

# COMMUNITY FACTS BASSETT, NEBRASKA

[www.co.rock.ne.us](http://www.co.rock.ne.us)

MAY 2006

## POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2004 Est.</u>
<b>Bassett</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>666</b>
<b>Rock County</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,579</b>
<b>Labor Market*</b>	<b>22,867</b>	<b>21,613</b>

\*Includes Rock 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 Bassett, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the North Central Development District, Bassett/Rock County Economic Development, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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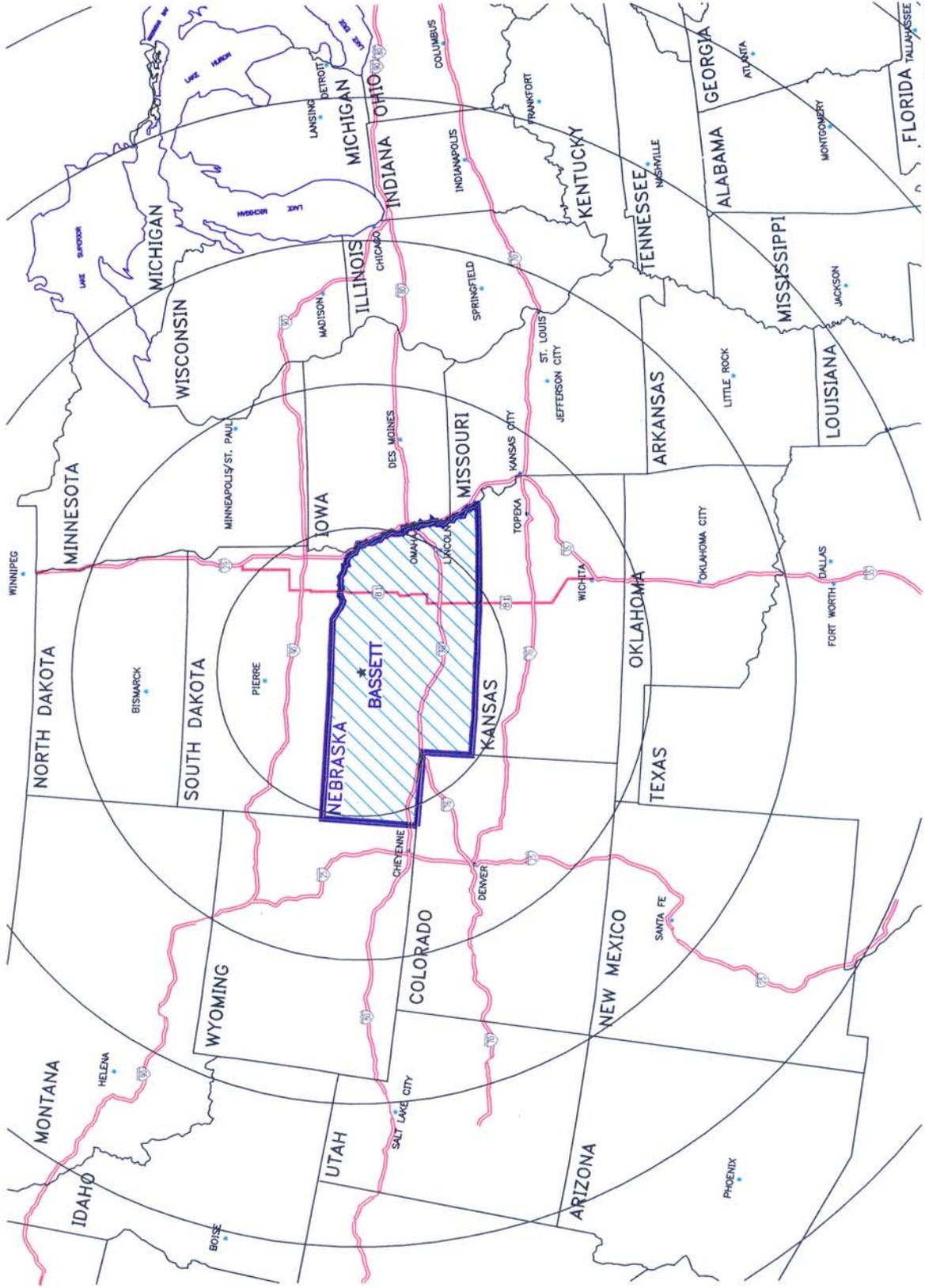
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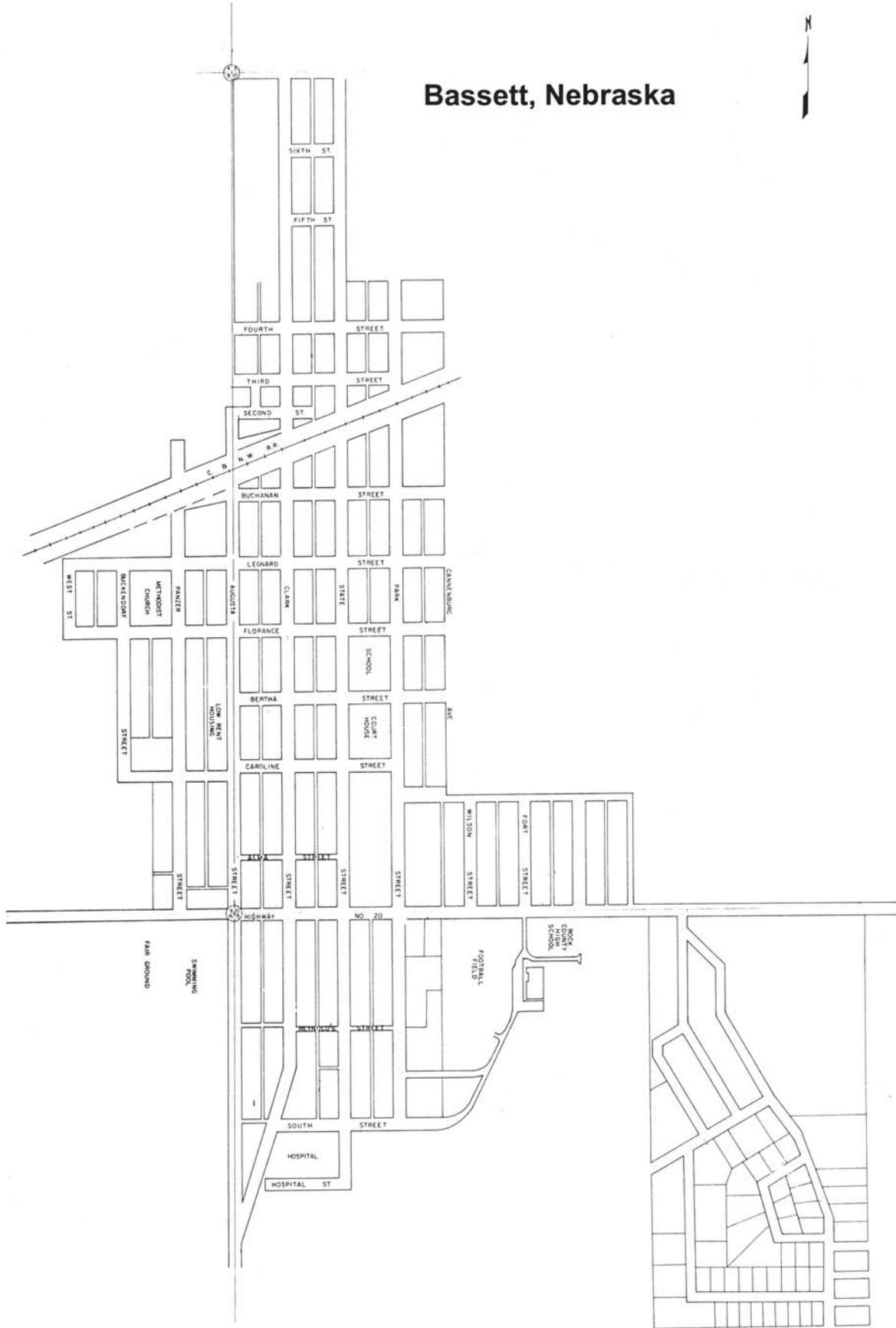
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

# Bassett, Nebraska



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LOCATION

Bassett, the county seat of Rock County, is located in north-central Nebraska in the heart of the sandhills. U.S. Highways 20 and 183 intersect in Bassett, and Nebraska Highway 7 extends from Bassett to the north through the most scenic area of the Niobrara River Valley.

Bassett is 34 miles from the South Dakota border, 266 miles northwest of Omaha, and 446 miles northeast of Denver.

## POPULATION (U.S. Census)

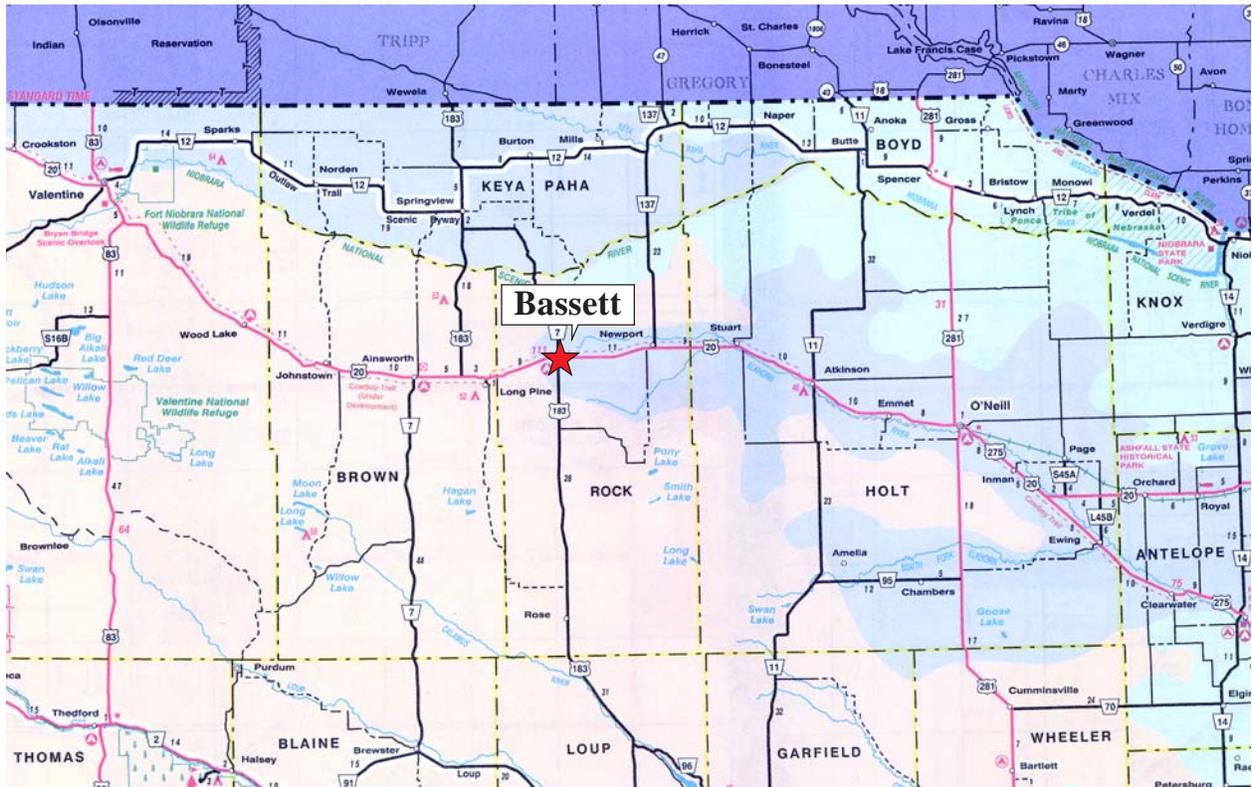
Year	Bassett	Rock County
1970	983	2,231
1980	1,009	2,383
1990	739	2,019
2000	743	1,756
2004 (Est.)	666	1,579

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

One race	1,751
White	1,739
Black or African American	—
American Indian and Alaska Native	8
Asian	3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	—
Some other race	1
Two or more races	5
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	9

The 2004 U.S. Census estimates 21,613 people live within Rock County and the contiguous Nebraska counties of Boyd, Brown, Holt, Keya Paha, and Loup.

One person in Bassett is fluent in Spanish and another is a sign language interpreter.



## LOCAL ECONOMY

The basic economic activities of Bassett, the county seat of Rock County, include farming, cattle feeding, and retail trade.

Retail firms in Bassett with retail sales tax permits report 2004 net taxable retail sales of \$7,060,593 while Rock County reported retail sales of \$7,320,111. Four wholesale firms in Bassett distribute manufactured goods.

The Main Street project, funded by grants and a \$400,000 bond, was completed in 2003. The project included curbs, gutters, lighting, sidewalks, and renovation of the water tower. A diesel mechanics shop, tractor-repair shop, and feed store opened in 2003.

In 2004 Bassett won first place in the Nebraska Community Improvement Program for being the best community in the state, with consideration for its size, and also received the Otto Hoiberg Award. Governor Dave Heineman presented Bassett with an Honorary Showcase Award in regard to community development.

Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$40,000 were awarded to Bassett/Rock County to develop a master recreation plan for Rock County, the village of Bassett, and the Rock County Historical Society.

## ELEVATION

Bassett is 2,346 feet above sea level.

## TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain is generally level in the Bassett area farmlands to gently rolling in the sandhills area to the south.

The predominant soils are Pivot-Simeon, Pivot-Valentine, Pivot-O'Neill-Valentine, Valentine, Simeon-Valentine, Loup-Elsmere, Labu-Sansarc, Els-Valentine-Tryon, Barney-Boel, and Valentine-Dunday associations. Soils range from well drained to excessively drained, sandy to clayey, shallow to deep, and nearly level to strongly

sloping soils. Rock County is drained by the Niobrara, Elkhorn, and Loup rivers and tributaries.

## HISTORY

In 1878 a few homesteaders settled on land by the river that is now Rock County. Later in the same year, the upper Niobrara country and the sand hills came to the attention of large scale ranchers. They introduced very large herds of Texas cattle to the area.

Andrew N. Bassett, known as Captain Bassett, was among the earlier arrivals, coming up the Elkhorn Valley in August 1878. He established his ranch on the upper reaches of Long Pine Creek and herded his cattle in the vicinity of present day Bassett. The hard winter of 1880–81 caused him to sell out. The town, which was named for him, was platted about three years after his departure.

The first mail to reach Rock County came a great distance by stagecoach and on horseback. Two riders contracted to carry the mail from Niobrara to Keya Paha. By 1879 Keya Paha was a disbursing post office with five routes and distributed the first mail to reach the settlers along the Niobrara. With the advance of the railroad, the situation underwent steady change.

Settlement began in earnest in 1882 with large numbers of prairie schooners coming up the Black Hills Trail. Also in 1882, the first store was established in Bassett and in 1883, the first school term was held. In 1884 Bassett had its first newspaper, the Bassett Herald.

Louis Canenburg and his daughters settled on the site which is now Bassett and located claims. They acquired tracts under the pre-emption law, which provided for purchasing the land outright from the government for \$1.25 per acre. The task of platting the town was completed before a notary public in Cook County, Illinois, on April 16, 1884. The population of the town was 40. The village of Bassett, Brown County, Nebraska, was incorporated on February 8, 1887, and laws and ordinances were established. In December 1888, Rock County split off from Brown County.

The years 1892 through 1910 brought about streets, a water system, and a sewer system. An electric light and water works plant was built in 1913 for \$12,565. The Bassett-Springview Telephone

Company was granted permission in 1916 to erect and maintain a telephone line.

Bassett became a second-class city in April 1951.



Downtown Bassett



Historical Phillips 66 Station



Keller Park State Recreation Area



Bone Creek in Keller Park State Recreation Area



Cub Creek Recreation Area

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Concept Archery 1976	Compound bows	International	3	0	None
Cornhusker Archery, Inc. 1976	Bow strings	International	7	1	None
May's Repair & Manufacturing 1983	Ag machinery parts	Regional	3	0 1*	None
Reliable Welding, Inc. 1995	Metal feed bunks	National	3	0	None

### MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 5 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Bassett Livestock Auction, Inc.	Livestock sales	4 29*	1 11*	None
Bassett Lodge & Range Cafe	Hotel & restaurant	4	6	None
Bassett Grade School	Education	3 1*	14	NSEA
City of Bassett	Government	8	5	None
Commercial Bank	Financial	2	7	None
Helena Chemical Co.	Retail fertilizer & ag chemical dealership	7 3*	1 1*	None
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	Government	6 4*	2 1*	None
Northern Plains	Diesel sales & service	6	2	None
Perfect Valley Irrigation, Inc.	Irrigation sales & service	3 2*	1 2*	None
Rock County	Government	15 7*	10 5*	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>	
Rock County High School	Education	6 2*	13 6*	NSEA
Rock County Hospital	Medical	6**	79**	None
Sandhill Equipment, Inc.	Farm equipment sales & repair	14 2*	2	None
Scott's Place	Convenience store	1	1 8*	None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

\*\*Includes part-time/seasonal

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

Bassett/Rock County Economic Development, Bassett Development Corporation, Bassett Foundation, North Central Development Center, Central Nebraska Economic Development District, and Bassett/Rock County Chamber of Commerce work for industrial development in the Bassett area. Main Street Investors also work for main street businesses.

The Bassett Development Corporation, a nonprofit corporation formed in 2002, is comprised of 25 business associates and concerned citizens. The corporation works to beautify Bassett by renovating old lots and building spec houses. In 2004 a spec house was built and sold to a low-income family. The corporation purchased a community hotel/cafe with funds raised through gifts and loans in 2005. The hotel has been leased to local management.

In 1993 six local entities formed the North Central Development Center to serve as the economic

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

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

## **INDUSTRIAL SITE AVAILABLE**

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



Cornhusker Archery, Inc.



May's Repair & Manufacturing



Reliable Welding, Inc.



Perfect Valley Irrigation, Inc.



Sandhill Equipment, Inc.

## LABOR

### LABOR SUPPLY

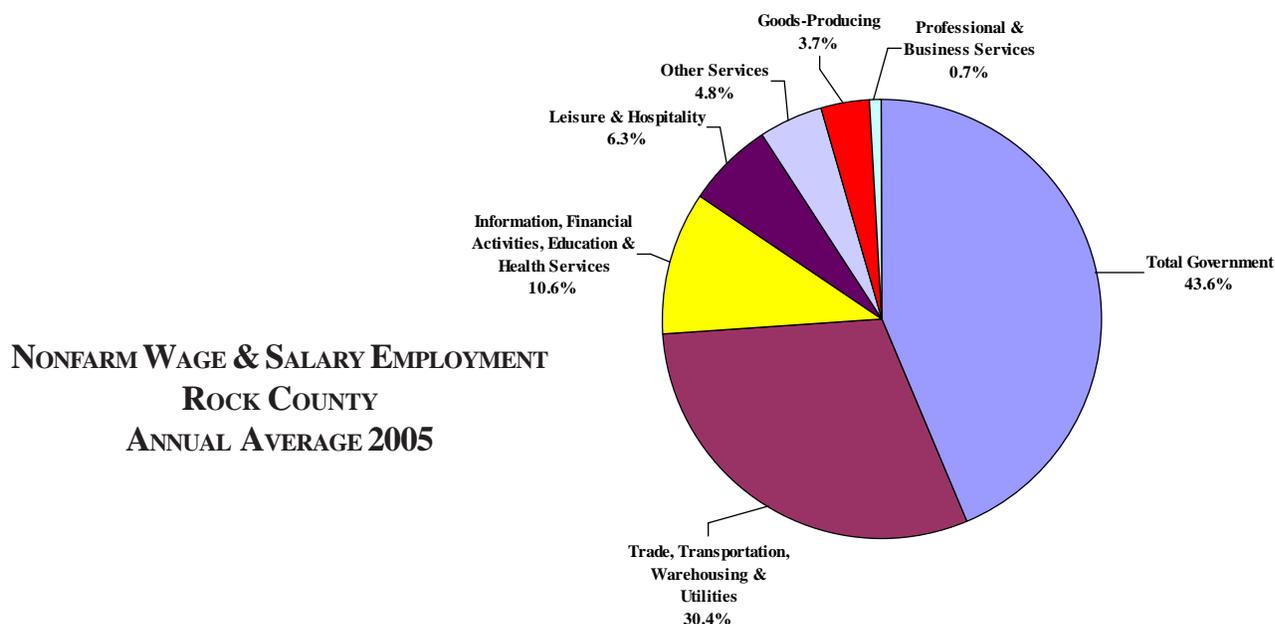
- A. Employment in the Bassett labor market, which is defined as the whole of Rock County and the total labor market consisting of Rock County and the contiguous counties Boyd, Brown, Holt, Keya Paha, and Loup (2005 annual average):

	<u>Rock County</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)</u></b>		
Goods-Producing	17	494
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	138	(D)
Information	(D)	56
Financial Activities	(D)	(D)
Professional & Business Services	3	(D)
Education & Health Services	(D)	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	29	(D)
Other Services	22	(D)
Government	199	1,889
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	456	6,583
Farm Employment*	376	3,008
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	906	11,107
B. Commuting Out of County	143	
C. Unemployment	28	364
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	934	11,472
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		160
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	20	
TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	351	

(D) Data withheld because of disclosure suppression.

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

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

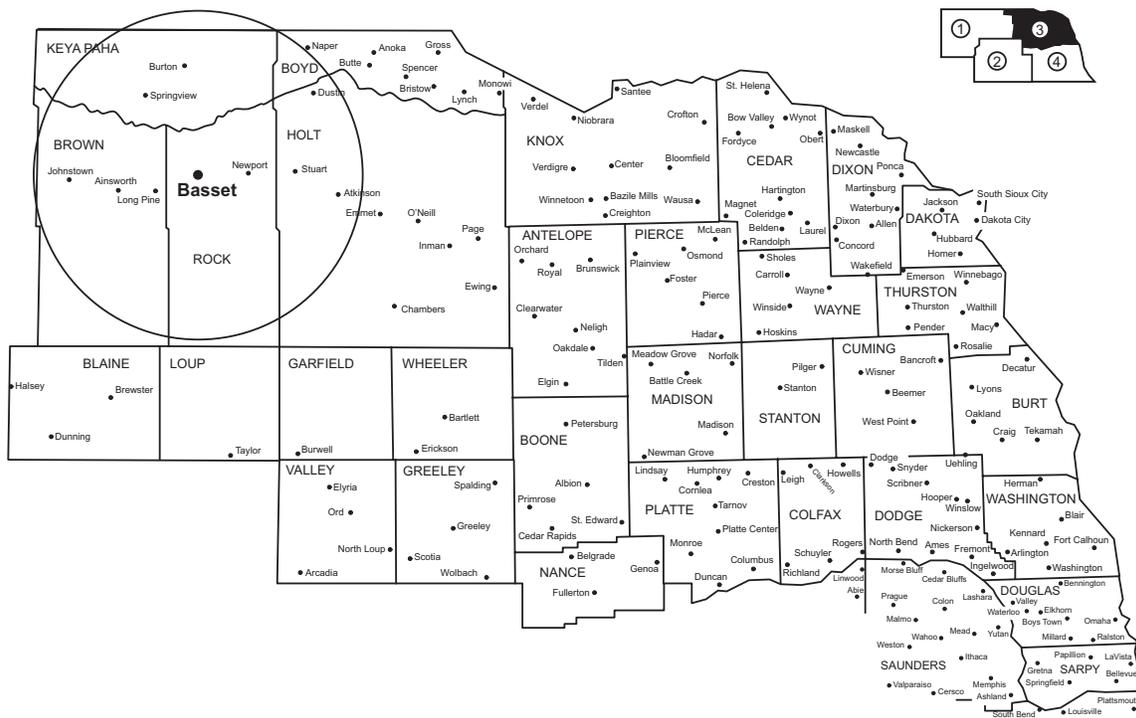


Location	2000 POPULATION DATA					Median Household Effective Buying Income (2005)
	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs. & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
Rock Co.	1.7	22.3	43.5	87.4	12.2	\$25,588
Nebraska	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$36,910
U.S.	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$39,324

Rock County had 1,148 eligible voters in 2004; 78.7 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

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

### LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE BASSETT AREA



### POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2004 Estimate		
City of Bassett	—	666
Rock County	—	1,579
30-Mile Radius	—	8,249

Rock County Population by Age/Gender, 2004		
Ages	Male	Female
18–24	58	63
25–44	155	164
45–64	254	235

## UNIONIZATION

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

Labor organizations operating in Bassett:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Union</b>
Bassett Elementary School	Nebraska State Education Association
Rock County High School	Nebraska State Education Association

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

## WAGES

<b>Occupation Title</b>	<b>Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile</b>		
	<b>10th</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>90th</b>
<b>Professional</b>			
Accountants & Auditors	15.57	22.56	35.02
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	18.28	27.14	35.34
Electrical Engineers*	21.27	34.33	50.30
Industrial Engineers	18.40	26.56	36.45
Mechanical Engineers	18.52	25.55	34.71
Computer Programmers	13.48	24.59	34.87
Computer Systems Analysts	18.80	34.20	53.53
Registered Nurses	15.93	21.48	27.75
<b>Retail</b>			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.05	8.04	9.46
Retail Salespersons	6.02	8.15	16.39
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.27	11.47	19.10
Driver/Sales Workers	6.02	9.28	21.81
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.44	9.42	13.80
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	7.91	12.75	17.07
<b>Clerical</b>			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	7.87	10.98	16.31
Customer Service Representatives	6.29	9.38	14.74
Data Entry Keyers	7.56	10.50	13.64
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.13	10.47	13.87
Office Clerks, General	6.34	9.25	13.51
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.77	9.41	11.66
Telemarketers	6.84	8.23	10.53

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

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Unskilled</b>			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	7.02	10.42	13.44
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.01	9.62	13.18
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	8.99	11.69	13.88
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	7.44	9.62	12.17
<b>Semi-Skilled</b>			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.59	11.90	14.73
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.50	14.68	21.10
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	11.85	17.00	21.23
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	11.38	13.78	17.45
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	9.61	11.69	17.06
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.*	9.54	12.52	16.18
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	10.32	12.63	15.27
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.*	8.63	11.03	14.95
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	8.77	12.66	16.97
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	10.09	14.84	17.33
<b>Skilled</b>			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	7.05	11.86	24.57
Electricians	12.69	17.87	21.57
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	12.30	16.10	21.21
Machinists	10.08	13.56	17.63
Tool & Die Makers	15.60	19.41	22.87
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.29	12.95	17.61
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters*	10.54	13.38	17.83
<b>Technical</b>			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	11.10	24.17	33.30
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	14.26	20.20	27.12
Computer Operators	9.64	13.23	20.83

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

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

Production workers are paid mostly on a straight-time basis rather than an incentive basis.

## FRINGE BENEFITS

Fringe benefits range from 15 to 20 percent of wages.

# TRANSPORTATION

## RAILROADS

The nearest rail service is provided by the Nebraska Northeastern Railway Company, which runs a spur east-west from O'Neill, 48 miles east of Bassett, to Sioux City, Iowa. BNSF Railway Company operates a line which runs east-west along Highway 2, 76 miles south of Bassett.

## MOTOR

### Highways

U.S. Highway 20 (east-west), U.S. Highway 183 (north-south), and State Highway 7 (north) serve Bassett. Interstate 90 in South Dakota is 120 miles north and Interstate 80 is 135 miles south of Bassett; both interstates run east-west. The nearest four-lane highway is U.S. Highway 81 in Norfolk, 125 miles south-east of Bassett.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	260
Omaha	266
Chicago	700
Dallas	800
Denver	446
Detroit	966
Kansas City	452
Los Angeles	1,459
Minneapolis	513
New York	1,475
St. Louis	703
San Francisco	1,575

The Nebraska Department of Road's five-year program includes resurfacing approximately six miles of State Highway 7 in and north of Bassett; resurfacing, milling, and inlaying seven miles of U.S. Highway 20 east of Bassett; and resurfacing, milling, inlaying, and shoulder shielding approximately 41 miles of U.S. Highway 20 between Newport and O'Neill.

## Trucklines

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

Brown Transfer Company has a terminal in Ainsworth, 17 miles west of Bassett.

## Bus Line

K & S Express provides passenger and package delivery services with a 12-passenger minivan. One round trip is made weekly along U.S. Highway 20 from Norfolk to Chadron with a stop in Ainsworth, 17 miles west of Bassett.

The Senior Center van provides limited transportation for senior citizens in Bassett and throughout Rock County.

## AIR

The Rock County Airport in Bassett has a 4,700 foot paved and lighted runway and a 2,000 foot sod runway, parking ramp, pilots' lounge, overnight hangar, tie down apron, and 100/120 low-lead fuel and aviation fuel. A lounge, phone, and rest rooms are available. Three private planes are hangared there. A large parking lot was completed in 2005. The elevation at the airport is 2,346 feet, the latitude is 42°34'27"N, and the longitude is 99°34'17"W.

Commercial air service is available at the Central Nebraska Regional Airport near Grand Island, 160 miles (160 minutes) south of Bassett, and North Platte Regional Airport near North Platte, 183 miles (180 minutes) from Bassett. Passenger, air freight, and air express services are provided.

Great Lakes Aviation serves both airports with three flights daily to Denver.



Rock County Airport

# UTILITIES

## ELECTRICITY

Retail electric service is provided to Bassett by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Bassett is served by a 69,000 volt transmission line providing a two-way feed from O’Neill to the east and from Ainsworth to the west. The NPPD substation has a 3,100 kVA capacity and serves the community with a distribution voltage of 4,160 vye. The 69,000 volt shielded transmission line serving the substation is tied to the NPPD 115,000 volt statewide grid system.

### BASE ELECTRIC RATES (effective 2/1/03)

Summer bills run from June –September.

### Residential Service (electric water heat):

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
100	30,000	6.55
100	36,000	5.99
300	90,000	6.36
300	150,000	5.09
500	150,000	6.33
500	180,000	5.80

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

**High Tension Service\*:**

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

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

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue

Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

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

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
150	30,000	7.46
150	100,000	4.08
500	100,000	6.79
500	300,000	4.02
1,000	200,000	6.65
1,000	650,000	3.87

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

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

Seasons	On-Peak %	Mid-Peak %	Off-Peak %
Summer	31.0	30.2	38.8
Winter	38.2	23.6	38.2
Spring/Fall	54.5	0.0	45.5

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

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

## NATURAL GAS

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

Kinder Morgan is also the distributor of natural gas within the community, serving approximately 328 residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

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

## OTHER FUELS

### LP Gas

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

### Oil

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

## WATER

The municipal water system in Bassett is supplied by three wells. One well is 300 feet deep and the other two wells are 60 feet deep. The system, serving 100 percent of the city's population, has a combined pumping capacity of 1,700 gallons per

minute and an overhead storage capacity of 50,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 120,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 1,400,000 gallons per day. The system has a consistent maximum capacity of 2,500,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 58 pounds and the residual pressure is 55 pounds per square inch.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 300-foot well will produce 1,000 gallons of water per minute. The quality of water in Bassett does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly in the past five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, varies from 108 to 280. The average tap water temperature varies from 41° in winter to 50° in summer.

### Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	6.8–7.8
Calcium	28–94
Total Solids	134–438
Magnesium	N/A
Iron	NIL
Nitrate	0.6–9.4
Manganese	NIL
Chloride	2–56
Fluoride	1.0
Sulfate	0–138
Total Alkalinity	96–152
Sodium	0–10
Total Hardness	108–280
Potassium	0

N/A - Not available

### WATER RATES (effective 3/05)

#### Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

\$9.00 per month for first 1,000 gallons \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons excess gallons <b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$9.00 per month
--

In 2003 the city renovated the water tower and replaced numerous water mains for approximately \$45,000. Additional water mains are planned to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$60,000 during

the next five years with probable financing through sales revenue.

## SEWERAGE

Bassett has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The activated sludge treatment plant, built in 1985 to serve a population of 1,200, has a daily capacity of 160,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 125,000 gallons and the historic peak daily discharge is 300,000 gallons.

**SEWER-USE CHARGES** (effective 3/05)

### Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

\$10.00 per month plus \$1.50 operation and maintenance charge per 1,000 gallons of water/wastewater used during the first quarter of the year

**Minimum Bill:** \$11.50 per month

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Privately owned waste removal services are available in Bassett from J & J Sanitation of

O'Neill. The waste is transferred to the Butler County Landfill in David City, 200 miles southeast of Bassett. The landfill has 22 years of capacity available.

**SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES** (effective 3/05)

### Residential:

\$14.00 per month

\$11.00 per month for senior citizens

### Commercial:

\$21.50 per month for small commercial

\$29.50 per month for large commercial

### Industrial:

Negotiable with provider

## RECYCLING

Recycling trailers are available for use in Long Pine, 9 miles west of Bassett, and Ainsworth, 17 miles west of Bassett.



Rock County Courthouse

# COMMUNICATIONS

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunication services are provided in the Bassett area by the Rock County Telephone Company/HunTel Systems with a digital central office served by T-carrier with 4.5 miles of fiber. Three full-time and one part-time installation and maintenance personnel are located in Bassett. HunTel offers DSL and dial-up Internet services in Bassett, in addition to cable. The company has a DMS 10 switch with fiber service between Bassett and Newport. Extended area service is available to Newport.

### TARIFFED RATES (effective 6/05)

Residential	\$24.00
Business	\$36.00

## INTERNET

HunTel Systems offers local Internet service with a 5-K modem. For further information, call (888) 262-2661 or email [info@huntelworld.com](mailto:info@huntelworld.com).

## POST OFFICE

The post office in Bassett provides one mail receipt and one mail dispatch daily. The nearest general mail facility is located in Norfolk. Next-day delivery is applicable for selected zip codes in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri.

Postal receipts for the last five years:

Year	Receipts
2005	\$176,906
2004	\$178,673
2003	\$181,138
2002	\$179,410
2001	\$168,365

## PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

	UPS	U.S. Postal Service
<b>Latest Pick-up Time</b>	7 p.m.	4 p.m.
<b>Earliest Delivery</b>	9 a.m.	8 a.m.
<b>Next Day Delivery Guarantee</b>	Yes	No
<b>Saturday Delivery Guarantee</b>	No	No

Package delivery services are also provided in Bassett by Federal Express.

## NEWSPAPER

The Rock County Leader is the local weekly newspaper with 1,550 subscribers. Other newspapers delivered locally are the Norfolk Daily News and Omaha World-Herald.

## RADIO

Radio stations which carry local news include:

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

## TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news include:

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

Cable television is available on 30 basic channels and 3 premium channels.



United States Post Office in Bassett



Huntel Systems/Rock County Telephone Company

## TAX STRUCTURE

### VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – CITY OF BASSETT

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 77.59 percent of its actual value. Personal property that is used in a trade or business and is depreciable is subject to tax at its “net book value.” All other personal property is exempt from taxation.

	Actual Valuation		
	2003	2004	2005
Real Estate	\$15,083,069	\$14,597,786	\$ 12,609,625
Personal Property	651,388	612,921	590,415
Special (railroad and utilities)	<u>347,682</u>	<u>289,712</u>	<u>379,949</u>
TOTAL	\$16,082,139	\$15,500,419	\$ 13,579,989

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

	2003	2004	2005
City	\$0.489254	\$0.499132	\$0.499988
County	.511357	.506437	.498072
School Districts	.961673	.985789	.929092
Community College	.081123	.082711	.089622
Educational Service Unit	.014996	.014977	.014968
Natural Resource District	.024927	.025015	.024770
Agricultural Society	.008137	.007837	.007377
Airport	.001535	.001479	.001392
Bassett Grade School Special Building	.024699	.008186	.010216
Rock County High School Special Building	<u>.012941</u>	<u>.017210</u>	<u>.018490</u>
TOTAL	\$2.130642	\$2.148773	\$2.093987

### CITY SALES TAX

A one percent city sales tax is charged in Bassett.

### LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of March 2006:

City—Revenue Bonds	None
City—General Obligation Bonds	\$400,000
School District	None
County	None

# CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 3/06	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
<b>General Obligation</b>					
General	2004	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	2-5	2019

The county anticipates a \$420,000 general operations bond for renovation and additions to the Rock County Hospital.



Rock County Library

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Rock County has 14 townships and is governed by three county commissioners, elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2006. The 2005–06 actual budget is \$1,073,487. County zoning classifications are:

- Agricultural
- River Corridor
- Agricultural Districts

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Bassett, a second-class city, has a mayor-council form of government. The next election will be held in 2006. The 2005–06 actual budget is \$1,215,154. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected</b>	
Mayor	4 Years
Council Members (4)	4 Years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Clerk	Indefinite

### FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided in the community by a 25-member volunteer fire department. The Bassett Fire Department/Rock County Rural Fire Department provides fire protection outside the city limits with the use of the Rural Fire District's equipment.

There is 1 fire station and 53 fire hydrants in Bassett. The fire insurance classification is 6 inside the corporate limits and 9 outside the corporate limits. Average annual expenditures for fire protection in the last three years averaged \$19,985.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
<b>City</b>	
1983 International	Pumper 1,000 gal. per min./carries 1,000 gal.
1950 GMC	Pumper - 500 gal. per min.
<b>Rural</b>	
1983 Ford	Grass rig 600 gal.
1963 Chevy	Grass rig 600 gal.
1987 Chevy	Grass rig 250 gal.
2000 Ford	Grass rig 250 gal.
1980 International	Military tanker 2,000 gal.
1979 Ford	Equipment truck
1983 Chevy	Rescue unit with Jaws of life
1986 Freightliner	3,000 gal. tanker

Fire losses for the past five years have averaged less than \$10,000 annually.

The fire department is contemplating implementation of a new generator to run the entire station for stand-by power, as well as purchasing an updated grass rig.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Police Department

The city of Bassett contracts with the Rock County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement in the city.

#### Sheriff's Department

The Rock County Sheriff's Department, located in Bassett, is staffed by three full-time and three part-time officers and six full-time and two part-time dispatchers. Equipment in the

sheriff's department includes radar, global positioning equipment, spotting and night vision scopes, road barricades, range finders, binoculars, megaphones, road spikes, portable radios, pagers, VINE software, three patrol units, two video cams, and a six-prisoner holding cell.

The Rock County Sheriff's Department operates the 911 system with 24-hour dispatch. The Rock County Ambulance and the Rock County Sheriff respond to incoming emergency calls.

The Rock County Sheriff's Department provides protection to existing industries and local businesses in Bassett by routine security checks.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in Rock County in 2004 was 10.1 compared to a state crime rate of 37.7 and a national rate of 39.8.

### **State Patrol**

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Norfolk. Three patrolmen living in Ainsworth, 17 miles west of Bassett, provide protection in the area.

### **STREETS**

Bassett has 24 miles of streets, 23.5 miles which are hard-surfaced with asphalt or concrete. Load restrictions of 10 tons or less are enforced on four streets. Sixty percent of the streets have curbs and 90 percent have sidewalks.

Regular street maintenance includes general repairs (maintenance of parking spaces, traffic signs, and lights), street sweeping, armor coating, and snow removal. General maintenance during the next five years is expected to cost \$15,000 annually.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS**

The state of Nebraska building codes are enforced in Bassett. The city of Bassett has adopted the following zoning districts:

TA	Transitional Agriculture
R-1	Low-Density Residential
R-2	Medium-Density Residential
R-3	Mobile Home Residential
C-1	General Commercial
C-2	Downtown Commercial
C-3	Highway Commercial
I-1	Industrial
PUB	Public

### **PLANNING**

Bassett has a seven-member planning commission. Members are appointed by the city council for staggered three-year terms.

A Comprehensive Plan for Bassett was prepared by JEO Consulting Group of Norfolk/Wahoo and adopted in 1999.



**Bassett Fire Department**

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### Bassett School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Bassett Elementary	10	95	1:11	1:3
Rock County High School	12	72	1:8	1:1

School District 74 covers approximately 338 square miles in Rock, Brown, and Keya Paha counties and has an actual valuation of \$102,800,490. This Class I, Type K–8 district is accredited “A” by the state of Nebraska. The 2004–05 school operating expenses totaled \$1,007,666, with an average cost per pupil of \$10,607.

The Bassett elementary school has a special education teacher for Title I remedial math and reading.

School District 100 in Rock and Brown counties covers approximately 1,017 square miles and has an actual valuation of \$202,627,495, with an actual valuation per pupil of \$2,814,270. This Class 6, Type 9–12 district is accredited “A” by the state of Nebraska. The 2004–05 school operating expenses totaled \$1,182,796, with an average cost per pupil of \$12,450.

#### Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Terra Nova	100	699.3
ACT	87	20

It is estimated that 95 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 90 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, and 10 percent of the seniors enter the job market immediately after graduation.

Vocational courses offered in the high school include agriculture, computer technology, human resource, business, and agribusiness. Adult educational programs are available in the high school in

conjunction with Northeast Community College. The high school offers a full special education program.

Rural elementary schools include Pleasant Hill, Pony Lake, and Rose; all are Class I, Type K–8 institutions.

#### Educational Service Unit

Bassett is a member of Educational Service Unit 17, which is headquartered in Ainsworth and serves the four counties of Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha, and Rock. Services available include a media library, health screening, audio-visual repair, Starlab, computer repair, Internet, distance learning classrooms, in-service training of staff, special education, registered nurses for schools, supervision for Class I schools, and statewide cooperative purchasing.

#### Community College

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

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

NECC offers more than 70 technical, vocational, business, and liberal arts majors preparing the

student for immediate employment or transfer to a four-year college or university. In May 2005 the college awarded 671 diplomas and degrees. According to the latest Graduate Employment Report, some 99 percent of the 2004 graduates seeking employment found jobs.

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

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

The Business and Industry Division served 247 employers and trained more than 5,500 employees through customized training workshops and seminars in fiscal year 2004-05. The division also worked with 18 communities on strategic planning and economic development initiatives. More than 40 individuals seeking to start or expand their businesses received assistance through this division. An additional 15 minority-owned businesses were provided start-up assistance and consulting services. Northeast also assisted in recruiting several new

companies and divisions to the region, resulting in more than 600 new jobs.

The 205-acre main campus includes 19 buildings with classroom, shop, and lab facilities; library/resource center; student center; an activities center with gym and theater; the Lifelong Learning Center; residence hall for students; and two apartment buildings for student living. In 2004 Burkhardt Hall, a 147-bed residence hall addition, and the \$2.4 million Agriculture Complex, one mile east of the main campus, were dedicated. The Agriculture Complex includes a 550-seat arena and four classrooms. Northeast also owns a 566-acre college farm with all facilities necessary for teaching farm operations. The college is one of the best computer-equipped educational institutions in the state. In 2005 a \$2.57 million addition was completed to the Cox Activity Center. The addition includes 30 rooms that now house the radio/TV broadcasting, audio recording technology, and music departments.

The South Sioux City Education Center moved into a new 10,000-square-foot facility in South Sioux City in 2005. The state-of-the-art education center houses several classrooms, a large business-industry training room, computer lab, distance-learning classroom, conference rooms, and administrative offices. The center has classes leading to an associate of arts degree with a business administration or general studies emphasis and associate of applied science degree in administrative assistant-medical and business management. The presidents of NECC and Wayne State College signed a Memorandum of

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



Bassett Elementary School



New Playground Equipment at Bassett Elementary School



Rock County High School



Rock County Hospital



Rock County Hospital Long-Term Care Unit



Rock County Clinic in Bassett



Bassett Family Clinic

Understanding for a proposed campus in South Sioux City. When the campus is complete, students will be able to take their freshman- and sophomore-level courses from Northeast followed by junior- and senior-level or graduate-level courses from Wayne State College at the same South Sioux City location.

For more information on Northeast Community College, call (800) 348-9033 or visit the Northeast Community College website at [www.northeastcollege.com](http://www.northeastcollege.com).

### **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, two distance learning classrooms, a computer center for software training, and the conference center that can be divided into six rooms and accommodate up to 700 people. Full technology and food services are available to make the center a highly desirable location for meetings, training activities, and conferences.

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

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

### **Other Schools**

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

<b>Community/ College or University</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
<b>Norfolk</b> Northeast Community College	124
<b>Kearney</b> University of Nebraska at Kearney	143
<b>Wayne</b> Wayne State College	145
<b>Hastings</b> Hastings College	186
<b>Chadron</b> Chadron State College	200
<b>Curtis</b> University of Nebraska School of Agriculture	224
<b>Crete</b> Doane College	258
<b>Lincoln</b> University of Nebraska-Lincoln	260
<b>Omaha</b> University of Nebraska at Omaha	266

### **CHURCHES**

<b>Denomination</b>	<b>Number of Churches</b>
Assembly of God	1
Baptist	1
Catholic	1
Episcopal	1
Lutheran, ELCA	1
Methodist	1
Non-denominational	2

### **HEALTH CARE**

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

## **Hospital**

The Rock County Hospital is comprised of three parts—acute care, long-term care, and outpatient clinic. The hospital, owned by Rock County, is operated under the direction of a seven-member board of trustees. Tele-medicine is provided at Rock County Hospital through Good Samaritan Health Systems in Kearney. There is no limit on the services available from specialists. Rock County Hospital, a member of the Nebraska Hospital Association and the Nebraska Health Care Association achieved critical-access hospital designation in 2000.

The acute care facility, which opened in 1961, has 17 acute care beds and 2 coronary care monitoring beds. Licensed by the state of Nebraska, it is certified by Medicare/Medicaid. Services include surgery, recovery room, coronary care unit, emergency room, laboratory, radiology, mammography, ultrasonography, CAT scan, cardiac clinic, anesthesia, physical/occupational therapy, bone density, MRI, cardiac rehab, and orthopedic outreach.

The hospital plans to renovate parts of the building as well as build an assisted living center in the near future.

A memorial fund, designed to accept memorial gifts and donations to the hospital, is utilized to purchase patient care equipment. The Rock County Hospital Auxiliary sponsors a scholarship program for students entering the health profession and assists with fund raising drives.

The Rock County Hospital Foundation, Inc., was established to provide continued medical care and services. Donations are used exclusively in the facility for specific improvements, equipment, and services.

## **Clinics**

The Rock County Clinic, another vital part of the hospital, is fully equipped with all facets of general medical care and staffed with experienced personnel. A dispensing pharmacy is on-site.

The Bassett Family Clinic, a subsidiary of the West Holt Memorial Hospital, is equipped with internal medicine and lab services. One doctor and a nurse practitioner staff the facility.

## **Rescue Squad**

Rock County Ambulance, under the hospital's direction, is operated by 25 volunteer certified Emergency Medical Technicians who have completed a 110-hour course. The squad has three ambulances and two automatic external defibrillators. The Rock County Sheriff's Department operates a 24-hour dispatch service for emergency calls.

## **NURSING HOMES**

The long-term care unit of the Rock County Hospital consists of 30 beds (private pay and Medicaid approved) with capabilities of offering short- or long-term convalescent, intermediate, and residential care.

## **LIBRARY**

The Rock County Library contains 19,137 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 14,100. The library provides bookmobile service to Rock County schools. Library activities include preschool story hour, summer reading programs, adult book discussion groups, book sales, guest storytellers, and continuing education classes. Seven computers with wireless, DSL Internet service are available for public use.

## **RECREATION**

The five city parks in Bassett cover 92 acres and have a swimming pool, playground equipment, covered shelters, grills, picnic areas, camping, ball fields, horseshoe pits, walking trails, target practice range, tennis court, and sand volleyball court.

The Bassett City Park has rest rooms, showers, and picnic facilities. West City Park also has rest rooms and basketball and tennis courts. Both parks have standard playground equipment. There are



West City Park



Bassett Municipal Pool



Rock County Historical Society Museum, Pioneer Home



Rock County Historical Society Museum Church



Rock County Senior Citizens Center in Bassett

three playgrounds in Bassett. The playground at Bassett Elementary School received new equipment in 2005. Additions include a three-deck system tree house structure, two canopies, rock-climbing wall, ball tunnel, benches, climbing posts, five slides, and basketball court.

Summer recreation programs include baseball, softball, T-ball, swimming, tennis, golfing, and Bassett Area Matmen wrestling.

**Bassett Area Facilities:**

- Archery — Archery range at Long Pine State Recreation Area (SRA), 10 miles
- Boating — Long Pine Creek, 10 miles; Niobrara River, 12 miles; Keller Park SRA, 15 miles; Atkinson Lake SRA, 30 miles; Cub Creek Recreation Area, 34 miles; Long Lake SRA, 47 miles; Calamus Lake SRA, 50 miles; and Merritt Reservoir, 100 miles
- Bowling — A 12-lane bowling alley with a pro shop in Atkinson, 30 miles
- Campgrounds — Double C Trailer Court; Turpin Trailer Park; Bassett Historic Park, 1/4 mile; Long Pine SRA, 10 miles; Keller Park SRA, 15 miles; Atkinson Lake SRA, 30 miles; Cub Creek Recreational Area, 34 miles; Long Lake SRA, 47 miles; Calamus Lake SRA, 50 miles; and Merritt Reservoir SRA, 100 miles
- Fishing — Excellent fishing in area lakes for trout, bullhead, northern pike, walleye, crappie, white bass, and catfish

- Golf Courses — One public 9-hole grass greens course with clubhouse in Bassett
- Hiking/Biking Trail — Bluebird Trail, 1/2 mile; Long Pine SRA, 10 miles; and Atkinson Lake SRA, 1 mile trail, 30 miles; 136-mile Cowboy Trail through Bassett; Outlaw Trail, 231 miles
- Hunting — Pheasant, deer, raccoon, prairie chicken, grouse, geese, turtle dove, ducks, turkey, and antelope
- Sand Volleyball — Bassett Country Club and Bassett West Park
- Skating — Ice skating on ponds in season
- Swimming — Municipal pool in, Bassett; municipal pool in Ainsworth, 17 miles; and heated pool in Atkinson, 30 miles
- Tennis — A lighted, hard-surfaced tennis court at West City Park; Springview Recreational Area, 34 miles
- Theaters — Royal Theater in Ainsworth, 17 miles; O’Neill, 50 miles; Valentine, 66 miles
- Other — Scenic drives along the Niobrara River Valley and surrounding countryside

Annual events include the Ranch Expo in June and the Rock County Fair in August. Activities at the 2005 Ranch Expo included commercial exhibits, a high voltage demonstration, large craft show, hay harvesting and handling demonstrations, livestock exhibits, two concerts by nationally-known entertainers, antique machinery show, adopt-a-horse program, prize drawings, contests, food concessions, and working livestock demonstrations.

**Rock County Fair** activities include a “fun day” with kids games, parade, rodeo, and 4-H.

**Rock County Senior Center** offers daily meals and activities for seniors.

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

**Seven Springs Water** is bottled in Long Pine from the natural springs that supply the city. Many people tour the facility annually.

**Fort Niobrara Wildlife Refuge** encompasses 19,131 acres and sustains a rich diversity of wildlife including birds, bison, elk, and plants. The Niobrara River flows nine miles eastward, across the refuge.

The **Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway** is a 231-mile jaunt from South Sioux City to Valentine on State Highway 12, 25 miles north of Bassett. The view includes forested bluffs, winding rivers, sandhills, grasslands, wetlands, high prairies, lakes, waterfalls, and the Fort Niobrara Wildlife Refuge. Adventures include famous footsteps, world-class canoeing, the state’s tallest waterfall, wild life viewing, state recreation areas, and fishing.

**McKelvie National Forest**, immediately north of Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area approximately 100 miles northwest of Bassett, offers grouse hunting with its thousands of acres of grassy sandhills.

### **Cultural Activities**

The **Rock County Historical Museum** in Bassett includes displays of the heritage of Rock County and a gift shop. Exhibits include a pioneer

home, Galloway House, a log cabin, Valley Grove School, red windmill, Chicago and North Western Depot, St. Michael Catholic Church, and railroad artifacts, including a caboose.

**Bassett Arts Council** provides concerts, Missoula Children’s Theater, Bassett Community Children’s Theater, ballet, dances, square dancing, and dinner theater. Kaleidoscope Art Gallery 113 on Main Street features traveling displays each month. The Sandhills Quilt Guild with 25–30 members is located in Bassett and offers open membership to the public. The group meets monthly and raffles a quilt every other year at the Ranch Expo.

## **HOUSING**

### **New Construction**

The cost of new home construction averages \$75 per square foot.

### **Housing Market** (as of 1/06):

#### **Number of Homes on the Market**

Single Family -	11
Duplex -	1

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

Single Family Home	
2,500 sq. ft. - 4 bedrooms	\$69,000 to 90,000
2,300 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms	\$69,000 to 90,000
1,000 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms	\$30,000 to 85,000

#### **Rentals**

New 2 bedroom home	N/A
Apartment Vacancy Rate	less than 31%

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

Less than \$100,000	11
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### **Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing**

**Meadowview Homes**, built in 1968, contains 14 one-bedroom units designed for the elderly. There are two 2-bedroom and four 3-bedroom units for low-income families.

**Sageview Homes**, built in 1978, contains six units. Rent is based on income.

**Bassett Development Corporation** builds homes for low- to moderate-income families upon approval of application.

**Double C Trailer Court** and **Turpin Trailer Park and camping** are mobile home parks with lots available for housing.

## FINANCIAL

As of December 2005:

Name	Capital		
	Accounts	Deposits	Loans
----- <i>thousand dollars</i> -----			
Commercial Bank	\$4,968	\$39,445	\$31,580
Tri-County Bank, LPO*	\$4,749,000	\$43,388,000	\$31,389,000

\*Branch bank; figures represent headquarters



Commercial Bank



Niobrara River



Bassett Main Street Park



Bassett Country Club & Golf Course

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

Attorneys .....	1
Auctioneers .....	1
Certified Public Accountants .....	2
Certified Registered Nurses Aides .....	6
Dentists .....	1
Medical Doctors (residing in Bassett)	
—general practitioners .....	1
Medical Doctors (on hospital staff)	
—cardiologists .....	2
—general practitioners .....	9
—general surgeons .....	1
—orthopedic surgeons .....	1
—pathologists .....	1
—radiologists .....	3
Nurse Practitioners .....	2
Nurses, Registered .....	15
Optometrists .....	1
Veterinarians .....	1

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Abstracts .....	1
Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies .....	2
Agricultural Implement Dealers .....	1
Apparel Stores—combination .....	2
Appliance Stores .....	4
Auto Repair & Service .....	7
Auto Supply Parts .....	4
Automobile Dealers .....	2
Aviation Seeding & Spraying .....	1
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums .....	2
Beauty Salons & Barber Shops .....	3
Bed & Breakfast .....	1 (4 rooms)
Carpet & Rug Dealers .....	1
Caterers .....	2
Child Care Services .....	4
Contractors—electric .....	3
—fencing .....	1
—heating & air conditioning .....	3
—plumbing .....	2
—well digging .....	2

Convenience Stores .....	2
Copying & Duplicating Services .....	2
Craft Stores .....	1
Discount Stores .....	1
Dry Cleaning & Laundry .....	1
Farm Equipment & Supplies .....	5
Fertilizers .....	1
Film Processing .....	2
Floral Shops .....	2
Garbage Collection .....	1
Gift Shops .....	2
Grocery Stores .....	3
Hardware Stores .....	3
Hotel (Historic) .....	1 (35 rooms)
Insurance Companies .....	5
Irrigation Services .....	4
Laundries, Self-Service .....	1
Lawn Services .....	4
Livestock Auction Markets .....	3
Livestock Feeding .....	1
Lumberyards .....	1
Machine Shops .....	1
Meat Lockers .....	1
Motels .....	1 (11 rooms)
Office Machine Repairs .....	1
Office Equipment Services & Supplies .....	1
Photography Studios .....	1
Preschools .....	1
Printers .....	4
Real Estate Firms .....	3
Restaurants .....	9
Service Stations (gas & oil) .....	5
Shoe Stores .....	1
Travel Agencies & Bureaus .....	1
Upholstery Shops .....	1
Variety Stores .....	2
Welding Shops .....	4

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

2002 Statistics	Rock County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	271	49,355
Land in Farms (acres)	628,839	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	2,320	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$55,144,000	\$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$203,484	\$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	34,388	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	5.5%	16.6%
<b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2000–2004)</b>		
All Alfalfa Hay	16,130 tons	4,572,600 tons
Corn for Grain	38,206,520 bu.	1,107,650,000 bu.
Soybeans	85,820 bu.	195,251,000 bu.
Sorghum for Grain	3,169,280 bu.	30,063,000 bu.
<b>Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2001–2005)</b>		
All Cattle	18,600	6,360,000

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

### RAW MATERIALS

Nonmetallic minerals of sand, gravel, and rock are available locally. Metallic minerals are not found in the Bassett area.

Red cedar and white oak fence posts are available either as whole or split posts. Cedar, walnut, pine, and cottonwood rough lumber are available.



Rock County Courthouse Veteran's Memorial

# CLIMATE

## TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature*			Precipitation*		Humidity**	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	9.3	20.3	31.4	0.53	5.8	76	62
February	15.0	26.3	37.6	0.72	6.8	78	64
March	23.1	34.4	45.8	1.50	8.9	79	60
April	35.2	47.4	59.7	2.44	4.6	77	52
May	46.6	58.8	70.9	3.77	0.1	79	53
June	56.0	68.5	80.9	3.71	0.0	80	52
July	61.5	74.8	88.0	3.39	0.0	79	51
August	59.6	73.0	86.4	2.35	0.0	80	52
September	49.4	63.0	76.5	2.41	0.1	77	49
October	37.3	50.8	64.6	1.57	2.0	75	50
November	24.0	35.5	47.0	0.99	6.2	76	57
December	13.9	24.9	35.8	0.60	7.1	75	61
<b>Annual</b>	35.9	48.1	60.4	23.96	41.6	78	55

\*Data for Newport

\*\*Recorded at Valentine Weather Station

## FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring .....	May 11
Average date of first frost in fall .....	September 26
Average length of growing season .....	137 days
Average number of “heating degree days” based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	6,991
Average number of “cooling degree days” based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	867
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average) .....	9
Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....	Northwest

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1948–2005, [www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)