

COMMUNITY FACTS BENEDICT, NEBRASKA

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FEBRUARY 2006

POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2004 Est.</u>
Benedict	278	272
York County	14,598	14,228
Labor Market	82,419	82,104

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York, Nebraska 68467
www.perennialpower.com

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

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INTRODUCTION

The following pages contain basic information about Benedict, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the York County Development Corporation, village of Benedict, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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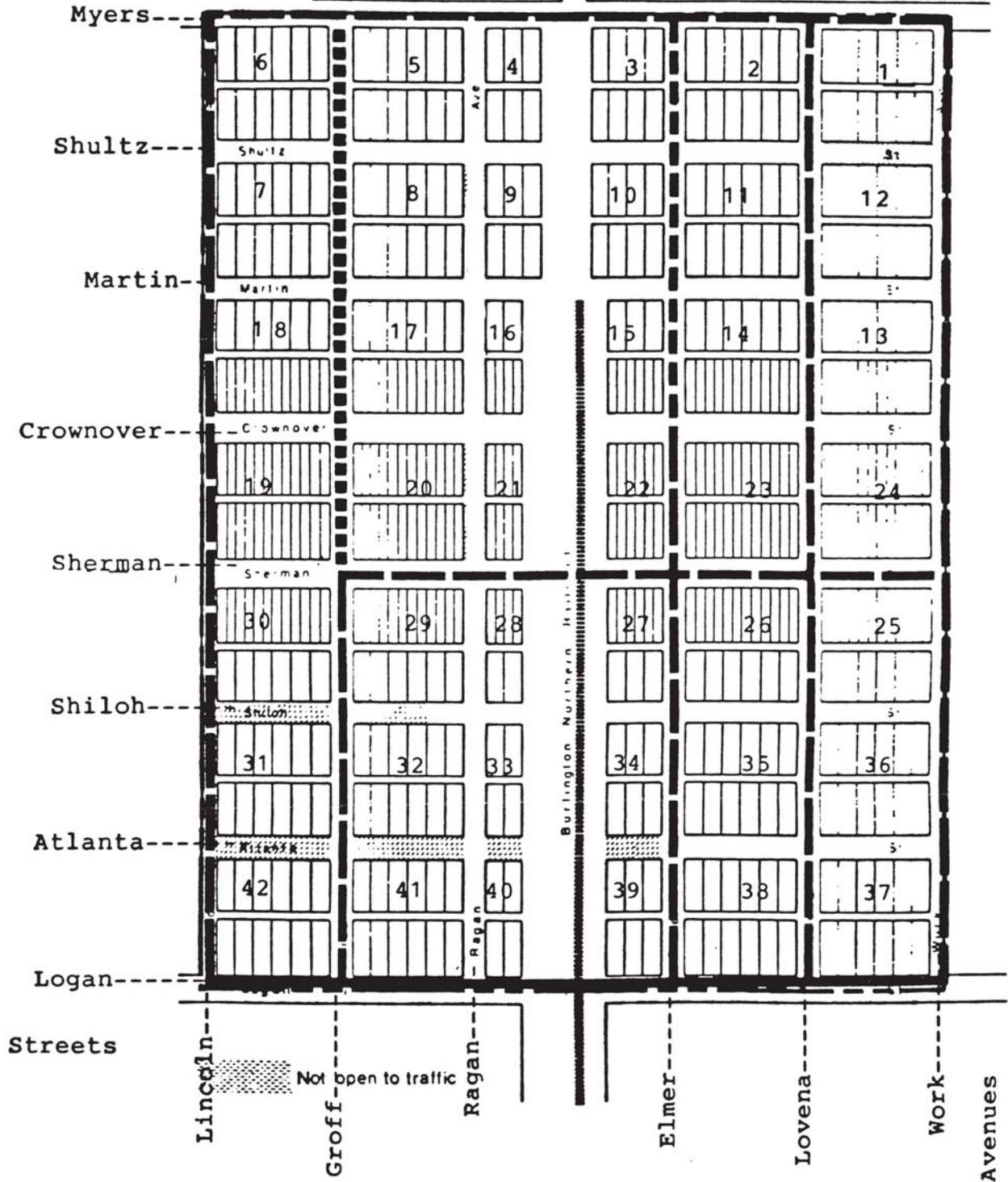
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City of Benedict

NORTH



GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Benedict is located in York County in southeast Nebraska on U.S. Highway 81. Interstate 80 is 11 miles south and U.S. Highway 81, a designated four-lane expressway, is 1/4 mile east of Benedict. Benedict is 8 miles north of York, the county seat of York County; 49 miles west of Lincoln; and 117 miles west of Omaha.

POPULATION (U.S. Census)

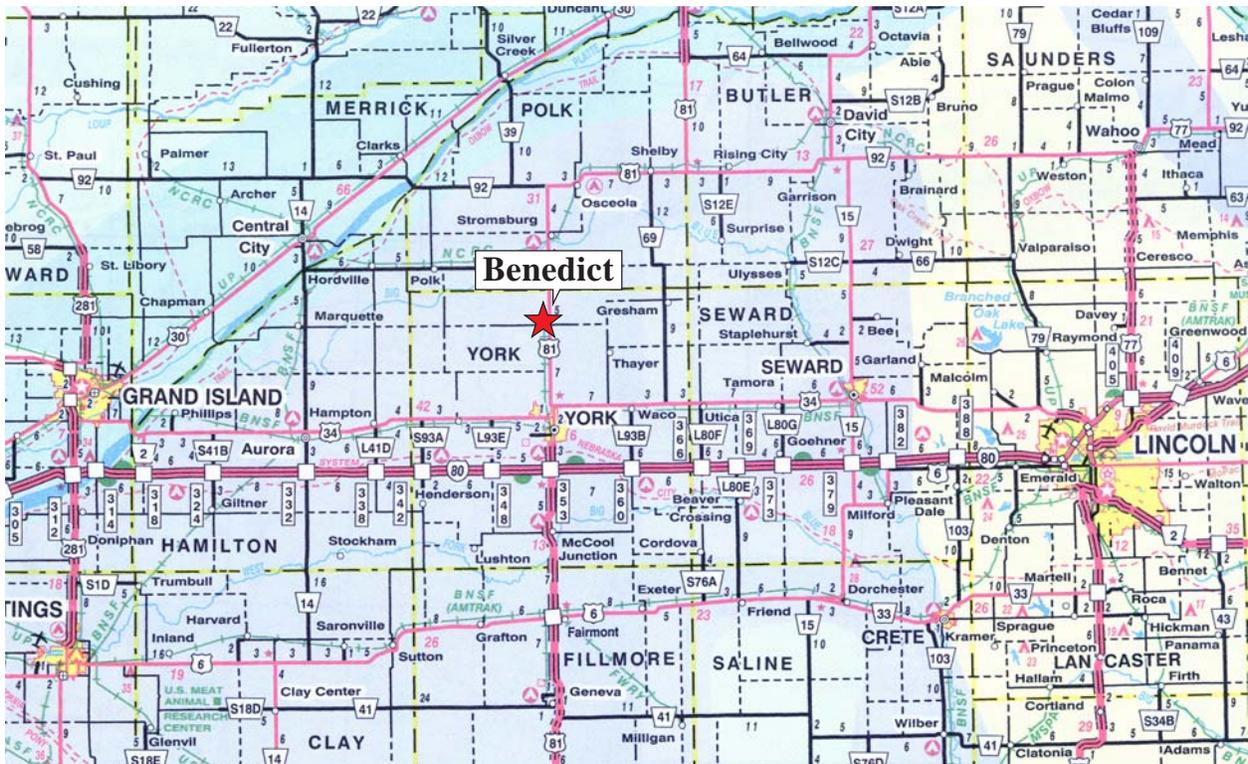
Year	Benedict	York County
1970	209	13,685
1980	228	14,798
1990	230	14,428
2000	278	14,598
2004 (Est.)	272	14,228

The 2004 U.S. Census estimates 82,104 people live within York County and the contiguous Nebraska counties of Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Polk, Saline, and Seward.

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

One race	14,486
White	14,128
Black or African American	140
American Indian and Alaska Native	42
Asian	71
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	12
Some other race	93
Two or more races	112
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	205

According to Census statistics, there are 14 people in York County fluent in Spanish, 3 in French, 4 in German, and 2 in Chinese who are available as interpreters. Two sign language interpreters reside in York. Three Arabic, 1 Dutch, 1 Finnish, 1 Hebrew, 1 Swedish, and 2 Turkish translators (as well as sign language interpreters) are available by appointment from agencies in Grand Island and Lincoln.



LOCAL ECONOMY

Agriculture plays a large role in the Benedict economy, as it is the center of a thriving farming community. There are a number of locally owned businesses within the municipality, including a regionally popular restaurant, beauty salon, home-based businesses, carpenters, insurance, agricultural equipment, value added ag ventures, upholstery, well services, plumbing, grain elevator, and service station.

Firms in Benedict with retail sales tax permits reported net taxable retail sales of \$826,204 in 2004 while York County reported total net taxable sales of \$160,816,486.

ELEVATION

Benedict is 1,685 feet above sea level.

TOPOGRAPHY

Terrain

York County is located on an upland loess plain in south-central Nebraska and has a land area of approximately 577 square miles. The maximum land surface elevation is 1,740 feet above mean sea level in the northwest corner of the county, and the minimum elevation is 1,470 feet above mean sea level in the southeast corner. The land is fairly flat, except along streams, and land slopes are generally less than 10 percent.

Drainage

There are three large streams that collect runoff from land in York County; they are Beaver Creek, Lincoln Creek, and the West Fork Big Blue River, with their headwaters located in Hamilton, Clay, and Adams counties, west of York County. These streams flow eastward into the Big Blue River, which then flows southward into Kansas. Streams in the area generally have bed slopes of five feet per mile. The land generally drains well and is not highly erodible; land slopes in the county are between 1 and 5 percent over 90 percent of the land area.

Soils

Soils in the upland areas are predominantly silt loam belonging to the Hastings series. These soils cover approximately 70 percent of the county. The nearly level topography and rich topsoil are well suited to row crop farming and irrigation. Alluvial soils in the lowland areas, adjacent to streams, include the Uly, Hobbs, Butler, and Geary series. These soils are located in areas that have steeper slopes, 5 to 10 percent, are subject to flooding, and are less productive for farming.

HISTORY

The pioneers described this place as “an endless wild prairie, a sea of unbroken sod, and a vast treeless plain.” Few realized the potential wealth that lay beneath the sod as they turned the grassland of northern York County into fields of grain.

Many who came to the area were Civil War veterans; others were from eastern states—Germany, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Sweden. Those who survived the 1870s were rewarded by improved conditions in the 1880s. Before a town was even thought of, churches, country schools, three post offices, two cemeteries, and a public road system were established in Morton and Thayer townships.

In 1886, bonds were approved to aid the Kansas City and Omaha Railroad in bringing train service to the area. That spring, as the grade was being prepared between York and Stromsburg, a town was platted in Section 13. Located eight miles north of York, the village was named for the president of the railroad, E. C. Benedict.

The line ran between the farms of Elmer Crownover and Henry Harrington, with the depot in the center of two 60-acre plots. Even before the tracks were laid, a grocery store, hardware store, and hotel were in place and carpenters were busily building homes.

On June 27, 1887, the first train came down the rails, welcomed by a jubilant cheering crowd.

Benedict's depot agent and telegraph operator were already on the job, and a post office opened in Chris Sparling's general store on August 6. The first schoolhouse was completed in 1888, housing eight grades taught by one schoolmaster.

The depot was the hub of activity. People found trains to be a great way to travel. Farmers shipped grain and livestock, and shop owners received merchandise daily. Of more importance, there was new speed at which news arrived from the outside world over the "wire" at the depot.

Benedict had an opera house, which was the site of many community activities such as phonograph concerts, dances, lectures, plays, and musical programs.

During the early years, several grain companies served Benedict. In 1902 a farmers cooperative grain company was organized. Thought to be one of the first farmer's cooperatives in the state of Nebraska, it has grown from a capacity of 5,000 bushels to 1,800,000 bushels.

When the high school was established in 1921, the question of consolidation was addressed. As a result, Benedict became the first consolidated

1-12 school in York County. A new building was dedicated in 1924, which housed not only the most modern equipment, but also one of the finest gymnasiums in the state.

Telephones were installed in 1902 and the dial system came to Benedict in 1961. Many businesses, such as the harness shop, blacksmith, and cream station, have disappeared from the scene, but the United Methodist and Zion Lutheran churches have endured more than 100 years.

A devastating fire in 1907 destroyed six businesses. A tornado in 1964 swept through the rural areas, destroying both life and property.

Benedict is proud to have had four native sons in politics. Serving as Nebraska State Senators were Clifton Foster (1962), D. W. Baker (1906-1910), and most recently Scott Moore (1986-1990). Maurice Van Nostrand served in Iowa's legislature.

Benedict's Centennial Celebration, held June 26-28, 1987, was a grand finale of the first 100 years. A group of volunteers began publishing a small monthly newsletter in 1989, with a circulation of approximately 375. A new restaurant opened in 2000.



Benedict Community Center

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Moore-Built 1994	Agricultural equipment	National	9	1	None

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 3 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Cross County Public Schools	Education	39 Total		NSEA
PK's	Restaurant/tavern	1	9	None
United Farmers Co-Op -Elevator	Agricultural products & services	8	0	None
-Car Care	Maintenance, repair & fuel sales	2	0	
Village of Benedict	Government	2	1	None

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

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
York, 8 miles				
Champion Home Builders	Manufactured homes	179	77	None
Chances R	Restaurant/lounge	32	72	None
Cornerstone Bank	Financial services	96	53	None
Epworth Village	Residential youth treatment	125 Total		None
Hamilton Sundstrand	Aerospace components/ aircraft systems	165	35	None
King of the Road	Recreational vehicles	43 18*	18 8*	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>	
Kroy Building Products	PVC fencing	128 Total		None
Nebraska Public Power District	Electric utility	112	18	None
		1*		
Petro Travel Plaza	Truck stop, convenience store, restaurant	72	76	None
State of Nebraska	Government	162 Total		NAPE
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Retail	320 Total		None
York County	Government	57	51	NAPE
York General Health Care Services	Medical	430 Total		None
York Public Schools	Education	237 Total		NSEA
Waco, 16 miles				
Even Temp Inc.	Hearth products, pellet stoves, corn burning stoves	70	44	None
Shelby, 23 miles				
United Farmers Cooperative**	Ag sales, service, marketing	223 Total		None
		41*		
Seward, 34 miles				
Concordia University	Education	130	124	None
Hughes Brothers, Inc.	Crossarms, transmission & distribution materials	203	60	IAM & AW
MetroGroup Corp.	Direct mail	400 Total		None
Memorial Health Systems	Medical	44	314	None
Seward County	Government	67	54	None
Seward Motor Freight, Inc.	Trucking	150	22	None
Seward Public Schools	Education	189 Total		NEA
Tenneco Automotive	Automotive exhaust systems	308	67	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

**Areawide employer, headquartered in Shelby

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Retail	60	120	None
Aurora, 38 miles				
Aurora Cooperative Elevator	Feed pellets & fertilizer	220	30	None
Aurora Memorial Hospital	Medical	16	219	None
BonnaVilla Homes	Manufactured housing	157	28	None
District 4R Schools	Education	61	140	NSEA
Hamilton Manor	Health care	8	112	None
Hamilton Telecommunications	Telemarketing	74	145	None
The Iams Company	Pet food	185	35	None
David City, 40 miles				
Butler County Health Care Center	Medical	14	91	None
David City Manufacturing Fargo Assembly of PA	Electrical harnesses	34	84	None
David City Public Schools	Education	28	83	NSEA
David Place, Inc.	Multi-health care	5	95	None
Henningsen Foods, Inc.	Frozen, liquid & dehydrated egg products	79	51	None
Kennel Vaccine Vet Supply	Animal health supplies & human natural supplements	15	87	None
St. Joseph's Villa & Court	Nursing care/assisted living	7	98	None
Timpte, Inc.	Truck trailers	113	11	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The York County Development Corporation (YCDC), a nonprofit corporation, is the lead organization in York County for the recruitment of new businesses, retention and expansion activities of existing businesses, and

start-up assistance/support for entrepreneurs. A public/private partnership, YCDC has more than 125 members. The YCDC works cooperatively with appropriate municipal and/or county governments and regional and state agencies/organizations to secure the needed resources to grow York County's economy. The YCDC is responsible for all recruitment activities

and seeks to provide support, technical assistance, and various types of resources to existing businesses. Serving as coordinator of the Crossroads Rural Entrepreneur Network (small business association), Local Area Safety Committee, Manufacturers' and Workforce Development Councils, the YCDC provides training, education, and networking opportunities to all business sectors. A comprehensive labor market study and housing market study were completed in 2004.

In 2005 several business investment corporations were initiated by YCDC throughout York County. Twenty-two investors associated with real estate came together to form an additional group to build market rate housing. The village of Benedict and YCDC work cooperatively on a variety of projects and issues.

Approximately 4.1 acres of land in and adjacent to the community are zoned for industry. The price of industrially zoned land ranges from \$1,000 to \$25,000 per acre.



United Farmers Cooperative Elevator



United Farmers Cooperative Service Station

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Benedict labor market which is defined as the whole of York County and the total labor market consisting of York County and the contiguous counties of Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Polk, Saline, and Seward (12-month average October 2004 through September 2005):

	York County	Total
<u>Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)</u>		
Manufacturing	950	(D)
Natural Resources & Construction	238	1,353
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	2,582	6,910
Information	(D)	(D)
Financial Activities	389	1,495
Professional & Business Services	417	(D)
Education & Health Services	1,244	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	974	(D)
Other Services	(D)	(D)
Government	1,059	6,609
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	8,594	32,752
Farm Employment*	778	6,068
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	7,905	44,340
B. Commuting Out of County	690	
C. Unemployment	249	1,500
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	8,154	45,840
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	2,756	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	170	
TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	3,865	

(D) Data withheld because of disclosure suppression

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

A labor survey was conducted in 2004; results are available at www.i80nebraska.com.



2000 POPULATION DATA						Median Household Effective Buying Income
Location	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs. & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
York Co.	25.3	17.4	38.8	87.2	17.0	\$34,589
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

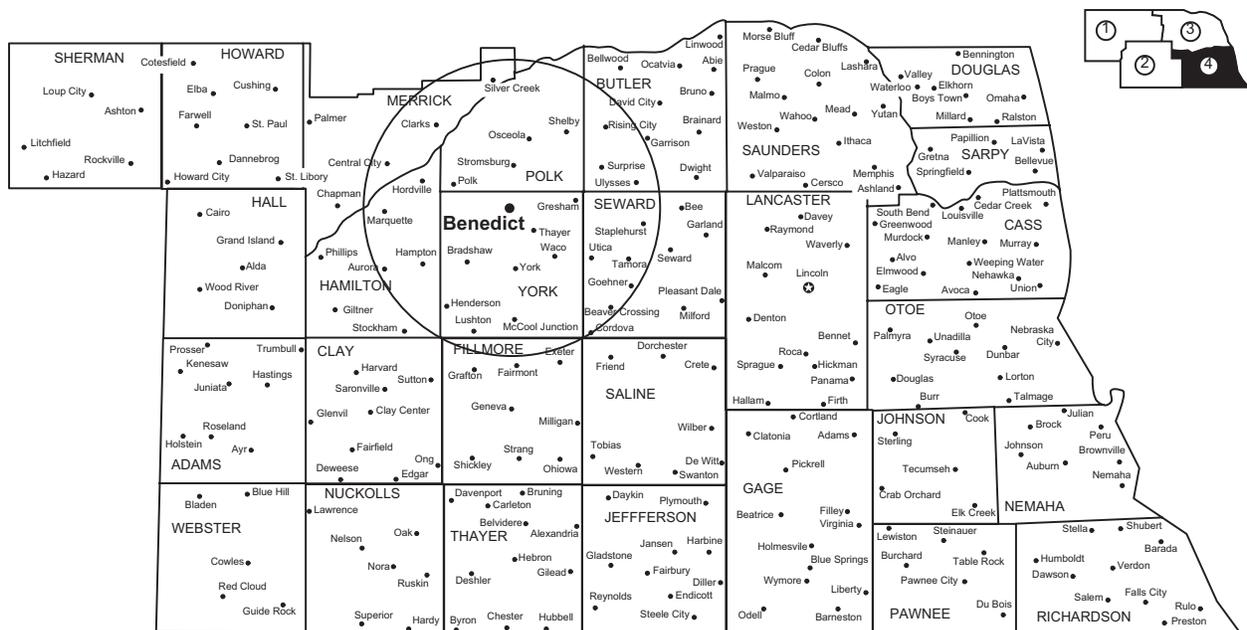
York County had 11,100 eligible voters in 2004; 61.9 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, www.census.gov

Sales and Marketing Management, 2005

Statewide General Election 2004 Results, www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004.htm

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE BENEDICT AREA



POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2004 Estimate	
Village of Benedict	272
York County	14,228
30-Mile Radius	62,368

York County Population by Age/Gender, 2004		
Ages	Male	Female
18-24	713	815
25-44	1,586	1,649
45-64	1,835	1,862

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 Benedict:

Company	Union
Cross County Public Schools	Nebraska State Education Association

Less than 1 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Benedict is unionized.

WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Professional			
Accountants & Auditors	13.16	21.07	34.10
Engineers			
Civil Engineers*	18.83	27.53	40.80
Electrical Engineers*	21.21	34.23	50.16
Industrial Engineers	21.17	32.18	51.24
Mechanical Engineers	19.67	28.40	51.42
Computer Programmers	16.80	23.70	32.58
Computer Systems Analysts	19.34	30.02	46.60
Registered Nurses	16.75	20.96	26.82
Retail			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	5.70	7.42	8.86
Retail Salespersons	5.85	7.84	16.34
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.12	10.31	17.70
Driver/Sales Workers	5.71	8.01	21.30
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	5.87	7.17	15.10
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	8.67	12.27	16.13
Clerical			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	6.82	11.38	16.48
Customer Service Representatives	6.79	11.30	19.52
Data Entry Keyers	6.15	9.28	12.57
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.50	10.10	14.26
Office Clerks, General	5.96	8.72	12.50
Receptionists & Information Clerks	5.98	8.47	11.15
Telemarketers*	6.36	8.19	10.72

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

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Unskilled			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	6.76	9.61	13.50
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.98	11.23	13.55
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other*	7.95	10.95	13.88
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	7.89	9.85	11.91
Semi-Skilled			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.62	13.02	17.14
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.78	14.56	20.32
Maintenance Workers, Machinery Machine Operators	9.62	12.32	21.45
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	10.59	13.05	14.85
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	9.56	11.62	16.97
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.*	9.49	12.45	16.09
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	9.31	11.80	16.44
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	9.11	10.55	15.25
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	7.99	12.06	16.94
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	11.32	15.21	17.33
Skilled			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	7.61	10.65	19.27
Electricians	14.15	19.87	27.26
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	11.46	17.55	31.61
Machinists	12.12	16.32	21.84
Tool & Die Makers	14.15	18.43	21.65
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.74	13.29	17.66
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters	9.08	12.84	16.14
Technical			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians*	12.16	23.98	33.27
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	14.99	21.08	27.47
Computer Operators	8.48	11.66	16.42

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

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Third Quarter 2005 wage estimates, All Industries, Southeast Region, 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

York County compares to the national average of 29 percent fringe benefits associated with wages.

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

BNSF Railway Company's branch line serves Benedict. Switching is done by train crews.

Amtrak provides Lincoln, 49 miles east of Benedict, with rail passenger service east to Chicago and west to Denver and San Francisco/Oakland. The Superliner features a lounge car, coach and first-class accommodations, dining car service, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time is 11 hours to Chicago and 42 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

MOTOR

Highways

Benedict is 1/4 mile west of U.S. Highway 81 (north/south), also known as the Pan American Highway. U.S. Highway 81 is being expanded to four lanes from Mexico to Canada. The portion from Mexico to York, Nebraska, is complete and the corridor around York is currently under construction. Improvements will continue north expanding the current two lanes to four, eventually connecting with the four lanes south of Columbus. Interstate 80 is 11 miles south of Benedict, Interstate 29 is 97 miles from Benedict, and Interstate 70 is 142 miles from Benedict.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	49
Omaha	117
Chicago	581
Dallas	604
Denver	451
Detroit	846
Kansas City	255
Los Angeles	1,465
Minneapolis	490
New York	1,355
St. Louis	507
San Francisco	1,581

Trucklines

Interstate trucklines serving York County:

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trucks Daily
York	
Johnson Transportation*	3
Nolan Transportation	25
Shaffer Trucking	25
Aurora	
Con-Way Central Express	2
Clay Center	
Dahlsten Truck Lines	20
David City	
M & S Transfer Company*	1
Geneva	
Wynne Transport Service	15
Grand Island	
ABF Freight System	3
Brown Transfer Co.	1
Midwest*	1
Nebraska Transport	10
Roadway	1
Saia Motor Freight	13
Hastings	
D & J Transfer	20
Lincoln	
Heavy Company	12
Yellow Freight	25
Omaha	
Integrated Express	3
Werner Enterprises	8
Seward	
P-J Express Inc.	8
Seward Motor Freight	30
Shickley	
Oswald Inc.	6

*Intrastate only

Bus Line

Black Hills Stage Lines serves York, eight miles south of Benedict, with two buses daily.

Eppley Express transports individuals to the Eppley Airfield in Omaha. Travelers may access the service in York.

The Handi Bus provides transportation to and from York County communities, as well as monthly trips to Grand Island and Lincoln. The Handi Bus is funded through York County, city of York, and the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging.

Taxi

MC Taxi provides door-to-door transportation services in York County.

AIR

The York Municipal Airport, eight miles south of Benedict, has a 5,900-foot lighted concrete runway and a 4,300-foot turf runway with full instrument landing capabilities. Jet and 100-low lead fuel, hangar space for rent/storage, courtesy car services, maintenance services for aircraft, and flight instruction are available at the airport. There are 26 private planes hangared at the York Municipal Airport; none are available for charter. Many local companies utilize the newly expanded airport, with corporate planes flying in daily. The elevation at the airport is 1,671 feet, the latitude is 40°53'42.7"N, and the longitude is 97°37'26.1"W. The airport was closed for five days in the past three years due to inclement weather.

Scheduled air service is available at the Lincoln Airport, 49 miles (50 minutes) southeast, and Central Nebraska Regional Airport near Grand Island, 64 miles (71 minutes) west of Benedict.

Airlines serving these points:

Airline	Flights Daily	Nonstop Destinations
Grand Island		
Great Lakes	3	Denver
Lincoln		
Allegiant Air	2*	Las Vegas
Northwest		
Airlink	5	Minneapolis
	3	Detroit
	2	Memphis
United		
Express	5	Denver
	4	Chicago

*Flights on Wednesday and Saturday

WATER

Barge services are available at 10 barge terminal facilities on the Missouri River in Nebraska. The Omaha river port is 117 miles northeast of Benedict. These river ports are navigable approximately eight months per year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a 9-foot deep, 300-foot wide channel for 735 navigable miles from Sioux City to the mouth of the Missouri River. Commodities transported by towing companies are grain and grain products, fertilizer, feed ingredients, cement, rock aggregate, and salt.

PIPELINE

The Kanab Pipeline and storage facilities are located approximately 33 miles south of Benedict.

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

Benedict is provided retail electric service from Perennial Public Power District. A 34,500/12,500 volt substation, with a 10,500 kVA capacity, provides service to Benedict. The distribution voltage within Benedict is 12.5/7.2 kV wye. All industry-standard secondary voltages can be provided by Perennial Public Power District. The electric system within Benedict has ample capacity to provide service to a growing community.

ELECTRIC RATES—PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT (effective 1/1/05)

Residential Service (all electric):

Facilities Charge: \$10.25 per month		
Summer	Winter	
\$0.0820	\$0.0720	per kWh for the first 250 kWh used per month
\$0.0620	\$0.0550	per kWh for the next 500 kWh used per month
\$0.0530	\$0.0285	per kWh for all additional kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Facilities Charge		

This rate is subject to application of the gross revenue tax, lease payment adjustment, and production cost adjustment, if applicable.

General Service:

Facilities Charge:		
Single Phase		\$13.50 per month
Three Phase		\$21.00 per month
Summer	Winter	
\$0.0900	\$0.0700	per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month
\$0.0760	\$0.0570	per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month
\$0.0700	\$0.0450	per kWh for all additional kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Facilities Charge		

This rate is subject to application of the gross revenue tax, lease payment adjustment, and production cost adjustment, if applicable.

Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh
100	30,000	5.52
100	36,000	5.49
300	90,000	5.13
300	150,000	4.26
500	150,000	5.12
500	180,000	4.75

Industrial:

Facilities Charge: \$42.50 per month		
Summer	Winter	
\$0.0750	\$0.0550	for the first 200 kWh per kW of billing demand per month
\$0.0360	\$0.0260	for all additional kWh per month
Minimum Bill: The Facilities Charge		

This rate is subject to application of the gross revenue tax, lease payment adjustment, and production cost adjustment, if applicable.

Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh
150	30,000	6.31
150	100,000	3.94
500	100,000	6.21
500	300,000	4.03
1,000	200,000	6.19
1,000	650,000	3.93

Perennial Public Power District, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District, serves Benedict and the surrounding area. For more information regarding electrical services in the Perennial Public Power District service area, contact Jamey Pankoke, manager, York, Nebraska, (402) 362-3355 or (800) 289-0288, or visit www.perennialpower.com.

NATURAL GAS

Kinder Morgan is the retail supplier of natural gas in Benedict, through a three-inch steel transmission pipeline with an operating pressure of approximately 400 pounds per square inch.

Kinder Morgan is also the distributor of natural gas within the community, serving approximately 94 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 may be obtained from Kinder Morgan's service center, (800) 563-0012.

OTHER FUELS

LP Gas

Propane gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses from United Farmers Cooperative in Benedict and Sapp Bros. Petroleum, Inc. in York.

Oil

United Farmers Cooperative in Benedict and York provide oil for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

WATER

The municipal water system in Benedict is supplied by one well which is 300 feet deep. A backup well is used for emergencies only. The system, serving 100 percent of Benedict's population, has a pumping capacity of 500 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 75,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 25,000 gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 75,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 720,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 64 pounds and the residual pressure is 62 pounds per square inch.

Ground water is available for industrial uses. All federal/state drinking water quality standards are met.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. The water quality meets all federal/state drinking water quality standards.

The color of the water is clear, and the hardness, in parts per million, is 250. The tap water temperature varies from 50° in the winter to 54° in the summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.22
Calcium	71.6
Total Solids	338
Magnesium	N/A
Iron	102
Nitrate	2.8
Manganese	6.31
Chloride	8.93
Fluoride	0.27
Sulfate	27.5
Total Alkalinity	246
Sodium	21.2
Total Hardness	250
Potassium	N/A

N/A - Not available

WATER RATES (effective 3/05)

A fee of \$25 is charged for new water connections.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Customer Charge: \$30.00 per month \$1.60 per 1,000 gallons used
--

In 2004 a new well and storage tower began operation and new water mains were installed. This \$805,000 project was partially financed by a Community Development Block Grant and a loan from the state of Nebraska.

SEWERAGE

The village of Benedict has a two-cell lagoon and a storm sewer system. The lagoon system was

designed for a population of 300 with room for growth.

SEWER USE CHARGES (effective 5/05)

There is a sewer connection fee of \$25.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

\$4.50 per month

School:

\$15.00 per month per meter

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Privately owned waste removal services are available in Benedict. The disposal site, located eight miles from Benedict, is owned by the York Area Solid Waste Agency and has an estimated life of 20–40 years.

SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Rates vary

RECYCLING

The communities of Benedict and Gresham share a recycling trailer, which is rotated between the two villages on a weekly basis. The recyclable material is then transferred to the York Area Solid Waste Agency.

York Area Solid Waste Agency, located eight miles from Benedict, has contracted with a private operator to operate a recycling center at the landfill site. This is a drop-off facility with some collection provided to volume users. Several drop-off sites are available at the city of York, eight miles from Benedict, as well as in several of the neighboring villages.

Most recyclable materials are processed by baling, crushing, and/or chipping prior to shipment. The center accepts brown and clear glass, all types of paper, plastics, cardboard, and tin and aluminum cans.



Scenes from Benedict Park

COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Alltel provides the telecommunications needs in Benedict and the surrounding area with a digital central office in York, served by fiber on a self-healing fiber ring. DMS 100 switching with dual feed from two separate switching offices is available along with ISDN and DSL. Installation and maintenance personnel are located in York, eight miles from Benedict. Visit www.alltel.net or call (402) 362-5811 for further information.

TARIFFED RATES (effective 2004)

Residential	\$10.00
Commercial	\$33.00

INTERNET

High speed Internet access is available in Benedict through Alltel, www.alltel.net, (402) 362-5811.

POST OFFICE

The post office in Benedict has one mail receipt and one dispatch daily. The nearest general mail facility is located in Lincoln, 49 miles.

Postal receipts for the last five fiscal years:

Year	Receipts
2004	\$27,417
2003	\$25,412
2002	\$25,813
2001	\$24,500
2000	\$22,812

PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

	U.S. Postal Service
Latest Pick-up Time	4 p.m.
Earliest Delivery	8 a.m.

Federal Express and United Parcel services are available by appointment/prior arrangements.

NEWSPAPER

The Benedict Voice is a monthly newsletter with 455 subscribers. The York News-Times, with 4,300 subscribers, is the local daily newspaper. A weekly shopping guide, Trade and Transactions, is delivered to each house and place of business. Other daily papers available locally are the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Omaha World-Herald.

RADIO

Radio stations carrying local news:

Call Letters	Frequency	Location
KAWL	1370 KHz	York
KTMX	104.9 MHz	York
KZEN	100.3 MHz	Columbus

TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KOLN/KGIN	10/11	Lincoln/ Grand Island
KLKN	8	Lincoln
NETV	12	Lincoln
KETV	13	Kearney
KHAS	5	Hastings

Cable television is not available in Benedict.

Satellite television reception is available throughout York County. An average package offers 125 channels with the purchase of a dish and receiver. Several retail outlets are located in York County.



Benedict Post Office



York County Courthouse

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – VILLAGE OF BENEDICT

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 80 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	\$6,234,639	\$6,262,612	\$6,192,744
Personal Property	315,129	374,708	312,718
Special (railroad and utilities)	141,539	126,581	125,327
Total	<u>\$6,691,307</u>	<u>\$6,763,901</u>	<u>\$6,630,789</u>

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

	2003	2004	2005
City	\$0.419620	\$0.419880	\$0.441730
County	.336050	.323710	.339440
School District	1.015355	1.049778	1.051336
Community College	.065500	.065500	.069600
Educational Service Unit	.014998	.014998	.014999
Natural Resource District	.026460	.028686	.038326
Agricultural Society	.007470	.008000	.010500
Historical Society	.000167	.000170	.000180
Fire/Cemetery	.066660	.074290	—
County Ambulance	—	—	.05082
Total	<u>\$1.952280</u>	<u>\$1.985012</u>	<u>\$2.016931</u>

The 2005 tax rate at the industrial area outside the city limits is \$1.575201 per \$100 of actual value.

LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of July 7, 2005:

City—Revenue Bonds	None
City—General Obligation Bonds	\$ 50,000
School District	None
County	\$ 895,460

CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 7/7/05	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
General Obligation					
General Obligation	2001	\$80,000	\$50,000	5.35	3/20/12

The village of Benedict currently has a Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Loan Fund for \$455,000.

COUNTY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 7/7/05	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Highway Allocation	7/3/01	\$ 2,030,000	\$ 895,460	4.2725	7/1/06



Benedict Rural Fire District

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

York County has 16 townships and is governed by five county commissioners elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2006. York County is one of 17 counties belonging to the Southeast Nebraska Development District. The 2004–05 actual budget was \$12,497,637. County zoning classifications are:

General Ag District
Transitional Ag District

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The village of Benedict is governed by a board of trustees. The next election will be held in 2006. The 2004–05 actual budget was \$321,994. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
Elected at Large	
Board of Trustees (5)	4 Years
Elected by Board of Trustees	
Chairman	4 Years
Appointed	
Village Clerk	1 Year

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided in the community by a 19-member volunteer fire department with ten-members trained as a Quick Response Team. Mutual aid agreements with the surrounding districts provide fire protection to areas outside the village limits. The protection area spans 88 square miles.

There is one fire station and 24 fire hydrants in Benedict. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 6, outside it is 9. Annual expenditures for the last three years averaged \$60,000.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
City/Rural	
2004 Pierce	1,250 gal. tanker
1995 GMC	Grass rig
1980 E One	1,250 gal. tanker
1980 6x6	1,500 gal. tanker/grass rig
1978 Chevy	Equipment van
1996 Fordcye	Rescue truck

Fire losses for the past five years:

Year	Amount
2004	\$10,000
2003	\$ 9,800
2002	\$10,000
2001	\$10,000
2000	\$ 9,500

Future improvements include a new tankers and new fire station.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Department

The York County Sheriff’s Department, located eight miles south of Benedict, provides law enforcement for the village of Benedict.

Sheriff’s Department

The York County Sheriff’s Department, located in York, employs 9 sworn officers and 15 support personnel.

The sheriff’s department is housed in a newly renovated and expanded office space in the York County Courthouse. A full 911 dispatch area is accompanied by deputy stations, evidence room, and conference room. The York County jail is a lock-down facility with a maximum capacity of

34 inmates. The jail has its own commercial kitchen, with all meals prepared on site. Other features of the jail include an exercise area, library, laundry facilities, detox cell, and visitation room.

The sheriff's department has eight vehicles equipped with onboard cameras and state-of-the-art breathalyzer/testing equipment. All law enforcement personnel are equipped with bullet-proof gear and carry state-of-the-art weaponry. Members of the sheriff's department have been extensively trained in drug awareness and enforcement, HAZ MAT, interrogations, and many other areas.

The sheriff's department provides regular patrol to local industries, checking security sites, entrances, and exits on a rotating basis.

An extensive upgrade of the county's 911 system and the installment of a Global Information System is planned for 2006.

A new communications tower was erected in 2005, enhancing emergency communication for the area by extending the county's capabilities.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in York County in 2004 was 19.3 compared to a state crime rate of 37.7 and a national rate of 39.8.

State Patrol

Troop C of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Grand Island. Fifty-one patrol officers are headquartered there; five are stationed in York.

STREETS

There are 5.18 miles of streets in Benedict; 3.39 miles are hard surfaced with asphalt and concrete. There is a designated truck route. Sixty-two percent of the streets have curbs and forty-seven percent have sidewalks. Street maintenance includes sweeping, snow removal, patching, and plowing.

BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS

The Nebraska Electrical and Plumbing Codes are enforced in the community.

Local zoning classifications are:

- Agriculture
- Single-Family Residential
- Single-Family/Mobile Home
- Multiple-Family Residential
- Village Center
- General Commercial
- General Industrial
- Heavy Industrial
- Public Use

PLANNING

The Benedict Planning Commission is comprised of five members who serve three-year terms. The village has a one-mile planning jurisdiction around the village limits.

A comprehensive plan for the village of Benedict was prepared in 1992 by RDG-Croese Gardner Shukert of Omaha.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Cross County School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary (K–4) Stromsburg	17	130	1:11	1:2
Middle School (5–8) Benedict	21	122	1:10	1:1
High School (9–12) Stromsburg	25	117	1:8	1:1

School District 72–0015 in York and Polk counties covers approximately 177 square miles and has an actual valuation of \$256,882,938. This Class 3 district is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and the North Central Association of College and Schools.

The 2003–04 school operating expenses totaled \$3,513,125, with an average cost per pupil of \$9,520. The actual valuation per pupil was \$696,160.

The maximum capacity of the public elementary school in Stromsburg, built in 1963 and renovated in 1991, is 200. The public middle school in Benedict, built in 1923 and renovated in 1969 and 1977, has a maximum capacity of 200. The high school in Stromsburg, with a maximum capacity of 200, was built in 1929, with four renovations with the last being in 1999.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
ITBS	100	82 % tile
ACT	92	22.2

It is estimated that 100 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 84 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, 8 percent enter the military, and 8 percent of the seniors enter the job market immediately after graduation.

Vocational courses offered in the high school are business, family consumer science, industrial technology education, computers, and art.

York Community Education is available to Benedict residents. This program provides a diverse range of services in York, eight miles from Benedict. Adult Basic Education classes are available to those seeking to complete their general educational development, as well as English instruction for those who otherwise speak only a foreign language. There is also a wide variety of classes for adults who simply want to broaden their horizons.

The **Alternative School** in York is available for young people who need an extra educational opportunity. This program serves a wide range of students including those who are no longer attending high school and those who have missed classes. The program was established in 2002 to help students get back on track and transition to the regular classroom.

Parochial Schools

Three private schools are located in York, eight miles from Benedict:

- Emmanuel Lutheran School (K–8)
- Larsen Christian Academy (K–8)
- St. Joseph’s Catholic School (Pre–K–8)

Two private schools are located in Waco, 14 miles from Benedict:

- Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School (9–12)
- Trinity Elementary School (K–8)

Educational Service Unit

Cross County School is a member of Educational Service Unit 6 (ESU 6), headquartered in Milford and serves five counties. Educational opportunities for all member schools are available as identified. ESU 6 responds to service requests regarding instructor training, shared/mobile programs, assists with economic matters for schools, expands distance learning, and provides other technology opportunities.

Community College

Benedict is part of **Southeast Community College (SCC)**, which is governed by an 11-member Board of Governors elected from the college's 15-county service area. The college is a multi-campus institution with campuses at Beatrice, Milford, and Lincoln. The total credit unduplicated student enrollment as of June 30, 2005, was 15,997 students. As of June 30, 2005, the college also served 15,928 non-credit students in Continuing Education on the campuses and in communities throughout southeast Nebraska. The combined unduplicated enrollment for SCC was 31,925 students.

Milford, 46 miles from Benedict, is the home of Milford Campus of Southeast Community College. SCC has provided technical and career education for students from across the state since 1941. Before the Milford campus became part of the SCC system in 1973, it was a separate institution, the first technical college in Nebraska.

For 2004–05 SCC enrolled 9,382 full-time equivalent students. Ninety-two percent of SCC's career/technical program graduates began careers or continued their education and 93 percent of the Academic Transfer program graduates continued their education in four-year institutions while 5 percent accepted employment; 2 percent did not respond.

SCC-Milford offers 24 programs leading to an associates of applied science degree. Some programs also offer diplomas as well as the AAS degree. According to the 2004 SCC

Placement Report, the number of graduates in the programs at Milford (with a few also offered at SCC-Lincoln) and their graduate numbers are:

2004–05 Program Graduates	
Program	# of Graduates
Architectural-Engineering Technology	41
Auto Collision Repair Technology	32
Automotive Technology*	69
Building Construction Technology	48
Business Administration**	201
Computer Programming Technology	26
Daimler-Chrysler (CAP) College Automotive Program	8
Deere Construction & Forestry Equipment Technology	5
Diesel Technology - Farm	27
Diesel Technology - Truck	13
Electrical Technology	46
Electromechanical Technology	23
Electronic Servicing & Electronic Engineering Technology*	42
Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training (ASSET) Program	10
General Motors (ASEP) Automotive Student Service Educational Training	10
Graphic Design***	0
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology	29
John Deere Ag Parts***	0
John Deere Ag Tech	23
Land Surveying/Civil Engineering Technology	22
Machine Tool Technology*	31
Manufacturing Engineering Technology	21
Nondestructive Testing Technology	19
Parts Marketing & Management Technology	12
Welding Technology*	37

*Includes Lincoln Campus

**Includes Beatrice & Lincoln Campus

***Varies quarterly by starting date

SCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. SCC was visited by an evaluation team in 2002, to determine whether or not SCC should receive continuing accreditation as a college. Following the team visit, the Higher Learning Commission awarded the college with a 10-year accreditation, the highest status an institution can earn.

Students who complete a required program of study can earn associate of applied science, associate of arts, and associate of science degrees. The college also awards certificates and diplomas in some programs. The college provides 48 career/technical programs, which lead to immediate employment or further education. A number of students also enroll in SCC's Academic Transfer program, which includes the first two years of college course work for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

SCC's Continuing Education division offers a variety of classes on the campuses and in communities throughout the SCC service district. These classes include assistance with preparation for the general educational development (high school equivalency) test, English Language Learning, and citizenship classes.

Continuing Education also offers classes for personal growth as well as many classes for professional development to improve job skills to advance in current careers or learning new careers. The Workforce Development Training Services department of Continuing Education provides classes and seminars for businesses of all sizes throughout southeast Nebraska to educate their employees on topics employers choose. These classes are tailored to meet the needs of each specific business and are offered at times and locations that are most convenient for employers and employees.

In addition to the regular programs, the Milford Campus offers Continuing Education classes in Welding, Auto Collision Repair, and other areas, as individual employee and business needs are identified. Classes are also offered through the local area Continuing Education program in Seward.

SCC Milford currently operates John Deere Pro Tech, a corporate training center for John Deere technicians. This center provides customized training to John Deere dealer technicians. The length of training periods varies according to dealer needs.

For more information on Southeast Community College, visit www.southeast.edu.

Benedict is also served by the **Central Community College** system, which encompasses a 25-county area. The college is governed by an 11-member Board of Governors elected by the citizens of the counties served. Administrative offices are located in Grand Island with campuses in Hastings, Columbus, and Grand Island and off-campus centers in Holdrege, Lexington, and Kearney. Classes are available through extended learning programs in approximately 80 communities within the college's service area. During the 2004–05 academic year, 25,588 students were enrolled in Central Community College courses, with approximately 15,920 participating in off-campus programs.

Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programs: Coursework in nearly all major areas of study is available, including more than 100 vocational-technical and academic transfer college credit courses. Classes are available through various delivery methods, including:

—**Independent Study:** Allows students to work on college credit classes at their own pace, using course materials from the campuses. The staff serve as contacts between the student and campus faculty and administration.

—**Distance Learning:** Uses several state-of-the-art teaching technologies, including video conferencing, satellite broadcasts, and Internet courses to deliver college credit courses.

Adult Basic Education Program: This program is offered by Central Community College in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Education and the federal government. The program is designed to provide the opportunity to gain basic education skills at no cost to the student. The program has four major components:

—Adult Basic Education for those with less than an eighth grade education.

—English as a Second Language for non-English speaking persons wishing to learn to speak, read, and write English.

—High School Completion (General Educational Development (GED)) for those with less than a high school diploma.

—Living Skills for adults wishing to improve their basic life skills in consumer economics, health, community resources, government and law, and occupational knowledge.

Community Education Program: Avocational/recreational courses are offered to provide students an opportunity to explore and develop skills for personal interest, leisure, and recreational activities.

Business and Professional Training: Central Community College is a primary source of training and education for business, industry, agricultural association, civic groups, governmental agencies, and other organizations within its 25-county service area. College staff provide expertise in their fields of study to develop and coordinate specially-tailored short courses, workshops, and seminars to meet specific training needs.

Central Community College works with area industries, retail establishments, and other agencies and organizations in planning in-service and/or in-plant training programs.

2004-05 Program Graduates

Program	# of Graduates
Accounting	15
Agriculture Occupations	14
Art, Commercial	5
Associate Degree in Nursing	44
Auto Body Technology	59
Automotive Technology	19
Business Administration	91
Business Technology (Office Technology)	75
Commercial Horticulture	15
Construction Technology	43
Criminal Justice	22
Dental Assisting	18
Dental Hygiene	13
Diesel Technology	9
Drafting Occupations	53
Electrical Technology	31
Electronics Technology	55
Early Childhood Education	88
Health Information Management Services	40
Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration	17
Hospitality Management & Culinary Services	5

Program	# of Graduates
Human Services	20
Industrial Technology	44
Information Technology	68
Machine Tool Technology	6
Media Arts	22
Medical Assisting	12
Medical Laboratory Technology	13
Paralegal Studies	17
Parts Sales & Management	9
Practical Nursing	75
Quality Control	18
Welding Technology	37
Total	1,072

Colleges and Universities

York College, founded in 1890 in York, eight miles from Benedict, is a private liberal arts college affiliated with the Church of Christ. It is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Approximately 500 students are enrolled annually. The student-to-faculty ratio is 12 to 1. The average class size is 22 students. The student body represents most U.S. states, as well as Canada and many other countries.

Degree programs include Bible Studies, Basic Business Education, Biology, Business Education, Communications, Elementary Education, English, English Education, General Studies, History, History Education, Mathematics Education, Middle Grades Education, Natural Science Education, Physical Education, Physical Science Education, Reading and Writing Education, Religious Studies, Special Education, Speech, and Theatre Education. The bachelor of business administration degree is included with majors in Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Human Resource Management, and Management. Other bachelor degrees may be obtained, such as music and science, as well as associate degrees in arts and sciences.

The York Panthers compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II and the National Christian College Athletic Association. Organized team sports in six women's and six men's categories are available at York College. Students may choose between 10 social

clubs, 12 athletic teams, 5 performance groups, 4 Christian outreach groups, and 3 literary publications.

The college continues to grow in both classrooms and housing. New student housing complexes are being constructed, expanding the campus extensively with completion anticipated in 2006.

Other Schools

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

Community/ College or University	Mileage
Seward Concordia University	28
Milford Southeast Community College, Milford Campus	33
Grand Island Central Community College, Grand Island Campus	40
Columbus Central Community College, Columbus Campus	42
Lincoln Nebraska Wesleyan University Southeast Community College, Lincoln Campus University of Nebraska-Lincoln	50
Crete Doane College	61
Kearney University of Nebraska at Kearney	80

CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Lutheran	1
Methodist	1

HEALTH CARE

There are approximately 570 physicians within a 50-mile radius of York, the county seat of York County, with a ratio of 71 doctors for every

1,000 population. Forty-three dentists practice within this 50-mile radius.

York General Health Care Services operates York General Hospital, Hearthstone, West View Medical Building, Medical Office Building, and Meadowlark Assisted Living.

Henderson Health Care Services operates Henderson Hospital, Henderson Family Care Clinic, Henderson Care Center, Rosewood Court, and Prairie Garden Estates.

Rescue Squad

Benedict has a Fire-Reserve Basic Life Support Transport Service. The fire/rescue equipment for medical emergencies include oxygen, automated external defibrillator, trauma kits, and emergency medical kits. Service is provided by three Emergency Medical Technicians and nine First Responders.

York Rescue, located eight miles south of Benedict, and Henderson Rescue, located 27 miles southwest of Benedict, provide patient transport. The York Fire Department utilizes three rescue units in providing full-time paramedic service for the city and county.

Hospital

York General Hospital, a part of York General Health Care Services, delivers medical care in its 25-bed acute care facility with all private rooms. Medical services include emergency services, MRI and CT scanning, inpatient and outpatient surgical suite, obstetrics, a specialty clinic, and additional services.

Henderson Hospital, a part of Henderson Health Care Services, located 27 miles from Benedict, was built in 1974 and is located ten miles southwest of Bradshaw. The hospital has a licensed capacity of 13 acute and skilled beds, a labor and delivery suite, and surgery suite. Comprehensive inpatient services include obstetric, pediatric, medical surgical, geriatric trauma, cardiac care, and intensive care.

Tabitha Health Care provides hospice care in York County. Home health care is also available from several entities.

Clinics

Multiple specialty clinics at the **York General Health Care Services** are served by more than 40 specialists who travel to York on a rotating schedule.

The York Medical Clinic opened in April 2005 in a newly constructed facility attached to the York General Hospital. The physician-owned, full-service family practice clinic has been serving the area since 1965. The clinic, with its own high-complex laboratory and x-ray and ultrasound capabilities, is staffed with seven family practice physicians, three physician assistants, and one certified diabetic educator. The York Medical Clinic and York General Health Care Services jointly provide an obstetric program. Satellite clinics are operated in Stromsburg and Exeter.

West View Medical Building, a part of York General Health Care Services, houses home health services, dialysis, sleep studies, and a child care program.

Henderson Family Care is a physician's clinic attached to the hospital. Constructed in 2003, the clinic has ten exam rooms and houses the business offices for the entire medical complex. Services include physical, speech, and occupational therapies; ultrasounds; CAT scans; mammography; and bone densitometry. The specialty clinic is staffed by physicians from surrounding communities. These specialties include cardiology, urology, OB/GYN, orthopedics, and general surgery.

SKILLED NURSING

Skilled nursing facilities within a close proximity to Waco include:

Hearthstone, a part of York General Health Care Services, located eight miles south Benedict, opened in 2003. The medicaid/medicare-approved, long-term care facility has a capacity of 129. Originally established in 1958, the facility provides

skilled nursing services; physical, occupation, and speech therapies; social work services; nutritional services; activities; laundry; and environmental services. Adult day care, respite care, and hospice services are also available. Meals are provided for the York Meals-on-Wheels program (which delivers noon lunches to shut-ins) and a child care program is maintained.

Henderson Care Center, located 27 miles from Benedict, was built in 1961 with an addition in 1969 and is certified with the Department of Health and Human Services (Medicaid). Licensed for 41 beds, the center offers respite care, home and rural health care, registered dietitian, activities department, registered pharmacist, and social services department. "A Touch of Home" concept, establishing two neighborhoods, was implemented in 2004.

The **Utica Community Care Center**, located 22 miles from Benedict, is a 41-bed nursing facility certified by Medicaid. The center provides IV and rehabilitation therapy. The center accepts those with head trauma and brain injury and specializes in an intergenerational environment.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Region V Services in York, located eight miles from Benedict, is a statewide program to assist the mentally and physically challenged.

Epworth Village in York was founded in 1889 as an orphanage. Epworth Village developed its own system of care through the multilevel programs offered. The facility consists of a 24-bed residential treatment center, 26-bed treatment group home, 10-bed traditional group home, and a private school that is operated 12 months of the year. Services include day treatment, outpatient services, and independent living, as well as standard educational classes. The system of care allows for continuity in the treatment process regardless of which level the youth may enter into care.

Mosaic, a recently formed partnership of Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes, provides developmental disability services, housing, and work opportunities for the developmentally challenged in York. Mosaic provides ways for such

individuals to be part of the community while learning life skills. Mosaic operates the York Area Solid Waste Agency Recycling Center at the landfill.

The **Four Corners Health Department** is the regional public health office for York, Seward, Polk, and Butler counties. The Department works with community partners to identify related needs, assure access to appropriate health care, develops and implements policies to improve the health of the community. Services include surveillance and investigation of health concerns and diseases, health and safety education, assistance in identification of health and safety resources.

LIBRARY

The **Kilgore Memorial Library** in York, located eight miles from Benedict, contains 57,100 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 71,237. The library has books (including large print editions), magazines, newspapers, books on cassette and CD, and movies in DVD and VHS format. An online searchable catalog at www.yorklib.org, online York News-Times Index and Community Resource database, local newspapers on microfilm, NebraskaAccess full text databases, interlibrary loan services, meeting and study rooms, and overhead and opaque projectors are available. The library has a public pay telephone, copier, tax forms, talking books for the blind, obituary retrieval services for genealogical purposes, and seven public Internet stations. Programs include preschool story times during the school year, story times for Head Start and home schooled children, two adult-led book clubs, summer reading program for K-5 and 6-8 grades, Dial-A-Story for elementary children, and the young adult Puppet Academy. The library is a Nebraskard participant and has a youth advisory council.

RECREATION

Benedict's downtown park, covering 1/2 block, is a scenic and popular site in the village and provides excellent recreation for children and adults alike. New playground equipment was recently installed. There is a basketball court, sand volleyball court, and a park shelter with picnic tables and grills.

Summer programs offered for youth include baseball, sand volleyball, open gym for basketball and weight training. Co-ed volleyball and basketball teams compete during the winter months.

York County Area Facilities:

Boating	—	Branched Oak
Bowling	—	One alley with 16 lanes in York
Campgrounds	—	Waco, Henderson
Fishing	—	Recharge Lake, Branched Oak, Blue River, Henderson
Golf Courses	—	Three public, 18-hole courses with grass greens; one course with clubhouse
Hunting	—	Deer, pheasant, duck, goose, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, fur-bearing animals
Miniature golf	—	Waco
Racing	—	Junction Motor Speedway
Sand Volleyball	—	York, Benedict, Bradshaw, Gresham, Henderson, Waco, McCool Junction, Thayer
Skating	—	Rollerskating rink in York
Soccer	—	York, McCool Junction, Waco
Swimming	—	York Family Aquatic Center, Henderson Aquatic Center, Sutton, Utica
Tennis	—	Eight courts
Theaters	—	3 screens, 394 seats
Other	—	Yorkshire Playhouse (community theatre), 150 seats

Annual events in the Benedict area include the Fireman's Barbecue held in January. Local fire fighters create a food fest, offering the best of barbecue while raising funds for the local fire and rescue department. Benedict Days is held in August. The two-day event includes garage sales, craft show, water games, carnival games, a noon hamburger fry, street dance, and beer garden. The York County Fair, held the last weekend in July, has 4-H activities, Figure 8 car races, demo derby, displays, livestock competition, Ag Hall of Fame awards, barbecues, carnival, fun run, petting zoo, food vendors, etc. Yorkfest, held the second weekend in September, includes a parade, food vendors, Figure 8 car races, fun run, luncheons, displays, and contests.

Benedict Community Center, with a capacity of 414, is the perfect location for meetings and social gatherings of all sizes. It also serves as the senior center.

The **York Family Aquatic Center** opened in York in 2005. Features include large open and enclosed slides, a full-length lap pool, zero-depth entry, fountains, concessions, and locker rooms. The outdoor play features are special and unique, offering entertainment for all ages.

The **Henderson Aquatic Center** with modern play features opened in 2002 in Henderson, 27 miles from Benedict.

Recharge Lake Recreation Area is a man-made lake, created by the local natural resources district, located on the western edge of the city of York. The recreation area provides a camping area, picnic tables, and grills. Fishing boats are allowed. Fishing enthusiasts enjoy the lake, stocked with a variety of game fish. Visitors may observe a variety of wildlife species in the area, while hiking or walking on the nature trails.

The **Double Nickel Campground** in Waco, 15 miles from Benedict, offers RV hook-ups, shower/rest room facilities, convenience items, a swimming pool, and much more. The Sandy Meadows Golf Course, a nine-hole attraction, is located next to the campground.

The **Junction Motor Speedway** opened in 2003 at McCool Junction, 20 miles from Benedict. The large oval supports high speeds, with long stretches and distance around the track. The track touts food and beverages, racing memorabilia, festive music, and seating for thousands of racing fans. Special viewing rooms are available by reservation. Camping facilities are provided on-site. Events in 2005 featured stock, modified, hobby stock, 360 sprints, cruisers, Outlaw Truck, a tractor pulling series, Monster Trucks, late models, dwarfs, ProAms, motorcycles, midgets, and more.

The **York Community Center**, located eight miles from Benedict, is a full-service exercise and

recreation facility owned and operated by the city of York. The center, open to the public for a nominal membership fee, offers an indoor swimming pool, hot tub, basketball courts, racquetball courts, weight room, locker rooms, and game room.

The newly constructed **York Senior Center** in downtown York is handicapped accessible. Noon meals are provided twice a week for seniors as are regular entertainment, speakers, health programs, information, etc. The senior center is governed by a private board of directors (who are also investors). The facility, complete with meeting space and commercial kitchen, is available for rent by the public.

Cultural Activities

The **York County Historical Society**, www.rootsweb.com/~neyork/, houses historical records and artifacts and is a source of information for those investigating the area's history as well as for assistance in genealogy projects and tracing family histories.

The **Palmer Museum**, located in the York Community Center, offers historic displays dating back to the Prehistoric Age. The museum, open to the public on a daily basis, offers a look into the past—the early pioneer days in York County, the early 1900s, and the Depression. Special displays are arranged on a monthly basis.

The **Yorkshire Playhouse** in York, opened in 2000 in a completely renovated historical building. Both adult and family comedies are performed by talented members of the community. People travel from more than 40 Nebraska communities to enjoy the productions. Four productions are presented annually, as well as children's theater shows, special programs, workshops, and the annual Yorkie Awards. The playhouse also hosts programs performed by the York Area Writers Guild, art and photo contests, special music through the Lied Center, rotating displays of York Artists Guild, and many other events. The facility is available for special seminars and programs.

HOUSING

York County as of January 6, 2006:

Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family - 52

Avg. Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home

2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms \$120,725

1,000 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms \$66,845

Number of Single Family Homes

for Sale by Price (New and Existing)

Less than \$100,000 52

\$100,000-\$150,000 23

\$150,001-\$200,000 18

\$200,001-\$250,000 0

\$250,001 and over 1

Total 94

Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing

The **Hearthstone Retirement Campus**, a part of York General Health Care Services in York, located eight miles from Benedict, offers several types of independent retirement housing, available on one campus. Two complexes of one-bedroom and efficiency apartments, **Hearthstone Court** (26 units) and **Hearthstone Place** (20 units), are subsidized by HUD and USDA Rural Development, respectively. A third complex, **Meadowlark Estates** (12 units), provides private market-rate, two-bedroom, 900-square-foot apartments, with access to housekeeping services. Retirement home/duplexes and building sites are also available.

The York Housing Authority operates the **Leisure Home**, a 107-unit complex for elderly, disabled, and handicapped individuals. A conference room and community room were added to the Leisure Home in 2004. Monthly rent for the facility is based on household income. Rental assistance is provided on a monthly basis through the HUD Section 8 Voucher and Certificate Programs to families in the York area.

Midtown Manor in Henderson, 27 miles from Benedict, provides housing for senior citizens. Built in 1965 at a cost of \$487,000, it consists of 20 units accommodating approximately 30 people. An administration building and a community room are available for the residents.

Assisted Living

Meadowlark Assisted Living, a part of York General Health Care Services, provides extra care while allowing residents to live as independently as desired. Staff is available 24 hours daily and can assist with living activities, as well as medication administration, scheduling doctor appointments, and more.

The **Mahoney House** is a licensed, assisted living facility with 39 units in York. Each apartment is equipped with a small refrigerator and microwave. Twenty-four hour assistance with day-to-day living is provided in a home-like environment. Three home-cooked meals daily, social activities, weekly housekeeping, and laundry service are provided. Other services are offered according to the tenants' needs.

Rosewood Court with 12 one-bedroom suites and **Prairie Garden Estates** with 4 units are located in Henderson. These assisted living facilities provide a wide range of services.

FINANCIAL

As of June 30, 2005:

Name	Capital		
	Accounts	Deposits	Loans
- - - - - <i>thousand dollars</i> - - - - -			
Cornerstone Bank*	\$31,739	\$357,306	\$222,081

*Branch bank in Benedict; figures represent headquarters.



Cross County Public Middle School



United Methodist Church



Zion Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY SERVICES

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Agricultural Implement Dealers	1
Auto Supply Parts	1
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums	1
Beauty Salons & Barber Shops	1
Caterers	1
Child Care Services	1
Contractors—building	1
—carpentry	1
—general	1
—remodeling & repairing	1
Convenience Stores	1
Industrial Equipment & Supplies	1
Insurance Companies	2
Machine Shops	1
Plumbers	1
Restaurants	1
Service Stations	1
Tool & Die Makers	1
Upholstery Shops	1
Value-Added Ag Businesses	2
Welding Shops	1
Well Service	1



Mini Bank in Benedict



Benedict Housing

AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

AGRICULTURE

2002 Statistics	York County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	617	49,335
Land in Farms (acres)	353,762	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	573	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$160,833,000	\$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$260,669	\$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	241,525	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	68.3%	16.6%
Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2000–2004)		
All Alfalfa Hay	17,464 tons	4,572,600 tons
Corn for Grain	33,222,700 bu.	1,107,650,000 bu.
Sorghum Grains	492,340 bu.	30,063,000 bu.
Soybeans	4,916,080 bu.	195,251,000 bu.
Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2001–2005)		
All Cattle	54,600	6,360,000

York County ranked in the top three counties in Nebraska in the production of corn for grain for the past ten years.

Source: Nebraska Agriculture Statistics Services, 2000–2005
2002 Census of Agriculture

RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in commercial quantities; metallic minerals are not found in the York County area. Alfalfa, another product available in the county, is shipped in powder and pellet form to other areas for use in various types of commercial feed.

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						Humidity*	
	Temperature			Precipitation		Morning	Afternoon	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)			
January	12.4	22.9	33.4	0.72	7.1	77	65	
February	17.7	28.5	39.4	0.82	6.2	78	63	
March	26.5	37.8	49.0	1.91	5.9	79	59	
April	38.6	51.0	63.4	2.63	1.2	79	53	
May	50.5	62.2	73.9	4.32	0.1	82	56	
June	60.5	72.5	84.4	4.26	0.0	82	54	
July	65.6	77.2	88.9	3.73	0.0	84	57	
August	63.3	75.0	86.7	3.27	0.0	86	58	
September	53.3	65.8	78.3	2.63	0.0	84	55	
October	41.2	54.1	67.0	1.67	0.4	79	51	
November	27.7	38.7	49.8	1.34	3.2	80	60	
December	17.6	27.8	37.9	0.75	6.1	79	65	
Annual	39.6	51.1	62.7	28.06	30.3	81	58	

*Recorded at Grand Island Weather Station

FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring	April 24
Average date of first frost in fall	October 10
Average length of growing season	169 days
Average number of "heating degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit	6,176
Average number of "cooling degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit	1,150
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average)	12
Prevailing wind direction (annual average)	South

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1948–2005, www.hprcc.unl.edu