COMMUNITY FACTS

FURNAS & HARLAN COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

www.furnas-harlan-partnership.org

AUGUST 2008

POPULATION

(Official U.S. Census)

	2000	2007 Est.
Furnas County	5,324	4,732
Harlan County	3,786	3,392
Labor Market*	61,429	53,511

*Includes Furnas and Harlan Counties plus the contiguous counties

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Nebraska Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
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Introduction

The following pages contain basic information about Furnas and Harlan Counties in Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Furnas/Harlan County Partnership, city and village officials, Twin Valleys Public Power District, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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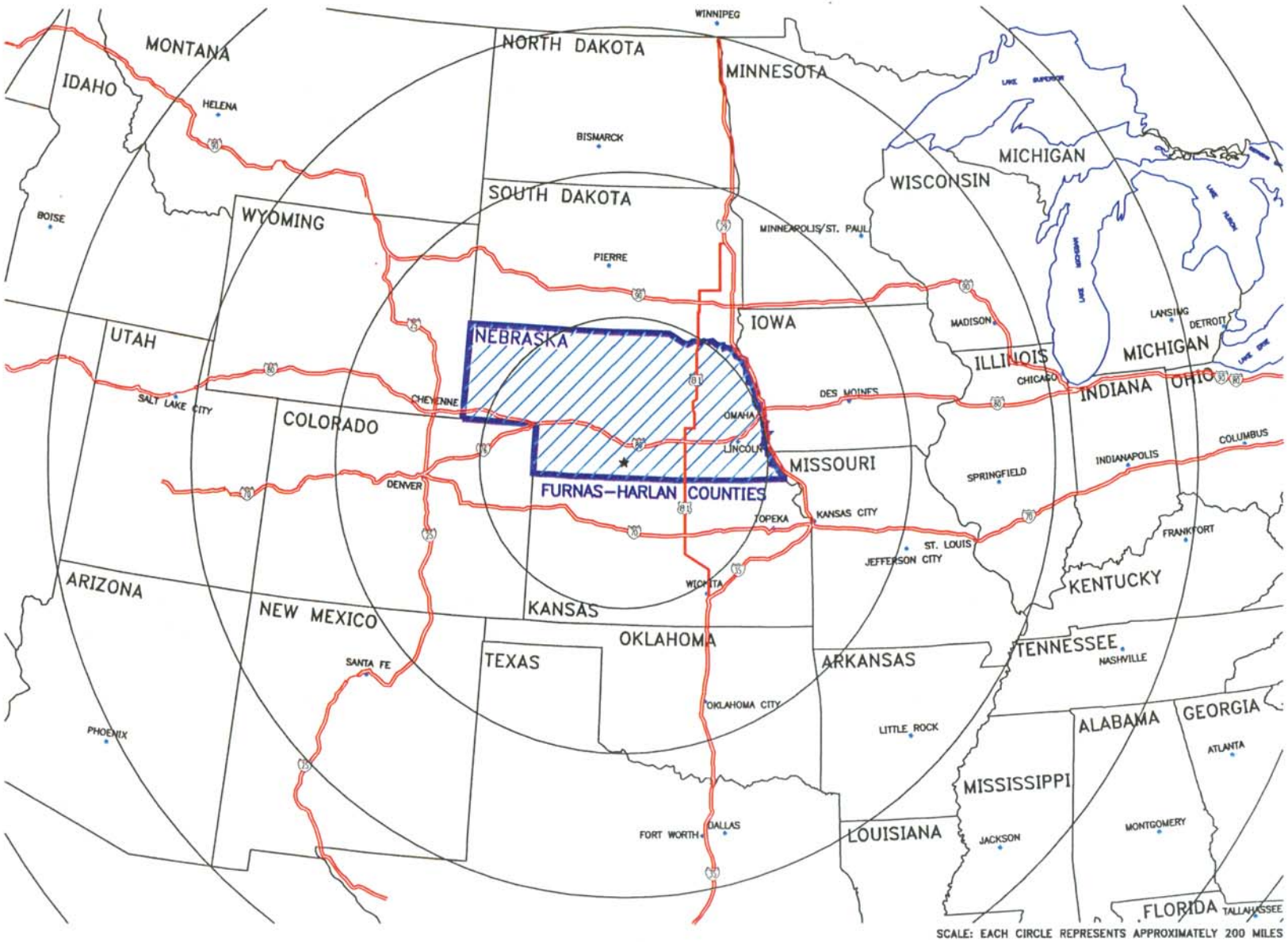
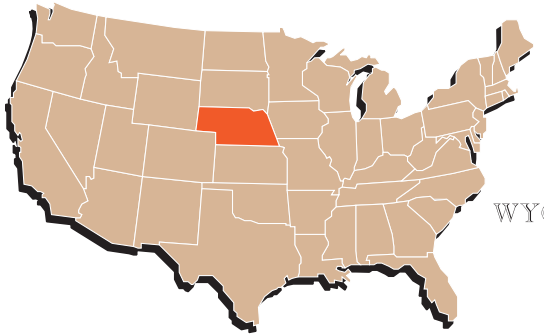
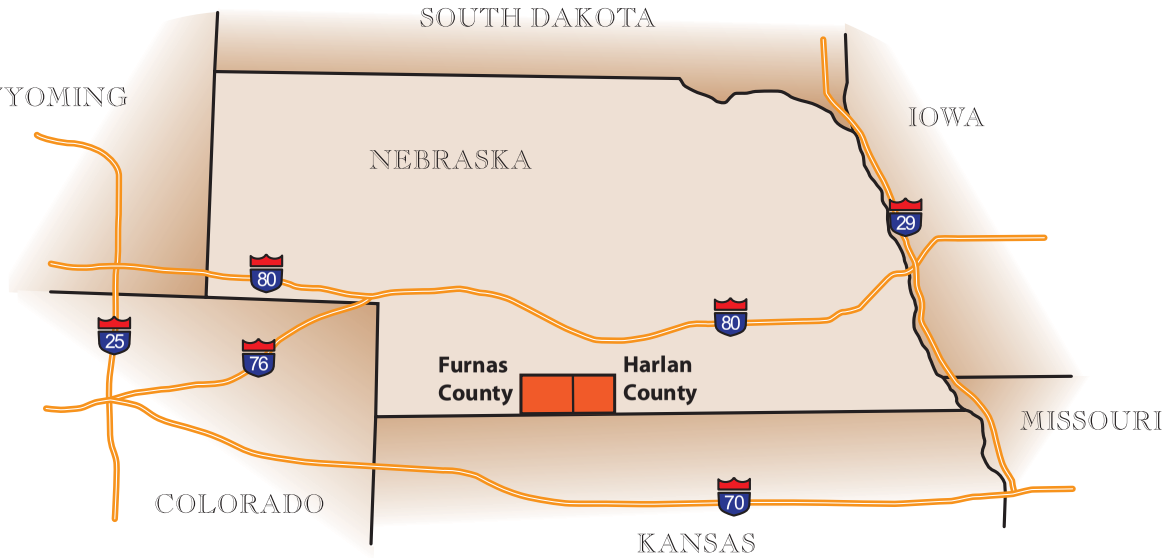


SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

North
Holbrook
Arapahoe
Ragan
Cambridge
BNSF
Edison
Oxford
BNSF
HARLAN COUNTY
FURNAS COUNTY
Huntley
Hendley
Stamford
Orleans
Republician City
Alma
Beaver City
NKCR
Wilsonville
NKCR
NKCR
Harlan County Reservoir
6
34
4
183
283
136
46
47
89
89




SOUTH DAKOTA
WYOMING
IOWA
NEBRASKA
29
80
80
25
76
Furnas County
Harlan County
MISSOURI
COLORADO
70
KANSAS

General Information

Location

Furnas and Harlan Counties are located in the southwestern section of Nebraska on the Kansas/ Nebraska border. The counties are served by U.S. Highways 6/34, 136, 183, and 283 as well as Nebraska Highways 4, 46, 47, 89.

Oxford, centrally located in both counties, is 104 miles southwest of Grand Island, 186 miles southwest of Lincoln, 238 miles southwest of Omaha, and 381 miles northeast of Denver.

Population (U.S. Census)

City	1990	2000	2007 (Est.)
Alma	1,226	1,214	1,092
Arapahoe	1,001	1,028	901
Beaver City	707	641	562
Cambridge	1,107	1,041	931
Edison	148	154	139
Furnas County	**5,553**	**5,324**	**4,732**
Harlan County	**3,810**	**3,786**	**3,392**
Hendley	42	38	34
Holbrook	233	225	204
Huntley	58	67	61
Orleans	490	425	372
Oxford*	949	876	767
Ragan	59	46	42
Republican City	199	209	185
Stamford	188	202	183
Wilsonville	136	118	107

*Lies in both Furnas and Harlan Counties

County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2006 U.S. Census

	Furnas County	Harlan County
White	98.4%	99.0%
Black	0.1%	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.5%	0.1%
Asian	0.2%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	*
Two or more races	0.7%	0.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin	1.5%	0.9%
White Persons not Hispanic	97.0%	98.1%

*Value greater than zero but less than one-half unit of measure shown.

The 2007 U.S. Census estimates 53,511 people live within Furnas and Harlan Counties and the contiguous Nebraska counties of Franklin, Frontier, Gosper, Kearney, Phelps, and Red Willow along with Decatur, Norton, and Phillips Counties in Kansas.

Local Economy

Basic economic activities in Furnas and Harlan Counties include farming, cattle and hog feeding, tourism, recreation, and retail sales. Excellent hunting and fishing in the area enhances the economy.

Changes in the economy since 2000 include several new businesses—Kaufman Trailers with 20 plus employees, an ethanol plant near Cambridge, and a biodiesel plant near Arapahoe.

2007 Net Taxable Retail Sales

City	Amount
Alma	$7,745,019
Cambridge	$12,102,000
Furnas County	$32,180,550
Harlan County	$11,617,512

Elevation

The elevation in Furnas County ranges from 2,135 to 2,411 feet and from 2,012 to 2,360 feet above sea level in Harlan County.

Topography

Furnas County is part of a broad, gently sloping, loess-mantled plain. The terrain in Furnas County is nearly level to very steep ranging from approximately 2 percent slope to 60 percent slope. The soil is comprised of a clay base with thick, dark loam topsoil. Drainage is good. A few upland areas are moderately deep or are shallow over bedrock of the Ogallala formation.

The terrain in Harlan County slopes eastward and is bisected by the Republican River Valley. Harlan County is mainly farmland and native grass rangeland. Soil types consist of Holdrege Association, Holdrege-Coly-Uly Association (which occupies 78 percent of the county), Hord-Cozad-Hall Association, and the McCook-Munjor-Inavale Association.

History

Furnas County

Furnas County was organized and its boundaries defined on February 27, 1873. It was named in honor of Robert W. Furnas, then Governor of Nebraska.

Arapahoe

On May 10, 1871, a party of men known as the "Arapahoe Town Company" promoted and led by Captain E. B. Murphy, an ex-Army officer and pioneer of the prairies, left Plattsmouth, Nebraska, with a dream in their hearts—they were going to establish a town in the Republican River Valley. The name had already been chosen, Arapahoe, as a small band of an Arapahoe Indian tribe had wintered in the valley. Receiving favorable reports, a building party arrived in Arapahoe on July 6, 1871, and, by July 18, 1871, the town site was staked out with a park at its center for activities.

A sawmill and a grist mill were erected along the Muddy Creek, west of Arapahoe. The crude sawmill provided the first logs for early building. By 1882 a four-story brick flour mill had been built.

School District 18 was formed in 1874 and, by 1880, 100 students were crowded in the one-room log building. By 1883 the school building, a church, and the post office were being used to teach 150 students. Another brick school building was built the following year.

The Arapahoe House, operated by Louis Clute, was situated on the intersection of the east-west and north-south wagon roads. It prospered from a large stagecoach trade and was the biggest and best hotel in the Republican River Valley. Many celebrities, including Buffalo Bill Cody, were among its patrons. The hotel burned in 1899.

Many hardships were endured by the pioneers. Thousands of Texas cattle driven to the Republican Valley to winter perished in the heavy snows in 1871 and 1872. A grasshopper horde descended in 1874 virtually destroying the territory. Prairie

fires were a constant threat, and many families were bereaved in diphtheria epidemics. The first telephone company, the Arapahoe Telephone Company, was organized on July 1, 1904. A swimming pool and solarium were built with Works Progress Administration labor during the depression in the 1930s. The tree-shaded park is still the center of community activities.

In time of war, many young men of the area served their country in the armed forces, proud to defend their homeland. A grotto, the "Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima," at St. Germanus Catholic Church, was built by Father Denis who was a prisoner in a German concentration camp during World War II and later the pastor at Arapahoe.

A Freedom Wall, 10 feet high and 22 feet long, was built by the Arapahoe Area Foundation in 2006 with dedication held on Memorial Day. Bricks were sold to memorialize individuals, both male and female, that served in the armed forces. The veteran's names, branches of services, and the conflict or dates of time served were engraved on the bricks.

Beaver City

Beaver City, the county seat for Furnas County, is located on Beaver Creek not far from the Kansas border. This site was noted in the spring of 1872 by J. H. McKee and Struve as a "favorable point." However, they continued to scout the area for several months, returning to this site in October to plat the town. The city was named because of its location in the valley of Beaver Creek and the presence of beaver. McKee was promptly joined by his business partner, Robert Denham, who helped build the first store. By November 1 it was stocked with goods and opened for business. This building, also used as a post office, was where the first Furnas County court convened.

A post office was requested soon after the town was platted, but there was no mail delivered until 1873. In the meantime, the mail was brought to town from Alma (25 miles away) each Sunday by one of the settlers.

When the county organized in late 1873, Beaver City was one of the voting places designated by Governor Robert Furnas, for whom the county was named. Competing with Arapahoe for location of the county seat, Beaver City was chosen for the honor by the people.

The first sermon was preached in July 1873, by Dr. G.A. Hobson in the old "Valley Hotel." The Presbyterians organized in 1874 and built their church in 1880. The Methodist Episcopal congregation was organized in 1875 and built their church in 1885.

In 1873–74 a grist mill was built west of town on Beaver Creek by David Lashley and Joseph Monell. Historically, this site is important because George W. Norris, then a young lawyer, first conceived the idea of water power being converted into electricity for use by rural Americans everywhere. Norris, who served in the U. S. House of Representatives for ten years (1903–13) and in the Senate for 30 years (1913–43), was instrumental in writing the bills that created the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1933 and the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935. Norris also helped author the constitutional amendment that established a unicameral (one house) legislature in Nebraska in 1935.

Beaver City is the "Home of the First Flying Doctor," Dr. Frank Brewster.

Beaver City once boasted three banks, two newspapers, a hotel, three grocery stores, car-implement dealer, several service stations, and numerous other businesses. In its prime, Beaver City was one of the largest communities between Omaha and Denver.

Cambridge

Cambridge is in an area once frequented by Pawnee and Sioux Indians. It is located on the gentle slope between the Republican River and Medicine Creek, where many of the largest buffalo herds existed and were hunted in the mid-1880s.

Hirman Doing built a log cabin in the area and unofficially named the place "Northwood." In 1874 a post office named, "Medicine Creek" was established. J.W. Pickle purchased land from Doing in 1876 and laid out the town, which, for a time, was called "Pickleville." A dam on Medicine Creek forming Lake Lavonia and a

sawmill with corn burr for grinding grain were built. The Cambridge Milling Company served the area from 1877 to 1947.

The railroad company, making preparations for constructing track through southwest Nebraska, proposed a permanent name for every town in the county. Oxford was named after the prestigious Oxford, England. W. E. Babcock, one of the most prominent businessmen in Cambridge's history, suggested the name "Cambridge." The name met with approval and immediately the official title of "Medicine Creek" was changed to "Cambridge."

Cambridge School District 21 was organized in 1874. In 1888 the first brick school was built on the location of the present-day Cambridge Public School. Many churches were also built in the 1880s.

The Burlington Railroad reached the town in 1880. The station agent and Cambridge's first mayor, W. H. Faling, also established "The Regulator," a large general store.

The first newspaper, "The Monitor," founded in 1884 is now known as "The Cambridge Clarion."

Land for McKinley Park, an affiliate site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, was donated to the city by C. M. Brown in 1887.

Two disastrous floods claimed lives and caused destruction in the Cambridge area—The Republican River flood of 1935 and a flash flood that roared down Medicine Creek in 1949. A dam, authorized several years prior to the floods, was then funded with project completion in 1949. The Harry Strunk Reservoir provides flood control, irrigation for thousands of acres, and water recreation.

The agricultural base of the local economy has strongly increased with irrigation. Recreation, irrigation water storage, and flood control are the principal benefits from Harry Strunk Reservoir. The economic climate in Cambridge is healthy and evolving with technology.

Edison

The town of Edison was named for the son of R. H. Rohr, one of the owners of the first store in the community. This frontier town had an opera house, two hotels, blacksmith shop, hardware store, and three churches.

In earlier times, many Indians passed through the area on their annual migration from their winter to summer hunting grounds. They would set up teepees in an encampment near the town and stay for a considerable time. After one battle, one Indian squaw found her way to the Osborn home, where she just sat by the stove. Later more Indians came, causing concern as to their intent. One of the Osborn children put a bullet in the stove, which exploded. The Indians ran from the house and never returned.

The smallest schoolhouse (14 feet by 16 feet) in Nebraska was built in 1896 and closed in 1935. The building was moved into Edison and restored.

The town was incorporated on January 3, 1907. Edison's peak population of 334 was recorded in 1910.

The town weathered the Depression, hard times, and the terrible flood of 1935.

A centennial celebration was held in 1972.

Hendley

Herds of buffalo, antelope, deer, elk, and wild turkey roamed the country in 1872 when I.W. Meyers located a short distance west of what is now the town of Hendley. Soon other settlers took up homesteads. Meyers was appointed postmaster of the settlement that he named "Lynden." The town took root as more people built homes and set up businesses.

The railroad came through the area in 1887, and the station was named "Hendley" for the railroad conductor who wanted a town to be named for him. Although local sentiment was for it to remain Lynden, the railroad had its way.

By this time the town had eight stores, livery barn, grain and stock market, hotel, two banks, and a drug store. The village of Hendley was incorporated in 1906.

A story of the "American dream come true" is found in Hendley. The Perkins family came to

Furnas County in 1893. They survived the drought and hard times that hit the area by tending crops and a big garden. Every Sunday Mrs. Perkins and the children would sell butter and eggs to cash customers in Beaver City. In 1900 the family traded the farm for a store in Hendley so the children could have a better education.

Young Edwin Perkins began his entrepreneurial career by making perfumes, flavorings, and medicines in the family kitchen. Soon he added printing and expanded into calling cards, sold through magazine ads and student agents. His Nix-O-Tine Tobacco remedy launched a successful mail order business for Perkins Products. It was here that Perkins developed "Fruit Snack, a liquid fruit drink concentrate that led to the development of "Kool Aid." Perkins and his wife moved to Hastings, where he continued to expand his business to include products sold under the "Onor Maid" label. In 1931 the business became so large, the family moved to Chicago where Perkins served as its president until 1956, when he sold the company to General Foods.

Holbrook

Holbrook was the first town in Furnas County, established in 1869. It was originally named Burton's Bend after Ben Burton's Indian Trading Post located on a bend of the Republican River. An official of the CB&Q Railroad noticed that there was already a Burton post office in the state so he renamed the town Holbrook in honor of one of the CB&Q officials.

By 1895 there were more than 20 businesses in the community. On April 24, 1907, a fire started in a livery stable and spread throughout the town, wiping out most of the business district. Some merchants gave up but many stayed.

Holbrook was also adversely affected by the Depression, droughts, and the Republican River Flood in 1935. The 1940s only brought more suffering when economics and World War II changed the entire lifestyle of America.

Like many small towns Holbrook is fighting to hold on. The town has survived many adversities and has hope for the future.

Oxford

The city of Oxford, originally named Grand View, was first settled in 1880. The families of Jacob Struve, Clara Pease, and A. E. Touzalin registered the land for public use of the proposed town on June 10, 1880. By the end of the year, seven families resided in Oxford. These first citizens were looking at the railroad that would be coming soon. The town was incorporated on June 16 or 17, 1884, the minutes to that meeting were not available.

There are three stories of how Oxford got its name. The most popular is that before the 1935 flood there was a ford for oxen to cross the Republican River near the present town site. The second version states the early citizens named the town after Oxford, England. The third story is that when the railroad engineers came to survey the new town, they named it after their hometown because they were feeling homesick all the time.

The railroad has been very important to Oxford. Swanson's poultry processing and many aluminum windows across the nation had their beginning in Oxford.

The first class was graduated from Oxford High School in May 1894. The first water system was established in 1906, and electricity was introduced in 1913. The main street was paved in 1938.

The community weathered business fires, grasshopper plagues, Depression, and dust storms. Homes and businesses were destroyed by a tornado in 1916 and many lives and materials were lost in the flood of 1935. Having experienced many hardships, Oxford residents keep a positive attitude toward the future.

Wilsonville

Wilsonville was first called Wild Turkey by some of the first settlers in the area around 1870. One of the first claims in the area was made by Galen James in 1870. By 1872 many homesteaders arrived in the community.

Jane Plumb, possibly the first homesteader in Wild Turkey, collected mail in her home. Settlers took turns once a week carrying mail 27 miles from Alma to Beaver City and 43 miles to Wild Turkey

until post offices were officially established. Jane Plumb was the first postmistress appointed in Wild Turkey on April 18, 1873. The designation of Wilsonville to replace Wild Turkey was officially made by the U.S. Postal Department on December 16, 1873.

L. M. Wilson came to Furnas County to homestead in 1873 and carried on a general store business, which served the Beaver Valley. Mr. Wilson was postmaster at Wilsonville for 12 years.

The first Fourth of July celebration was held in Wilsonville in 1887. The railroad was under construction at the time. Wilsonville was once known as the largest livestock shipping yard in the area.

The early settlers endured many hardships—grasshoppers, drought, Indian scares, and dreaded diseases.

Harlan County

Harlan County was originally a part of Lincoln County and was separated by an act of the Legislature approved June 3, 1871. Two stories tell of how the county was named. One says it is named for James Harlan, Secretary of the Interior from 1865–1866. Another says it is named for James Harlan's nephew, who was at one time a revenue collector living near Republican City.

Alma

Prior to 1870 no permanent white settlers lived in the Republican River Valley due to the constant threat of Indian attacks. The Harlan County area was plentiful in wild game such as buffalo, elk, deer, and wild turkey. As a result, the area was prized as a hunting ground by the Otoe, Winnebago, Pawnee, and Sioux Indians. In the summer of 1869, hostile Sioux Indians attacked and killed all the members of Buck's party of the United States surveyors near the mouth of Sappa Creek. During the same summer, General Carr, accompanied by Buffalo Bill and Major Frank North and his famous regiment of Pawnee scouts, led an expedition of soldiers south from Fort McPherson and were engaged in a battle with the Sioux in the Republican River Valley. The Sioux were defeated and fled north. On July 11, 1869, General Carr's forces overtook the Sioux on the Platte River and soundly defeated them, killing all warriors and taking women and children as prisoners. Although this battle did not rid Harlan County of Indians, it removed the threat of attack by hostile Indians and allowed white settlers to make permanent settlements.

The first group of white settlers in Harlan County in 1870 consisted of 40 men. One of these settlers, J.W. Foster, homesteaded land at the mouth of Cook Creek, just east of present day Alma. The second group of settlers from the Cheyenne, Wyoming territory arrived in the summer of 1871. In February 1872, a group of six men had selected and established the site of Alma, which was named in honor of the daughter of N. P. Cook, one of the six men who had selected this site and one of the original settlers in the new town.

Life was difficult for the settlers in the new town and tempers grew short. In the summer of 1872, a quarrel among the settlers led to the dissolution of Alma and the county seat was moved. In 1874 the Fifth District Court decided that the disputed location of the county seat should rightfully be located in Alma. As a result, the town of Alma was resurrected in 1874; however, the town did not attract new settlers nor did it prosper. In 1879 the population numbered 23 persons, and several events transpired which led to phenomenal growth and boom. First, a newspaper was established which published glowing accounts of the fertile land in the area as well as the advantages of settling in Alma. In the winter of 1879–80, the Burlington and Missouri Railroad was constructed. By January 1, 1880, Alma's population had risen to 300.

The first school in Alma Township was conducted in a sod school house. By 1881 the town had built a two-story, frame structure and in 1885 added a two-story brick building. In 1911 a public library was built with the aid of the Carnage Foundation. Even so, pestilence, insect plagues, fires, floods, and dirt storms continued to have their effect on the town. In spite of these difficulties, Alma continued to grow.

In 1952 the Harlan County Reservoir, a man-made reservoir and dam, was completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The $45 million project provides 500,000 acre-feet of storage space

reserved for flood control and 350,000 acre-feet for the purpose of irrigation.

The cornerstone was laid in 1968 for the Harlan County Hospital. The Colonial Villa nursing facility was opened in 1970.

The Hoesch Memorial Public Library, dedicated in 1978, was built in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Hoesch by their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hoesch.

The Johnson Center was built in 1996 to house the fire department equipment and a community room.

Huntley

The community of Bainbridge was established around 1872. Prairie life was hard and the young community rejoiced when plans were made for the railroad to extend track into the town. A long descending grade made locating the railroad station at Bainbridge impossible. Thus, a new town site and depot were located just south of the Bainbridge area in the bottomland adjacent to Turkey Creek. The new town was named Huntley, for a Kansas City & Omaha Railroad official and was incorporated in 1913 with a population of 200.

Electricity replaced the oil and kerosene lamps in 1922. In 1982 rail service to Huntley was discontinued.

Huntley observed its 100th anniversary in 1972 with two days of down-home activities. This celebration was attended by 1,500 people from 22 states.

Orleans

A post office called Melrose was established in 1873 and changed its name to Orleans in March 1878, either for a town by that name in Massachusetts or for one in France.

Orleans was incorporated in August 1879.

Grading for the Republican Valley Railroad Company, organized in Nebraska in 1878, began in 1879 and was completed across Harlan and Furnas Counties in 1879. Orleans was declared open to traffic in 1880. The railroad's presence was appreciated even more when needy settlers were given construction jobs to help them through a period of drought experienced in 1881.

A dam and flour and feed mill located just north of Orleans were operated by Orson Kellogg Olstead, who also served as postmaster.

A branch line of the O&K was completed through Orleans in 1888. This 143-mile branch consisted of daily, except Sunday, passenger and freight service.

Regularly scheduled stock trains operated from the early 1900s through the 1940s for substantial movement of livestock and great quantities of milk and cream.

The Orleans depot closed in 1979, when the Oxford-based mobile agency was implemented to handle the local traffic at that location.

Ragan

When word was received in 1886 that the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad was coming through the area, a movement was started for a townsite. The Blue Valley Land Company purchased land from Francis Johnson. The land was soon sold to the firm of Cross & Johnson who platted it and laid it out into town lots. The village was incorporated in 1887 and named Ragan in honor of Lawyer Ragan, attorney for the railroad company. Later N. B. Decker donated the addition named in his honor.

After completion of the railroad, things developed rapidly, with 11 businesses springing up within the year.

Bell Telephone Company extended its line through Ragan in 1900. In 1962 this system was replaced by a dial system.

In 1904 the original Corner Store and Hotel were destroyed by fire, but soon replaced with brick. Another fire in 1906 burned most of the early businesses to the ground; all but the livery barn were replaced with brick buildings.

In 1920 five country school districts merged to form Consolidated School District C–2. Five buses transported the rural pupils to and from school.

Things were flourishing until the Depression hit the area. The village began to wane during the "Dirty Thirties," and the bank closed.

The town residents demolished old buildings or moved them out in the 1970s. The depot was moved and restored. The United Methodist Church is the nucleus for activity in Ragan.

Republican City

Republican City is the only town by this name in the world. The Republican River, Republican City, and Republic County and Republic in Kansas were all named for the Republican Pawnee Indians.

In 1872 Dr. John McPherson came from Brownville, Nebraska, to look things over. He liked the area, sold his holdings on the Missouri, and brought lumber and materials to start building a town. He laid out lots in "Republican" and built several stores plus a flour mill. When the post office was established, it was called "Republican City."

The Burlington Northern came to the city in 1881.

Dr. McPherson established a "Normal College" for all grades, including classes in training teachers, in 1883. The college closed in 1891. The first high school graduation was held in Republican City in 1892.

Republican City has many "firsts" in Harlan County—first frame house, store, and school; earliest church; and the first town to have a bridge over the river.

The "flood of 1935" hit Republican City with a vengeance. The Corps of Engineers designed a dam across the valley, and the whole town had to move to higher ground in 1951–1952.

The Harlan County Dam was dedicated in June 1952, and the relocation was nearly completed. The town is a resort area for sportsmen.

Stamford

Stamford was established in 1887 along a branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad that put in a line in the Sappa Valley. The earliest business was George Zulauf's flour and feed mill, built on the north bank of Sappa Creek. The dam had a rock bottom, with a ten-foot drop, and the mill made a fine grade of flour and breakfast foods that sold locally and in nearby towns. The mill was sold in 1919 and burned to the ground in 1920 and never rebuilt.

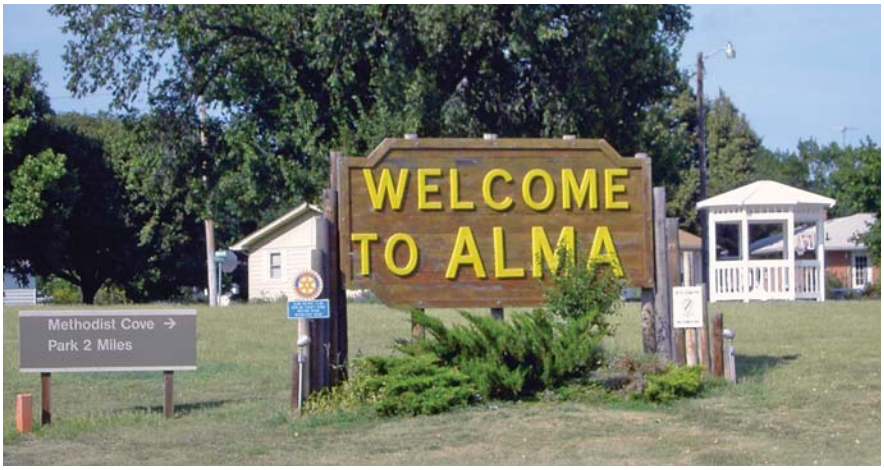
Stamford was incorporated in 1907, with a census listing 66 taxpayers. Cement sidewalks replaced boardwalks and the village streets were smooth. By 1915 there were 37 businesses in the town as well as a doctor, two dentists, a bank, high school, opera house, and telephone exchange.

Fire took its toll on the young town. All businesses on the east side of Main Street burned in 1901 with only a lumberyard being rebuilt. In1907 the depot burned and in 1909 the first hotel/livery barn went up in flames. The worst fire was in 1913 when 11 buildings on the west side were reduced to ashes in two hours.

Floods also tormented the community. As a result, a watershed district was formed in 1963, and a new channel was cut for Sappa Creek, which greatly alleviated the water problems.

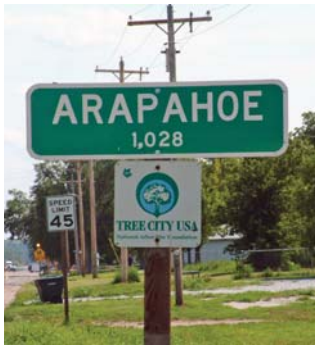
The first class graduated from the Stamford High School in 1901, when five students finished the tenth grade. The school closed in 1976 and students were then bused to neighboring communities for their education.

The spirit of those early settlers to work hard and make a good life is still present in today's residents in Stamford.


WELCOME
TO ALMA
Methodist Cove →
Park 2 Miles

ALMA
1,214
NCIP

Welcome To
ARAPAHOE


ARAPAHOE
1,028
SPEED LIMIT
45
TREE CITY USA

WELCOME TO
BEAVER CITY

NEBRASKA
HISTORICAL MARKER
NEBRASKA'S FLYING DOCTOR

Cambridge
WELCOME
CAMBRIDGE
MUSEUM
FREE
612 PENN ST

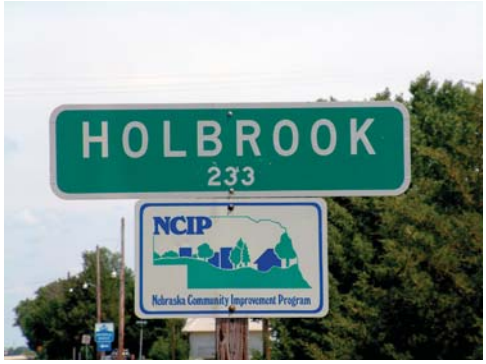
CAMBRIDGE
1,041
TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation
6 Years

EDISON
154

NEBRASKA
"THE SMALL SCHOOLHOUSE"

HENDLEY
4.0

WELCOME
TO
HOLBROOK
EST 1870


HOLBROOK
233
NCIP
Nebraska Community Improvement Program

HUNTLEY
60
END
OF STATE
MAINTENANCE

HUNTLEY, NE
DEDICATED BY THE
HUNTLEY CENTENNIAL
COMMITTEE
1888 — 1988

ORLEANS
425

OXFORD
876
TREE CITY USA
National Arbor Day Foundation

RAGAN
59

RAGAN NE.
1887 — 1987

REPUBLICAN CITY
WELCOMES YOU
NEW HOURS
OPEN
BREAKFAST
CLOSED MONDAY

REPUBLICAN CITY
199

STAMFORD
188

STAMFORD
Welcomes You

WILSONVILLE
136

Welcome to
WILSONVILLE

MANUFACTURERS

Company/Year Established	Product	Market	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Alma					
ErnMe Buckle Inc. 1936	Buckles	National	1	1	None
Fur & Leather Creations 2004	Fur & leather products	Regional	0	1	None
Harlan County Journal 1879	Commercial printing & weekly newspaper	Regional	2	3	None
Wells Brothers, Inc. 2007	Concrete	Local	3	0	None
Arapahoe					
A&S Industries 1991	Church pew cushions, pad for gym walls, tarps	Regional & National	1 1*	0 1*	None
Arapahoe Feed Mill	Hog feed	Local	8	1	None
BC Original Graphics 2004	Promotional items	Regional	1 1*	0 2*	None
Republic Valley BioFuels**	Biodiesel	Regional & National	1	0	None
Beaver City					
Danielle's Candles 2004	Candles	Local	0	1	None
Double K Meats 2007	Meat processing	Local & Regional	2	1	None
Kaufman Trailers 2006	Trailers	National	20+ Total		None

*Part-time and/or seasonal
**Plant is under construction and anticipated to be operational in 2009 with 10 full-time employees

Company/Year Established	Product	Market	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Stalder Repair 1985	Welding metal fabrication	Local	1	0	None
Cambridge					
Besler Industries Inc. 1973	Round bale loader for pickups, stalk choppers	National	19	1	None
Cambridge Redi-Mix 1976	Redi-mix concrete	Regional	5	5	None
Seven Pines Crafts 1998	Soaps	National	0	1	None
Standard Ethanol 2007	Ethanol	Regional & National	40 Total Est.		None
Orleans					
Harlan County Meat Processors 1997	Meat processing	Local & Regional	2	1	None
Holbrook					
Furnas County Freight	Trucking	National	4	1 1*	None
Vonderfecht Racing Engines	Race car engines	National	1 1*	0	None
Oxford					
Broeker Welding 1981	Welding	Local	2	0	None
C & S Machine 2000	Computer numerical control (CNC) vertical machined parts	Regional	1	0	None
Cargill Inc. 1997	Farm service center, dry fertilizer application	Regional	28	3	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Company/Year Established	Product	Market	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Merrick's of NE, LLC 1996	Bloodmeal	National	9	1	None
Oxford Locker 1999	Processed meats	Local & Regional	3 6*	4 2*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Major Nonmanufacturing Employers

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Alma (employing 8 or more)				
Agri Co-Op*	Elevator & farm supplies	10	2	None
Alma Public Schools	Education	21	34	NSEA
City of Alma	Government	9	2	None
Colonial Villa Good Samaritan Center	Nursing home	5	81	None
Harlan County	Government	23	21	AFSCME
Harlan County Hospital*	Medical	11	62	None
Hillcrest Terrace	Assisted living	1	7	None
Hogeland's Market*	Grocery	14	14	None
Arapahoe (employing 5 or more)				
Adams Construction	Earth moving	30 2*	1	None
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	5	0 2*	None
Arapahoe Public Schools	Education	9 7*	38 10*	NSEA
ATC Communications	Telecommunications/Internet	17	3 6*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Bellamy's	Implement dealership	14	1	None
City of Arapahoe	Government	6 1*	2 1*	None
First Central Bank	Financial	4 1*	8	None
First National Bank	Financial	2	1	None
Good Samaritan Center	Nursing home	0	40 20*	None
Wagner's Super Market	Grocery/variety, dress shop, quilt shop	4 (7 of above are part-time)	14	None
Beaver City (employing 5 or more)				
Beaver City Manor	Nursing home & assisted living	2 2*	19 22*	None
Brandin Iron Restaurant & Lounge	Restaurant/bar	1	6 6*	None
City of Beaver City	Government	4	3	None
First State Bank	Financial	3	5	None
Fults Electric	Electric, plumbing, heating	5	1	None
Furnas County	Government	16 6*	32 7*	None
Furnas County Inn	Motel, apartments, gas station & convenience store	1 1*	1 6*	None
Kelley's Supermarket	Grocery	2 1*	4 3*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Nebraska Resource Conservation Service	Government	1	7	None
Cambridge (employing 7 or more)				
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	12 3*	2	None
Cambridge Public School	Education	14 8*	27 11*	NSEA
City of Cambridge	Government	4 1*	3	None
Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District	Irrigation	9	3	None
Pinpoint Communications	Communications/Internet	25	13	None
Tri-Valley Health Systems/ Cambridge Memorial Hospital	Medical	20	145	None
Twin Valleys Public Power District	Electric utility	18 1*	5	None
Edison (employing 5 or more)				
Ag Valley Co-Op (headquarters)	Grain	71 3*	10 1*	None
Hendley (employing 5 or more)				
Ag Valley (not in city limits)	Fuel, farm & engine service	4 1*	1	None
Holbrook (employing 3 or more)				
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	2 1*	1 1*	None
First Bank	Financial	0	3 2*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
HoJo's Hideaway	Restaurant & bar	1	4 7*	None
Village of Holbrook	Government	0 1*	1 1*	None
Huntley (employing 5 or more)				
Huntley Service	Industrial, irrigation & auto repair	4	1	None
Orleans (employing 4 or more)				
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	1 2*	0 1*	None
Harlan Feeders	Custom cattle feeders	6	2	None
Orleans Market	Grocery	3	5	None
Paddingtons	Bar & grill, fuel	2	4	None
Republic Valley Bank	Financial	1	3	None
Oxford (employing 3 or more)				
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	1 4*	2 8*	None
Ampride	Fuel & convenience store	2 1*	3 2*	None
Brooks Ford	Car sales	6	2	None
Duckwalls	Discount store	0 2*	3	None
Family Medical Specialties	Medical	1	3	None
Kramer Hardware & Steamers Coffee Shop	Hardware, appliances, paint, coffee	0 2*	1 6*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Mid-Nebraska Individual Services	Services for handicapped	3	17 10*	None
Oxford Super Market	Grocery store	1	4 2*	None
Prairie Petals	Florist & gifts	0	3	None
South Central State Bank	Financial	1	4	None
Southern Valley School District	Education K-12	38 1*	92 2*	NTA
Thelma Lou's Bar	Bar & restaurant	0 1*	1 7*	None
Village of Oxford	Government	5	3	None
Ragan (employing 3 or more)				
Midland Co-Op	Grain elevator, fuel, groceries	2	1	None
Stamford (employing 3 or more)				
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	1 1*	1*	None
Village of Stamford	Government	1	0 3*	None
Wilsonville				
Ag Valley Co-Op	Farm services	3	0	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Other Major Area Employers (within 40 miles and employing more than 100)

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Holdrege, 23 miles from Oxford				
Agri Co-Op	Mixed grain feed & fertilizer	100 12*	23 2*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Allmand Brothers, Inc.	Floodlighting units, traffic control devices & heating units, contractor	142 2*	39	None
BD	Disposable medical supplies	650 Total		None
Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District	Electric utility	87 3*	11 2*	IBEW
Christian Homes, Inc.	Long term care/retirement center	7 3*	86 40*	None
City of Holdrege	Government	39 23*	12 19*	FOP, IBEW
Holdrege Public Schools	Education	41 1*	107 13*	NEA
Kayton Electric, Inc.	Electrical contractor	160	12	None
Phelps Memorial Health Center	Medical	20 3*	149 36*	None
The Connection	Inbound call center	86 Total 36* Total		None
McCook, 56 miles from Oxford				
Hillcrest Nursing Home	Nursing care	7 4*	94 63*	None
Kugler Company	Agri fertilizers, liquid fertilizers & ammonium thiosulfate (ATS)	69 15*	21 35*	None
McCook Public Schools	Education	56 3*	148 2*	MEA
McCook Community Hospital	Healthcare services	26 2*	101 102*	None
Parker Hannifin Corporation Industrial Hose Division (formerly Dayco Corp.)	Industrial rubber hose & mixed rubber compounds	187	86	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Wal-Mart Super Center	Retail	68 25*	132 62*	None
Valmont Irrigation	Mechanized irrigation systems	132 1*	37	None
Kearney, 58 miles from Oxford				
Baldwin Filters Manufacturing Co.	Oil, air & fuel filters	417	316	None
Bob's Superstore	Grocery	20 25*	21 40*	None
The Buckle	Retail clothing	66 44*	160 119*	None
Builders How-To Warehouse	Building supplies	55 25*	15 10*	None
Cabela's Inc.	Catalog sales	81 59*	133 129*	None
Cash-Wa Distributing	Food distribution	221 21*	33 10*	None
Chartwells Food Service	Contract food service	9 58*	47 54*	None
Chief Industries, Inc. Agri/Industrial Division	Grain drying equipment, correctional equipment	136 5*	19 2*	None
City of Kearney	Government	180 9*	41 15*	None
Community Action Partnership of Mid Nebraska	Community services	23 11*	55 21*	None
County of Buffalo	Government	118	99	None
Eaton Corp.	Automotive valves & forged gears	571	112	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Good Samaritan Health Systems	Medical	168 61*	716 622*	None
Holiday Inn	Lodging/dining	31 38*	61 90*	None
Kearney Clinic	Medical	20 1*	116 56*	None
Kearney Family YMCA	Health club/daycare	5 27*	14 87*	None
Kearney Public Schools	Education	138 11*	412 108*	KEA, NSEA
Marshall Engine, Inc.	Rebuilt engines	112 1*	30 2*	None
Monsanto/Dekalb Genetics	Seed corn production	29 95*	7 80*	None
Morris Publishing Group	Cookbooks, printing	81 2*	137 16*	None
Nebraska Public Power District	Electric utility	81	19	None
Platte Valley Medical Group	Medical	15	90 15*	None
Platte Valley State Bank	Financial	27 5*	64 14*	None
St. Luke's Good Samaritan Village	Care home	5 3*	41 51*	None
Target	Retail, discount	4 22*	21 57*	None
University of Nebraska at Kearney	Education	325 350*	373 613*	NSEA
Wal-Mart	Retail, discount	140 56*	225 65*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
West Company	Pharmaceutical stoppers & closures	136	95 1*	None
Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center	Education	110 7*	36 8*	SCATA
Lexington, 62 miles from Oxford				
Dawson County	Government	85	90	None
Lexington Public Schools	Education	88	265	NSEA
Nebraska By-Products, Inc.	Cured hides & pet foods	137	5	None
Orthman Manufacturing, Inc.	Farm Implements	110	5	None
Tri-County Hospital	Medical	17	175	None
Tyson Fresh Foods	Boxed beef & other beef related products	2,450 Total		None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Economic Development Organizations

The **Furnas/Harlan Partnership** was formed in 2003 with the signing of inter-local agreements between the communities of Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Hendley, Holbrook, Oxford, Ragan, Orleans, and the county governments of Furnas and Harlan Counties, as well as Twin Valleys Public Power District. Of these governmental entities, there are five towns, one county government, and Twin Valleys Public Power District that are financially supporting the Furnas/Harlan Partnership. The annual budget is approximately $33,000. In October 2005 Rosie Stockton was contracted to be the Coordinator/Director of the Partnership. The mission is "An economic development partnership, working to ensure the future of the region." The Partnership is working to build a unified vision for economic development in Furnas and Harlan Counties.

In January 2007 the Partnership received official notice from the Internal Revenue Service of the 501(c)(3) designation of the Republican River Valley Community Foundation. This is the philanthropic arm of the Partnership. It is a separate organization and is operated as a charitable organization open to all of the people in the Republican River Valley Watershed.

The **Alma Development Corporation** and the Alma Chamber of Commerce work with the city for industrial development in the community. The Alma Development Corporation is a nonprofit corporation with 46 members. Money was raised from an initial fund drive and will be raised as needed. The corporation purchased a three-acre tract for a Ford garage in 1997.

In 2006 the Alma Development Corporation was instrumental in recruiting a dentist and staff. The dental clinic opened in 2007.

Arapahoe has a newly reformed **Arapahoe Community Redevelopment Authority.** The Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce also works with the city for industrial development in the community. In addition, an Economic Development Advisory Committee was appointed in January 2007 to fulfill the requirements of the passage of the local option sales tax (LB840) that was passed in October 2006. One-half percent of this tax is to be used for economic development and one-half is to be used for parks and recreation within the city of Arapahoe. A revolving loan fund has been set up to support new and existing businesses.

In 2005 **Beaver City** residents passed the Local Option Sales Tax (LB840) and an economic development plan. The community and economic development strategy for Beaver City involves building on strengths to promote existing businesses and the retention of jobs and to recruit new businesses and jobs to the community. The principle strategy is directed at maintaining a good quality of life for the citizens and a strong workforce, developing community resources, attracting new capital investment, broadening the community's tax base, building economic diversity, and ensuring economic stability and viability for the area.

The Beaver City Foundation is a non-profit corporation with six members. Money is raised as needed. The foundation acquired 17 acres of land for an industrial site, which is now leased to Kaufman Trailers.

Beaver City also supports the efforts of the Furnas/Harlan Partnership as part of its economic development plan.

The **Cambridge Economic Development Board (CEDB)** made up of nine volunteer business leaders was established by ordinance of the city of Cambridge in 1991 and an executive director was hired. Funds come from a 1 percent sales tax (LB840), which was passed in 2005. Among the priorities and accomplishments of the CEDB are a variety of initiatives that have proven to impact Cambridge in a positive way. These include development of new housing, retail, business and technology education, a revolving loan fund, community marketing, tourism, value added agriculture initiatives, and many community development projects. In April 2006 ground was broken for construction of an ethanol plant, which is now in production.

The CEDB will coordinate resources to support the following goals: (1) To create a dynamic entrepreneurial climate to leverage technology infrastructure, diversify local businesses and the economy, revitalize the retail sector, and enhance the agricultural and tourism opportunities. (2) To develop strong and positive community leadership representative of all age groups, interest groups, male and female, established leaders, and new community members. (3) To make an impacting community connection with the youth before they graduate to encourage and support the possibility of them returning home. (4) To achieve a coordinated effort for local philanthropy and build a community development foundation that will provide financial resources for future generations.

The **Orleans Development Corporation**, a for-profit corporation, has four members. The corporation assisted several businesses in the community with start-up assistance and/or expansion funds.

The **Oxford Chamber of Commerce** employs an economic development coordinator to be a resource for businesses, to keep the statistics database current, and to attend state and regional meetings. Other organizations collaborating on helping business start-ups are Furnas-Harlan Partnership, H.O.P.E., Southern Valley Business Development, and the Oxford Village Board. Tax Increment Financing is available for qualifying projects. The Oxford Area Foundation's mission is to create a bridge between the people who have the resources and those who have the needs, and support civic projects, culture, education, and health and human services.

Many cities in Furnas and Harlan Counties are members of the **South Platte United Chambers of Commerce**, which includes 22 counties in the south-central part of Nebraska, and whose mission is to "advance the economic welfare" of citizens. This organization also monitors legislative activity pertinent to those who reside in the South Platte region.

Central Plains Business Development Center, an affiliated fund of Central Plains Foundation, Inc., is located in Holbrook. The building, a former school facility, was purchased in 1992 by ATC Communications. Central Plains Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, was established to administer the building. The building was completely renovated and is handicap accessible. The building is used as a business incubator.

GROW Nebraska, an affiliated fund of Central Plains Foundation, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving micro enterprises located in Nebraska. GROW Nebraska's mission is to maximize Nebraska's entrepreneurial spirit; create an economically viable and sustainable environment for entrepreneurs; and generate social awareness through promotion, marketing, and education. GROW focuses on helping businesses gain access to the global marketplace, increasing awareness of their products. The program strives to help people live anywhere in Nebraska and compete in the global economy through the use of technology. Members receive a page on the GROW Nebraska website that includes a photo of their product, a description of the business, contact information, and a link to their own website. Product and website evaluations gather juries of experts in marketing, product, and web design to offer micro businesses invaluable feedback. Workshop topics include product development, marketing skills, and business expansion.

The price of industrial land in Furnas and Harlan Counties ranges from $500 to $7,000 per acre.

Central Plains Business Development Center

Hogeland's Market, Alma

USDA/NRCS/FSA Office in Beaver City

Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District, Cambridge

Ag Valley Headquarters, Edison

Labor

Labor Supply

A. Employment in the Furnas and Harlan County labor market, which is defined as the whole of Furnas and Harlan Counties and the total labor market consisting of Franklin, Frontier, Gosper, Kearney, Phelps, and Red Willow County in Nebraska (12-month average, June 2007 through May 2008. Information on the contiguous counties of Decatur, Norton, and Phillips Counties in Kansas is not available.

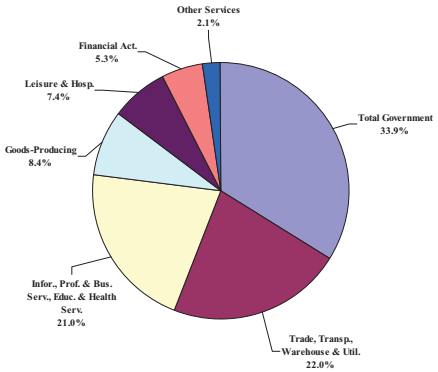
	Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)	**Furnas County**	**Harlan County**	**Total**
	Goods-Producing	157	63	2,602
	Manufacturing	53	(D)	(D)
	Natural Resources & Construction	104	49	(D)
	Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	347	229	3,607
	Wholesale Trade	75	99	(D)
	Retail Trade	210	117	1,864
	Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	62	(D)	(D)
	Information	(D)	4	(D)
	Financial Activities	84	54	878
	Professional & Business Services	114	(D)	(D)
	Education & Health Services	230	(D)	(D)
	Leisure & Hospitality	106	89	1,292
	Other Services	36	19	(D)
	Government	603	286	4,224
	TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	1,749	873	16,503
	Farm Employment	550	386	4,088
	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	2,415	1,721	23,452
B.	Commuting Out of County	512	548	N/A
C.	Unemployment	79	47	615
	TOTAL LABOR FORCE	2,494	1,768	24,067
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.	1,400	990	N/A
E.	Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	62	35	N/A
	TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	2,053	1,620	N/A

(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2005
U.S. Census

Furnas/Harlan Partnership is willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industry. A labor survey was conducted in 2005; results are available upon request.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment
Furnas/Harlan County
12-Month Average
June 2007 through May 2008



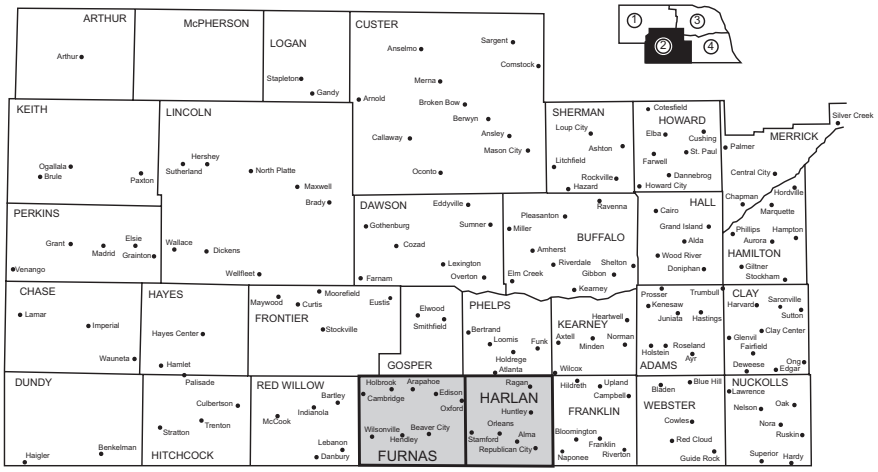
POPULATION DATA

Location	2000 Density/ Sq. Mile	2000 % High School Graduate or Higher	2000 % Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2006 % 65 Yrs. & Over	2006 Median Age	2007 County Median Family Income
Furnas Co.	7.4	84.2	16.1	23.2	45.5	$44,700
Harlan Co.	6.8	85.8	15.3	23.8	46.9	$44,300
Nebraska	22.3	86.6	23.7	13.3	36.0	$58,200
U.S.	79.6	80.4	24.4	12.4	36.4	$59,000

Furnas County had 3,933 eligible voters in 2004; 64.7 percent voted in the national election and Harlan County had 2,614 eligible voters in 2004; 74.6 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, **www.census.gov**
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2007
Statewide General Election 2004 Results, **www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004**

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE FURNAS/HARLAN COUNTY AREA



POPULATION DATA
U.S. Census Estimates

2007 Estimate		
Furnas County	—	4,732
Harlan County	—	3,392
30-mile Radius (Oxford - Harlan Co.)	—	26,724

Furnas County Population by Age/Gender, 2006

Ages	Male	Female
18–24	207	187
25–44	488	495
45–64	689	681

Harlan County Population by Age/Gender, 2006

Ages	Male	Female
18–24	127	117
25–44	325	298
45–64	548	484

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 the Furnas and Harlan Counties:

Company	Union
Alma Public Schools	Nebraska State Education Association
Arapahoe Public Schools	Nebraska State Education Association
Cambridge Public Schools	Nebraska State Education Association
Harlan County	American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
Southern Valley Schools	Nebraska Teachers Association

It is estimated that less than 1 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Furnas and Harlan Counties is unionized. There have been no known strikes.

WAGES

	Hourly Wage ($)/Percentile		
Occupation Title	**10th**	**50th**	**90th**
Professional			
Accountants & Auditors	17.19	24.05	41.73
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	15.92	27.06	41.56
Electrical Engineers	20.04	27.82	53.39
Industrial Engineers	21.02	30.17	39.47
Mechanical Engineers	21.74	31.38	42.08
Computer Programmers	13.86	21.78	33.12
Computer Systems Analysts	14.60	29.73	56.64
Registered Nurses	17.69	23.78	31.49
Retail			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.12	8.28	10.23
Retail Salespersons	6.06	8.61	17.25
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.83	12.13	23.93
Driver/Sales Workers	5.95	9.20	21.45
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.41	9.45	15.06
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	9.99	13.64	18.64
Clerical			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	8.46	12.66	18.08
Customer Service Representatives	7.61	11.93	18.42
Data Entry Keyers	8.32	10.77	14.68
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.87	11.02	15.61

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

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage ($)/Percentile 10th	50th	90th
Office Clerks, General	6.41	9.64	14.86
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.54	9.47	14.43
Telemarketers	6.58	9.59	15.84
Unskilled			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	7.53	10.85	15.20
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.00	9.07	13.99
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	9.91	11.67	15.48
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	8.29	10.19	12.46
Semi-Skilled			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	10.25	13.67	18.92
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	10.00	16.66	27.59
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	10.49	16.15	20.99
Machine Operators			
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	9.43	13.98	19.47
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.	10.47	14.04	18.55
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	9.47	11.43	14.57
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	9.92	13.12	16.45
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	9.37	13.43	18.69
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	11.50	14.21	19.05
Skilled			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	9.31	14.92	25.53
Electricians	13.23	16.52	22.04
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	13.51	17.38	23.20
Machinists	10.40	13.68	18.31
Tool & Die Makers	13.48	19.92	28.34
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	10.21	13.71	18.67
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters	11.58	14.16	19.33
Technical			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	14.23	24.19	32.48
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	17.13	23.36	31.31
Computer Operators	10.38	12.67	19.59

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

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, First Quarter 2008 wage estimates, All Industries, Central Region, **www.dol.state.ne.us/Lmiwages/toc000.htm**.

Production workers are, for the most part paid on a straight-time basis; however, Kaufman Trailers pays on an incentive basis.

Fringe Benefits

Local industries estimate fringe benefits range up to 30 percent of wages.

Transportation

Railroads

The BNSF Railway Company, Inc. serves Alma, Arapahoe, Cambridge, Edison, Holbrook, and Oxford.

NKC Railnet is a short-line rail company serving Beaver City, Oxford, and Orleans.

Amtrak provides Holdrege, 23 miles northeast, and McCook, 56 miles west of Oxford, 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 services, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time from Holdrege is 14 1/4 hours to Chicago and 44 hours to the West Coast. Travel time from McCook is 15 1/4 hours to Chicago and 43 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

Motor

Highways

East-west U.S. Highways 6/34 and 136 and north-south U.S. Highways 183 and 283 serve Furnas and Harlan Counties along with Nebraska Highways 4, 89, 46, and 47. Interstate 80 is 40 miles north and Interstate 70 is 109 miles south of Oxford.

Highway mileage to major cities from Oxford:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	185
Omaha	239
Chicago	704
Dallas	649
Denver	381
Detroit	969
Kansas City	375
Los Angeles	1,395
Minneapolis	613
New York	1,478
St. Louis	628
San Francisco	1,510

Replacement of several bridges and resurfacing of U.S. Highway 6/34 from Cambridge to Holdrege was completed in 2006.

Trucklines

More than 8,000 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America.

Bus Line

The nearest commercial bus service is available from McCook, 56 miles west; Kearney, 58 miles northeast; Lexington, 62 miles north, and Cozad, 76 miles north of Oxford.

Tri Valley Handibus, based in Cambridge, provides handicap accessible transportation on a flexible schedule. Affordable rides are scheduled on an “as needed” basis. The company serves Arapahoe, Bartley, Beaver City, Cambridge, and Wilsonville.

Harlan County Public Transportation serves all Harlan County residents. Headquartered in Alma, the company has two transit buses, one is equipped with wheel chair lift. Out-of-county trips can be scheduled.

Air

The **Alma Municipal Airport** has a 3,280 foot sod runway. The elevation at the airport is 2,070 feet, the latitude is N 40°04'63", and the longitude is W 99°16'19". The airport completed a paved apron/taxiway and fuel project in 2007.

The **Arapahoe Municipal Airport** is located two miles north of Arapahoe. Facilities include a 3,000 foot lighted and hard-surfaced runway, a 2,000 foot sod runway, aviation fuel (24/7), two tie downs, and hangars. Three private planes are hangared there; one is available for charter. An office, rest rooms, and a meeting room for public use was built in 2007. The elevation of the airport is 2,270 feet, the latitude is N 40°20'.37', and the longitude is W 99°54.39'.

The **Cambridge Municipal Airport** and Behnke Aviation is located less than one mile northeast of Cambridge. Facilities and services include a 4,100 foot paved and lighted runway, aviation fuel, pilot's lounge, rest rooms, tie downs, two hangars, and an NDB radio station. The elevation at the airport is 2,414 feet, the latitude is N 40°18.40', and the longitude is W 100°09.73'.

Commercial Air Service

Commercial air service is available at McCook, 56 miles west, and Kearney, 58 miles northeast of Oxford.

Airlines serving these points:

Location	Airline	Daily Flights
McCook	U S Airways	2
Kearney	Great Lakes	3

WATER

There is no nearby water transportation.

Train Station in Oxford

ELECTRICITY

Twin Valleys Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), provides retail electric service to the rural populace of Furnas and Harlan Counties and wholesale power to the communities of Cambridge and Holbrook. The city of Alma is a retail power customer and the city of Arapahoe is a wholesale power customer of NPPD. Beaver City and Oxford operate their own electric systems and purchase power from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska.

Electric power to Furnas and Harlan Counties is` delivered via a 115 kV electrical transmission grid owned and operated by NPPD. Subtransmission lines are owned by Twin Valleys Public Power District at voltages of 69 kV. Distribution voltages vary from 2.4 kV to 13.8 kV, depending upon the type of construction used by the appropriate entity. These lines are tied into NPPD's statewide grid system, providing adequate capacity to support the needs of the counties well into the future.

ELECTRIC RATES–Twin Valleys Public Power District (effective 1/1/07)

These rates are effective in the communities of Edison, Hendley, Huntley, Orleans, Ragan, Republican City, Stamford, and Wilsonville. Summer rates apply to bills received in July, August, September, and October.

Residential & Small Commercial (village and rural):

Customer Charge:	$13.77 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
8.06¢	6.63¢	per kWh for all kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge		

Total Electric Residential & Small Commercial:

Village & Rural		
Customer Charge:	$13.77 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
8.06¢	6.63¢	per kWh for the first 500 kWh used per month
8.06¢	4.0¢	per kWh for additional use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge		

Three Phase Small Commercial:

Customer Charge:	$20.40 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
8.06¢	6.63¢	per kWh for all kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge		

Single Phase Seasonal Services:
(billed annually)

Customer Charge:	$158.16 per year
All Seasons:	
7.85¢	per kWh for all kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge	

Large Power:

Demand Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
$15.50	$12.50	per kW
Energy Charge:		
3.10¢	2.86¢	per kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Demand Charge		

Contact Jim Dietz, manager, Twin Valleys Public Power District, Cambridge, Nebraska, (308) 697-3315, or visit **www.twinvalleysppd.com**, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Alma

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) operates the city-owned electrical distribution system in the city of Alma. A Twin Valleys Public Power District 69 kV line extends 10 miles to NPPD's Orleans 115/69 kV substation and connects the Alma distribution system to the statewide grid system. The NPPD 69 kV substation has a 5,000/6,250 kVA, 69/4.16 kV transformer, which serves the city's needs. The distribution voltage is 4,160 kV.

Base Electric Rates

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

Residential Service, Electric Water Heat: (effective 2/1/03)

Customer Charge: $13.00 per month

Summer	Winter	
8.51¢	6.26¢	per kWh for the first 750 kWh used per month
6.98¢	3.74¢	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments

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

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

General Service: (effective 2/1/03)

Customer Charge:

Single Phase	$15.00 per month
Three Phase	$18.50 per month

Summer	Winter	
9.72¢	7.56¢	per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month
7.75¢	5.62¢	per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month
7.75¢	5.02¢	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments

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

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

Commercial Electric Space Heating: (effective 5/1/08)

Customer Charge:

Single Phase	$37.50 per month
Three Phase	$42.50 per month

Summer	Winter	
9.51¢	5.91¢	per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.64¢	2.59¢	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments

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

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

General Service Demand: (effective 5/1/08)

Customer Charge:		
Single Phase		$70.00 per month
Three Phase		$80.00 per month
Summer	**Winter**	
9.51¢	6.34¢	per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.57¢	2.73¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments		

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

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

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

Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh[1]
100	30,000	7.47
100	36,000	6.83
300	90,000	7.26
300	150,000	5.80
500	150,000	7.21
500	180,000	6.62

[1]Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

High Tension Service: (effective 5/1/08)

Customer Charge: $275.00 per month		
Demand Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
$10.40	$6.40	per kW of billing demand
Energy Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
4.00¢	3.04¢	per kWh for all on-peak energy
2.70¢	1.95¢	per kWh for all off-peak energy

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

Time of Use Periods	Summer	Winter
On-Peak Hours	10:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday	8:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday
Off-Peak Hours	All Other Hours	

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

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

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

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

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

Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh[1]
1,000	300,000	6.21
2,500	750,000	6.14
2,500	1,250,000	4.96
5,000	1,500,000	6.12
5,000	2,500,000	4.94
10,000	6,400,000	4.55

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

The ¢/kWh cost is estimated using the following assumption concerning the distribution of electricity used during on-peak and off-peak periods.

Seasons	On-Peak %	Off-Peak %
Summer	46.0	54.0
Winter	54.0	46.0

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

Arapahoe

The city of Arapahoe, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District, is served electrically by a 69 kV, three-phase subtransmission line. The distribution substation has a transformer capacity of 5,000 kVA. The distribution voltage is 4,160 volts wye.

Base Electric Rates--City of Arapahoe (effective 1/1/08):

Summer bills run from May 15 to September 14. Winter bills from September 15 to May 14.

Residential:

Customer Charge: $12.00 per month

Summer	Winter	
$12.00	$12.00	per kWh for the first 50 kWh used per month
12.3¢	—	per kWh for the next 600 kWh
—	11.5¢	per kWh for the next 450 kWh
10.5¢	9.7¢	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge

Commercial Service:

Summer	Winter	
$20.35	$20.35	for the first 100 kWh
14.5¢	13.2¢	per kWh for the next 600 kWh
12.3¢	11.9¢	per kWh for the next 1,000 kWh
10.4¢	9.7¢	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: $20.35 per month

Commercial Service (>50 HP & requires a time-of-use meter):

Peak Time Use: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. billed at regular commercial rates

Off-Peak Use: 10 p.m.-10 a.m.

Demand Charge

Summer	$16.07 per kW
Winter	$5.18 per kW

Energy Charge

10.3¢	for the first 1,000 kWh
8.1¢	per kWh for the next 10,000 kWh
6.2¢	per kWh for all additional use

Meter Charge: $6.70 per month

Prospective customers should contact the city of Arapahoe, (308) 962-7445, Email: arapcity @atcjet.net, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Beaver City

Beaver City is served by a 69 kV, three-phase subtransmission line owned by Twin Valleys Public Power District. The distribution substation has a capacity of 2,500 kVA. The distribution voltage is 4,160. The city owns a 1,200 kW generating facility, which is leased to their wholesale power supplier, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Electrical needs are supplied by MEAN and the Western Area Power Administration.

Base Electric Rates--City of Beaver City (effective 2002)**:**

Residential & Commercial*:

Customer Charge:	$5.00 per month
11.5¢	per kWh for the first 100 kWh
10.2¢	per kWh for the next 400 kWh
9.6¢	per kWh for the next 500 kWh
8.9¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill:	The Customer Charge

*Some commercial meters have multipliers, which affects the rate.

Total Electric:

Customer Charge:	$5.00 per month
5.8¢	per kWh for all use
Minimum Bill:	The Customer Charge

Prospective customers should contact Cathy John, city clerk, Beaver City, Nebraska, (308) 268-2145, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Cambridge

The city of Cambridge owns a back-up generator with 4,000 kW capacity. The city purchases electric power through Twin Valleys Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District.

Base Electric Rates—City of Cambridge (effective 11/1/07)**:**

Residential:

Customer Charge:	$10.30 per month	
Summer	**Winter***	
10.23¢	9.77¢	per kWh for the first 200 kWh
9.5¢	9.04¢	per kWh for the next 300 kWh
8.89¢	8.44¢	per kWh for all additional use
*Winter all electric rate is 3.83¢ per kWh after the first 500 kWh used		
Minimum Bill:	The Customer Charge	

Commercial, Single Phase:

Customer Charge:	$11.60 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
12.17¢	11.70¢	per kWh for the first 300 kWh
11.55¢	11.09¢	per kWh for the next 1,200 kWh
10.94¢	10.47¢	per kWh for the next 1,500 kWh
10.33¢	9.86¢	per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh
9.59¢	9.13¢	per kWh for the next 5,000 kWh
8.999¢	8.52¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill:	The Customer Charge	

Commercial Three Phase:

Customer Charge:	$15.60 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
12.17¢	11.70¢	per kWh for the first 300 kWh
11.55¢	11..09¢	per kWh for the next 1,200 kWh
10.94¢	10.47¢	per kWh for the next 1,500 kWh
10.33¢	9.86¢	per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh
9.59¢	9.13¢	per kWh for the next 5,000 kWh
8.99¢	8.52¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Charge:	The Customer Charge	

Commercial (all electric):

Customer Charge:		
Single Phase	$11.60 per month	
Three Phase	$20.00 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
12.17¢	11.70¢	per kWh for the first 300 kWh
11.55¢	11.09¢	per kWh for the next 1,200 kWh
10.94¢	10.47¢	per kWh for the next 1,500 kWh
10.33¢	3.87¢	per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh
9.59¢	3.87¢	per kWh for the next 5,000 kWh
8.99¢	3.87¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Charge:	The Customer Charge	

Commercial Demand Rate:

Customer Charge:	$152.98 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
Demand Charge:		
$10.28	$6.98	per kW
Energy Charge:		
9.42¢	8.20¢	per kWh for the first 25,000 kWh
3.43¢	3.07¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill:	The Customer Charge	

Industrial:

Customer Charge:	$400.00 per month	
Demand Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
$10.79	$8.26	per kW
Energy Charge:		
5.103¢	3.450¢	per kWh On-Peak
3.193¢	1.770¢	per kWh Off-Peak
Minimum Bill:	The Customer Charge	

Prospective customers should contact David Houghtelling, utility superintendent, city of Cambridge, (308) 697-3711, email: kkinee @swnebr.net, **www.cambridgene.org**, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Holbrook

The village of Holbrook is served by two 12.5 kV, three-phase distribution lines owned by Twin Valleys Public Power District. The distribution substation has a transformer capacity of 750 kVA. The distribution voltage is 2,400 volts delta.

Base Electric Rates (effective 1/08):

Summer rates are from June through September. Winter rates are from October through May.

Residential Service (single phase):

Customer Charge:	$10.00 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
9.1¢	7.9¢*	per kWh for all kWh used per month
*Winter all electric is 5.7¢ per kWh after the first 750 kWh used		
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge		

Three Phase Service:

Customer Charge:	$17.50 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
9.1¢	7.9¢	per kWh for all kWh used per month
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge		

Large Power Demand Service:

Customer Charge:	$10.00 per month	
Demand Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
$16.00	$13.00	per kW
Energy Charge:		
	6.3¢	per kWh for all use
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge		

Prospective customers should contact Ethel Watson, city clerk, village of Holbrook, (308) 493-5653, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Oxford

The city of Oxford is served by a 69 kV, three-phase transmission line owned by Twin Valleys Public Power District. The distribution substation has a transformer capacity of 5,000/6,250 kVA. The distribution voltage is 2,400 volts delta with a 12.5 kV wye loop around the city. The city owns a 3,500 kW generating facility and leases the output of the plant to the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Electrical needs are supplied by MEAN and the Western Area Power Administration.

Base Electric Rates--Village of Oxford (effective 10/07):

Residential:

Customer Charge:	$7.50 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
10.20¢	7.24¢	per kWh for the first 500 kWh used per month
10.20¢	4.40¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: $7.50 per month		

Commercial:

Customer Charge:	$15.00 per month	
Summer	**Winter**	
10.20¢	7.4¢	per kWh for the first 10,000 kWh used per month
7.4¢	5.6¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: $15.00 per month		

Prospective customers should contact Duane Hoffman, public works director, village of Oxford, (308) 824-3511, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is supplied to Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Edison, Holbrook, Huntley, Orleans, Oxford, Ragan, Republican City, and Stamford by SourceGas through a 1 1/2–2-inch transmission pipeline with an operating pressure of approximately 180 pounds per square inch.

Kinder Morgan is the distributor of natural gas within the communities.

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 the Service Center at (800) 563-0012.

Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, and Oxford are choice gas communities. ACE, a public utility,

offers residents a choice of gas suppliers, which keeps prices competitive.

Alma

The city of Alma distributes natural gas within the community. Kinder Morgan is the pipeline supplier. The pressure of the four-inch pipeline serving the community is 60 pounds per square inch.

Natural gas is available for residential and commercial uses. An interruptible supply of natural gas can be made available for industrial uses and a firm supply of gas for industrial uses can be made available by contract.

Prospective customers should contact the Alma City Hall at (308) 928-2242 for further information regarding gas rates and services.

Hendley & Wilsonville

Natural gas is not available in Hendley or Wilsonville.

Other Fuels

LP Gas

LP gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Agri Co-Op in Alma, Ag Valley Co-Op in Edison and Cambridge, and Holbrook Co-Op in Holbrook.

Oil

Oil is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Agri Co-Op in Alma and Ag Valley Co-Op in Edison.

Water

Alma

The municipal water system in Alma is supplied by five wells, which have an average depth of 150 feet. The system, serving 100 percent of the city's population, has a combined pumping capacity of 2,000 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 300,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 325,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 1,000,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 3,180,000 gallons per day. The static pressure as well as the residual pressure is 55 pounds per square inch.

A 150-foot well will produce 500 gallons of water per minute. The quality of the water in Alma does not necessitate a water treatment plant. Seasonal fluctuations occur in the water table, however, there are no appreciable changes.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 188. The average tap water temperature varies from 56° in the winter to 60° in the summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.5
Calcium	71
Total Solids	320
Magnesium	1 mg/l
Iron	Nil
Nitrate	3 mg/l
Manganese	1 mg/l
Chloride	10
Fluoride	10.2
Sulfate	14 mg/l
Total Alkalinity	249
Sodium	10 mg/l
Total Hardness	188
Potassium	9

mg/l - milligrams per liter

Water Rates (effective 11/1/01)

A water connection fee of $300.00 is charged for new service.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Each 1,000 gallons @ $0.90 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: $9.75 per month

Arapahoe/Holbrook

The communities of Arapahoe and Holbrook cooperated in a joint water project. Installation of a new well field consisting of three wells was put into operation in 2007. This project was financed by the United States Department of Agriculture,

Community Development Block Grant, and the state revolving loan fund.

The system, with a maximum daily capacity of 600,000 gallons, has an overhead storage capacity of 250,0000 gallons. The peak water demand on the system is 273,802 gallons. The water pressure is 52 pounds per square inch.

The quality of the water in Arapahoe and Holbrook does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 18. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years. The average water temperature varies from 52º in the winter to 60º in the summer.

Chemical Analysis (Highest levels detected)

Total Haloacelic Acids	2.7 ppb
Total Trihalomethanes	0.74 ppb
Arsenic	5.99 ppb
Barium	0.138 ppm
Chromium	1.45 ppb
Fluoride	0.57 ppm
Nickel	3.62 ppb
Nitrate-Nitrite	4.1 ppm
Selenium	7.82 ppb
Sulfate	33 ppm

ppb - parts per billion
ppm - parts per million

Water Rates--City of Arapahoe
(effective 4/07)

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Customer Charge: $25.50 per month
$1.25 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge

Water Rates--Village of Holbrook
(effective 1/08)

Residential & Commercial:

Flat fee of $22.75 per month
$0.000150 per unit
Minimum Bill: $22.75 per month

Beaver City

The municipal water system in Beaver City is supplied by five wells, which have an average depth of 100 feet. The system, serving the entire population of Beaver City, has a combined pumping capacity of 900 gallons per minute and a ground-level storage capacity of 500,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 60,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 1,796,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 65 pounds and the residual pressure is 80 pounds per square inch.

The quality of the water in Beaver City does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table fluctuates seasonally with no significant drop. The color of the water is clear, and the hardness in parts per million, is 12.88. The average water temperature varies from 56º in winter to 58º in summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.7
Calcium	65
Total Solids	293
Magnesium	14
Iron	<0.05
Nitrate	2.9
Manganese	<0.01
Chloride	8
Fluoride	0.4 ppm
Sulfate	11
Sodium	7
Total Hardness	12.88

Water Rates (effective 10/1/05)

A tapping fee of $30.00 is charged for new water connections.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Meter Charge: $7.00 per month
$1.00 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: $7.00 per month

Cambridge

The municipal water system in Cambridge is supplied by two wells, which have an average depth of 60 feet. The system, serving the entire population of the community, has a combined pumping capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 200,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 300,000 gallons and the historic peak demand is 1,200,000 gallons per day. The system has a maximum capacity of 1,640,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 70 pounds and the residual pressure is 50 pounds per square inch under flowing conditions.

The quality of the water in Cambridge does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, ranges from 290 to 420. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years. The average water temperature varies from 56° in the winter to 58° in the summer.

Range of Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.27–7.47
Calcium	942–134.0
Total Dissolved Solids	Not Available
Magnesium	22–29
Iron	<0.01
Nitrate	<0.05–3.6
Manganese	0.313–0.362
Chloride	40–50
Fluoride	0.38–1.0
Sulfate	116–136
Total Alkalinity	274–410
Sodium	67–89
Total Hardness	290–420
Potassium	N/A
Arsenic	9.21–13.8
Barium	0.0818–0.131
Nickel	4.48–5.08
Selenium	7.83
Alpha Emitters	3.3–38.5
Uranium Mass	40.2–45.9
Radium -226	0.5–1.2 pCi/l
Phosphate	0.1–0.14
Total Organic Carbon	3.5–4.25

Water Rates (effective 12/1/05)

A water connection fee of $200.00 is charged for a new 3/4-inch pipe and $225 for a one-inch pipe for new water service.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Inside city limits:
$1.70 per thousand gallons of water used
Minimum Bill: $24.00 per month

Outside city limits:
$2.35 per thousand gallons of water used
Minimum Bill: $30.00 per month

The city of Cambridge is working with the communities of Bartley and Indianola to construct a joint water system. This joint system will provide Cambridge with water quality meeting the current drinking water standards.

Edison

The municipal water system in Edison is supplied by two wells, which have an average depth of 55 feet. The system, serving 100 percent of Edison's population, has a combined pumping capacity of 430 gallons per minute, an overhead storage capacity of 40,000 gallons, and a maximum daily capacity of 659,200 gallons. The residual pressure is 50 pounds.

The quality of the water in Edison does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Nitrate	3.4
Fluoride	0.32

Water Rates

A fee of $100.00 is charged for new water connections.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Customer Charge: $11.00 per month
$0.50 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge

Hendley

Residents in Hendley have individual wells.

Huntley

Residents in Huntley have private wells.

Orleans and Stamford

Orleans and Stamford cooperated on a water project in 2004. The system has a combined pumping capacity of 950 gallons per minute at full capacity and an overhead storage capacity of 75,000 gallons. The pressure is 61 pounds per square inch.

The quality of the water in Orleans and Stamford does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 240.

Chemical Analysis (milligrams per liter)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.21
Total Dissolved Solids	333
Nitrate+Nitrite	2.8
Chloride	4.79
Fluoride	0.29
Sulfate	16.0
Total Alkalinity	244
Total Hardness	240

Water Rates--Villages of Orleans & Stamford (effective 3/1/06)

A water connection fee of $200.00 is charged for a new one-inch service and $400.00 is charged for a new two-inch service in Orleans. A water connection fee of $144 is charged for new service in Stamford.

Residential & Commercial:

Customer Charge: $18.00 per month
$1.25 per 1,000 gallons of water used

Oxford

The municipal water system in Oxford is supplied by three wells, which have an average depth of 110 feet. The system, serving 100 percent of the city's population, has a combined pumping capacity of 1,800 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 100,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 218,000 gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 575,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 2,692,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 60 pounds and the residual pressure is 55 pounds per square inch.

The quality of the water in Oxford does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years. The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 355. The average water temperature varies from 50° in the winter to 60° in the summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	Not Available
Calcium	105
Total Solids	465
Magnesium	21
Iron	.005
Nitrate	7.5
Manganese	.001
Chloride	34
Fluoride	.27
Sulfate	32
Total Alkalinity	290
Sodium	15
Total Hardness	355
Potassium	N/A

Water Rates (effective 10/07)

A water tapping fee of $250.00 is charged for new service.

Residential & Commercial:

Customer Charge: $10.00 per month
$1.30 per 1,000 gallons of water used

Ragan

The municipal water system in Ragan is supplied by one well, which is 240 feet deep. The system, serving 100 percent of Ragan's population, has a pumping capacity of 100 gallons per minute and an above-ground storage capacity of 3,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 15,000 gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 50,000 gallons.

The quality of the water in Ragan does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years. The color of the water is clear.

Water Rates

Residential & Commercial:

Flat rate of $17.00 per month

Republican City

The municipal water system in Republican City is supplied by three wells, which have an average depth of 91 feet. The system has a combined pumping capacity of 685 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 40,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 96,519 gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 405,000 gallons. The static pressure is 32 pounds and the residual pressure is 50 pounds per square inch.

The quality of the water in Republican City does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years.

Chemical Analysis (milligrams per liter)

Nitrate+Nitrite	3.5–11

Water Rates (effective 7/1/07)

A tapping fee of $50.00 is charged for new service.

Residential & Commercial:

Flat rate of $59.00 per quarter

A $2.2 million improvement project for 2008–09 includes a new well field, 100,000 gallon water storage tank, water meters, and system controls. This project is funded by a loan and grant from USDA Rural Development.

Wilsonville

The municipal water system in Wilsonville is supplied by two wells, which have an average depth of 150 feet. The system, serving 100 percent of the village's population, has a combined pumping capacity of 160 gallons per minute and a storage capacity of 120,000 gallons.

The quality of the water in Wilsonville does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years.

Water samples are sent in monthly and are within the state standards of chloroform.

Water Rates (effective 7/1/07)

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

Residential & Commercial:

Customer Charge: $24.33 per month
$1.00 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge

Sewerage

Alma

Alma has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. A two-cell, complete retention lagoon system began operation in 1981, a lift station was completed in 1984, and an additional wastewater treatment system was completed in 1988. The daily capacity of the treatment plant, serving 100 percent of Alma's population, is 450,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 170,000 gallons and the historic peak daily discharge is 250,000 gallons.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 10/16/03)

A $25.00 connection fee is charged for new service.

Residential:

Based on average water usage (1,000 gallon increments) during the months of January, February, and March. All new customers start at $9.17 per month.

Commercial:

$6.42 for first 1,000 gallons of water used per month

$0.55 per 1,000 gallons for all additional use

Minimum Bill: $6.42 per month

Arapahoe

Arapahoe has a municipal sanitary sewerage system. The lagoon system, built in 1991, has a daily capacity of 100,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 85,000 gallons.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 4/1/07)

Residential:

Customer Charge: $9.00 per month

$0.20 per 1,000 gallons, average winter usage

Large Commercial:

Customer Charge: $9.00 per month

$0.20 per 1,000 gallons of monthly water usage

Beaver City

Beaver City has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The lagoon system was built in 1956 to serve a population of 641.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 10/1/05)

Residential & Commercial:

Flat fee of $7.00

Cambridge

Cambridge has a municipal sanitary sewerage system consisting of an activated oxidation sludge type plant. The treatment plant, built in 2003, has a daily capacity of 250,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 85,000 gallons.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 11/1/03)

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Inside City Limits:

$1.75 per 1,000 gallons average water use during December 15, January 15, and February 15

Minimum Bill: $28.00 per month

Outside City Limits:

Minimum Charge: $37.00

$2.19 per 1,000 gallons average water use during December 15, January 15, and February 15

Plant improvements to improve bio-solids were completed in 2003. This $1,670,000 project was financed by United State Department of Agriculture.

Edison

Edison has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The mechanical lift station was built in 1970. The average daily flow is 20,000 gallons.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 1996)

A $100.00 sewer connection fee is charged for new service.

Residential:

$8.00 per month

Commercial:

$15.00 per month

Hendley

Residents in Hendley have their own septic systems.

Holbrook

Holbrook has a municipal sanitary sewerage system. The lift station/lagoon system was built in 2003.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 1/1/08)

Residential & Commercial:

$13.50 per month

Huntley

Private septic systems are required in Huntley.

Orleans

The municipal sanitary sewerage system in Orleans consists of one evaporation pond built in the 1960s. The system was upgraded and two additional ponds were added in 1980. There is no discharge at any time.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 2007)

A $100.00 sewer connection fee is charged for new service.

Residential & Commercial:

Flat Rate of $10.25 per month

Oxford

The municipal sewerage system consists of a new lagoon constructed in 2005. The lagoon system was designed for a population of 1,200.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 10/07)

A $200.00 sewer tapping fee is charged for new service.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Base Fee: $20.00 per month $1.25 per 1,000 gallons of water used

Ragan

Private septic systems are required in Ragan.

Republican City

Republican City has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system.

Sewer-Use Charges (effective 7/1/07)

A sewer connection fee of $50.00 is charged for new service.

Residential:

Flat rate of $24.00 per quarter

Business:

Flat rate of $27.00 per quarter

Stamford

Stamford has a municipally owned sanitary sewerage system. The full retention treatment plant has a an average daily flow of 11,716 gallons.

Sewer-Use Charges

Residential & Commercial:

Flat rate of $20.00 per month

Wilsonville

Residents in Wilsonville have private septic tanks.

Solid Waste Disposal

The regional landfill at Holdrege, Nebraska, 23 miles from Oxford, accepts refuse from 46 cities and villages covering 31 counties, including the communities in Furnas and Harlan Counties.

Solid Waste Removal Rates

	Monthly Rate	
City	**Residential**	**Commercial**
Alma	$11.49	$27.79–$211.97
Arapahoe	$11.00	$11.50
Beaver City	$11.00	$22.00
Cambridge	$12.00	$14.15–$136.15
Edison	$11.00	$24.00 –$35.00
Holbrook	$11.75	$29.50–$66.00
Huntley	$10.00	$12.00
Orleans	$13.00	$43.00
Oxford	$11.50	$21.50–$40.00
Ragan	$12.00	$12.00
Republican City	$12.00	$40.00–$80.00
Stamford	$10.00	$1.00
Wilsonville	$11.25	$25.00–$47.00

Recycling

Recycling programs are available in Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Edison, Huntley, Orleans, and Oxford.

Twin Valleys Public Power District, Cambridge

Oxford Municipal Utilities

U.S. Post Office, Alma

U.S. Post Office, Beaver City

U.S. Post Office, Cambridge

U.S. Post Office, Edison

U.S. Post Office, Holbrook

U.S. Post Office, Orleans

U.S. Post Office, Oxford

U.S. Post Office, Republican City

U.S. Post Office, Wilsonville

Communications

Telecommunications

Frontier Communications is the local exchange carrier for the communities of Alma, Beaver City, Edison, Orleans, Republican City, Stamford, and Wilsonville in Furnas and Harlan Counties. All of these communities are equipped with digital, stand-alone, Nortel DMS 10 switches. Local services available in all exchanges are calling features, DSL, voice mail, and various Extended Area Service calling plans. Some of the area is served with fiber optic and some with copper, cable facility. Local service technicians are located in Alma and Beaver City. For more information, visit **www.frontieronline.com**.

For nearly 100 years, ATC Communications, a family-owned and operated business, has been firmly rooted in rural Nebraska. This company, with its headquarters in Arapahoe, provides telephone service in the communities of Arapahoe, Hendley, and Holbrook in Furnas County and four others in southwest Nebraska. High-speed broadband service is provided to Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver, City, Cambridge, Edison, Hendley, Holbrook, Huntley, Orleans, Oxford, Stamford, and Wilsonville, as well as wireless high-speed broadband to the rural areas around those towns and in rural southeastern Furnas County. For more information, visit **www.atcjet.net**.

Pinpoint Communications, a family-owned company with headquarters in Cambridge, provides cable TV service in Furnas and Harlan Counties to the towns of Alma, Beaver City, Cambridge, Orleans, Oxford, Republican City, and Stamford as well as other towns in southwest Nebraska. Local phone service is provided to Oxford and through Cambridge Telephone Company to Cambridge. Other services provided are high-speed broadband to Cambridge, Oxford, Alma, and Beaver City. Pinpoint Communications is a diversified telecommunications company providing local and nationwide long distance telephone service throughout southwest, south-central, and eastern Nebraska. For more information, visit **www.pnpt.com**.

Great Plains Communications serves Ragan with broadband Internet services and telephone service from a T1 line. Resident technicians are available through the local service provider—Great Plains Communications—for wiring, digital key systems, and other technical needs. A variety of service packages, tailored to suit business needs, are available.

Basic tariff rates (effective 2002)

Business Line	$27.50
Residential Line	$17.50

Internet

Internet providers in Furnas and Harlan Counties include:

Name	Website
ATC	**www.atcjet.net**
Frontier	**www.frontieronline.com**
Great Plains Communications	**www.gpcom.com**
Megavision	**www.megavision.com**
Pinpoint	**www.pnpt.com**
Qwest	**www.qwest.com**
Satellite (rural)	**www.hughesnet.com**
Wild Blue of Hershey	**www.wildblue.com**
Glenwood	**www.gtmc.net**

Post Office

Post offices are available in each community in Furnas and Harlan Counties. Each community has one mail receipt and one mail dispatch daily.

Package Delivery Services

Package delivery services in Furnas and Harlan Counties are provided by the U.S. Post Office, Federal Express, DHL, and United Parcel Service. Pick up points are available at Bosselman Pump and Pantry (Federal Express) and Tripe Motor (UPS) in Alma, Hemelstrands Hardware in Arapahoe, Sexton Construction in Cambridge (UPS), and Merrick's (UPS) in Oxford. UPS also

delivers daily to Beaver City and arrangements for pick up can be made there.

Newspaper

Newspapers printed weekly in Furnas and Harlan Counties include:

Name	City
Harlan County Journal	Alma
Republican Valley Review	Alma
Arapahoe Public Mirror	Arapahoe
Beaver City Times-Tribune	Beaver City
Cambridge Clarion	Cambridge
Oxford Standard	Oxford
Stamford Newsletter	Stamford

Radio

Radio stations carrying local news include:

Call Letters	Frequency	Location
KUVR-FM	97.7 MHz	Holdrege, NE
KAMI-FM	97.7 MHz	Holdrege, NE
KUVR-AM	1380 KHz	Holdrege, NE
KRVN-FM	93.1 MHz	Lexington, NE
KRVN-AM	880 KHz	Lexington, NE
KKAN-AM	1490 KHz	Phillipsburg, KS
KBRL-AM	1300 KHz	McCook, NE

Television

Television stations carrying local news include:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KHGI	13	Kearney
KOLN/KGIN	10–11	Lincoln/ Grand Island
KHAS	5	Hastings

Cable television service is available in Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Edison, Holbrook, Orleans, Oxford, and Republican City. Satellite television with local channels is available in the area.

Harlan County Journal, Alma

Arapahoe Public Mirror

Beaver City Times Tribune

Cambridge Clarion, Cambridge

Oxford Standard, Oxford

Tax Structure

Values For Tax Levy Purposes

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land in 2007 is valued at 75 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		
Furnas County	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
Real Estate	$310,231,170	$310,633,855	$318,371,465
Personal Property	19,617,400	18,314,497	18,123,591
Special (railroad and utilities)	17,479,828	17,344,084	17,837,187
Oil Wells	335,230	379,280	504,620
TOTAL	$347,663,628	$346,671,716	$354,836,863

	Actual Valuation		
Arapahoe	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
Real Estate	$23,605,750	$23,547,160	$23,869,970
Personal Property	1,448,241	1,107,504	1,637,124
Special (railroad and utilities)	1,204,687	1,197,530	1,194,500
TOTAL	$26,258,678	$25,852,194	$26,701,594

	Actual Valuation		
Beaver City	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
Real Estate	$9,806,520	$10,094,380	$10,336,845
Personal Property	190,593	181,908	189,824
Special (railroad and utilities)	434,848	369,745	422,702
TOTAL	$10,431,961	$10,646,033	$10,949,371

	Actual Valuation		
Cambridge	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
Real Estate	$25,739,420	$25,686,145	$26,102,970
Personal Property	550,213	525,407	629,836
Special (railroad and utilities)	1,346,332	1,330,649	1,170,027
TOTAL	$27,635,965	$27,542,201	$27,902,833

	Actual Valuation		
Edison	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
Real Estate	$3,864,775	$3,850,665	$4,335,915
Personal Property	20,042	17,423	24,469
Special (railroad and utilities)	627,833	598,208	635,269
TOTAL	$4,512,650	$4,466,296	$4,995,653

Hendley	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$729,910	$730,110	$724,250
Personal Property	28,655	25,486	20,580
Special (railroad and utilities)	66,432	64,871	65,993
TOTAL	$824,997	$820,467	$810,823

Holbrook	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$3,036,250	$3,031,485	$3,008,100
Personal Property	71,758	149,195	125,621
Special (railroad and utilities)	308,915	307,582	306,978
TOTAL	$3,416,923	$3,488,262	$3,440,699

Oxford	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$12,147,560	$12,128,900	$12,565,855
Personal Property	234,436	212,845	232,359
Special (railroad and utilities)	770,001	764,072	742,185
Furnas County	$13,151,997	$13,105,817	$13,540,390
Harlan County	$5,019,272	$5,159,105	5,163,042
TOTAL	$18,171,269	$18,264,922	$18,703,441

Wilsonville - CW179W(225)	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$1,449,875	$1,449,875	$1,460,695
Personal Property	52,734	18,347	29,552
Special (railroad and utilities)	126,057	97,314	118,668
TOTAL	$1,628,666	$1,565,536	$1,608,915
Wilsonville - CW21W(230)			
Real Estate	36,605	36,605	37,335
TOTAL	$1,665,271	$1,602,141	$1,646,250

Harlan County	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$290,809,190	$297,816,940	$305,501,540
Personal Property	22,860,315	22,754,408	21,345,753
Special (railroad and utilities)	9,830,060	9,548,757	10,348,768
TOTAL	$323,499,565	$330,120,105	$337,196,061

Alma	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$32,725,390	$33,084,140	$33,612,450
Personal Property	797,799	803,852	799,299
Special (railroad and utilities)	550,676	415,518	433,417
TOTAL	$34,073,865	$34,303,510	$34,845,166

Huntley	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$920,570	$913,395	$909,970
Personal Property	72,679	61,603	44,797
Special (railroad and utilities)	54,888	50,862	51,912
TOTAL	$1,048,137	$1,025,860	$1,006,679

Orleans	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$7,470,230	$7,458,555	$7,550,075
Personal Property	79,394	190,028	152,245
Special (railroad and utilities)	383,201	323,543	380,022
TOTAL	$7,932,825	$7,972,126	$8,082,342

Oxford	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$4,602,800	$4,755,735	$4,794,240
Personal Property	237,783	221,256	151,124
Special (railroad and utilities)	171,152	182,114	207,228
TOTAL	$5,011,735	$5,159,105	$5,152,592

Ragan	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2006
Real Estate	$1,614,415	$1,613,610	$2,135,425
Personal Property	18,681	31,539	39,285
Special (railroad and utilities)	68,657	76,892	77,779
TOTAL	$1,701,753	$1,722,041	$2,252,489

Republican City	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$8,681,085	$9,114,905	$9,377,960
Personal Property	234,724	182,200	120,345
Special (railroad and utilities)	421,452	356,228	401,350
TOTAL	$9,337,261	$9,653,333	$9,899,655

Stamford	Actual Valuation 2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	$2,805,330	$2,846,480	$2,946,890
Personal Property	179,057	128,885	166,933
Special (railroad and utilities)	136,263	119,383	138,210
TOTAL	$3,120,650	$3,094,748	$3,252,033

Tax Rate (Dollars and cents per $100 of actual value)

Arapahoe	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.719763	$0.710773	$0.688162
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 18	1.125130	1.117260	1.116811
Community College	.082962	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit 11	.017342	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	.017508
Arapahoe Airport Authority	.037989	.032493	.053088
TOTAL	$2.463461	$2.440418	$2.487139

Beaver City	2005	2005	2007
City	$0.494060	$0.484125	$0.470717
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 540	1.231800	1.230000	1.211944
Community College	.082962	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit 11	.017342	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	.017508
TOTAL	$2.306439	$2.294017	$2.402503

Cambridge	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.571658	$0.469138	$0.464162
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 21	1.278708	1.288872	1.273424
Community College	.082962	081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit 11	.017342	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	017508
Cambridge Airport Authority	.030757	.030862	.035839
TOTAL	$2.461702	$2.368764	$2.402503

Edison	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.268003	$0.270784	$0.242091
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 540	1.231800	1.230000	1.211944
Community College	.082962	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.017342	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	.017508
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 540	$2.080382	$2.080676	$2.083113
School District 18	1.125130	1.117260	1.116811
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 18	$1.973712	$1.967936	$1.987980

Hendley	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.444851	$0.450000	$0.450000
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 540	1.231800	1.230000	1.211944
Community College	.082962	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.017342	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	.017508
Fire District	.063969	.063652	.067242
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 540	$2.321199	$2.323544	$2.358264
School District 18	1.125130	1.117260	1.116811
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 18	$2.214529	$2.210804	$2.263131

Holbrook	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.498952	$0.498013	$0.499841
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 18	1.125130	1.117260	1.116811
Community College	.082962	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.017342	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	.017508
Holbrook Cemetery District	.013577	.013415	.015852
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 18	$2.218238	$2.208580	$2.261582
School District 21	1.278708	1.288872	1.273424
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 21	$2.371816	$2.380192	$2.418195

Wilsonville	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.394231	$0.424768	$0.449507
County	.413064	.414246	.413228
School District 21	1.278708	1.288872	1.273424
Community College	.082962	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.017342	.017284	.015000
Natural Resource District	.050360	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.016851	.017399	.017508
Fire District	.063969	.063652	.067242
TOTAL SCHOOL DIST. 21	$2.317487	$2.357184	$2.419251
School District 179	1.285979	1.289999	1.268281
TOTAL SCHOOL DIST. 179	$2.324758	$2.358311	$2.405835

Alma	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.48718	$0.50000	$0.491573
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 002 (with bonds)	1.21334	1.199531	1.198783
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
Fire District	.04521	.046059	.045093
Cemetery	.00972	.009506	.009315
TOTAL	$2.223254	$2.22547	$2.277017

Huntley	2005	2005	2007
City	$0.14509	$0.149143	$0.238110
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 002 (with bonds)	1.21334	1.199531	1.198783
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
Fire District - Alma	.04521	.046059	.045093
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 002	$1.880730	$1.865107	$2.014239
School District 001	1.09945	1.132548	1.151002
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 001	$1.766840	$1.798124	$1.966458

Orleans	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.50000	$0.497553	$0.500000
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 540 (with bond)	1.23180	1.230000	1.211944
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
Fire District	.02296	.022567	.022462
TOTAL	$2.23185	$2.220494	$2.266659

Oxford	2005	2006	2007
City (with redevelopment)	$0.72364	$0.713405	$0.721297
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 540	1.23180	1.230000	1.211944
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
Fire District	.04357	.044335	.045158
TOTAL	$2.47610	$2.458114	$2.510652

Ragan	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.20408	$0.202631	$0.235295
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 0001	1.09945	1.132548	1.151002
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
TOTAL	$1.78062	$1.805553	$1.918550

Republican City	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.25510	$0.300207	$0.292849
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 002 (with bond)	1.21334	1.199531	1.198783
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
Fire District	.01582	.014962	.015292
Cemetery	.00339	.003295	.003117
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 002	$1.99525	$1.988369	$2.042294
School District 506	1.04987	1.074575	1.073278
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 506	$1.83178	$1.863413	$1.916789

Stamford	2005	2006	2007
City	$0.33753	$0.338131	$0.323006
County	.31484	.310904	.322349
School District 002 (with bond)	1.21334	1.199531	1.198783
Community College	.08296	.081660	.080161
Educational Service Unit	.01734	.017284	.023273
Natural Resource District	.05036	.049303	.094908
Agricultural Society	.01159	.011223	.011562
Fire District	.03898	.039949	.038279
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 002	$2.06694	$2.047985	$2.092321
School District 540	1.23180	1.230000	1.211944
TOTAL - SCHOOL DIST. 540	$2.08540	$2.078454	$2.105482

City Sales Tax

The cities of Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Oxford, and Republican City impose a 1 percent city sales tax.

Local Bonded Indebtedness

City	As of Date	Revenue Bonds	General Obligation Bonds
Alma	12//07	$390,000	None
Arapahoe	12/07	None	$425,00
Beaver City	12/07	$485,000	None
Cambridge	12/07	$847,000	None
Edison	12/07	None	None
Hendley	12/07	None	None
Holbrook	12/07	$1,848,410	$425,00
Huntley	12/07	None	None
Orleans	12/07	None	None
Oxford	12/07	$181,625	$35,738

City	As of Date	Revenue Bonds	General Obligation Bonds
Ragan	12/07	None	None
Republican City	12/07	None	None
Stamford	12/07	None	None
Wilsonville	12/07	$188,000	None

School Bond Issues

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Alma Public Schools (As of 8/30/07)					
Construction Bond	1/1/94	$1,675,000	$140,156	3–5.3	3/15/09
Arapahoe Public Schools					
Heating	9/1/05	$500,000	$478,521	3.85	11/15/15
Cambridge Public Schools (As of 12/31/07)					
Building	4/15/99	$2,500,000	$718,255	Variable	8/31/12
Southern Valley Schools (As of 1/3/08)					
Construction	1993	$7,374,150	$2,500,000	3.13	2013
Construction	2007	$6,270,000	$6,270,000	Variable	2029

County Bond Issues

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 12/07	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Harlan County Hospital	6/1/06	$6,000,000	$6,000,000	3.65–4.67	12/1/26

Furnas County Courthouse, Beaver City

Harlan County Courthouse, Alma

Alma City Offices

Arapahoe City Offices

Beaver City City Offices

Cambridge City Offices & Community Building

Holbrook Village Offices

Orleans City Office

Oxford Village Office

Local Government

County Government

Furnas County has eight townships and is governed by three County Commissioners, who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2008. The 2007-08 actual budget is $3,100,000.

Harlan County has 16 townships and is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors, who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2008. The actual county budget for 2007–08 is $1,087,337.

Zoning classifications are:

Agricultural
Agricultural Residential
Agricultural Rural Conservation

Municipal Government

The second-class cities of Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, and Cambridge have a mayor-council form of government. Alma also has a city administrator. The next elections will be held in 2008. Cambridge also has an Economic Development Board with an executive director.

The villages of Edison, Hendley, Holbrook, Orleans, Oxford, Ragan, Republican City, Stamford, and Wilsonville are governed by a Board of Trustees. The next elections will be held in 2008.

Fire Protection

City	Volunteers/ EMTs	Hydrants
Alma	25/16	74
Arapahoe	27 EMTs & fire fighters	66
Beaver City	16/13	42
Cambridge	28	75
Edison	11	14
Holbrook	15/8	25
Huntley	3/2 & 1 first responder	0
Orleans	30/10	33
Oxford	29	60
Ragan	30	1
Republican City	28/8 & 1 paramedic	34
Stamford	36/13	27
Wilsonville	10	9

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
Alma	
1994 Chevy	Equipment suburban
1995 Ford	Ambulance
1988 Chevy	750 gal./ 1,250 gal. per min.
1972 IHC	750 gal./500 gal. per min.
1986 IHC	1,500 gal. tanker
1988 IHC	1,500 gal. tanker
1988 Ford	250 gal. grass rig
1995 Ford	1,000 gal./ 1,250 gal. per min.
1996 Chevy	250 gal. grass rig
1993 Chevy	Rescue truck
HEA Fire District (Holbrook-Edison-Arapahoe)	
Housed in Arapahoe	
1993 Freightliner/ Pierson	1,250 gal. pumper/ carries 750 gal.
1983 Chevrolet	Rural pumper/ carries 750 gal.
1989 Kodiak	3,550 gal. tanker
1992 Ford	250 gal. grass rig
1994 Ford	250 gal. grass rig
1990 Ford	Med tech unit
1991 Ford	Med tech unit
1990	BLS ambulance
1991	BLS ambulance
Housed in Edison	
1988 Ford	Grass rig
1972 International	1,000 gal. tanker

Year/Make	Description
Housed in Holbrook	
1979 Ford	1,000 gal. pumper
1989 Ford	Ambulance
1998 Chevy	350 gal. grass rig
1969 IHC	1,000 gal. tanker/pumper
2003	Hazmat trailer
Beaver City	
1968 GMC	Pumper w/800 gal. tank
2007 Kenworth	1,000 gal. pumper
2000 Ford	Ambulance
1974 IHC	Fire truck
1981 GMC	Water tank & pumper
1978 GMC	Water tank & pumper
1979 Chevy	Equipment vehicle
1971 Chevy	1,500 gal. tank & pumper
1984 GMC	2 1/2 ton with tank
1990 Ford	Ambulance
Cambridge	
1995 Freightliner	1,250 gal. per min.
1995 Chevy 4x4	First responder
1995 Chevy 4x4	Grass rig
2000 GMC	Grass rig
Orleans	
1969 LaFrance	1,500 gal. per min./ 50' aerial ladder
1973 Chevy	Pumper & 1,500 gal. tank
1983 Chevy	3,000 gal. tanker
1989 Ford	150 gal. grass rig
1993 Ford	Ambulance
Republican City	
1996 Ford	Ambulance
1976 Chevy	Grass rig
1980 Ford	Equipment rig
1969 IHC	500 gal. per min. pumper
1990	Grass rig (housed in Huntley)
Stamford	
1972 GMC	2 1/2 ton grass rig
1976 Chevy	Stepside pickup grass rig
1978 Ford	3,000 gal. tanker
1979 Chevy	750 gal. per min. pumper
1986 Chevy	3/4 ton grass rig
1997 Ford	Ambulance

Law Enforcement

Police Department

The communities in Furnas and Harlan Counties contract with the county Sheriff's Department for law enforcement.

Sheriff's Department

The Furnas County Sheriff's Department, located in Beaver City, is staffed by 10 sworn officers and 7 support personnel. The department has Enhanced 911 radio communications with Harlan County.

The Harlan County Sheriff's Department, located in Alma, is staffed by four sworn officers and five support personnel. The department has five patrol cars, radar, intoxilizer, four-cell jail, computer, fax, and UHF/low band radios. The department responds to all E911 calls. Regular patrol by the Sheriff's Department provides protection to existing businesses.

Crime rates per 1,000 population, 2006:

Location	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes
Nebraska	2.9	34.2
U.S.	4.7	34.3

State Patrol

Troop D of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in North Platte, 125 miles northwest of Alma. This office covers a 23-county area. Three troopers, one sergeant, and three carrier enforcement officers are located in Holdrege, 24 miles north of Alma.

Streets

Alma

There are 13.42 miles of streets in Alma, 12 miles of which are hard-surfaced with concrete, asphalt, and bituminous. There are no local load

restrictions. Ninety-five percent of the streets have curbs and 75 percent have sidewalks.

Street maintenance equipment includes a street sweeper, snowplow and loader, bobcat pavement breaker, utility equipment, and tar machine.

Arapahoe

There are 20.5 miles of streets in Arapahoe, all are hard-surfaced with asphalt. City ordinances restrict truck parking on city streets and against jake braking. There is a designated truck route for access to the elevator. Ninety-eight percent of the streets have curbs and 78 percent have sidewalks.

Street maintenance equipment includes a street sweeper, three snowplows, backhoe, utility equipment, dump trucks, and maintainer

Beaver City

Beaver City has 33.13 miles of streets, 98.5 percent are armor coated and paved. Seventy-five percent of the streets have curbs and 65 percent of the streets have sidewalks.

Street maintenance includes street sweeping and snow removal.

Cambridge

Cambridge has 11.21 miles of streets, of which 8.10 miles are hard-surfaced with asphalt and concrete. Local load restrictions do not exist.

Street maintenance includes street sweeping, snow removal, and asphalt overlay.

Edison

Edison has 2.41 miles of streets; 1 mile is hard-surfaced with asphalt and gravel. Local load restrictions do not exist. Twenty percent of the streets have curbs and 80 percent have sidewalks.

Street maintenance includes road grading, snow removal, and mowing.

Hendley

One of the 1.5 miles of streets in Hendley is hard-surfaced with asphalt. Truck restrictions are imposed on certain roads.

Street maintenance equipment includes a tractor and mower.

Holbrook

Holbrook has 3.32 miles of streets; 4 blocks are hard-surfaced with asphalt. There are no local load restrictions. Street maintenance equipment includes a street sweeper and motor grader.

Contemplated changes in the next five years include hard-surfacing all the residential streets. Probable financing for this $500,000 project will be Community Development Block Grants and local funds.

Huntley

There are 2.7 miles of streets in Huntley, 2 miles of which are hard-surfaced with asphalt. There are no local load restrictions. Twenty-five percent of the streets have curbs and 50 percent have sidewalks.

Orleans

Orleans has 24 miles of streets; 7 miles are hard-surfaced with concrete. Thirty percent of the streets have curbs and 70 percent have sidewalks. Street maintenance includes street sweeping and snow removal.

Contemplated changes in the next five years include general maintenance at a cost of $35,000. These improvements will be paid by local tax and state road use funds.

Oxford

There are 9.9 miles of streets in Oxford, 8.4 miles of which are hard-surfaced with concrete or asphalt. Vehicles over three-tons are restricted on bridges in the community. Ninety percent of the streets have curbs and sidewalks.

Street maintenance equipment includes a street sweeper, backhoe, maintainer, snow plow, and jack hammer.

Ragan

There are four miles of streets in Ragan; two miles of which are hard-surfaced with armor coating. There are no local load restrictions.

Republican City

There are four miles of streets in Republication City, one mile of which is hard surfaced with oil and chips. Trucks are not allowed on Truman Avenue. Twenty-five percent of the streets have curbs and 50 percent have sidewalks.

Street maintenance includes snow removal, street cleaning, patching cracks, as well as periodic applicatons of oil and chips.

Stamford

There are no local load restrictions in Stamford.

Wilsonville

There are no local load restrictions in Wilsonville.

Street maintenance includes equipment includes a mower and road grader.

Building and Zoning Regulations

The Uniform Building Codes are enforced within the Alma. Local zoning classifications are:

AGR	Agricultural Residential
R-1	Single Family Dwelling
R-2	Single and Multi Family Dwelling
R-3	Residential Mobile Home/Single & Multi Family
CR	Conservation/Recreation
C1	General Commercial Business
C2	Highway Commercial
I	Industrial

Arapahoe

Local zoning classifications are:

A-1	Agricultural
R-1	Single Family Residential
R-2	Single Family Residential
R-3	Single Family & Duplex Residential
R-4	Multiple Family Residential
R-S	Multiple Family & Mobile Home
C-S	Highway Services
C-B	Central Business
I-1	Light Industrial
I-2	Heavy Industrial
FP	Flood Plain

Beaver City

Local zoning classifications in Beaver City:

Agriculture
Residential
Business
Industrial

Cambridge

Local zoning classifications in Cambridge:

Agriculture
Residential
Commercial
Industrial

Oxford

Oxford has a six-member zoning board. Zoning classifications are:

Agriculture
Residential
Business
Industrial

Planning

Alma

The comprehensive plan for Alma and Harlan County was completed in 2003. Zoning regulations were revised in June 2003.

Arapahoe

Arapahoe has an eight-member Planning Commission. Members are appointed by the mayor and approved by the city council. A Comprehensive and Affordable Housing Plan was completed for the city in 1997.

Beaver City

Beaver City has a nine-member planning commission approved by the mayor and council

members. The comprehensive plan for Beaver City was updated in 2007 by the Beaver City Planning Commission

Cambridge

Cambridge has a five-member planning commission. Each member serves a three-year term. Hanna:Keelan Associates completed a 10-year comprehensive plan for Cambridge in 1999.

Oxford

The comprehensive plan for Oxford was completed in 1998 by Hanna:Keelan Associates of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Harlan County Senior Center in Alma

Senior Center in Arapahoe

Escher Hall Senior Center, in Beaver City

Cambridge Senior Center

Senior Center in Oxford

Alma Fire Department

Arapahoe Fire Department

Beaver City Fire Department

Cambridge Fire Department

Edison Fire Department

Holbrook Fire Department & EMS

Orleans Fire & Rescue

Oxford Fire Department

Ragan Fire Department

Republican City Fire & Rescue

Johnson Community Center in Alma

Ella Missing Community Center in Arapahoe

Beaver City Community Center

Edison Community Center

Hendley Community Center

Holbrook Community Center

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Type of School	Location	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Kindergarten	Alma	2	30	1:15	1:3
Elementary (1–6)	Alma	7	152	1:20	1:3
Jr./Sr. High School (7–12)	Alma	17	162	1:10	1:3
Elementary (K–12)	Arapahoe	N/A	320	1:13	N/A
Southern Valley (K-12)	Rural	50	500	1:10	1:2
Elementary (K–7)	Cambridge	9	165	1:13	1:3
Middle/High School	Cambridge	16	153	1:10	1:3

Alma

Harlan County School District No. 2 covers 180.5 square miles and has a 2006–07 actual valuation of $141,537,857 and an actual valuation per student of $442,305. This Class 3, Type K–12 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and North Central Association.

The 2006–07 school operating budget was $3,118,500 with an average cost per pupil of $9,103.

The elementary school has a maximum capacity of 225. The junior/senior high school, built in 1939 with an addition in 1990, has a maximum capacity of 275.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
8th Grade Achievement Test	100	64%tile
ACT	70	21

It is estimated that 98 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 65 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, and 20 percent of the seniors enter the job market or military after graduation.

Vocational courses offered in the high school include business, industrial arts, and family and consumer science. Adult education programs are available in the high school in cooperation with the Central Community College.

Facilities and training are available in the public school system for the handicapped students.

Arapahoe Holbrook Public School

The Arapahoe Holbrook Public School, District 18–0033, covers 368 square miles in Furnas, Gosper, and Frontier Counties. The district and has a 2007-08 actual valuation of $154,209,551. This Class 3, Type 3 K–12 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and the North Central Association.

The 2006–07 school budget is $3,906,273. The 2006–07 cost per pupil was $9,720.

The Arapahoe Holbrook Public School District 18–0033 was consolidated in 1993 with a vote of the patrons. The original building was built in 1923; gymnasium, locker rooms, industrial technology, art, and vocal rooms were added in 1956; the elementary wing was completed in 1961; a multi-purpose room/cafeteria, kitchen, wrestling room, and two additional locker rooms were completed in 1976, instrumental music room in 1992, and a six–stall bus barn was built in 1996. An eight-lane, all-weather track was installed northeast of the school building in 1984. The school is handicapped accessible.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
8th Grade Iowa Test of Basic Skills	100	63%tile
ACT	46	23.4

Adult education programs are available in the high school in cooperation with Central Community College.

Cambridge

Cambridge Public School District 21 covers 275 square miles in Furnas, Frontier, Gosper, and Red Willow Counties. The district has a 2007–08 assessed valuation of $117,400,001. The school is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and the North Central Association.

The 2006–07 school operating expenses totaled $5,477,881, with an average cost of $10,700 per student.

The elementary school building was constructed in 1967 and the high school building was built in 1926 with additions in 1952, 1966, 1972, 1980, and 1992.

Distance learning is available in the Cambridge Public Schools. Vocational courses offered in the high school include college level English and college psychology. Adult education programs are available in the high school in cooperation with Central Community College.

Two special education teachers and two Title I reading and mathematics teachers employed by the school district assist handicapped students. Birth-to-five special education services are contracted with Educational Service Unit 11 (ESU). The district also contracts for services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, school psychologist, and other support staff through ESU 11 and private service providers.

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Grade Stanford Achievement Test	100	66%tile
ACT	73	21.8

It is estimated that 99 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 95 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, and 5 percent of the seniors enter the job market or the military upon graduation.

Southern Valley Schools

Southern Valley Schools is a consolidated school district. In 1994 the junior and senior high school consolidated and a new facility was built 10 miles south of Oxford, half way between Beaver City and Orleans. In 2007 a bond was passed for the construction of a new elementary school building to be built at the same location. The elementary school opens in the 2008–2009 school year. The school system consists of six communities—Beaver City, Edison, Hendley, Orleans, Oxford, and Stamford.

Southern Valley School District 33-540 in Furnas and Harlan Counties covers 587 square miles and has a 2007-08 actual valuation of $258,165,003. This Class 3, type K–12 district is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education.

School operating expenses in 2006–07 totaled $5,878,015, with an average cost per pupil of $12,290.

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
8th Grade Terra Nova	100	89%tile
ACT	90	19.90

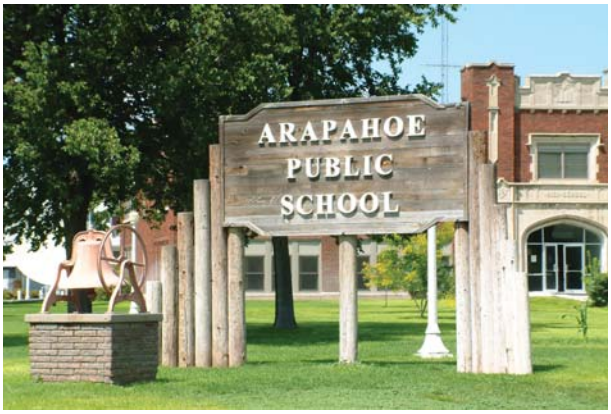
A diverse curriculum is offered with advanced courses in math, science, English, industrial technology, art, and business. The Title I program is offered to all elementary students. Adult education programs are available in the high school in cooperation with Central Community College.

It is estimated that 98 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 95 percent of the graduating senior pursue a college degree, and 5 percent enter the job market or military immediately upon graduation.

Special Schools

The New View School, located in Oxford, provides elementary teaching for developmentally disabled students as well as the “Head Start” program for children in Oxford and surrounding areas.

Harlan County School District & Playground in Alma



Arapahoe/Holbrook School & Playground in Arapahoe

Cambridge Elementary School

Cambridge High School

Southern Valley Schools, Rural Beaver City/Orleans/Oxford/Stamford

New View School in Oxford

Mid-Nebraska Individual Services provides jobs for the developmentally disabled and operates the recycling center in Oxford.

Educational Service Unit

Educational Service Unit 11, headquartered in Holdrege, serves seven counties including Furnas and Harlan Counties. Services available include computer instruction, speech therapy, educational film/video library, staff development programs, special education programs, technology programs, gifted education programs, preschool programs, and school nurse.

Community College

Furnas and Harlan Counties are a part of the **Central Community College (www.cccneb.edu)** 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 2006–07 academic year, 25,400 students were enrolled in Central Community College courses.

Central Community College operates Learning Centers in Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, and Oxford. Courses are taught on an individual basis. Materials include books, cassette tapes, slides, films, and various types of study packets. A Learning Center Manager helps students as they work through courses that pertain to a special degree with academic transfer and serves as a contact with the faculty.

Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programs: Central Community College offers 33 career and technical education programs, including more than 700 vocational technical and academic transfer college credit courses. Classes are offered by multiple delivery methods, including traditional lecture/lab class settings. Some of the alternative delivery methods used include:

—**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 delivering various training programs.

Central Community College offers 33 career and technical education programs with a focus on degree, diploma, and certificate programs requiring two years or less to complete. The college also offers an academic transfer program for students who want to complete the first two years of a bachelors degree before transferring to a four-year college or university. In addition, the college offers classes in communities throughout its 25-county service area, online learning, and training and development for businesses, industries, and other organizations.

Central Community College
2006–07 Academic Year
(Note: Numbers can be duplicated between award levels)

Program	Degree	Diploma	Certificate
Academic Transfer	104	NA	NA
Agriculture	5	5	3
Associate Degree in Nursing	58	NA	NA
Auto Body Technology	6	3	97
Automotive Technology	6	6	14
Business Administration/Accounting	62	31	51
Commercial Art	5	5	11
Commercial Horticulture	8	6	17
Construction Technology	17	18	24
Criminal Justice	4	0	0
Dental Assisting	14	11	NA
Dental Hygiene	14	NA	NA
Diesel Technology	6	5	0
Drafting	24	12	23
Electrical Technology	16	NA	2
Electronics Technology	14	7	8
Early Childhood Education	27	11	23
Health Information Management Services	9	27	11
Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	6	3	0
Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts	8	NA	2
Human Services	23	10	NA
Industrial Technology	8	6	6
Information Technology	8	17	23
Machine Shop Technology	2	3	14
Media Arts	9	12	30
Medical Assisting	16	NA	14
Medical Technology	12	NA	NA
Office Technology	28	47	46
Paralegal	4	4	5
Parts Sales & Management	3	3	3
Practical Nursing	NA	63	NA
Quality Control	2	NA	9
Welding Technology	6	6	12

Colleges and Universities

The **University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK), www.unk.edu**, is a student-centered regional hub of intellectual, cultural, and artistic excellence that has been a prominent part of Nebraska's higher education landscape for more than a century. As one of four campuses of the University of Nebraska, UNK offers access to all the opportunities of a major public university.

UNK has a wide variety of programs that lead to exciting careers, nationally-renowned faculty, and a rich and diverse campus life. But what truly distinguishes UNK is its commitment to providing an outstanding education in a small and personal setting. It is a university that quickly transforms 6,500 students from across the globe into a close-knit, supportive community of friends.

Founded in 1903 by the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska State Normal School began classes in September 1905. In 1921, reflecting the rapid growth in enrollments and need for teachers, the name was changed to the Nebraska State Teacher College at Kearney. Then, in 1963, it became Kearney State College after comprehensive changes were made to Nebraska's college system. On July 1, 1991, the campus joined the University of Nebraska systems and became the University of Nebraska at Kearney, beginning a new era.

Today, 6,478 undergraduate and 1,006 graduate students are enrolled in UNK's four colleges—Business and Technology, Education, Fine Arts and Humanities, and Natural and Social Sciences.

Students select from among 170 undergraduate degree options, 25 pre-professional programs, and 34 graduate degree programs. Students from all of Nebraska's 93 counties, 36 states, and 47 foreign countries are attracted to UNK's record of academic achievement. UNK is the only campus in Nebraska to participate in the National Student Exchange that allows students to attend one of 175 other universities or colleges across the continent for a semester or a year, often at UNK tuition rates. On-campus housing is available in eight traditional-style residence halls, two suite-style residence halls, two Greek complexes, and one university apartment complex.

Offering more than 160 student organizations, enriching music and performing arts programs, lively intramurals program, and an intercollegiate athletics program, UNK creates a diverse and enriching environment.

With a student-to-faculty ratio of 16:1, UNK's students benefit from more than 350 faculty members widely recognized for excellence in both scholarship and teaching. Moreover, in the last decade, the University of Nebraska at Kearney's 235-acre campus has undergone remarkable transformation, as investments totaling more than $30 million have renovated, expanded, or refurbished every academic building, residence hall, the Nebraskan Student Union, and Foster Field. In 2006 a $20 million project to construct four suite-style residence halls began. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2008.

Enrollment & Degrees Conferred by College
2006–2007 Academic Year

		Degrees	
College	**Enrollment**	**Baccalaureate**	**Masters/Specialist**
Business & Techology	379	305	16
Education	2,778	270	177
Fine Arts & Humanities	230	192	7
Natural & Social Sciences	1,304	282	20
Total	4,691	1,049	220

Other Schools

Colleges, universities, and community colleges frequently attended by high school graduates in Furnas and Harlan Counties include:

Community/ College or University	Mileage from Oxford
McCook	56
Mid-Plains Community College	
Kearney	58
University of Nebraska at Kearney	
Hastings	77
Hastings College	
Central Community College, Hastings Campus	
Curtis	96
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture	
North Platte	121
Mid-Plains Community College	
Milford	168
Southeast Community College, Milford Campus	
Seward	168
Concordia University	
Crete	183
Doane College	
Lincoln	185
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
Wesleyan University	
Southeast Community College, Lincoln Campus	
Fremont	232
Midland College	
Omaha	239
University of Nebraska at Omaha	
Chadron	368
Chadron State College	

CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Alma	
Catholic	1
Christian (Disciples of Christ)	1
Evangelical Free	1
Free Methodist	1
Lutheran, Evangelical Church of America	1
Lutheran, Wisconsin Synod	1
United Methodist	1
Word Teaching Center	1
Arapahoe	
Church of Christ/Christian	1
Catholic	1
Episcopal	1
Evangelical Free	1
Lutheran, Missouri Synod	1
United Methodist	1
Beaver City	
Brethren	1
Evangelical Wesleyan	1
Free Methodist	1
First Christian	1
Non Denominational	1
Presbyterian, USPCA	1
Seventh Day Adventist	1
United Methodist	1
Cambridge	
Baptist	1
Catholic	1
Congregational	1
Lutheran	1
Methodist	1
Ministerial Fellowship	1
Edison	
Christian	1
Holbrook	
Baptist	1
Cornerstone Family Church	1
Huntley	
United Methodist	1

Harlan County Health System in Alma

Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge

Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Part of Tri Valley Health System

Heartland Family Medicine P.C. in Alma

Tri Valley Health Care Clinic in Arapahoe

Tri Valley Health Care Clinic in Cambridge

Tri Valley Physical Therapy in Arapahoe

Family Medical Specialties/Southwest Nebraska Physical Therapy in Oxford

Denomination	Number of Churches
Orleans	
Baptist	1
Catholic	1
Evangelical Free	1
New Wine Fellowship	1
Presbyterian	1
Oxford	
Baptist	1
Catholic	1
Evangelical Free	1
Lutheran	1
Spirit of the Rock	1
Republican City	
Lutheran, Missouri Synod	1
Methodist	1
Stamford	
Lutheran, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	1
Wilsonville	
Baptist/Christian	1
Methodist	1

Health Care

Hospital

Harlan County Health System is a 25-bed critical access hospital in Alma. Opened in 1969, the facility completed a major renovation and expansion in spring 2008. Harlan County Health System was designated as a Basic Trauma Center by the state of Nebraska in 2006 and offers a full range of emergency services 24 hours a day. Services available include inpatient acute hospitalization, post-acute skilled inpatient care, and outpatient care. Diagnostic services available include a full service laboratory, x-ray, CT scan, diagnostic ultrasound, mammography, and vascular ultrasound, EKG, Holter monitoring, EEG, and MRI. Rehabilitation services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, are available for inpatients and outpatients. Recognized as one of the most progressive small hospitals in rural Nebraska, Harlan County Health System provides very high quality health services close to home for the residents of Alma, Harlan County, and the surrounding area

Tri Valley Health System, based from the hospital located in Cambridge, is one of the most comprehensive health systems in rural American today. Their mission is to be the health care provider of choice and a lifelong health resource for southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas. The continuum of care offered by Tri Valley Health System has been nationally recognized in *The Wall Street Journal* as a model on integration of services.

Tri Valley Health System is comprised of Cambridge Memorial Hospital, three satellite medical clinics, home medical supplies and care products, home health and hospice care, Heritage Plaza for retirement living, an assisted living facility, and Tri Valley Medical Foundation.

The **Cambridge Memorial Hospital** is a licensed, critical access, 15-bed hospital. It is adjoined with the Cambridge Manor, a licensed, 36-bed, long-term care nursing facility.

Clinics

Heartland Family Medicine P.C. in Alma provides primary care services with one physician and a physician assistant. Visiting specialists in cardiology and vascular disease, ophthalmology, podiatry, and urology are available by appointment.

Family Medical Specialties operates a clinic five days a week in Oxford. Two physician assistants and two licensed practical nurses are on staff. Mark's Pharmacy is open four days each week with a pharmacist on duty.

Tri Valley Health System operates satellite medical clinics in Arapahoe, Cambridge, and Indianola and two physical therapy clinics.

Southwest Nebraska Physical Therapy PC provides physical therapy in various communities across southwest Nebraska. One clinic is located in Oxford.

Rescue Squad

City	# EMTs	# of Ambulances
Alma	16	2
Arapahoe	27	2
Beaver City	13	2
Cambridge	17	2
Holbrook	8	1
Orleans	10	1
Oxford	11	2
Republican City	8*	1
Stamford	13	1

* Also one paramedic

Nursing Homes

Good Samaritan Society - C.A. Mues was established in Arapahoe in 1961 with major renovations in 2003. The facility has a capacity of 30 private, skilled nursing beds. Physical, occupational, and speech therapies are available in this Medicare-certified facility.

Skilled nursing services are provided 24 hours a day to residents whose conditions are complex. Daily nursing supervision is provided to residents needing health services and restorative or maintenance assistance.

The 2003 construction included Good Samaritan Society–Samaritan Suites and Good Samaritan Society–Prairie Pines, offering both assisted living and senior living apartments.

The **Cambridge Manor**, a 36-bed licensed nursing home, provides a temporary or permanent home for individuals who require supervised living. The scope of care ranges from minimal assistance to rehabilitation after serious illness or surgery, to total care including bathing, dressing, feeding, and personal attention. The philosophy that "aging is a process, not an illness" helps each resident attain their highest level of achievement. The manor strives to meet the emotional, spiritual, social, and physical needs of each resident in an atmosphere of love and support. The Manor is attached to the hospital, providing easy access to services. A large common room is used for meals, social group functions, and recreational and educational daily activities.

The **Colonial Villa Good Samaritan Center**, built in Alma in 1970, is a 56-bed facility licensed by the state of Nebraska and approved by Medicare/Medicaid. The center provides 24-hour nursing care in an "at home" atmosphere. Other services include housekeeping, laundry, social services, dietary needs, day care, rehabilitation, both long- and short-term stays, and a variety of activities. Meals-on-wheels are also provided five days a week.

Beaver City Manor in Beaver City consists of a 28-licensed bed Medicare Certified skilled nursing facility and a 14-licensed bed Medicaid Waiver Certified assisted living facility. The manor also provides 4 independent living apartments known as the Escher Apartments.

Beaver City Manor was built in 1960 and opened the attached assisted living facility in 1999. Contracted services include inhouse therapy care (physical, occupational and speech), podiatry care, and hospice care. The manor's many activities include Bible study, community coffee, bingo, and shopping trips.

Library

The **Hoesch Memorial Public Library** in Alma, built in 1978, contains 12,000 items and has an average annual circulation of 20,000. Bookmobile service is available monthly by the Public Library System in Holdrege. Additional materials and services include photocopier, Polaroid cameras, cake pans, public computers, Internet access with broadband connections, and a meeting room.

Arapahoe Public Library is accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission and contains 20,000 titles and has an annual circulation of 34,000. The collection contains adult fiction and nonfiction, audio books, video and DVDs, cake pans, microfilm of the Arapahoe Mirror, periodicals, three area newspapers, and an extensive children's section of Accelerated Reader books, plus other juvenile fiction and nonfiction titles. The library is an active participant in Inter-Library Loan and offers wireless Internet service and four public-use computers. Activities include a monthly book club, monthly visits by students in Grades 4–8, and an eight-week summer reading

Colonial Villa Good Samaritan Center in Alma

Good Samaritan Society - C.A. Mues in Arapahoe

Beaver City Manor

Cambridge Manor

Hoesch Memorial Public Library
in Alma

Arapahoe Public Library

Beaver City Library

Butler Memorial Library
in Cambridge

C. B. Preston Memorial Library
in Orleans

Oxford Public Library

Wilsonville Library

program as well as special programs throughout the year.

The Beaver City Library houses 10,000 books, 150 DVDs, 470 videos, 50 cake pans, which are available to loan out free of charge. A genealogy room and Internet services are available. Activities include a monthly preschool children's story time during the school year and six-week summer reading program for school-age children.

Butler Memorial Library in Cambridge was dedicated in 1950, a gift of Senator Hugh Butler and Frank and Maudlee Butler. An addition and extensive remodeling were completed in 2000. The library is certified by the Nebraska Library Commission, offers interlibrary loans, and is a participating member of Nebraska Card. In 2005 the library became a member of the national network of cooperating collection sites for the Foundation Center. This service collects, organizes, and communicates information on United States philanthropy. Free access to this collection allows people and organizations to identify private foundations for grant making. The library contains 22,890 volumes and has an annual circulation of 16,493. Other services offered at the library include books for children and adults, fiction, nonfiction, music, audio, DVD and VHS movies, reference and interloan service, computers, Internet service, LP records and music CDs, cake pans, genealogy research, book discussion group, newspapers, magazines, and microfiche. Activities include a children's storyhour.

The **C.B. Preston Memorial Library** in Orleans contains 11,000 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 5,523. Additional materials and services include two Internet computers, free library cards, videos, fax, and interlibrary loan. Activities include story hour, summer reading program, and an after school program.

The **Oxford Public Library**, built in 1976, contains 12,000 volumes and has an average circulation of 9,000. Other services and materials available include computers with Internet access, photocopier, video tapes, and books on tape. A buried time capsule containing memorabilia of Oxford's history will be opened on July 4, 2076.

Wilsonville Library is open two days each week. The library has a circulation of 600 books annually. The library has numerous videos, DVDs, and cake pans for checkout. Approximately 50 large print books are received through interlibrary loan every three months. Activities include a story hour. A meeting rooms is available to the public.

Recreation

Park facilities in Furnas and Harlan Counties by community:

Alma	One park covering 8 acres. Facilities include playground, picnic tables, swimming pool, and horseshoe pits. Playground at school with tennis court and jogging track
Arapahoe	City park (4.8 acres) with shelter and stage area, baseball, golf, softball, swimming, and an outdoor classroom affiliated with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Beaver City	Two parks with baseball, softball, swimming, skateboard, pool, and RV sites
Cambridge	Swimming pool with slides, high dive, and swim team lanes; 2 ball diamonds; tennis/ basketball court; skate-park; sand-filled playground oasis; 2 picnic shelters; rest rooms; showers; 11 RV camping spaces; 1.2-mile trail; artistic sculptures; golf; Nebraska Statewide Arboretum affiliated site; historic formal flower garden; and the historic and originally furnished 1885 Sunny Hillside Country Schoolhouse
Edison	One-fourth city block with picnic tables, playground equipment, and basketball court
Holbrook	Two parks covering three acres with playground equipment, shelter, ball field, rest rooms, and RV camping sites

Orleans	Two parks covering 2.5 acres with tennis and basketball courts, swimming pool, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, picnic tables and grills, baseball field and bleachers, and an RV park with full hookups
Oxford	Two parks in Oxford offer picnic shelters, disc golf course, golf, playground equipment, rest rooms, fishing pond, and 20 RV parking sites with full hookups
Stamford	One park with playground equipment
Wilsonville	Park and rodeo grounds

Area Facilities:

Baseball/ Softball	—	Three fields in Alma, two in Arapahoe, one in Beaver City, two in Cambridge, one in Oxford
Basketball	—	Hard-surfaced and lighted courts in Alma, Cambridge, and Oxford, one court in each Beaver City and Stamford
Boating	—	Excellent boating facility at Harlan County Reservoir and Medicine Creek State Recreation Area
Bowling	—	Bowling alley with 6 lanes in Alma and 3 lanes in Cambridge
Campgrounds	—	Harlan County Reservoir and Medicine Creek State Recreation Area, RV parking spaces in Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Holbrook, Orleans, Oxford, Republican City
Fishing	—	Excellent fishing at Harlan County Reservoir and Medicine Creek State Recreation Area
Golf Courses	—	An 18-hole public championship layout course with clubhouse in Cambridge; 9-hole courses with clubhouses in Alma, Arapahoe, and Oxford
Hiking/Biking Trails	—	Pheasant Ridge Trail is a 3-mile trail along the shores of Harlan County Reservoir; 1.2 miles of trails in Cambridge, 1/2-mile trail in Oxford
Hunting	—	Excellent hunting for ducks, geese, pheasant, quail, deer, turkey, coyotes, rabbit, dove, and raccoon
Sand Volleyball	—	Orleans
Shooting Range	—	Arapahoe and Oxford
Skate Park	—	Skate park in Beaver City; ice skating (weather permitting) on ponds in Arapahoe and Orleans
Swimming	—	Municipal pools in Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, Orleans, and Oxford; swimming at Harlan County Reservoir and Medicine Creek State Recreation Area
Tennis	—	Courts in Alma, Arapahoe, Beaver City, Cambridge, and Oxford
Theaters	—	Movie theatres in Alma, Arapahoe and Oxford; live community theater seating 200 in Republican City

Annual Events:

Alma

July	Fourth of July celebration, including a 5K and 10K road race, parade and Art in the Park

July/Aug.	Harlan County Days
November	Holiday Preview

Arapahoe

March	Easter Egg Hunt
June	Bargains on Byways
July	Prairie Pioneer Day
August	Communitywide Garage Sales
October	Halloween Costume Parade
	Holiday Highlights Craft & Gift Show
November	Christmas Kick-off

Beaver City

May	Activities in the Park and alumni banquet
July	Furnas County Fair
September	Eager Beaver Days
November	Breakfast with Santa

Cambridge

June	Medicine Creek Days
July	Citywide garage sale
August	Old Fashioned Saturday Night

Holbrook

July	Holbrook Days with parade, road rally, karaoke, volleyball, kids games, street dance, livestock show, tractor pull, hamburger feed, musical shows

Huntley

Oct.-Jan.	Hunting project

Orleans

March	4-H Family Fun Night, Easter Egg Hunt
April	Clean-up Days, Cornhusker Motocross
June	Bargains on Byways, Alumni Banquet
July	4-H Bicycle Rodeo, County Horse Show, 4-H Harlan County Jr. Fair, Bog Hog Wrestling Tournament
August	Jeep Jamboree
September	Cornhusker Motocross, fall clean-up days
October	Garage Sales, AppleFest, Car Show
November	4-H Harlan County Achievement Banquet
December	Country Christmas

Oxford

Spring	Easter Egg Hunt
May	Clean-up day
June	Bargains on Byways, Turkey Days
July	Pork in the Park
October	Trick or Treat & hotdog roast
November	Turkey & ham giveaways, Hunter's Feed, Christmas Cantata
December	Christmas Cantata, Lighting contest and activities

Republican City

Jan.-Dec.	Fishing tournaments

Stamford

September	Pork Days with parade, arts & crafts, street games, free pork barbecue & entertainment
October	Costume contest & wiener roast
December	Arrival of Santa Claus with soup feed and bag of goodies delivered by Santa Claus

Wilsonville

June	Rodeo

Harlan County Senior Center in Alma is the focal point for noon meals (special diets provided), chore services, transportation (wheelchair lift available), legal service, information and

referral, blood pressure clinic, income tax services, educational programs, employment 55+ program, contract with Social Services, green thumb program, advocate for legislative issues, silver-haired legislator, shopping assistance, nursing staff to do "in-home" assignments, and recreational activities. The center also supplies small equipment for the handicapped.

Other Attractions

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine at the St. Germanus Catholic Church in Arapahoe was built in 1958 by Fr. Henry Denis, a former Polish Army Chaplain in World War II. Rocks used at the base of the statue and around shrubbery came from all but four of the 50 states as well as Canada and many European countries.

Harlan County Reservoir, completed in 1952 near Alma, has a capacity for 850,000 acre-feet of water. At normal pool level, the lake expands about 12 miles upstream and has a shoreline of 75 miles. The lake controls a drainage area of 7,169 square miles. There are 8 developed public use areas totaling about 1,450 acres. Facilities consist of access and interior roads, parking, camping spaces, picnic areas, shelters, boat-launching ramps, beaches, portable water supply, and rest rooms. Hunting, fishing, and all water sports are available.

Medicine Creek State Recreation Area (SRA) features the 2,000-acre Harry Strunk Lake and more than 6,000 acres of dry land. Visitors can enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, and camping. The SRA features 77 hard-surfaced camping pads and 34 electrical hookups, showers, rest rooms, dump stations, fresh-water wells, barbecue grills, and sheltered picnic areas, and out-of-the-way campsites surrounding the lake. Other sites at Medicine Creek include the 1875 Allen Log Home, a landmark of early pioneer dwellings, and the Red Smoke Archeological Sites, a Paleo-Indian site. Stargazers can enjoy the Lime Creek Observatory, the first and only observatory in Nebraska to discover new solar objects.

The **Cambridge Museum** showcases natural history exhibits including geological collections of rocks and minerals, fossils of prehistoric plants and animals, and mounted birds and animals. Exhibits of pioneer home settings and businesses recreate the early lifestyle of Cambridge. Pioneer weaponry, agricultural tools, livestock memorabilia, and Native American artifacts are also features. A "kids care" features discoveries of local youths. The museum's art gallery hosts temporary art exhibits and a collection of paintings from local artists. Collections of old photographs, postcards, newspapers, books, and coin and stamp collections are also featured.

Other area attractions include:

- 1800's log cabin in Holbrook
- School converted into business centers in Holbrook (Grow Gallery)
- 4-H Center headquarters in Orleans
- Historical Catholic Church in Orleans
- Formal garden in Cambridge
- Outdoor classroom in Arapahoe

Cultural Activities

The Harlan County Arts Council, with funding from the Nebraska Arts Council, brings a wide variety of entertainment to the community. The Arts Council presents four to five programs in a variety of art disciplines each year. The Arts Council participates with the Alma Chamber of Commerce in the promotion of Alma's annual Fourth of July celebration. The Arts Council organizes an event known as "Art in the Park" in which 25–30 crafters and fine artists display their art under the trees of the City Park. Other events hosted by the Arts Council in conjunction with "Art in the Park" include children's activities featuring a roving clown and musical entertainment.

The **Medicine Creek Arts** was formed in 2006 to promote and cultivate creativity in the Cambridge area. Two concerts on the Creek feature live Chamber music and unique culinary experiences.

The 1909 **Wm. H. Faling Living History Tour Home** in Cambridge is on the National Register of Historic Places for its masterful neoclassic architecture and original details. The home hosts historical, cultural, and special occasion events, provides living history tours, and serves as the Cambridge Bed and Breakfast.

Alma City Park Playground

Alma Swimming Pool

Pheasant Ridge Trail in Alma

Alma Country Club & Golf Course

Arapahoe City Park

Arapahoe Plunge

Gazebo Outdoor Classroom in Arapahoe

Beaver City Park

Beaver City Swimming Pool

Beaver City Ball Fields

McKinley Park in Cambridge

Walking Trail in Cambridge

Cambridge Swimming Pool

Cross Creek Golf Course in Cambridge

Cross Creek Golf Course in Cambridge

American Legion Baseball Field in Cambridge

Edison Park

Hendley Park

Holbrook Park

Holbrook Walking Trail

Orleans Swimming Pool

Harlan County Museum in Orleans

Orleans R.V. Park

George Mitchell Park in Oxford

Oxford Swimming Pool

Oxford Disc Golf in George Mitchell Park

Cardinal Country Club in Oxford

Wilsonville Park

Wilsonville Rodeo Grounds

The Historical Society of Furnas-Gosper Counties was started in 1996. In 1998 the new historical society was approached to oversee the Furnas County Historical Museum. A grand opening was held on July 4th, 1998, and the name was changed to the **Furnas-Gosper Museum**. Three floors and a basement contain memorabilia from the two counties, including original beer steins from the Einstein family. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from May through October and by appointment.

The **Harlan County Museum** is located in Orleans.

The **Theatre of the American West** in Republican City provides a live theatre. In 2007 there were eight performances.

The **Arapahoe Area Foundation** established a war memorial in 2006. The "Freedom Wall" is 10 feet high and 22 feet long. Bricks were sold to memorialize individuals that served in the armed forces. The veterans; names, branch of service, and the conflict or dates of service were engraved on the bricks.

HOUSING

New Construction

The cost of new home construction in Furnas and Harlan Counties averages $82 per square foot.

Housing Market in Furnas County
(as of 12/07)**:**

Number of Homes on the Market	
Single Family -	48
Selling Prices (New and Existing)	
Single Family Home	
2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	$61,000–$170,000
1,600 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	$44,000–$150,000
1,000 sq. ft.	$38,000–$60,000
Number of Single Family Homes for Sale by Price (New and Existing)	
Less than $100,000	36
$100,001–$150,000	9
$150,001–$200,000	3
Rentals	
Apartment - 2 bedroom	$375
Apartment Vacancy Rate	<5%%

Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing

The Beaver City Housing Authority has 24-low-cost/retirement units.

Valley Vue in Orleans has eight low-cost units with four subsidized housing facilities. These facilities were financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Good Samaritan Society–Prairie Pines Retirement Center in Arapahoe is owned by C.A. Mues Good Samaritan. Opened in 1996 with 16 retirement units, this senior living community completes the circle of care provided by Good Samaritan. Residents have the choice of six different apartment styles including one- or two-bedroom units. Each unit comes complete with bath, bedroom, living room, patio area, and fully furnished kitchen. Two meals are provided daily and activities are planned. Some apartments are available with laundry hookups, and community coin-operated washers and dryers are available for all. Service options such as meals, housekeeping, laundry, transportation, monthly activities, guest rooms, and accommodations for family gatherings are available.

Sunshine Village, built in Arapahoe in 1977, has 32 units. The project was financed by the Farmers Home Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Facilities include a community room, laundry, and garden area. A handibus is available for transportation.

Heritage Plaza in Cambridge is a 4-winged, 25-unit home for the active, independent retiree. This safe and secure lifestyle with gracious common areas and beautiful grounds comes without the responsibilities of home ownership. Spacious apartments are designed with one or two bedrooms, a living area with a kitchenette, and entrances to the interior of the facility and an outdoor terrace.

Three full meals are served daily in the dining hall with fireplace, grand piano, encircled with lounge areas, and views from large south exposures. A large private dining or conference room is available. Other common areas include two large multi-purpose rooms for recreation, crafts, conversation, and a library with computers and Internet service. A salon tends to the beauty needs and a chapel for spiritual time completes the package.

Garages and plenty of convenient parking are available. Transportation services are easy and affordable. Housekeeping and linen/laundry services are available as well as convenient coin-operated laundry areas with ironing stations.

Park Side Manor, another living choice in Cambridge, is a 20-unit independent living unit of the Park Side Manor, constructed in 1967. A common community building in the center contains a multi-purpose room, administrative office, and laundry room. This facility is managed by the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Southridge Apartments were constructed in Cambridge to service low- to moderate-income residents. The 16 two- or three-bedroom, townhouse-style homes with garages are situated on a full city block with river views and a large central greenspace. This facility is managed by the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Parkview Manor in Alma, built in 1963, has 20 units for low-income families. Facilities include a community room, laundry, and office.

Pleasant Heights in Oxford was constructed in 1967 and consists of 20 one-bedroom units. The project was financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Amenities include utilities, laundry, lawn care, and snow removal. The complex has a community room for tenants.

The **Alma Housing Authority** built a 10-unit retirement facility in 1977. Facilities include a community room, laundry, and office.

Assisted and Independent Living

Tri-Valley Assisted Living with 20 units was built in Cambridge in 2001. The facility provides a nurturing environment that encourages independence, while offering a full range of supportive health services, a wide array of activities, and beautifully decorated common area to stimulate mind, body, and spirit.

Hillcrest Terrance Assisted Living with 12 units was built in 2001 in Alma. Services include 24-hour staff, daily living assistance, medication reminders, three meals per day, scheduled transportation, social, recreation, religious and physical activities, laundry, housekeeping, trash removal, utilities, basic cable, RV, and off-street parking.

Beaver City Assisted Living, built in 2003 as an addition to Beaver City Manor, has 14 Medicaid waiver certified units.

Escher Apartments in Beaver City consists of four independent living apartments operated by Beaver City Manor.

Good Samaritan Society–Samaritan Suites in Arapahoe was built in 2003 as a wing to the Good Samaritan Society–C.A. Mues nursing home. The facility has a capacity for 13 residents. Services are individualized to meet the specific needs of each resident. Basic services include: 24-hour staff, administration of medication, scheduled transportation; three meals per day plus snacks; weekly housekeeping and linen laundry; planned social, recreational, and religious activities; paid utilities (except phone and cable); maintenance of grounds, building, and appliances.

Financial

Financial entities in Furnas and Harlan Counties:

Alma

Community Bank

First State Bank

Arapahoe

First Central Bank

Beaver City

First State Bank

Cambridge
First Central Bank
First National Bank
Medicine Creek Bank
Edison
First Central Bank
Holbrook
First State Bank

Orleans
Republican Valley Bank
Oxford
South Central State Bank
Republican City
Commercial State Bank
Stamford
Community Bank

Parrott Theater in Alma

Crystal Theatre in Arapahoe

Granda Theater in Oxford

Theatre of the American West in Republican City

Cambridge Museum

Sunny Hillside School at Cambridge Museum

Log Cabin at Holbrook

Boys & Girls Scout House in Alma

Community Services

Professional

Attorneys	14
Auctioneers	6
Certified Public Accountants	6
Chiropractors	2
Dentists	6
Medical Doctors (residing in community)	
—general practitioners	3
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff)	
—anesthesiologists	6
—cardiologists	11
—general surgeons	3
—neurologists	2
—ophthalmologists	1
—orthopedic surgeons	1
—pathologists	10
—pulmonary	2
—radiologists	8
—urologists	1
—vascular surgeons	2
Nurse Anesthetists	9
Nurse Practitioners	12
Nurse Licensed Practical	4
Nurses, Registered	38
Pharmacists	1
Physician's Assistants	2
Veterinarians	5

Business and Commercial

Abstracts & Title Insurance Co	2
Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies	6
Advertising Agencies	2
Agricultural Implement Dealers	2
Antique Shops	11
Apparel Stores—children's	2
—combination	5
—men's	1
—western	1
—women's	4
Appliance Stores	5
Auto Body Repair	7
Auto Repair & Service	25
Auto Supply Parts	5
Automobile Dealers	8
Automobile Renting & Leasing	1
Aviation Seeding & Spraying	2

Bakeries 1
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums 17
Beauty Salons & Barber Shops 23
Bed & Breakfast 7
Boat Sales 3
Carpet & Rug Dealers 2
Caterers 5
Car Wash 2
Ceramic Shops 2
Child Care Services (licensed) 18
Contractors—building 12
—carpentry 21
—concrete 4
—electric 9
—excavating 3
—general 13
—gravel 2
—heating & air conditioning 5
—mill works & cabinetry 1
—painting 5
—plumbing 8
—remodeling & repairing 15
—roofing 9
—well digging 1
Convenience Stores 9
Craft Stores 3
Dance Studios 1
Department Stores 5
Discount Stores 2
Dry Cleaning & Laundries 1
Drug Stores 3
Feed & Seed 9
Floral Shops 5
Funeral Homes 6
Furniture Stores 2
Garbage Collectors 5
Gift Shops 11
Grocery Stores 7
Gun & Sporting Goods 1
Hardware Stores 3
Health Clubs 4
Home Health Care 2
Insurance Companies 23
Interior Decorators & Designers 3
Jewelry Stores 1
Hotels 1
Landscaping Equipment & Supplies 2
Laser Engraving 1
Laundries (self-service) 4
Lawn Services 13

Livestock Sales Barn	1
Machine Shops	5
Meat Lockers	5
Motels	9
Nurseries & Garden Centers	1
Photography Studios	4
Preschools	7
Printers	3
Real Estate Firms	6
Restaurants	28
Service Stations	9
Shoe Stores	1
Specialized Shops (testing labs, special equipment repair, etc.)	5
Tanning Salons	10
Television & Radio Repair Shops	2
Theaters	4
Travel Agencies & Bureaus	1
Upholstery Shops	3
Variety Stores	6
Welding Shops	6

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Arapahoe

Formal Garden in McKinley Park in Cambridge

Stormer Ford Prairie Dog Town in Republican City

Harlan County Lake

Agriculture & Raw Materials

Agriculture

2002 Statistics	Furnas County	Harlan County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	412	346	49,355
Land in Farms (acres)	440,776	308,814	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	1,070	893	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	$83,995,000	$59,399,000	$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	$203,872	$171,673	$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	68,008	71,750	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	15.4	23.2	16.6%
Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2003–2007)			
Hay Alfalfa (Dry)	73,174 tons	33,874 tons	5,220,000 tons
All Wheat	3,154,980 bu.	1,623,760 bu.	71,778,000 bu.
Corn for Grain	9,049,720 bu.	11,719,200 bu.	1,272,880,000 bu.
Oats	30,220 bu.	16,940 bu.	3,751,000 bu.
Sorghum For Grain	1,284,480 bu.	928,140 bu.	25,568,000 bu.
Soybeans	955,400 bu.	1,846,860 bu.	215,393,000 bu.
Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2004–2008)			
All Cattle	44,400	44,200	6,470,000

Furnas County ranked in the top ten counties in Nebraska in the production of wheat and sorghum during the last five years. Harlan County ranked in the top ten counties in the production of sorghum two of the last five years.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2003–2008
2002 Census of Agriculture

Raw Materials

Nonmetallic minerals of sand, gravel, and limestone are available locally in commercial quantities; however, metallic minerals are not found in the Furnas and Harlan County area.

Furnas County Fairgrounds

Climate

Temperature, Precipitation, and Humidity

AVERAGES							
	Temperature*			Precipitation*		Humidity**	
Month	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	12.7	26.9	41.0	0.61	5.9	77	65
February	18.0	32.5	47.1	0.75	6.0	78	63
March	25.9	41.2	56.4	1.69	6.0	79	59
April	37.0	52.9	68.8	2.00	1.5	79	53
May	48.2	62.9	77.7	3.66	0.0	82	56
June	58.3	73.2	88.1	3.71	0.0	82	54
July	63.5	78.6	93.7	3.19	0.0	84	57
August	61.3	76.7	92.0	2.72	0.0	86	58
September	50.7	67.2	83.8	1.95	0.2	84	55
October	37.9	55.0	72.1	1.50	0.3	79	51
November	25.0	39.8	54.6	0.94	3.0	80	60
December	16.1	30.0	44.0	0.60	4.9	79	65
Annual	37.9	53.1	68.3	23.30	27.7	81	58

*Recorded at Beaver City
**Recorded at the Grand Island Weather Station

Frost Data

Average date of last frost in spring	May 7
Average date of first frost in fall	September 30
Length of freeze free season probabilities	147
Average number of heating degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit	5,612
Average number of cooling degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit	1,297
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average)	12
Prevailing wind direction (annual average)	South

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1948–2006, **www.hprcc.unl.edu.**

Harlan County Fairgrounds