0                | —               | —                |
| Political Science          | 26                   | 9                | —               | —                |
| Pre-Professional           | 263                  | 0                | —               | —                |
| Psychology                 | 69                   | 10               | —               | —                |
| School Administration      | —                    | —                | 140             | 24               |
| Social Sciences            | 59                   | 10               | —               | —                |
| Sociology                  | 19                   | 4                | —               | —                |
| Spanish                    | 27                   | 11               | —               | —                |
| Special Education          | 90                   | 6                | 5               | 40               |
| Speech Communication       | 40                   | 18               | —               | —                |
| Sport Management           | 107                  | 23               | —               | —                |
| Technology                 | 6                    | 6                | —               | —                |
| Theatre                    | 9                    | 2                | —               | —                |
| Undeclared                 | 312                  | 0                | —               | —                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>3,332</b>         | <b>571</b>       | <b>525</b>      | <b>177</b>       |

\*Includes first and second majors for fall 2010 (as of 10/15/10)

\*\*Includes degrees awarded December 2009 through August 2010

#### **Other Schools**

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

| <b>Community/<br/>College or University</b> | <b>Mileage</b> |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Norfolk, NE</b>                          | 94             |
| Northeast Community College                 |                |
| <b>Wayne, NE</b>                            | 118            |
| Wayne State College                         |                |
| <b>Yankton, SD</b>                          | 120            |
| Mount Marty College                         |                |
| <b>Vermillion, SD</b>                       | 145            |
| University of South Dakota                  |                |
| <b>Kearney</b>                              | 180            |
| University of Nebraska at Kearney           |                |
| <b>Omaha</b>                                | 211            |
| College of St. Mary's                       |                |
| Creighton University                        |                |
| Metropolitan Community College              |                |
| University of Nebraska Medical Center       |                |
| University of Nebraska at Omaha             |                |

#### **Community/ College or University**

| <b>College or University</b>                   | <b>Mileage</b> |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Milford</b>                                 | 212            |
| Southeast Community College,<br>Milford Campus |                |
| <b>Chadron, NE</b>                             | 230            |
| Chadron State College                          |                |
| <b>Lincoln, NE</b>                             | 230            |
| Nebraska Wesleyan University                   |                |
| Southeast Community College,<br>Lincoln Campus |                |
| University of Nebraska-Lincoln                 |                |

#### **CHURCHES**

| <b>Denomination</b>    | <b>Number of<br/>Churches</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assembly of God        | 1                             |
| Catholic               | 1                             |
| Evangelical - Lutheran | 2                             |
| Faith Wesleyan         | 1                             |
| First Presbyterian     | 1                             |
| United Methodist       | 1                             |

## SPECIALIZED SERVICES

**Central Nebraska Community Services (CNCS)**, a non-profit agency, was created in 1965 as a result of President Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act. CNCS specializes in bringing resources totaling more than \$11.6 million into the 22,985 square miles of the service area. CNCS addresses the needs of 15,000 unduplicated persons in north-central Nebraska through programs and services. Programs and services offered include (1) Community Economic Development providing economic growth opportunities, job creation, and affordable living environments for families in rural communities; (2) Early Childhood Programs promoting children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development while assisting the entire family in efforts to reach economic self-sufficiency; (3) Family Outreach providing assistance during crisis, linkage to resources, advocacy for services, financial counseling, and goal attainment; and (4) Health and Nutrition fostering the health lifestyles of central Nebraskans through health promotion, prevention, and education.

Some services offered include:

- Car Seat Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Community Assessment
- Community Housing Development
- Emergency Assistance
- Every Woman Matters
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- HOPE Case Management Immunizations
- Project THRIVES (Transitional Housing for Rural Independence, Viability, and Economic Stability)
- Weatherization Assistance
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children)

## HEALTH CARE

### Hospital

The **West Holt Memorial Hospital** in Atkinson was built in 1973 and has a capacity of 18 beds. The hospital, an affiliate of Sioux Valley Health Systems, is accredited by Medicare and the state of Nebraska. Hospital services include emergency; gastroenterology; pediatrics;

physical, occupational, speech, pain, and massage therapy; radiology; pathology; fixed CAT scan and ultrasound; X-ray; teleradiology; general and laparoscopy surgery; colonoscopy; pulmonary function and stress testing; mammography; psychology; anesthesia services; laboratory; pharmacy; patient advocate and social services; employee assistance programs; every woman matters; kid's connection; infant car seat program; CT, DEXA Scan, cardiac rehab, outreach clinic, plus numerous other specialty services on site.

The fixed CT/ultrasound MRI center was completed in 1996 and West Holt was designated a Critical Care Access Hospital in 2000.

A heliport is located south of the hospital for transportation of critical patients to other facilities. The heliport is secured by recessed lights which were manufactured locally.

Nine outpatient clinics serve the Atkinson community with cardiology, ENT, podiatry, obstetrics, nuclear stress testing, bone density scanning, retail pharmacy, and message therapy. An eye physician and dietician serve the clinics.

### Clinics

Two family practice clinics serve the **Atkinson** community. West Holt Medical Clinic has two doctors, two physician assistants, and one nurse practitioner. Greater Sandhills Family Healthcare has one doctor, two physician assistants, and one nurse practitioner. Monthly outreach clinics are also available.

### Rescue Squad

The **Atkinson Rescue Squad** is comprised of 23 Emergency Medical Technicians and 5 paramedics, who operate the three ALS/BLS certified ambulances owned by the fire district. The squad also responds to emergency calls in Emmet.

### Nursing Homes

The **Good Samaritan Society of Atkinson**, built in 1963 with an addition in 1989, has a capacity of 62. The facility is accredited by the state of Nebraska and Medicare/Medicaid approved. Services available include adult day



West Holt Memorial Hospital



West Holt Medical Clinic



Greater Sandhills Family Healthcare



Atkinson Library



Good Samaritan Nursing Home



Good Samaritan's Prairie Winds Assisted Living



Elkhorn Meadows Independent Living

care; long term care; hospice; occupational, speech, and physical therapy and rehab; and special event activities.

**Assisted Living**

**Prairie Winds Assisted Living** in Atkinson was built in 2001 and has a capacity of 12. The facility is accredited by the state of Nebraska and is Medicaid approved. Services available include assistance with care, laundry, cleaning, meals, and various activities.

**LIBRARY**

The **Atkinson Public Library** contains 19,000 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 30,603. Library resources include 16 wireless network computers, free wireless Internet access/WiFi, online database, online circulation, die cut machine/dies, continuing education meeting room, LCN projector and screen, overhead projector, scanner, fax machine, interlibrary loan services, wireless color/gray scale printer, wireless copy machine, microfilm reader/printer, and big screen TV/DVD.

Library activities include author book signings, book talks, humanities programs, summer story time, computer classes, sewing and quilting classes, book packet delivery to nine local daycares, school visits, national library week, Bub Blake memorial photo show, Friends of the Library art show, annual fun run, annual holiday silent auction, biannual garden walk, and dinner theatre.

**RECREATION**

Atkinson has one park consisting of eight acres. Facilities at the park include a heated swimming pool, T-ball and three ball fields, tennis court, playground equipment, and a new park house. Underground sprinklers were installed at the park and ball field areas.

Two part-time/seasonal personnel care for the park. Annual expenditures for the last three years averaged \$56,130 for the pool and \$42,734 for the park.

Summer recreation programs for youth include public and private swim lessons, T-ball, softball and baseball programs, gymnastics, children’s plays produced by the Community Theater, swim lessons, dance and twirler groups, gymnastics, junior and high school rodeo organizations, 4-H clubs, and Boy and Girl Scout programs.

Annual activities in Atkinson include citywide garage sales the first Saturday in June and Hay Days the first weekend in August. The Hay Days features an MSRA Rodeo, parade, events in the park, car and craft shows, free barbecue, and dances. A miniature 1948 hay baler is a symbol of Hay Days with bales made each year and sold as souvenirs throughout the United States.

**Area facilities:**

- Baseball/Softball — 3 diamonds
- Boating — Fort Randall Dam, Calamus Dam
- Bowling — Alley with 8-lanes
- Campgrounds — Many in area
- Casino — Fort Randall, SD
- Fishing — Trout, bass, catfish, more in area; Atkinson Lake; Goose Lake; Calamus Dam; Fort Randall Dam; Grove Lake; Spencer Dam; Swan Lake; Carney Park, O’Neill; Elkhorn River
- Fitness Center — Atkinson
- Fossil Beds — Royal
- Golf Courses — 9-hole, grass green public course
- Hiking/Biking Trails — Atkinson Lake Bluebird Trail, Cowboy Trail, others in area
- Hunting — Deer, pheasant, duck, grouse, quail, turkey, prairie chicken, rabbit, squirrel, coyote
- Racquetball — O’Neill
- Races — Stock car races, Stuart

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Rodeo           | — Atkinson, O’Neill, Stuart                              |
| Sand Volleyball | — Atkinson   |
| Soccer          | — O’Neill, Stuart  |
| Swimming        | — Outdoor heated pool with 100’ slide and water mushroom |
| Theatres        | — O’Neill, with 400 seats                                |
| Tubing/Tanking  | — Ericson, Valentine                                     |

The **Atkinson Senior Center** serves noon meals, delivers meals on wheels daily, and has a variety of social activities including weekly exercises, monthly card parties, and more.

**Atkinson Lake**, built in 1894 by the Atkinson Milling and Irrigation Company, was operated for milling purposes and hydroelectric generation until 1929 when a flood washed out the dam. In 1948 the city of Atkinson gave the dam to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission who rebuilt the structure and operated the lake area as a public park. The dam was again washed away and rebuilt in the early 60’s and damaged a third time in 1984, reducing it to just a stream. In 1991 a joint funding effort between local people and the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District made it possible for reconstruction of the Atkinson Dam. A new outlet structure was designed to meet current standards of both the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and the United States Army Corp of Engineers. The lake was deepened and the overall size increased to seven surface acres. The commission stocked the lake with bluegill, catfish, largemouth bass, and sauger. Recreational facilities at the lake include camping areas with 18 electrical hookups, vault toilets, drinking water, picnic tables and grills, picnic shelters, and playground equipment. The seven-acre lake, located one mile from city limits, is now owned by the city of Atkinson.

The **Bluebird Trail**, adjacent to the Atkinson Lake Park, was funded from private memorials for Kenneth Butterfield, a long-time lake supporter and advocate. The trail is approximately one-half mile long with 12 bluebird boxes and

park benches placed along the trail to provide restful viewing of these rare birds.

The **Cowboy Trail**, the longest rails-to-trails conversion in the nation, will span 321 miles through northern Nebraska when completed, including (east-west) through Holt County. Today 199 miles of the trail are open to the public for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The trail begins in Norfolk, travels through the center of Atkinson, and ends in Valentine This trail follows the gentle slopes of the old Chicago and Northwestern rail line.

The **Sturdevant-McKee Museum** in Atkinson is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. Located in Atkinson, the museum reflects one of the first pioneer families to the Atkinson area, Brantley and Ellen Sturdevant along with Brantley’s brother, Dr. Charles Sturdevant. The Sturdevants were active in various civic and fraternal organizations and held political offices. Brantley and Ellen’s son-in-law Dr. Neal McKee operated a medical practice in Atkinson along with being an active community leader.

Dr. McKee Day was celebrated August 31, 1961, in recognition of Dr. McKee’s many contributions to the people of Atkinson and the surrounding areas. The Queen Anne-style house was built in 1887 with three extensive porches, two front entrances, and eleven rooms. A coal shed is located at the rear of the house and a carriage house is located across the alley. The house is furnished completely with items from the family and is representative of the 1880 period.

A car club and community theatre are included in the cultural activities available in Atkinson.

## HOUSING

### New Construction

Four new homes were constructed in the past two years. The cost of new home construction average \$110 per square foot. Building permits were issued for nine single-family homes and one duplex during the last five years.

**Housing Market** (as of 9/22/10):

**Number of Homes on the Market**

Single Family - 12

**Avg. Selling Prices** (New and Existing)

Single Family Home

2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom \$125,000

1,600 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom \$45,000

**Number of Single Family Homes for Sale by Price** (New and Existing)

Less than \$100,000 11

\$100,001-\$150,000 1

**Rentals**

3 bedroom home \$600-\$650

Apartment - 2 bedroom \$300-\$400

Apartment Vacancy Rate 2%

**Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing**

**Elkhorn Meadows**, built in 1980, consists of 20 units for the elderly and disabled.

**FINANCIAL**

Financial institutions in Atkinson:

Great Western Bank

Tri-County Bank



Great Western Bank



Tri-County Bank



Atkinson City Pool



Atkinson City Park



Railroad Park



Atkinson Ball Fields



Bluebird Hiking Trail



Atkinson Lake Park Campground



Sturdevant McKee Museum



Atkinson Community Center



Atkinson Senior Center





St. Joseph's Catholic Church



United Methodist Church

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Attorneys.....                                 | 3  |
| Auctioneers .....                              | 2  |
| Certified Public Accountants .....             | 2  |
| Chiropractors.....                             | 1  |
| Dentists .....                                 | 1  |
| Medical Doctors (residing in Atkinson)         |    |
| —ear, nose & throat.....                       | 1  |
| —family practice physicians .....              | 4  |
| —general surgeons .....                        | 1  |
| Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff) |    |
| —cardiologists.....                            | 3  |
| —ear, nose & throat.....                       | 1  |
| —general surgeons .....                        | 1  |
| —orthopedic surgeons.....                      | 1  |
| —pathologists.....                             | 1  |
| —radiologists.....                             | 3  |
| —urologists .....                              | 1  |
| Nurse Practitioners.....                       | 1  |
| Nurses, Registered .....                       | 19 |
| Optometrists.....                              | 1  |
| Pharmacists .....                              | 3  |
| Physician Assistants .....                     | 4  |
| Podiatrists.....                               | 1  |
| Veterinarians .....                            | 3  |

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies.....         | 6  |
| Advertising Agencies .....                   | 1  |
| Appliance Stores .....                       | 2  |
| Agriculture Implement Dealers.....           | 2  |
| Agriculture Fertilizer Suppliers .....       | 2  |
| Auto Repair & Services .....                 | 11 |
| Auto Supply Parts .....                      | 10 |
| Automobile Dealers .....                     | 1  |
| Automobile Renting & Leasing.....            | 1  |
| Aviation Seeding & Spraying .....            | 1  |
| Bakeries.....                                | 1  |
| Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums..... | 2  |
| Beauty Salons/Barber Shops.....              | 6  |
| Bed & Breakfasts .....                       | 2  |
| Building Supply Stores .....                 | 2  |
| Car Washes.....                              | 1  |
| Caterers .....                               | 3  |
| Child Care Services.....                     | 6  |

|                                       |    |            |
|---------------------------------------|----|------------|
| Computer Sales and Services.....      | 1  |            |
| Contractors—building.....             | 1  |            |
| —carpentry.....                       | 11 |            |
| —concrete.....                        | 1  |            |
| —electric.....                        | 2  |            |
| —excavating.....                      | 2  |            |
| —flooring.....                        | 1  |            |
| —general.....                         | 2  |            |
| —gravel.....                          | 3  |            |
| —heating & air conditioning.....      | 2  |            |
| —painting.....                        | 1  |            |
| —plumbing.....                        | 5  |            |
| —remodeling.....                      | 11 |            |
| —roofing.....                         | 10 |            |
| —well digging.....                    | 1  |            |
| Convenience Stores.....               | 3  |            |
| Copying & Duplicating Services.....   | 2  |            |
| Craft Stores.....                     | 2  |            |
| Electronic Stores.....                | 2  |            |
| Farm/Ranch Supplies.....              | 2  |            |
| Feedlots (commercial & private).....  | 2  |            |
| Fertilizer Providers.....             | 2  |            |
| Floral Shops.....                     | 1  |            |
| Funeral Homes.....                    | 1  |            |
| Gift Shops.....                       | 3  |            |
| Grain Dealers.....                    | 5  |            |
| Grocery Stores.....                   | 2  |            |
| Hardware Stores.....                  | 2  |            |
| Health Clubs.....                     | 1  |            |
| Holiday Gift Shoppes.....             | 1  |            |
| Hotels/Motels.....                    | 1  | (16 rooms) |
| Hunting Services.....                 | 1  |            |
| Industrial Equipment & Supplies.....  | 4  |            |
| Insurance Companies.....              | 5  |            |
| Kennels and Breeders.....             | 1  |            |
| Landscaping Equipment & Supplies..... | 3  |            |
| Laundromats.....                      | 1  |            |
| Lawn Services.....                    | 2  |            |
| Lumberyards.....                      | 2  |            |
| Machine Shops.....                    | 3  |            |
| Meat Processors.....                  | 1  |            |
| Nurseries & Garden Centers.....       | 1  |            |
| Pharmacies.....                       | 1  |            |
| Preschools.....                       | 2  |            |
| Real Estate Firms.....                | 1  |            |
| Restaurants and Catering.....         | 5  |            |
| RV Parks.....                         | 2  |            |
| Service Stations.....                 | 3  |            |
| Soda Fountain and Variety Shops.....  | 1  |            |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Solid Waste Services .....            | 1 |
| Storage Services .....                | 3 |
| Taxidermists .....                    | 1 |
| Television & Radio Repair Shops ..... | 1 |
| Thrift Shops .....                    | 2 |
| Truck Service & Repairs .....         | 3 |
| Trucking Services .....               | 9 |
| Upholstery Shops .....                | 1 |
| Welding Shops .....                   | 4 |



Atkinson-Stuart Country Club



West Holt Pharmacy



Atkinson Family Dental Center



Atkinson Veterinary Clinic

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

| <b>2007 Statistics</b>   | <b>Holt County</b> | <b>State of Nebraska</b> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Number of Farms  | 1,171              | 47,712                   |
| Land in Farms (acres)  | 1,532,629          | 45,480,358               |
| Average Size of Farms (acres)                                    | 1,309              | 953                      |
| Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold                       | \$373,623,000      | \$15,506,035,000         |
| Market Value Per Farm  | \$319,063          | \$324,992                |
| Total Acres Irrigated  | 339,080            | 8,558,559                |
| Percent of Farmland Irrigated                                    | 22.1%              | 18.8%                    |
| <b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2005–2009)</b> |                    |                          |
| Hay Alfalfa (Dry)  | 72,982 tons        | 4,008,400 tons           |
| All Wheat  | 701,520 bu.        | 71,900,000 bu.           |
| Corn for Grain   | 29,136,240 bu.     | 1,377,890,000 bu.        |
| Oats   | 140,625 bu.*       | 2,612,000 bu.            |
| Soybeans   | 3,642,280 bu.      | 233,518,000 bu.          |
| <b>Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2006–2010)</b>        |                    |                          |
| All Cattle   | 209,800            | 6,450,000                |

\*4-year average

Holt County ranked in the top six counties in the number of all cattle during the last five years.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2005–2010  
2007 Census of Agriculture

### RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in commercial quantities; however, metallic minerals are not found in Holt County.

Cedar, oak, and ash lumber are available in limited quantities.

## CLIMATE

### TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

| Month         | AVERAGES    |      |      |                  |                  |           |           |
|---------------|-------------|------|------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
|               | Temperature |      |      | Precipitation    |                  | Humidity* |           |
|               | Min.        | Mean | Max. | Rain<br>(Inches) | Snow<br>(Inches) | Morning   | Afternoon |
| January       | 9.9         | 20.9 | 32.0 | 0.47             | 4.6              | 76        | 65        |
| February      | 13.6        | 24.8 | 36.0 | 0.61             | 5.6              | 79        | 65        |
| March         | 22.7        | 34.6 | 46.6 | 1.42             | 7.4              | 80        | 62        |
| April         | 35.1        | 48.0 | 60.9 | 2.50             | 2.6              | 79        | 52        |
| May           | 46.5        | 59.2 | 72.0 | 3.34             | 0.1              | 80        | 53        |
| June          | 56.5        | 69.1 | 81.6 | 3.74             | 0.0              | 82        | 55        |
| July          | 62.0        | 75.4 | 88.8 | 2.86             | 0.0              | 84        | 56        |
| August        | 60.0        | 73.4 | 86.8 | 2.57             | 0.0              | 86        | 58        |
| September     | 49.9        | 63.7 | 77.5 | 2.20             | 0.0              | 83        | 54        |
| October       | 37.7        | 51.4 | 65.3 | 1.49             | 0.8              | 79        | 52        |
| November      | 24.1        | 35.7 | 47.3 | 0.90             | 4.1              | 80        | 60        |
| December      | 13.9        | 24.6 | 35.3 | 0.58             | 5.3              | 79        | 66        |
| <b>Annual</b> | 36.0        | 48.4 | 60.8 | 22.68            | 30.6             | 81        | 58        |

\*Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

### FROST DATA

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Average date of spring freeze probability .....                     | May 7        |
| Average date of fall freeze probability .....                       | September 28 |
| Average length of freeze free season probability .....              | 147 days     |
| Average number of heating degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit ..... | 6,939        |
| Average number of cooling degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit ..... | 921          |
| Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average).....                  | 12           |
| Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....                    | South        |

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1893–2008, [www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)