

COMMUNITY FACTS HOWELLS, NEBRASKA

www.ci.howells.ne.us

MARCH 2004

POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002 Est.</u>
Howells	632	635
Colfax County	10,441	10,555
Labor Market	123,518	123,048

Development Department
Loup Power District
Columbus, NE 68601
www.loup.com

Cornhusker Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
www.cornhusker-power.com

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

INTRODUCTION

The following pages contain basic information about Howells, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Howells Industrial Development, Inc., Howells Community Club, Loup Power District, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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

Larry Jakubowski, Mayor
Village of Howells
Howells, Nebraska 68641
Business Phone: (402) 986-1515
Fax: (402) 986-1058
Home Phone: (402) 986-1498
Email: holibry@megavision.com

William Wisnieski, President
Howells Industrial Development, Inc.
Howells, Nebraska 68641
Business Phone: (402) 986-1141
Fax: (402) 986-1642
Home Phone: (402) 986-1258

Dana Dannelly, President
Howells Economic Development
Corporation
Howells, Nebraska 68641
Business Phone: (402) 986-1331
Fax: (402) 986-1642
Home Phone: (402) 986-1440
Email: FNb.howe@megavision.com

David Bell
Development/Marketing Manager
Loup Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
Business Phone: (402) 564-3171, Ext. 257
Fax: (402) 564-0970
Home Phone: (402) 563-3722
Email: dbell@loup.com

Ronald Hostetter, Manager
Cornhusker Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
Business Phone: (402) 564-2821
Fax: (402) 564-9907
Home Phone: (402) 563-1423
Email: cppd@megavision.com

Dennis G. Hall, CEcD
Economic Development Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
Business Phone: (402) 563-5534
Toll Free: (800) 282-6773
Fax: (402) 563-5090
Home Phone: (402) 564-3772
Email: dghall@nppd.com

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION	1
POPULATION	1
LOCAL ECONOMY	1
ELEVATION	2
TOPOGRAPHY	2
HISTORY	2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANUFACTURERS	3
MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS	3
OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS	4
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS	8

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY	9
UNIONIZATION	11
WAGES	11
FRINGE BENEFITS	12

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS	13
MOTOR	13
AIR	13
WATER	14

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY	15
NATURAL GAS	16
OTHER FUELS	16
WATER	16
SEWERAGE	17
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	17
RECYCLING	17

COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS	19
INTERNET	19
POST OFFICE	19
PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES	19
NEWSPAPER	19
RADIO	19
TELEVISION	19

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – VILLAGE OF HOWELLS	21
TAX RATE	21
LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS	21
CITY BOND ISSUES	22
SCHOOL BOND ISSUES	22

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT 23
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT 23
FIRE PROTECTION 23
LAW ENFORCEMENT 23
STREETS 24
BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS 24
PLANNING 24

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES 25
CHURCHES 29
MEDICAL 29
NURSING HOMES 33
LIBRARY 33
RECREATION AND PARKS 33
HOUSING 34
FINANCIAL 34

COMMUNITY SERVICES

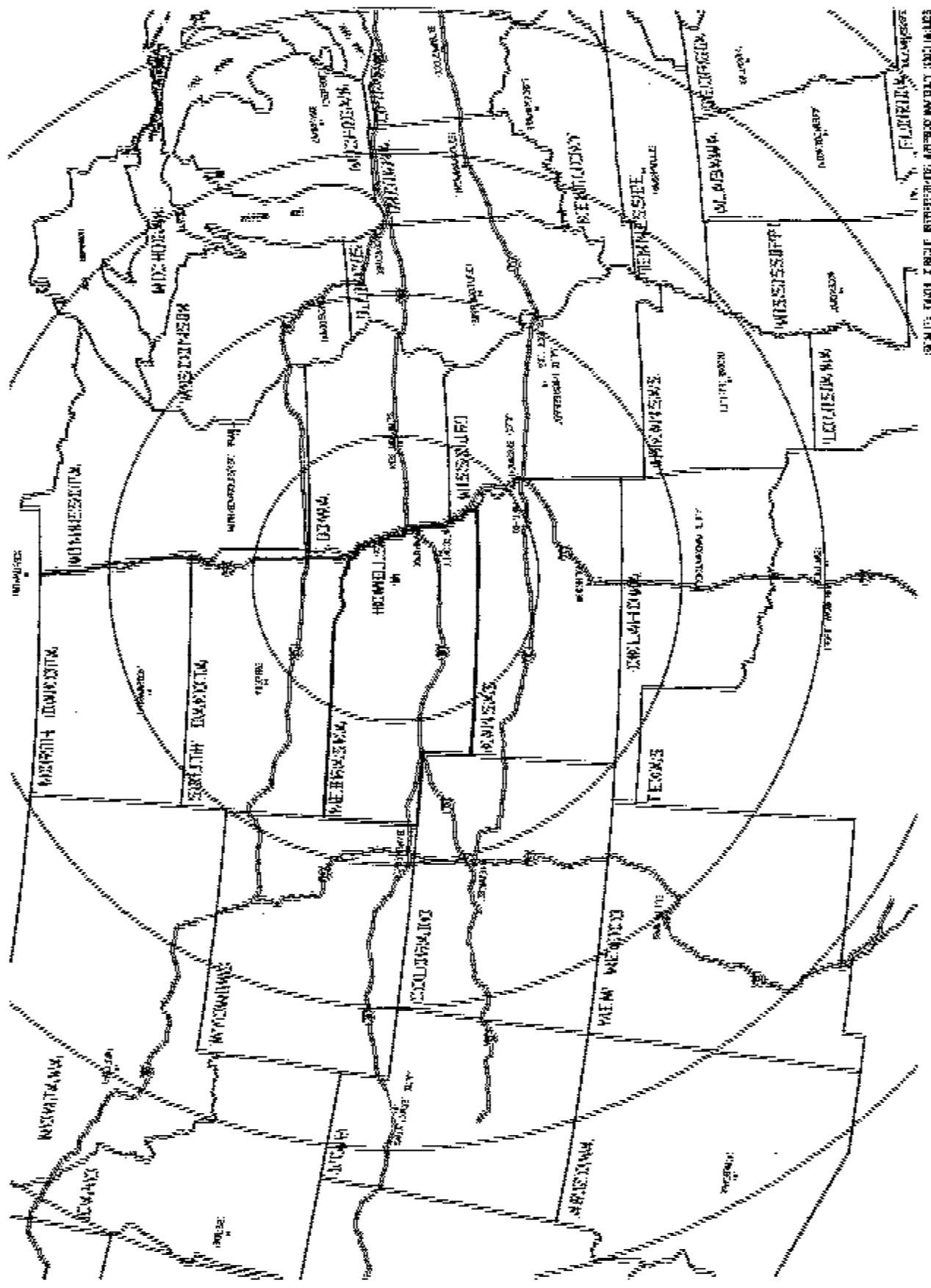
PROFESSIONAL 35
BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL 35

AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

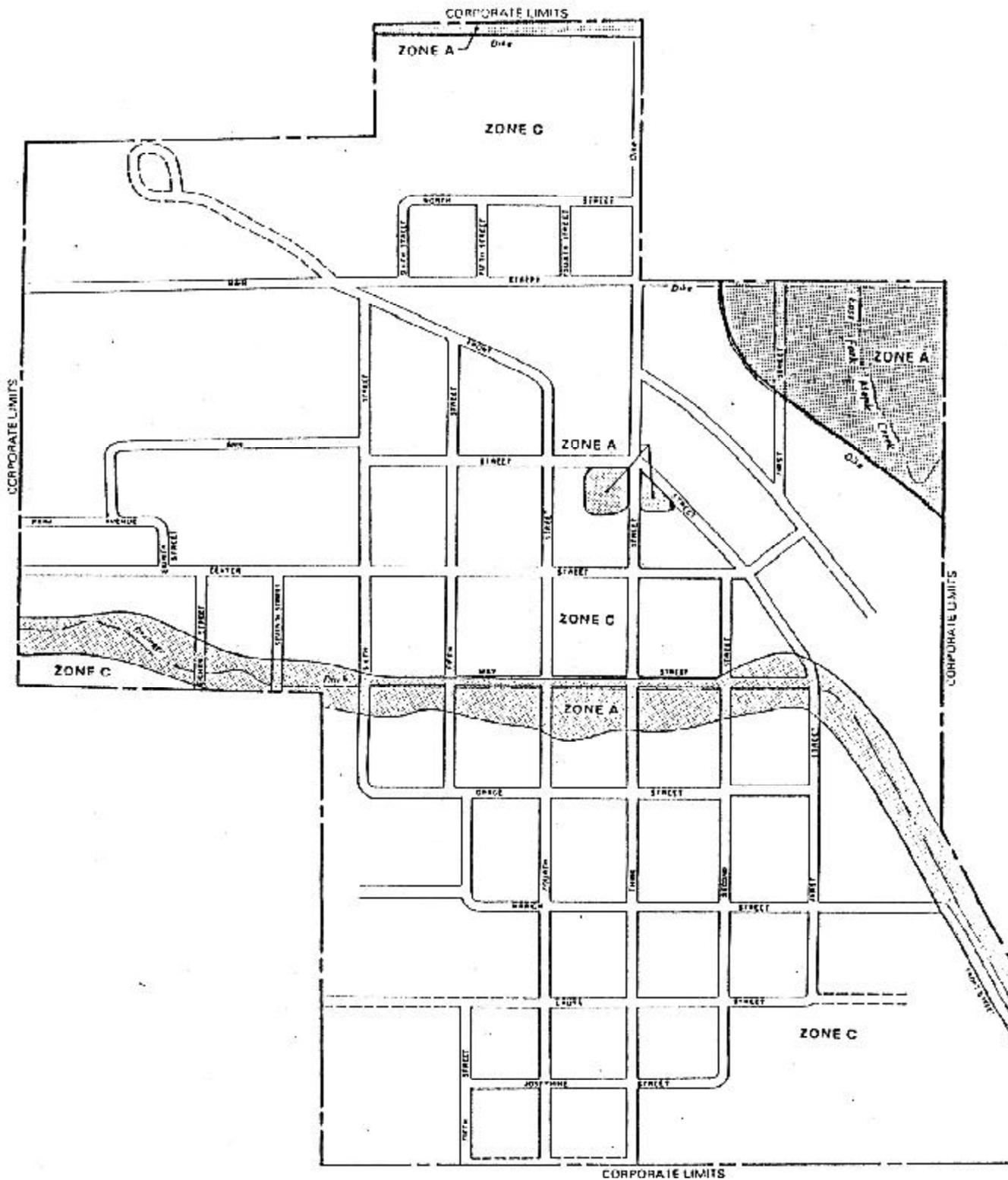
AGRICULTURE 37
RAW MATERIALS 37

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY 38
FROST DATA 38



FORM 101 (REV. 1-1953) UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953



VILLAGE OF
HOWELLS,
NEBRASKA

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Howells is located in northern Colfax County in east-central Nebraska, three miles east of the junction of Nebraska Highways 15 and 91. Howells lies 41 miles northwest of Fremont, 47 miles northeast of Columbus, 49 miles southeast of Norfolk, 83 miles northwest of Omaha, and 110 miles north of Lincoln.

POPULATION (U.S. Census)

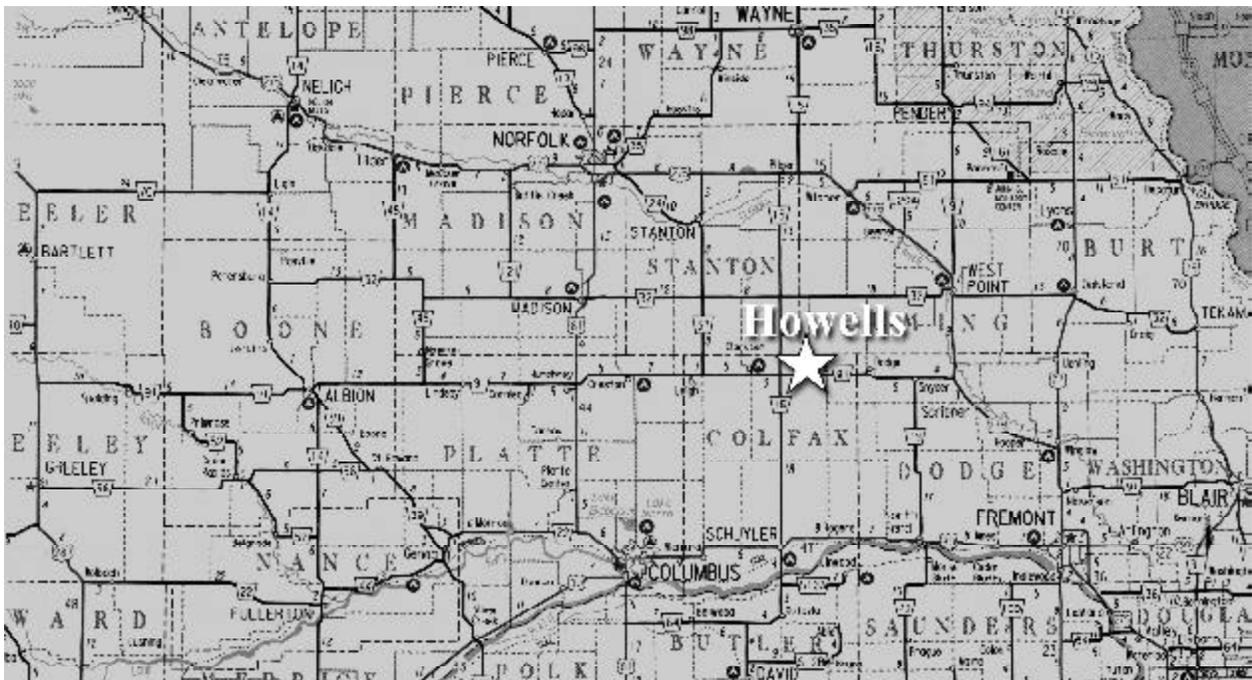
Year	Howells	Colfax County
1970	682	9,498
1980	677	9,890
1990	615	9,139
2000	632	10,441
2002 (Est.)	635	10,555

Approximately 123,048 people live within Colfax County and the contiguous counties of Cuming, Butler, Dodge, Platte, Saunders, and Stanton.

County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin	
White	8,533
Total Hispanic	2,732
Black or African American	7
American Indian and Alaska Native	20
Asian	21
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	15
One race	10,260
Some other race	1,664
Two or more races	181

LOCAL ECONOMY

Basic economic activities in the Howells area include farming, cattle and hog feeding, and wholesale and retail sales. Firms in the community with retail sales tax permits reported net taxable retail sales of \$3,306,628 in 2002. Colfax County reported net taxable sales of \$34,382,652 for the same period.



The economy in Howells has progressed since 1995 with the addition of several new manufacturing firms, including Howells Soya (extruded and expelled soymeal and oil), Howells Fab (fire protection sprinkling systems), and Prusa Welding (custom livestock and farm equipment). New businesses also include two new storage units, Hegemann's Plumbing and Heating, The Still, Center Street Lounge, and Langhorst Service.

An energetic flood control program was undertaken due to flooding in 1991 and completed in 1997. This project has improved the local economy by stabilizing one of nature's forces that has wreaked economic havoc on the community in the past. New businesses are able to locate in the area with confidence that flooding will not be a problem.

ELEVATION

The elevation in the Howells area ranges from 1,460 feet to 1,500 feet above sea level.

TOPOGRAPHY

Howells is located in Maple Creek Valley surrounded by rolling hills. Maple Creek borders the community on the north and east.

Alcesder, Zook, and Nora are the main soil types in the area with small amounts of Little Hobbs and Moody. Drainage is good to Maple Creek.

HISTORY

In 1887 officials of the Fremont Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad sidestepped local suggestions of "Buschville" or "Bognerville" (prominent local families) to designate the name "Howell" to this northern Colfax County town. The town, population 207, was so named after James Smith Howell, a local surveyor, farmer, and teacher.

One year later, Harry E. Phelps began the Howell's Journal, the local paper which continues to thrive to the present day. Also in 1888 City Park, the first

of two parks in Howells, was purchased by the town. City Park has undergone many transformations since children planted trees that initial year. In 1911 a water fountain and bandstand were added, and local firemen paid for and erected an iron rail fence around the park. In 1919 the American Legion set up a monument bearing the names of the area World War I veterans. Later, playground equipment and a shelter were added. Now, on Memorial Day, City Park becomes an avenue of flags.

In 1937 the town's name legally became Howells. The following year, the village purchased 18 acres for a second park, Community Park. Volunteers planted trees and laid out a baseball diamond and a tennis court. In 1938 the local firemen purchased land and erected a ballroom that later became renowned for its big band dances.

Proceeds of more than \$35,000 earned during Howell's centennial in 1987 were contributed toward establishing the Howells Retirement Center, a nonprofit facility for independent living, and toward purchasing a building for the Howells Historical Museum. Donations were also made to the Howells Public Library, the summer youth baseball program, play equipment for the parks, trees for City Park, and Howells Rescue Fund.

A four-phase flood control project for the community began after the June 1991 flood. The first two phases of the project consisted of building a dry dam and a tieback. In 1995 a mile-long levee was built to protect the town. A new bridge constructed in 1996 completed the monumental flood control project.

Howells has garnered considerable recognition from the Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) since 1970 when it won first prize for its volunteer efforts and fund raising for laying out a ball field, horse arena, and a three-hole golf course. In 1999 Howells was awarded "The Nebraska Project of the Century" for citizens support and participation and in 2000 they received the "special award" for environmental projects and awareness for their recycling program.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Faltin Meat Market 1947	Meat products	Local	4	2	None
Grovijohn Feeds 1998	Extruded soymeal & livestock feed	Regional	3	3	None
Howells Fab Inc. 1993	Fire protection sprinkler systems	Regional	17	2	None
Howells Poultry Processing 1974	Poultry processing	Local	1	5	None
Howells Soya 1997	Extruded & expelled soymeal	International	1	1	None
Prusa Welding 1993	Custom livestock & farm equipment	Regional	4	1	None

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 5 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Baumert Furniture Inc.	Home furnishings/floor covering	6	2	None
Bill's Food Mart	Retail grocery	2	9	None
Cedar Hill Cattle Company	Cattle feeding	6	2	None
CTC Farms, Inc.	Cattle feeding	7	2	None
Cooperative Supply	Service station/convenience store/ elevator	7	8	None
Fiala Chevrolet & Buick, Inc.	Auto sales & service	8	1	None
First National Bank	Financial	3	7	None
Hanel Oil, Inc.	Service station/bulk fuels	4	1	None

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Howells Community Catholic School	Education	0	8	None
Howells Public Schools	Education	16	20	NSEA
J & H Milling	Feed	4	1	None
Medical Center	Medical	1	4	None
Pleasant View Cattle Company	Cattle feeding	5	0	None
U. S. Post Office	Government	3	2	None
Vering's Feed Service Inc.	Feed & ag supplies	5	4	None
Village of Howells	Government	5	3	None

OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS (employing 100 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Snyder, 11 miles				
Smeal Fire Apparatus Co.	Fire trucks & aerial apparatus	165 12 *	39 1 *	None
Schuyler, 21 miles				
Alegent Health/Memorial Hospital	Medical	11	127	None
City of Schuyler	Government	58	53	None
Excel Corporation	Beef processing	1,461	685	UFCW
Schuyler Public Schools	Education	36	138	SEA/ NEA
West Point, 25 miles				
Franciscan Memorial Hospital	Medical	18	206	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Tyson Fresh Meats	Beef processing	300	100	None
West Point Schools	Education	25	80	NSEA
Wimmer's Meat Products	Processed meats	79	52	None
Madison, 28 miles				
Madison County	Government	87	75	None
Madison Public Schools	Education	40	60	NSEA
Tyson Fresh Meats	Hog slaughter	897	358	None
Lindsay, 36 miles				
Lindsay Manufacturing	Irrigation equipment & diversified manufacturing	401 6 *	117	None
Columbus, 47 miles				
ADM (Formerly Minnesota Corn Processors)	Wet corn milling, corn starch, corn syrup, fructose, ethanol & multiple corn products	250 1 *	50	None
BD Medical Systems	Hypodermic needles & syringes	492 21 *	626 44 *	None
Behlen Mfg.	Steel buildings, agriculture & livestock equipment	787 40 *	182 26 *	None
CAMACO	Automotive seats & frames	413	187	None
Carneco	Ground beef	179	127	None
Central Community College, Columbus Campus	Education	42 68 *	50 82 *	NSEA, CEA (faculty only)
City of Columbus	Government	101 50 *	39 28 *	None
Columbus Community Hospital Medical		20	300	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Columbus Public Schools	Education	111 3 *	292 58 *	CEA/ NEA
Double O Trucking	Full service transportation	93 3 *	9 2 *	None
EGS Electrical Group	Electrical products	315 13 *	290 11 *	None
First National Bank & Trust Co.	Financial	20 4 *	82 28 *	None
FLEXcon Company, Inc.	Pressure sensitive plastic film, decals, package labels, holograms, adhesive nameplates	152	65	None
Heartland Builders	General contractors/construction	129	7	None
HyVee Food Store	Retail grocery	31 91 *	32 124 *	None
Loup Power District	Electric utility	92 9 *	15 11 *	None
Nebraska Public Power District	Electric utility	263 16 *	167 10 *	None
Platte County	Government	71 12 *	57 9 *	None
State of Nebraska	Government	115 Total		None
Super Saver	Retail grocery	20 39 *	23 37 *	None
Vishay Dale Electronics	Electronic components	226 2 *	441 13 *	None
Norfolk, 49 miles				
Affiliated Foods Cooperative, Inc.	Food distribution	421 55 *	109 16 *	Teamsters
City of Norfolk	Government	136 1 *	55 9 *	IAFF (firefighters)

*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Faith Regional Health Services	Medical	95 30 *	542 239 *	None
Goodyear Tire & Rubber	Hydraulic hose, industrial & automatic	384 25 *	72 26 *	None
Kendall/Tyco Health Care	Disposable hypodermic syringes, blood collection tubes, breather exercisers & probe covers	178	260	None
Nebraska Public Power District	Electrical utility	66 24 *	47 1 *	None
Norfolk Iron & Metal Co.	Steel products, distribution & steel service center	163	23	None
Norfolk Public Schools	Education	178	582	NSEA
Norfolk Regional Center	State psychiatric hospital	350 total		NAPE/ AFSCME
Norfolk Veteran's Home	Medical	30 (19 part-time)	171	AFSCME
Northeast Community College	Education	101 (part-time varies)	118	NSEDA
Nucor Steel Division of Nucor Corp.	Steel angles, rounds, flats & channels	409	21	None
State of Nebraska	Government	88 8 *	109 6 *	None
Tyson Fresh Meats	Boxed beef	1,012 18 *	410 4 *	UFCW
Vishay/Dale Electronics	Electronic components & resistors	290 total		None
Vulcraft	Steel joists, metal deck & cold drawn bar	363 3 *	46 1 *	None
Wal-Mart	Retail	104 36 *	215 61 *	None
Wis-Pak of Norfolk	Soft drinks	84 11 *	18 1 *	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Howells Industrial Development Inc., Howells branch of the First National Bank, Howells Community Club, Howells Economic Development Corporation, and the village of Howells have been actively promoting business and industrial development in the community. The village of Howells as well as Colfax County are members of the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District.

Howells Industrial Development Inc., is a profit corporation with 10 stockholders. The authorized capitalization is \$100,000 with capital stock paid in totaling \$10,000.

Howells Economic Development Corporation is a nonprofit organization with 10 members. Money will be raised as needed.

Howells Soya, manufacturers of extruded and expelled soymeal, began operation in 1997. Using a revolving loan fund, the village of Howells assisted eight businesses in start-up or expansion projects since 1998.

Approximately 40 acres of land in and adjacent to the community are zoned for industry. The price of industrially zoned land ranges from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per acre.



Faltin Meat Market



Howells Fab Inc.



Vering's Feed Service Inc.

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY

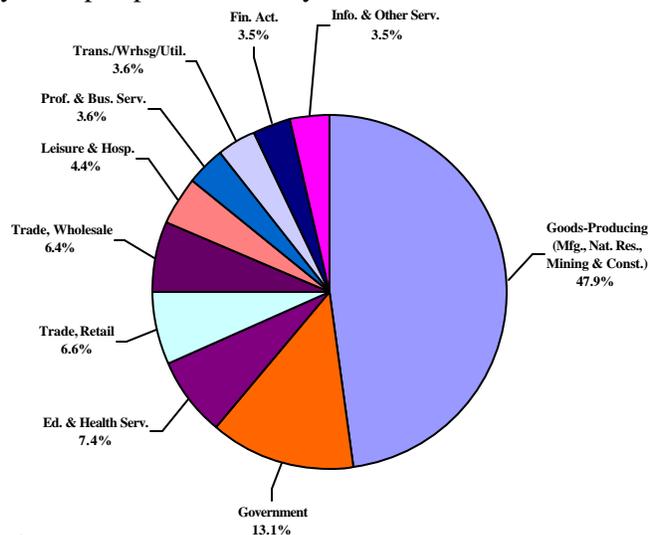
- A. Employment in the Howells labor market which is defined as the whole of Colfax County as well as the total consisting of Colfax County and the contiguous counties of Butler, Cuming, Dodge, Platte, Saunders, and Stanton (annual average, 2003):

	Colfax County	Total
Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)		
Goods-Producing (Mfg., Nat. Res., Mining & Const.)	2,312	15,953
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	172	(D)
Trade, Retail	319	6,455
Trade, Wholesale	309	(D)
Information	(D)	(D)
Financial Activities	169	2,154
Professional & Business Services	172	(D)
Educational & Health Services	359	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	210	(D)
Other Services	(D)	(D)
Government	633	8,982
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	4,822	50,416
Farm Employment*	845	7,635
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	5,342	66,457
B. Commuting Out of County	1,590	NA
C. Unemployment	166	2,778
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	5,508	69,234
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	162	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	160	
TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	2,078	

*Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Data for 2002
D - Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

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

**NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
COLFAX COUNTY
ANNUAL AVERAGE, 2003**



2000 POPULATION DATA						
Location	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Median Household Effective Buying Income (2002)
Colfax Co.	25.3	16.0	35.0	72.0	11.5	\$32,794
Nebraska	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$35,807
U.S.	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$38,035

Colfax County had 5,445 eligible voters in 2000; 63.0 percent voted in the national election compared to 65.2 percent in Nebraska.

SOURCE: U.S. Census, www.census.gov
 Sales and Marketing Management, September 2003
 Statewide General Election 2000 Results, www.nol.org/home/SOS/Canvass2000/gen2000menu.htm

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE HOWELLS AREA



POPULATION DATA — 2000 U.S. Census

Village of Howells	—	632		<u>Ages</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Colfax County	—	10,441	}	18–24	528	363
				25–44	1,609	1,303
				45–54	601	541
30-Mile Radius	—	97,054 (2002)				

UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right-to-work provision in its constitution. In 2000, 13.1 percent of Nebraska's manufacturing workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 14.8 percent. Union membership in Nebraska is concentrated in the railroad and packinghouse industries.

WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Professional			
Accountants & Auditors	13.81	19.77	30.17
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	13.64	25.14	34.06
Electrical Engineers	19.39	25.66	34.53
Industrial Engineers	18.18	26.11	36.35
Mechanical Engineers	15.62	22.90	34.42
Computer Programmers	12.62	23.21	28.67
Computer Systems Analysts	12.56	22.78	33.10
Registered Nurses	14.68	19.09	24.98
Retail			
Hotel Desk Clerks	7.22	8.16	10.21
Retail Salespersons	7.67	10.12	21.48
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.57	10.62	21.03
Driver/Sales Workers	6.11	19.34	24.16
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	9.16	10.78	13.60
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	9.26	12.15	16.96
Clerical			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	8.41	10.79	14.27
Customer Service Representatives	9.20	11.35	16.27
Data Entry Keyers	7.06	10.04	13.55
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.70	9.88	12.23
Office Clerks, General	7.46	11.15	14.38
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.61	9.83	13.25
Telemarketers*	6.25	8.06	9.65
Unskilled			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	7.20	9.57	13.30
Packers & Packagers, Hand	7.22	9.72	12.74
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Others	9.30	12.34	14.49
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	6.77	8.62	10.91

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

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Semi-Skilled			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.50	11.29	14.10
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.70	12.70	20.97
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	10.19	13.11	20.51
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters	9.69	12.81	17.09
Drilling/Boring Machine Tool Setters*	9.57	13.05	17.86
Milling & Planing Machine Setters*	9.86	12.56	16.48
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	9.24	11.95	14.32
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters & Operators	7.40	8.58	12.94
Cutting, Punching & Press*	8.75	12.37	15.14
Multiple Machine Tool Setters & Operators	9.86	13.51	17.49
Skilled			
Automotive Mechanics	6.51	12.49	21.66
Electricians	12.63	16.63	40.07
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	11.84	14.52	17.75
Machinists	9.63	13.26	19.12
Tool & Die Makers	12.47	16.57	22.79
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.99	12.64	14.56
Technical			
Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technicians	14.01	17.10	21.57
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	8.19	11.79	16.80
Computer Operators	9.76	13.20	19.60

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

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, 4th Quarter 2003 wage estimates, Northeast Region, www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiwages/toc000.htm

FRINGE BENEFITS

Fringe benefits range from 30 to 40 percent of wages.

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

A main line of the Union Pacific Railroad serves Schuyler, 21 miles south of Howells.

Amtrak provides Omaha, 83 miles southeast of Howells, with rail passenger service east to Chicago and west to Denver and San Francisco/Oakland. The Superliner features coach and first-class accommodations, dining car service, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time is 9 1/2 hours to Chicago and 40 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

MOTOR

Highways

East-west Nebraska Highway 91 serves the community and north-south Nebraska Highway 15 is three miles west. Interstate 80 is 65 miles south and Interstate 29 is 65 miles east of Howells.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	110
Omaha	83
Chicago	533
Dallas	689
Denver	515
Detroit	800
Kansas City	263
Los Angeles	1,528
Minneapolis	388
New York	1,307
St. Louis	515
San Francisco	1,644

North-south U.S. Highway 81, 25 miles west of Howells, has been designated a four-lane expressway by the Nebraska Department of Roads. The four-laning of the section between Norfolk and Columbus was completed in 2000.

Trucklines

Trucklines serving Howells:

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trucks Daily	Type of Service
Schuyler		
G-M Express, Inc.	13	Interstate
Kohler Transfer	3	Intrastate
North Bend		
Legband	2	Intrastate
North Bend Transfer	1	Intrastate
David City		
M & S Transfer	3	Intrastate
Rogers		
United Transport Carriers	35	Interstate
Omaha		
Werner	As needed	Interstate
Yellow	1	Intra/ Interstate
Dodge		
Steffy Transfer	As needed	Interstate

Bus Lines

Through bus service is available at Schuyler, 22 miles south; Fremont, 41 miles southeast; Columbus, 47 miles southwest; and Norfolk, 49 miles northwest of Howells.

AIR

A private airfield with a 1,990 foot turf runway is located one mile east of Howells.

The **Columbus Municipal Airport**, 47 miles (50 minutes) southwest of Howells, has one 6,780 foot paved and lighted runway with instrument approach and one 4,400 foot turf runway. The elevation at the airport is 1,443 feet. The latitude is 41°26'88"N, and the longitude is 97°20'37"W. The Automated Flight Service Station in Columbus provides aeronautical information to pilots.

The **Karl Stefan Memorial Airport** at Norfolk, 49 miles (50 minutes) northwest of Howells, provides air freight, air express, and passenger services. Great Lakes Aviation serves the community with two flights daily.

The airport has two 5,800-foot paved and lighted runways and a full instrument landing system. The FBO (fixed base operator) is Norfolk Aviation who provides maintenance and repair, air taxi, charter services, plane rental, fuel sales, flight training, and aerial photography. Fifty private planes are hangared there; three are available for charter. The airport, which was closed four days during the last three years due to inclement weather, operates from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The elevation at the airport is 1,572 feet, the latitude is 41°59'13"N, and the longitude is 97°26'11"W.

Commercial air service is also available at Omaha's Eppley Airfield, 83 miles (80 minutes) southeast of Howells. Eppley Airfield is served by approximately 80 flights per day.

WATER

Barge services are available at 19 barge terminal facilities on the Missouri River in Nebraska. The Omaha river port is 83 miles southeast of Howells. These river ports are navigable approximately eight months per year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a 9-foot deep, 300-foot wide channel for 735 navigable miles from Sioux City to the mouth of the Missouri River. Commodities transported by towing companies are alfalfa pellets, cement, concrete forms, distillers' dried grain, feed, feed ingredients, fertilizer, grain, machinery, molasses, newsprint, nitrogen fertilizer solutions, propylene glycol, rock-aggregate, salt, steel, and twine.



Main Street

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

Loup Power District, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), provides electric service to Howells and 21 other communities in Colfax, Boone, Nance, and Platte counties. Loup Power provides wholesale service to the communities of Clarkson, Leigh, and Schuyler as well as Cornhusker Public Power District, which serves the rural areas.

Howells receives its power source from a 115 kV substation located 19.5 miles west of the community. The present substation capacity is 43.0 MVA. The 115 kV system is tied into NPPD's statewide electrical transmission grid. The village of Howells is fed from the 34.5 kV system with a substation capacity of 5.0/6.25 MVA and two 34.5 kV sources. The distribution voltage is 4.16 kV.

ELECTRIC RATES (effective 2/2/04)

Residential Service:

Customer Charge: \$12.50 per month	
Summer	Winter
8.55¢	4.40¢
per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month	
5.15¢	3.55¢
per kWh for all additional use	
Minimum Bill: \$12.50 per month	

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

Commercial (single phase):

Customer Charge: \$17.50 per month	
Summer	Winter
8.35¢	5.50¢
per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month	
7.60¢	5.00¢
per kWh for the next 600 kWh used per month	
6.50¢	4.40¢
per kWh for all additional use	
Minimum Bill: \$17.50 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA.	

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

Commercial (three phase):

Customer Charge: \$25.00 per month	
Summer	Winter
8.35¢	5.50¢
per kWh for the first 1,800 kWh used per month	
7.60¢	5.00¢
per kWh for the next 1,200 kWh used per month	
6.50¢	4.40¢
per kWh for all additional use	
Minimum Bill: \$25.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA.	

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

Large Light and Power Service (distribution delivery from lines of 12,470 volts or less and demand less than 300 kW):

Customer Charge: \$225.00 per month	
Summer	Winter
\$13.25	\$6.25
per kW per month of maximum billing demand	
Plus an Energy Charge of	
Summer	Winter
3.00¢	1.90¢
per kWh	
Minimum Bill: \$225.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed	

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

Large Light and Power Service (distribution delivery from lines of 12,470 volts or less and demand greater than 300 kW):

Customer Charge: \$275.00 per month	
Summer	Winter
\$13.25	\$6.25
per kW on peak demand	
\$4.25	\$3.00
per kW off peak demand above on peak demand	
Plus an Energy Charge of	
Summer	Winter
3.40¢	2.25¢
per kWh on peak	
2.60¢	1.75¢
per kWh off peak	
Minimum Bill: \$275.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed	

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

Industrial Rates Subtransmission Delivery are also available.

Prospective customers should contact Robert E. White, president and CEO, Loup Power District, Columbus, Nebraska, (402) 564-3171, or visit www.loup.com, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

The Cornhusker Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Loup Power District, serves the rural area surrounding Howells. For information regarding electrical services in the Cornhusker Public Power District service area, contact Ron Hostetter, general manager, Columbus, Nebraska, (402) 564-2821, or visit www.cornhusker-power.com.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is not available in Howells.

OTHER FUELS

LP Gas

LP gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses in Howells at Cooperative Supply.

Oil

Oil is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Cooperative Supply and Hanel Oil, Inc.

WATER

The municipal water system in Howells is supplied by two wells, which have an average depth of 240 feet. The system, serving the entire population in the community, has a combined pumping capacity of 900 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 100,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 75,000 gallons in winter and 150,000 gallons in summer, and the historic peak daily demand is 275,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 1,396,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 145 and the residual pressure is 40 pounds per inch.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 240-foot well will produce approximately 450 gallons of water per minute. The water table has not changed significantly in the past five years. The quality of water in Howells does not necessitate a water treatment plant.

The color of the water is clear. The tap water temperature varies from 53° in winter to 57° in summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.5
Calcium	200
Total Solids	N/T
Magnesium	N/T
Iron	N/T
Nitrates	1.1
Manganese	N/T
Chlorides	RL
Fluoride	.28
Sulfates	26 mg/l
Total Alkalinity	290
Sodium	N/T
Total Hardness	N/T
Potassium	N/T

N/T - not a testing regulation

RL - less than required limits

WATER RATES (effective 2004)

A water connection fee of \$350.00 is charged for new service.

Residential:

First 4,000 gallons @ Minimum Bill
All additional gallons \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$12.00 per month

Commercial & Industrial:

First 4,000 gallons @ Minimum Bill	
All additional gallons @ \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons	
Minimum Bill:	
1 1/4" line	\$15.00 per month
1 1/2" line	\$23.00 per month
2" line	\$33.00 per month
3" line	\$43.00 per month



Howells Activity Center



Howells Ballroom



Hooter Rock Auto Show



Memorial Day Parade

COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Qwest Communications of Denver, Colorado, provides telecommunication services to the Howells area with a digital switch served by fiber. The central office switch is monitored remotely 24 by 7. In addition to the main fiber route to Fremont and on to Omaha, the fiber continues on in the other direction to Norfolk; thus a dual route could be established.

Tariffed Rates (effective 8/7/02)

Residential	\$18.15
Commercial	\$27.55

INTERNET

Local Internet access is available in Howells through Community Internet, (402) 986-1109, email: Bauele@megavision.com.

POST OFFICE

The post office in Howells has one mail receipt and one dispatch daily. Postal receipts for the past five fiscal years were:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
2003	\$94,000
2002	\$93,000
2001	\$92,000
2000	\$92,000
1999	\$91,962

PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

	Federal Express	UPS	U.S. Post Office
Latest Pick-up Time	11:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Earliest Delivery	2:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Next Day Delivery Guarantee	Yes	Yes	Available
Saturday Delivery Guarantee	No	Yes	Yes
Zone Classification	Zone 2		

NEWSPAPER

The Howells Journal, the local weekly newspaper, has 920 subscribers. Other daily newspapers delivered locally include the Omaha World-Herald, Norfolk Daily News, Fremont Tribune, and Columbus Telegram.

RADIO

Radio stations carrying local news:

Call Letters	Frequency	Location
KKOT	93.5 MHz	Columbus
KWPN	840 KHz	West Point
WJAG	780 KHz	Norfolk
KHUB	1340 KHz	Fremont
KZEN	100.3 MHz	Columbus
KEXL	106.7 MHz	Norfolk

TELEVISION

Regional stations carrying local news:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
WOWT	6	Omaha
KETV	7	Omaha
KMTV	3	Omaha
KOLN	10	Lincoln

Cable TV provides viewing on 25 basic and 1 premium channel.



Howells Public Library



Howells Community Center

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – VILLAGE OF HOWELLS

All real property is required to be appraised at its actual value. Agricultural land is valued at 80 percent of its actual value. Personal property that is used in a trade or business and is depreciable is subject to tax at its “net book value.” All other personal property is exempt from taxation.

	Actual Valuation		
	2001	2002	2003
Real Estate	\$13,828,135	\$13,879,715	\$14,466,850
Personal Property	637,936	610,640	494,744
Special (railroad & utilities)	157,941	166,604	136,493
TOTAL	\$14,624,012	\$14,656,959	\$15,098,087

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

	2001	2002	2003
City	\$0.526530	\$0.545810	\$0.543120
County	.347780	.363720	.365090
School District	1.246820	1.299910	1.270750
Community College	.070429	.070000	.079063
Educational Service Unit	.016155	.015334	.014998
Natural Resource District	.038226	.036993	.034826
Agricultural Society	.020000	.019680	.019200
TOTAL	\$2.265940	\$2.351447	\$2.327047

LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of October 2003:

City—Revenue Bonds (plus interest)	\$ 159,990
City—General Obligation Bonds (plus interest)	\$ 490,835
School District	\$2,805,000
County	None

CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 10/1/03	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Revenue Bonds					
Bonds	8/10/98	\$150,000	\$159,990	5.0	2/1/13
General Obligation					
Water	12/16/91	\$570,500	\$490,835	5.0	8/1/31

SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 10/1/03	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Building	1997	\$3,350,000	\$2,805,000	5.3376	12/15/17



Howells Historical Museum

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Colfax County has 12 townships and is governed by three county commissioners elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2004. The county belongs to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District along with 15 other counties. The 2003-04 actual budget for the county was \$7,800,000. County zoning classifications:

- A-1 Agriculture
- A-2 Second Agriculture
- A-3 Transitional Agriculture
- R-1 Residential
- C-1 Commercial
- I-1 Light Industrial
- I-2 Heavy Industrial
- PU Public/Quasi
- PR Platte River Corridor Ag
- R-M Mobile Home

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Howells, a village, has a board of trustees form of government. The next election will be held in 2004. The 2003-04 budget for the village is \$486,600. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
Elected	
Trustees (5)	4 years
Appointed	
Chairman of the Board	1 year
Village Clerk	1 year
Chief of Police	1 year

FIRE PROTECTION

The Howells Volunteer Rural Fire and Rescue Department is comprised of 23 active volunteer members protecting the village of Howells and the Howells Rural Fire District. The district consists of 16 square miles in Stanton County, 26 square miles in Cuming County, and 72 square miles in Colfax County. The volunteers are members of the Colfax County Mutual Aid Association, the

Northeast Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters Association, and the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association. Mutual aid agreements are in effect with all of the surrounding departments.

Howell's has 57 fire hydrants. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits of Howells is 7, outside it is 10. Annual expenditures averaged \$17,500 for the last three years.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
City	
1962 Chev	1,000 gal. pumper
Rural	
1968 Chev	Equipment truck
1966 Chev	1,000 gal. tanker
1989 Chev	2,600 gal. tanker
1999 GMAC	1,000 gal. pumper

Fire losses for the past five years have been:

Year	Rural	Village
2003	\$ 24,000	\$ 50,000
2002	\$ 32,000	\$ -0-
2001	\$ 75,000	\$ -0-
2000	\$ 120,000	\$ -0-
1999	\$ 175,650	\$ 82,350

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Department

The village of Howells employs one full-time police officer.

Sheriff's Department

The Colfax County Sheriff's Department in Schuyler, 21 miles south of Howells, employs 6 sworn officers and 17 support personnel. Equipment in the Sheriff's Department includes communication radios, fax machine, computers, and a copier. Protection is provided to existing industry by the police and sheriff's departments. An enhanced 911 system is in place.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in Colfax County in 2001 was 17.0 compared to a state crime rate of 42.4 and a national rate of 41.6.

State Patrol

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Norfolk. Five patrolmen out of Columbus, Norfolk, and West Point serve the Howells area.

STREETS

Howells has six miles of streets in the community; four miles of which are hard-surfaced. There are no local load restrictions. Sixty-six percent of the streets have curbs and 50 percent have sidewalks.

Street sweeping is contracted two times a year and snow removal and sprinkling are contracted locally.

Contemplated improvements include resurfacing 13 blocks of street and covering a drainage ditch at an estimated cost of \$920,000.

BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS

The Nebraska Electrical Code is enforced in Howells. Local zoning classifications are:

A	Agriculture
R	Dwelling
C-1	Highway Commercial
C-2	Central Business
I-1	Industrial District, Light
I-2	Industrial District, Heavy

PLANNING

The Howells Planning Commission is comprised of a five-member board. Members are appointed by the Planning Commission Board with final approval of the Village Board of Trustees.



Howells Volunteer Rural Fire and Rescue Department

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Howells School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary	5	65	1 to 15	1 to 2.5
Elementary*	6	75	1 to 13	1 to 3
Jr.-Sr. High	12	172	1 to 11	1 to 3

* Catholic

School District 59 in Colfax County covers approximately 119 square miles and has an actual 2003 valuation of \$99,047,614. This Class 3, Type K-12 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska.

The 2002-2003 school operating expenses totaled \$2,132,812, with an average cost per pupil of \$9,076. The actual valuation per pupil was \$421,479. It is estimated that all of the eighth grade students finish high school and 90 percent of high school graduates pursue a college degree.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Grade	100	67
Iowa Test of Basic Skills		
ACT	77	20.95

The elementary school built in 2000 has a maximum capacity of 125. The junior-senior high school was built in 1999 and has a capacity of 300.

Vocational courses offered in the high school include Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial Technology, and Agricultural Education. Internet is available in the classrooms. Distance learning programs and classes from Wayne State College and Central Community College are available.

The school offers handicapped special education classes and a SPED speech program through Educational Service Unit 7.

Educational Service Unit (ESU)

Howells schools receive and have access to a wide range of supplemental services from Educational Service Unit 7 in Columbus. Services include the state-mandated core services of staff development, technology training/infrastructure, materials resources as well as those services determined by the member school districts through advisory input. ESU 7 serves the seven surrounding counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Merrick, Nance, Platte, and Polk. The ESU 7 staff of more than 60 provides services to more than 1,100 teachers and 15,000 public and nonpublic students of the seven-county area.

Special Schools

North Star of Nebraska in Columbus serves adults in Colfax, Boone, Nance, and Platte Counties with habilitative/vocational training and residential services.

Community College

Howells is part of the Central Community College system, which encompasses a 25-county area. The college is governed by an 11-member Board of Governors elected by the citizens of the counties served. Administrative offices are located in Grand Island with campuses in Hastings, Columbus, and Grand Island and full-service, 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 2002-03 academic year, 26,559 students were

enrolled in Central Community College courses, with approximately 15,585 participating in off-campus programs.

Central Community College operates a Learning Center in the Howells High School. Courses are taught on an individual basis, using course materials from the Columbus Campus, 47 miles southwest of Howells. 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 Columbus Campus faculty.

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

—Independent Study: allows students to work on college credit classes at their own pace, using course materials from the campuses. The staff serve as a contact 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 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 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 associations, civic groups, governmental agencies, and other organizations within its 25-county service area. College staff provide expertise in their fields of study to develop and coordinate specially-tailored short courses, workshops, and seminars to meet specific training needs.

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

Business and Industry Technology Training

Since 1998, the Columbus Campus has designed several customized training programs and assisted in securing more than \$1.4 million in state and federal grant funding to upgrade the skills of Nebraska's workforce. They were the catalyst in developing Nebraska's Statewide Interactive Multimedia Training Library (open 24 hours every day), which includes more than 800 training topics. Because of these initiatives, the Columbus Campus recently was selected as the national winner of the 2000 Bellwether Workforce Development Award, sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education - University of Florida and the National Council for Occupational Education.



Howells Elementary School



Howells High School



Howells Community Catholic School - Grades 1-3



Howells Community Catholic School - Grades 4-6

Other Schools

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

Community/College or University	Mileage
Fremont Midland Lutheran College	41
Wayne Wayne State College	41
Columbus Central Community College, Columbus Campus	47
Norfolk Northeast Community College	49
Blair Dana College	54
Seward Concordia University	64
Milford Central Community College, Milford Campus	76
Omaha College of St. Mary's Creighton University University of Nebraska at Omaha	83
Lincoln Nebraska Wesleyan College University of Nebraska-Lincoln Southeast Community College Union College	92
Grand Island Central Community College, Grand Island Campus	110
Kearney University of Nebraska at Kearney	160

CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Catholic	2
Lutheran, Missouri Synod	1

MEDICAL

Clinic

Howells Family Practice, operated by Franciscan Care Services, was opened in 2000 and is served by a family practice physician.

The **Howells Community Health Center** was opened in 1994 and is served by a family practice physician and a physician assistant.

Hospital

Alegent Health-Memorial Hospital in Schuyler, 21 miles south of Howells, is a not-for-profit critical access hospital with 15 acute-care beds, 6 bassinets, and 34 long-term care beds. Memorial Hospital is owned by Alegent Health, a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare system. Built in 1953, renovations were completed in 1995 on the labor and delivery rooms. A medical office building attached to the hospital was also built in 1995. In 1998 a multipurpose addition expanded the extended care wing to include a dining, activities, and social events room.

Hospital services include ambulatory surgery, diagnostic radiology, adult/pediatric inpatient unit, home health program, speech pathology, cardiac rehabilitation, outpatient services, mammography, outpatient specialties clinics, blood bank, emergency department, health promotion services, patient representative services, physical therapy, hospital auxiliary, obstetrics, skilled nursing, ultrasound, extended care unit, and the rural health clinics in Clarkson, Howells, and Schuyler. Three family practice physicians, two physician assistants, and one nurse practitioner staff the hospital.

St. Francis Memorial Hospital in West Point, is a 25-bed acute care facility with inpatient and outpatient services including: obstetrics, surgery, specialty clinics, home health/hospice, radiology, laboratory, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, cardiac rehab, and wellness facilities.

Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) is a 68-bed facility consisting of 45 acute care beds, 9 skilled nursing beds, and 14 same day service beds. Services include: 24-hour emergency service, acute inpatient and critical care services, maternal child health services (OB), outpatient services, skilled nursing care, rehabilitative services, laboratory, radiology (in-house MRI unit, CAT Scan, nuclear medicine and more), early development network, home health and hospice care, occupational health services, and health education and wellness programs.

The CCH Pediatric Clinic and Humphrey Clinic are also divisions of the Columbus Community Hospital.

Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk, 49 miles northwest of Howells, is a 166-bed acute care regional referral center with Centers of Excellence in cancer, cardiac, physical rehabilitation, and obstetrics. Centers include the Carson Cancer Center, Faith Regional CardioVascular Institute, the Dialysis Center, and RehabCentral.

Medical services are delivered from four locations. West campus provides emergency services, acute care, women's and children's services, cancer and heart services, laboratory and imaging services, surgery, and cardiopulmonary. East campus provides outpatient clinics, physical rehabilitation, transitional care, home health/hospice, dialysis, and behavioral health. Medical Offices West is the Carson Cancer Center, the CardioVascular Institute, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, the Health Resource Center, and Life Net Medical Transportation. Medical Offices North leases office space to several physician groups and the Faith Regional Surgery Center.

Faith Regional CardioVascular Institute, opened in Norfolk in 2001, offers a complete cardiovascular care center including preventive, diagnostic, interventional, and rehabilitative care for coronary artery disease, heart failure, and peripheral vascular disease in an inpatient setting.

RehabCentral offers the most comprehensive multidisciplinary approach to physical rehabilitation through physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language pathology, sports medicine, and occupational medicine. The **Carson Cancer Center**, named in memory of Johnny Carson's parents, offers radiation oncology and medical oncology and serves patients from a 30-county area.

Faith Regional Health Services is accredited through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Faith Regional Health Services is equally sponsored by two organizations: the Missionary Benedictine Sisters and the Lutheran Community Hospital Association.

Fremont Area Medical Center, 41 miles southeast of Howells, is a 262-bed healthcare facility serving Dodge and surrounding counties. The Medical Center is comprised of 100 hospital beds with private rooms and 162 long-term care beds, with private and semiprivate rooms.

Fremont Area Medical Center is licensed by the Nebraska State Board of Health, maintains accreditation through the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and is a member of the American Hospital Association, Nebraska Association of Hospitals and Health Services for participation on Medicare and Medicaid programs. Fremont Area Medical Center is an accredited Community Hospital Cancer Center, as designated by the American College of Surgeons.

Fremont Area Medical Center's Programs and Services include: cancer services, cardiology, emergency services, long-term care, rehabilitation and wellness, joint centers, and women's and children's services.

Rescue Squad

The Howells Volunteer Rescue Squad is comprised of 21 certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs); more than 14 are certified



Howells Medical Center



Howells Family Practice



St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church



Trinity Lutheran Church



St. John Catholic Church

in the automatic defibrillation. The squad answers calls from a 911 system dispatched in Schuyler, Nebraska. The EMT's require 30 hours of training every three years and the automatic defibrillation personnel are certified every six months. The squad presently has two rescue units.

NURSING HOMES

Colonial Manor, managed by Beverly Enterprises, is a 60-bed skilled nursing facility certified for Medicare and Medicaid and contracted for Veterans Administration clients. The Manor features a "Short Stay" program designed for those recuperating from a hospital stay or for those whose care givers need respite. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy is provided by a physical therapist seven days a week.

Parkview Home Inc., opened in 1967, is privately owned by 35 shareholders and governed by a five-member Board of Directors. The facility is directed by a state of Nebraska licensed administrator. The facility, licensed for 72 beds, provides high quality nursing care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The home is certified for Medicaid and approved for long-term care. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy is provided by a physical therapist seven days a week.

LIBRARY

The Howells Public Library, built in 1983, has 9,553 cataloged items, with an average of 596 items being checked out monthly. The accredited library has four computers with Internet access for patron users. The library offers a five-week children's summer story hour. Scheduled area library meetings and workshops are attended by staff and library board members. The Library Board is certified.

RECREATION AND PARKS

There are two parks in Howells which cover 27 1/2 acres. Facilities include swimming pool, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, ball diamonds, horse arena, multipurpose field, volleyball court, three picnic shelters, and tractor pull area.

Five playgrounds contain playground equipment. Organized baseball and softball programs are available for boys and girls through age 12.

Area facilities:

- Boating — Lake North, 35 miles; Fremont Lakes, 40 miles; Gavins Point Dam, 94 miles
- Bowling — Eight-lane bowling alley, 6 miles
- Fishing — Excellent fishing at Lake North, 35 miles; Fremont Lakes, 40 miles; Gavins Point Dam, 94 miles
- Golf — Four public 9-hole and one 18-hole golf course within 25 miles; all have grass greens and a clubhouse
- Horseshoe — Six legal size pits in the park
- Horseback Riding — Active saddle club and lighted arena
- Hunting — Excellent hunting for pheasant, quail, rabbit, squirrel, deer, and turkey
- Skating — Roller skating rink within 20 miles; ice skating on frozen ponds in season
- Swimming — Pool in the park
- Tennis — Two hardsurfaced lighted courts in the park
- Theatres — Four indoor theatres within 50 miles
- Volleyball — Two sand courts

Annual celebrations include the Catholic school's Fun Fest in April; Hooter Rock car, truck, and motorcycle show and horse show in June; KC's tractor pull and barbecue on the Fourth of July; and a craft show in October.

Recreation programs include: baseball, softball, swimming, and volleyball as well as youth dance and ballroom dancing, youth dance lessons, karate classes, weight lifting, and "little kids" wrestling.

A wildlife refuge including an arboretum, a butterfly garden, and a mile-long walking trail was completed in 1996.

Local organizations sponsor a monthly pot luck dinner at the Activity Center for senior citizens.

The bank sponsors a monthly premium club with movies, trips, and tours. The activity center sponsors a monthly bus tour to a casino.

The Howells Historical Museum contains a collection of memorabilia depicting the early history of Howells and the surrounding community. Bill's Food Mart has a collection of more than 900 cookie jars.

HOUSING

New Construction

Four new homes have been built during the past two years and it is anticipated that two will be built in 2004. The average cost for new home construction is \$62.00 per square foot. Building permits for nine single-family homes were issued during the last five years.

As of October 2003:

Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family - 5

Avg Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home

3,500 sq. ft. - 4 bedrooms \$120,000

2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms \$90,000

1,000 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms \$50,000

Townhouses

1,500 sq. ft. - 2 bedrooms \$35,000

Number of Single Family Homes

for Sale by Price (New and Existing)

Less than \$100,000 5

Over \$100,000 none

Low Cost/Retirement Housing

Howells Homes, Inc. has one six-plex built in 1975 and one four-plex built in 1983 for moderate-income families.

Assisted Living

Howells Retirement Center, Inc., established in 1989 as an independent living facility, is licensed for 10 residents. The facility has an activity room, dining room, laundry facility, storage room, and an apartment for the manager.

FINANCIAL

As of December 31, 2003:

Name	Capital		
	Accounts	Deposits	Loans
	----- thousand dollars -----		
First National Bank*	\$7,436	\$79,466	\$63,421

*Branch office in Howells; figures represent headquarters.



First National Bank - Howells Branch

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL

Certified Public Accountants	1
Chiropractors	1
Medical Doctors (practicing in Howells) —family practice	3 (commute)
Nurses, Registered	11
Physician Assistants	1 (commute)
Veterinarians	1

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies	1
Advertising Agencies	1
Ag Businesses	1
Appliance Stores	1
Ag Business — bins & mixmills	1
Auto Repair Garages	4
Auto Supply Parts	5
Automobile Dealers—new & used	1
Barber Shops	1
Beauty Shops	1
Bed & Breakfast	1 (2 rooms)
Construction Services & Facilities	1
Contractors—carpentry	5
—concrete	2
—electric	4
Convenience Stores	1
Day Care, Licensed	6
Feed & Seed	11
Funeral Homes	1
Furniture Stores	1
Gift Shops	2
Golf Cart Sales & Rental	1
Grocery Stores	1
Hardware Store	1
Insurance	3
Landscaping	1
Lawn Mower Repair	1
Lawn Service	2
Machine Shops	1
Meat Markets	1
Photographer	1
Precision Bearings, Chains, Sprockets	2
Preschools	1
Restaurants	2
Service Stations (full service only)	2
Storage Units	2
Trucking Firms	3



New Home Construction



Howells Homes, Inc. (6-plex)



Howells Homes, Inc. (4-plex)



Howells Retirement Center

AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

AGRICULTURE

Statistic	Colfax County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms (2001)	670	53,000
Land in Farms (acres)	230,403	46,400,000
Average Size of Farms (acres)	344	875
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 1997	\$178,632,000	\$9,831,519,000
Market Value Per Farm, 1997	\$266,615	\$191,074
Wells Registered, 2001	899	84,061
Total Acres Irrigated, 2001	65,000	8,175,000
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	28.2%	17.6%
Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (1997-2001)		
Alfalfa Hay	60,000 tons	4,797,600 tons
Corn for Grain	14,182,300 bu.	1,136,440,000 bu.
Oats	85,300 bu.	4,274,000 bu.
Sorghum Grains	27,800 bu.	46,124,000 bu.
Soybeans	2,960,500 bu.	139,790,000 bu.
Winter Wheat	19,900 bu.	70,660 bu.
Five-Year Average Livestock Population (1997-2001)		
All Cattle	90,200	6,620,000

Colfax County ranked in the top ten counties in the production of oats two of the last five years.

SOURCE: Nebraska Agriculture Statistics, 1997-2001
1997 Census of Agriculture

RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in unlimited quantities in the county; however, metallic minerals are not found in the area.

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	Temperature			AVERAGES		Humidity*	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Precipitation		Morning	Afternoon
				Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)		
January	9.1	19.8	30.5	.67	5.9	76	65
February	15.3	26.2	37.0	.84	4.2	79	65
March	24.7	36.0	47.3	1.85	5.5	80	62
April	36.5	49.5	62.5	2.41	1.6	79	52
May	48.7	61.1	73.6	4.30	.0	80	53
June	58.5	70.9	83.2	4.47	.0	82	55
July	63.3	75.3	87.2	3.55	.0	84	56
August	61.2	73.0	84.9	3.45	.0	86	58
September	50.9	63.7	76.5	2.69	.1	83	54
October	39.0	52.2	65.4	1.99	.5	79	52
November	25.4	36.5	47.5	1.18	3.1	80	60
December	14.6	25.0	35.3	.72	4.9	79	66
Annual	37.3	49.1	60.9	28.13	25.8	81	58

* Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring	May 22
Average date of first frost in fall	September 3
Average length of growing season	153 days
Average number of "heating degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit	6,716
Average number of "cooling degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit	944
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average)	12
Prevailing wind direction (annual average)	S

SOURCE: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1931-2001, www.hprcc.unl.edu