

# COMMUNITY FACTS OGALLALA, NEBRASKA

[www.ogallala-ne.gov](http://www.ogallala-ne.gov)  
[www.kcad.org](http://www.kcad.org)

MAY 2003

## POPULATION

	<b>2000</b> <b><u>U. S. Census</u></b>	<b>2002</b> <b><u>Estimated</u></b>
<b>Ogallala</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>5,142</b>
<b>Keith County</b>	<b>8,875</b>	<b>8,891</b>
<b>Labor Market</b>	<b>54,742</b>	<b>51,983</b>

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

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The following pages contain basic information about Ogallala, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Ogallala Chamber of Commerce and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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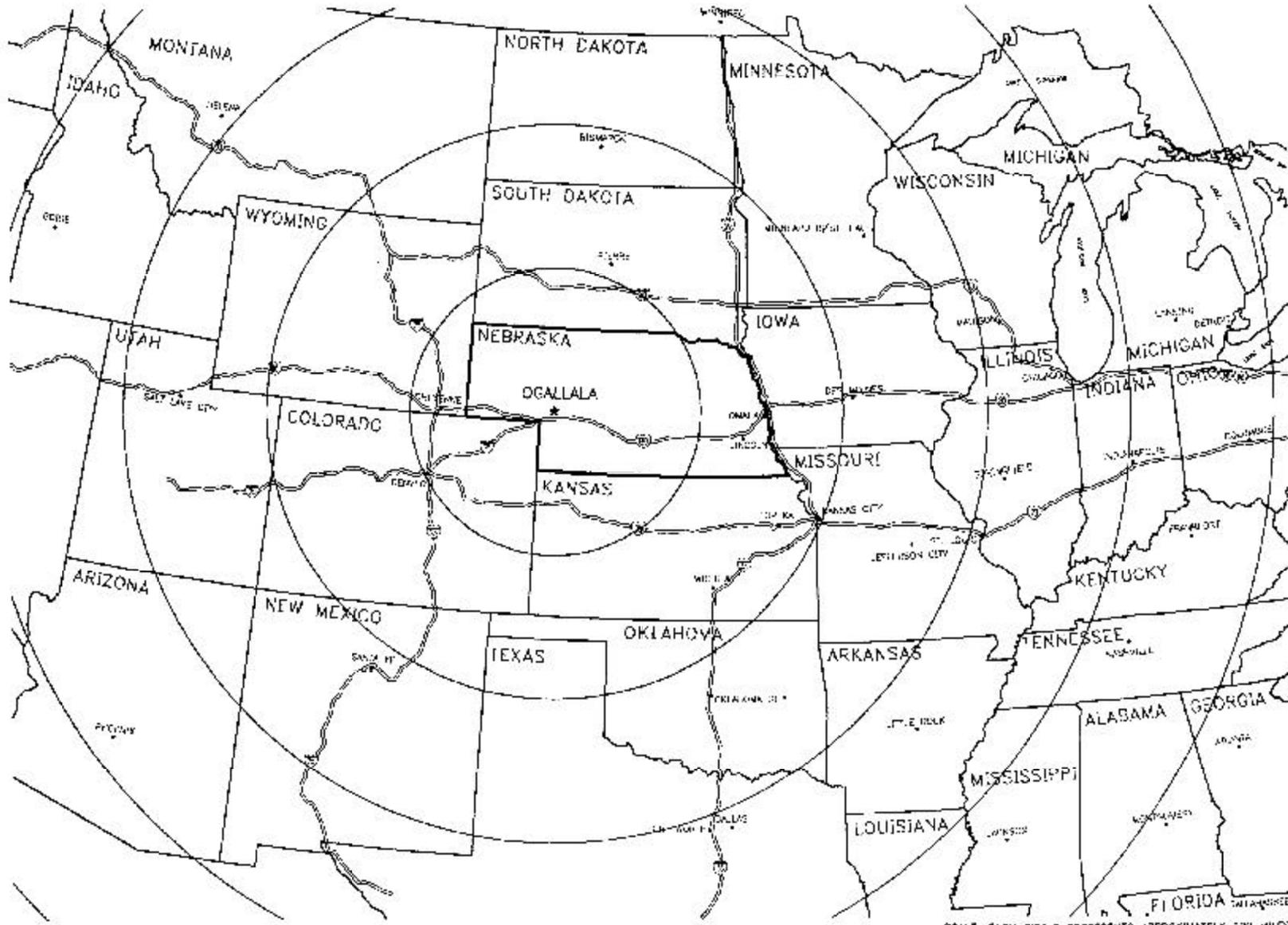
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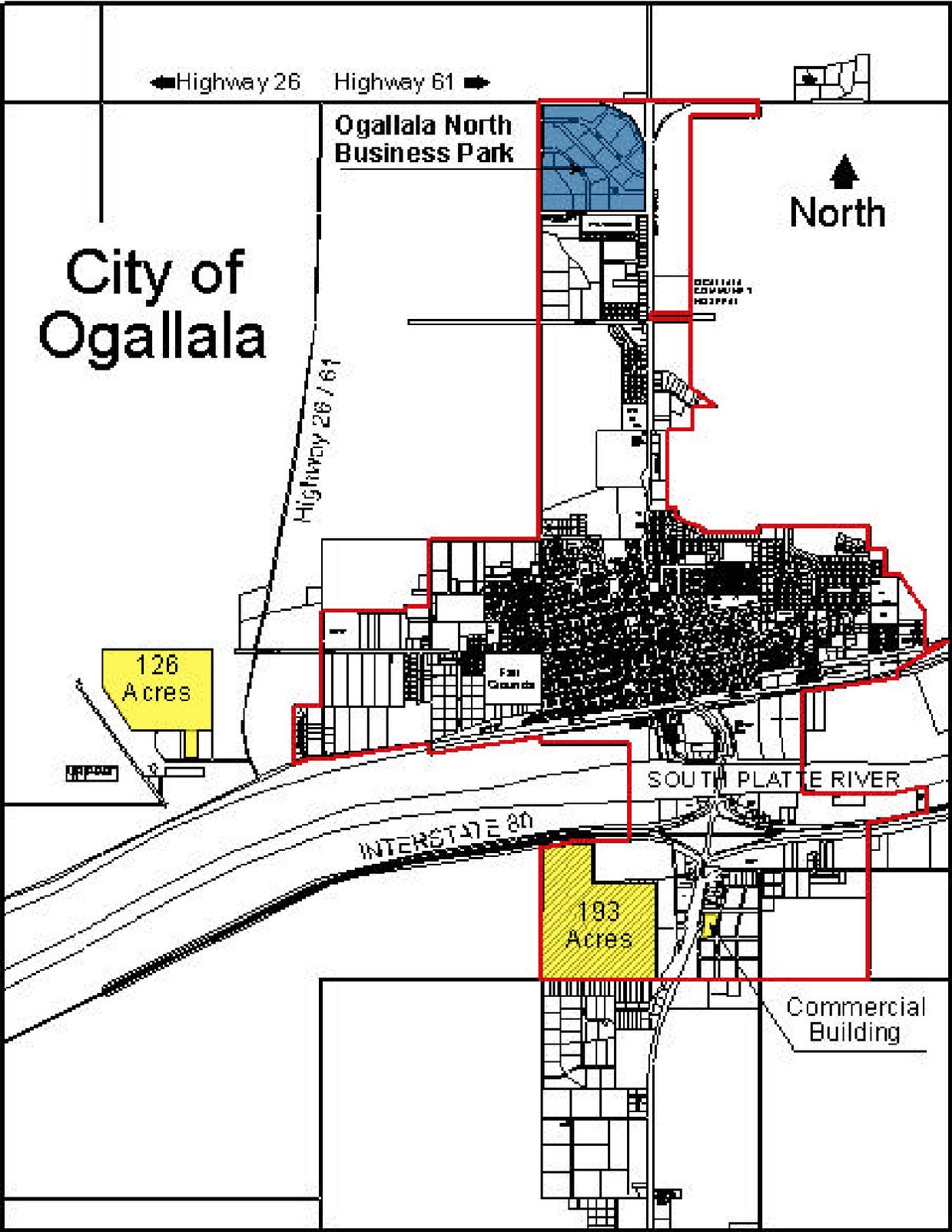
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATION

Ogallala, the county seat of Keith County, is located in southwestern Nebraska. U.S. Highways 30 and 26 and Nebraska Highway 61 intersect in Ogallala. Interstate 80 is within the city limits. Ogallala is 330 miles west of Omaha and 214 miles northeast of Denver.

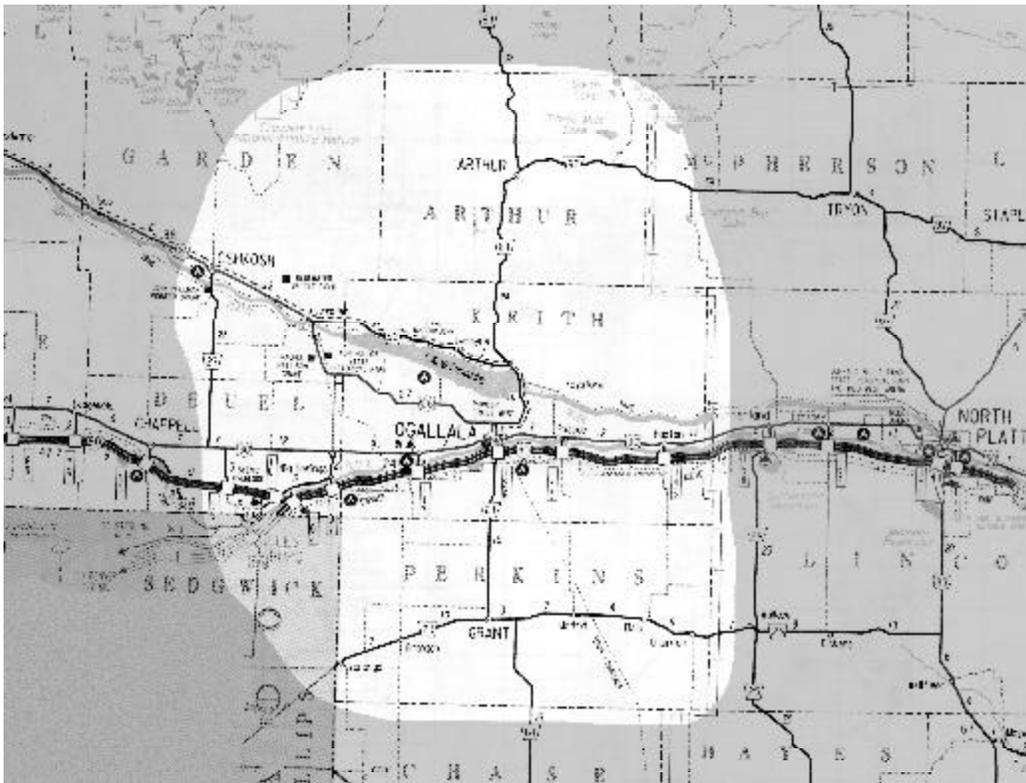
### POPULATION (U.S. Census)

Year	Ogallala	Keith County
1970	4,976	8,487
1980	5,638	9,364
1990	5,060	8,584
2000	4,930	8,875
2002 est.	5,142	8,891

There are three people in Ogallala who are fluent in Spanish, one in French, and five in India (Indian dialect).

County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin	
Total Hispanic	375
White	8,587
Black or African American	7
American Indian and Alaska Native	63
Asian	15
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
One race	8,804
Some other race	132
Two or more races	71

The 2000 U.S. Census estimates that 54,742 people live in Keith County and the contiguous counties of Deuel, Garden, Arthur, McPherson, Lincoln, and Perkins in Nebraska and Sedgwick County in Colorado.



**Primary Retail Trade Area**

## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

Economic activities in Ogallala, a county seat town, include ranching, cattle feeding, manufacturing, and tourism.

From its historic beginnings in the 1870s to today, ranching and cattle feeding are a large part of Ogallala's agricultural industry. The Ogallala Livestock Auction is consistently ranked at the top for sales volume. Irrigated wells fed by the Ogallala Aquifer produce an assortment of crops including winter wheat, corn, dry edible beans, sunflowers, millet, barley, oats, milo, sugar beets, and alfalfa.

The primary retail trade area extends 13 miles east, 33 miles southeast, 31 miles southwest, 27 miles west, and 34 miles northwest and contains approximately 13,680 people. Retail firms in Ogallala reported net taxable retail sales of \$70,892,580 in 2001. The 28 wholesale firms in the community distribute automotive parts, hardware, electrical, granaries, and groceries. Ogallala's economy changed from light manufacturing in the early 1900s to a more service-oriented economy. New technology industries have developed in recent years.

The marketing theme, "The Water, the West, the Best," is appropriate to the third segment in the economy—tourism. From a strong western history to the beautiful shores of Lake McConaughy, the choices are excellent. Ogallala ranks first in per capita tourism income in the state and, even though it is 30th in population size, it ranks seventh in motel revenues. Lake McConaughy records more than 860,000 visitors per year.

There has been a renewed interest in development on the south side of Lake McConaughy. Bayside Golf and Country Estates is an 18-hole golf course where the substantial shifts in natural terrain make for unrelenting challenges in the midst of breathtaking views of the state's largest body of water, Lake McConaughy. Lodging is available in new 1,600 square foot condos and 20 x 20 foot log cabins. The Dunes is a planned community with a focus on recreation and the amenities of Lake McConaughy. The design philosophy for the Dunes carries over to create a harmonious relationship between architecture and landscape.

Trail's Crossing, a masterplanned resort and residential community, has a proposal including 1,700 residential sites, two 18-hole golf courses, two marinas and more. Related businesses are expected to follow the new construction.

## **ELEVATION**

Ogallala is 3,216 feet above sea level.

## **TOPOGRAPHY**

The area north of the South Platte River is mostly rolling sand hills which have excellent grasses for cattle grazing. South Platte Valley has rich Rosebud and Dawes Valley soil, mostly under irrigation. Keith County is tableland with durable soil that is best suited for growing wheat.

## **HISTORY**

In October 1961, the Nebraska Landmark Council erected a historical marker in Ogallala designating the city as the "Cowboy Capital of Nebraska." The story behind that marker plays a large part in the history of the community.

The first business was established in 1868, supplying merchandise to the buffalo hunters and troops protecting frontier settlers. Keith County was organized in 1873.

By 1875 Ogallala had emerged as one of the great cattle towns in the Old West. The Chisholm Trail had been destroyed by farmers settling in eastern Kansas and Oklahoma, forcing the herds westward through Dodge City to Ogallala establishing the Western or Texas Trail. Between 1875 and 1885, hundreds of thousands of Texas cattle were driven up the Western Trail to Ogallala. The cattle were then shipped east or sold to ranchers in the northern plains area.

During this period, Ogallala shared with other famous cow towns that particular part of life in the Old West that has become legendary today. Ogallala opened its doors to the weary but, nevertheless, lusty, and boisterous cowhands who longed for fun after lonely months on the trail.

Liquor, gold, and blood flowed in the gambling rooms of such places as the Cowboy's Rest and the Crystal Palace. The town was not without law and order; however, in 1876 Judge William Gaslin widened the scope of his judicial authority by presiding over court with a Winchester rifle. The trailhands also learned to respect Sheriff Martin DePriest, a Texan, who winked at the letter of the law but maintained order in the community.

Ogallala, named for the Oglala Band of the Dakota Sioux, was incorporated in 1884. In 1885, the trail-driving business collapsed, giving way to a great wave of farmer-settlers. Within a few months, Ogallala changed from a cow town to a farmer shopping center. The increase in population brought with it a building boom, and many new establishments opened to serve the farming community.

After the demise of Ogallala as a cow town, the cattle industry emerged again in modified form based on blooded stock, fenced pastures, and careful financing. In the more recent past, Ogallala has become an important center for the cattle and farming industries in the Platte Valley.

In 1936 construction was started on Kingsley Dam, which impounds the North Platte River for irrigation and power generation. Completed in 1941 at a cost of \$43.5 million, the dam is three and one half miles long, 162 feet high, and 1,100 feet thick at the base.

Since 1941 Ogallala has been known as the "home of Lake McConaughy," Nebraska's largest body

of water. With 35,000 surface acres and 105 miles of shoreline, it is the state's biggest playground and offers year-round fun. At full storage, McConaughy is 22 miles long, 4 miles wide, and 142 feet deep at the dam. Fishing is the lake's primary drawing card, but because of its white sandy beaches, Big Mac is also noted for its sailing, camping, wind surfing, scuba diving, water skiing, and jet skiing.

Lake Ogallala, just below Kingsley Dam, is Nebraska's premiere eagle-viewing location. Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District operates a heated eagle-viewing observation facility located on the south end of Lake Ogallala.

In 1968 Interstate 80 was built through Ogallala.

The 50-megawatt Kingsley Dam Hydroelectric Plant, the state's largest, was completed in 1984 at a cost of \$49 million, eight months ahead of schedule. Owned and operated by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the plant was financed by Nebraska Public Power District, who purchases the power generated by the plant.

In 1993, Ogallala won the Governor's Travel Industry Award for the Outstanding Event of the Year with a budget of \$5,000 to \$25,000 (for hosting the trans-continental Great American Race luncheon stop celebration) and neighboring Lewellen won as the Outstanding Event with a budget of under \$5,000 for its Oregon Trail Celebration at historic Ash Hollow State Historical Park.



Downtown Ogallala



Aerial View of Ogallala

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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### MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
American Shizuki/ ASC Capacitors 1987 (formerly 1945)	Capacitors	National & Export	41	122	None
High Plains Printing, Inc. 1983	Commercial printing	Local & Regional	4	3	None
Keith County News 1885	Newspaper	Local & Regional	3	9	None
Ogallala Comfort Company 1988	Milkweed fibers	National & Export	4	4	None
Ogallala Electronics/ Arnold Engineering 1960	Electronic & magnetic components	National & Export	25	5	None
Ogallala Ready-Mix & Block Co. 1974	Ready-mixed concrete	Regional	23	1	None
Precisions Machining 1979	Close tolerance lathe & mill work production & subcontract welding	Regional	3	0	None
Quick Electric & Manufacturing 1967	Electric soldering machines	National & Export	3	1	None
R&D Welding & Supply 1978 (formerly 1920)	Fabrication of machine parts	Local	3	0	None
Rainbow Grain Co./Rainbow Popcorn 1991	Popcorn, packaged	National & Export	2	2	None
Titan Industries (In Paxton, 18 miles) 1984	PVC pipe	National & Export	36	8	None
U.S. Aprons 1987	Aprons, vests	National	2	19	None

## MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 10 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
21st Century Equipment	Agriculture	18	5	None
Adams Bank & Trust	Banking	24	42	None
ALCO Discount Store	Retail	5	18	None
Banner Home Health Care	Medical	1	24	None
Best Western Stagecoach Inn	Motel	2	25	None
Agriliance	Agriculture	15	2	None
City of Ogallala	Government	42	31	None
City Schools	Education	43	118	NSEA (teachers only)
Education Service Unit #16	Education	4	47	None
Family Medical Center	Medical	2	9	None
Farmers Cooperative Association	Agriculture	23	26	None
FTI Futuremarket Telecenters	Telecommunications	19	38	None
Indian Hills Manor	Rest home	8	69	None
Johnson, Bergmeier, Wolf & Cipperly	Accounting	7	4	None
Keith County	Government	41	26	None
Keith County Implement	Agriculture	18	5	None
KOGA/KMCX	Radio stations	5	7	None
Nebraska Public Power District	Electric utility	24	5	None
Ogallala Community Hospital	Medical	15	92	None
Ogallala Livestock Auction Market	Livestock sales	25	10	None
Ogallala Medical Group	Medical	5	10	None
Pamida	Retail	11	20	None
Pinnacle Bank	Banking	4	20	None

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Pro Oil	Fuel supplier	12	5	None
Prophet Systems	Computer software	81	29	None
Ramada Limited	Motel	3	17	None
Safeway	Groceries	14	18	None
Sapp Brothers	Truck stop	7	6	None
SunMart	Groceries	18	24	None
Travel Center of America	Travel center	29	25	None
Valley Bank and Trust	Banking	4	6	None
Wel-Life	Rest home	0	9	None

**OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS** (employing 100 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
<b>Sutherland, 31 miles</b>			
Nebraska Public Power District	Electric generating station	207	None
<b>North Platte, 50 miles</b>			
Cabela's	Teleservices	238	None
City of North Platte	City government	325	Yes
Great Plains Regional Medical Center	Medical	678	None
Masonite International	Door manufacturing	150	None
Mid-Plains Community College	Education	160	None
North Platte Public Schools	Education	531	Yes
Snell Services	Contractors	146	None
Union Pacific Railroad	Railroad transportation	2,510	Yes
Wal-Mart Distribution Center*	Distribution center	375	None
Wal-Mart Super Center	Discount retail	323	None

\*Expects to employ 600 when fully operational in fall 2003

## **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The city of Ogallala's Community Development Department, Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce, and Keith County Area Development work together for industrial development in the community.

The Community Development Department is funded primarily as a city office. The office works in conjunction with the Ogallala Community Redevelopment Authority and the Keith County Housing Development Corporation. The

Community Development Department assists in development specific to Ogallala.

Keith County Area Development, with nine board members, is funded by membership dues and city and county governments. Administration of the corporation is through the city of Ogallala's Community Development Director. The corporation is currently developing a commercial site north of Ogallala.

## **INDUSTRIAL SITE AVAILABLE**

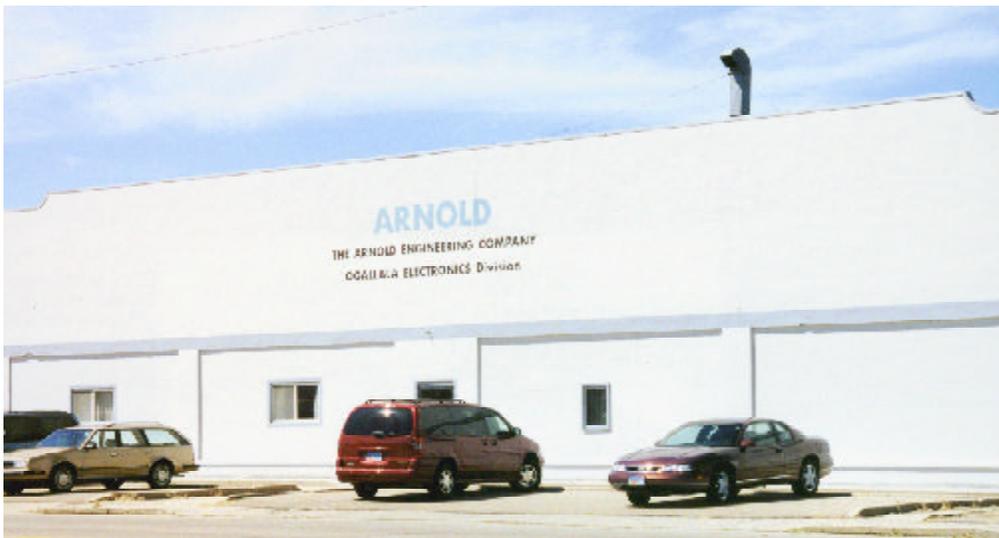
Click here to go to Nebraska Public Power District's [searchable sites and buildings database](#).



American Shizuki/ASC Capacitors



High Plains Printing



Ogallala Electronics/Arnold Engineering



Ogallala Ready Mix & Block Company



Ogallala Livestock



Pamida



FTI Futuremarket Telecenters



Paulsen, Inc.



ALCO Discount Store



Prophet Systems



USDA Service Center

# LABOR

## LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Ogallala labor market which is defined as the whole of Keith County plus the contiguous counties of Deuel, Perkins, Lincoln, McPherson, Arthur, and Garden in Nebraska (annual average, 2002). Information for Sedgewick County, Colorado, another contiguous county, was not available.

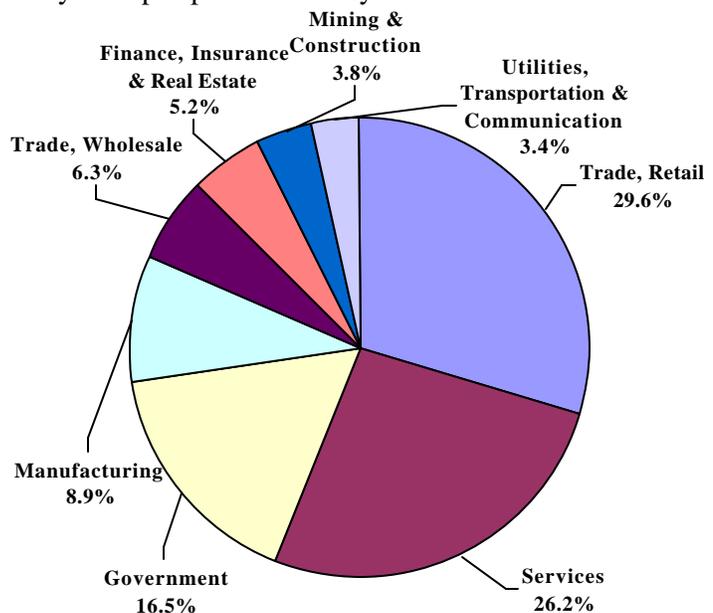
	<b>Keith County</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)</u></b>		
Manufacturing	334	(D)
Mining & Construction	142	(D)
Utilities, Transportation & Communications	128	(D)
Trade, Retail	1,113	(D)
Trade, Wholesale	238	(D)
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	195	(D)
Services	984	(D)
Government	621	4,405
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	3,754	21,061
Farm Employment*	490	
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	4,766	25,905
B. Commuting Out of County	590	N/A
C. Unemployment	147	835
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	4,913	26,740
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	350	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	140	
TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	1,227	

(D)-Data not available because of disclosure suppression.

\*Data for 2000, Source U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

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

**NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
KEITH COUNTY  
ANNUAL AVERAGE, 2002**

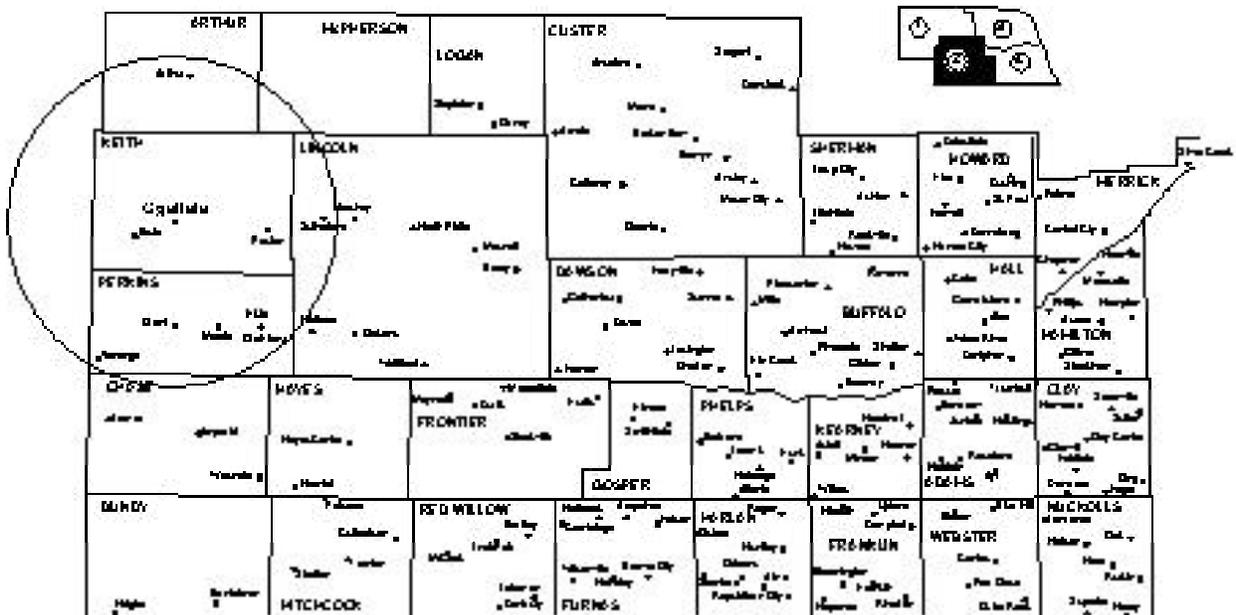


2000 POPULATION DATA						
Location	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Median Household Effective Buying Income (2001)
Keith Co.	8.4	18.4	41.1	86.6	16.8	\$28,160
Nebraska	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$34,956
U.S.	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$38,365

Keith County had 6,139 eligible voters in 2000; 63.5 percent voted in the national election compared to 65.2 percent in Nebraska.

SOURCE: U.S. Census, <http://www.census.gov>  
 Sales and Marketing Management, September 2002  
 Statewide General Election 2000 Results, <http://www.nol.org/home/SOS/Canvass2000/gen2000menu.htm>

### LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE OGALLALA AREA



POPULATION DATA — 2000 U.S. Census

City of Ogallala	—	4,930			
Keith County	—	8,875	Ages 18-24 Ages 25-44 Ages 45-54	271 Male and	238 Female
				1,103 Male and	1,138 Female
				600 Male and	622 Female
30-Mile Radius	—	16,547 (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 14.8 percent nationally. Union membership in Nebraska is concentrated in the railroad and packinghouse industries.

Labor organizations operating in Ogallala:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Union</b>
Qwest	Communications Workers of America

Approximately 4 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Ogallala is unionized. There have been no known strikes in Ogallala in the last 10 years.

## WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)		
	10th Percentile	Median	90th Percentile
<b>Professional</b>			
Accountants & Auditors	12.65	21.27	30.71
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	18.49	24.25	32.27
Electrical Engineers**	20.35	31.04	44.36
Industrial Engineers	20.07	24.02	27.88
Mechanical Engineers*	16.21	24.47	33.90
Computer Programmers*	11.77	21.47	33.56
Computer Systems Analysts	14.19	19.47	27.79
Registered Nurses	14.53	18.96	25.26
<b>Retail</b>			
Hotel Desk Clerks	5.79	6.62	8.08
Retail Salespersons	5.83	8.64	13.05
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	5.87	8.70	14.72
Driver/Sales Workers	5.70	7.73	15.19
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.40	10.13	17.18
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	5.72	8.22	12.41
<b>Clerical</b>			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	7.40	10.56	14.45
Customer Service Representatives	5.95	8.80	11.53
Data Entry Keyers	6.64	8.65	11.17
Secretaries, excl. Legal & Medical	6.66	9.23	12.38
Office Clerks, General	6.06	8.12	11.29
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.15	8.27	11.15
Telemarketers*	6.08	8.07	10.19
<b>Unskilled</b>			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material			
Movers, Hand	6.20	8.73	12.27

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

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)		
	10th Percentile	Median	90th Percentile
Packers & Packagers, Hand	5.82	7.20	9.63
Assemblers/Fabricators. All Other	8.42	10.54	12.98
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	7.05	8.78	11.55
<b>Semi-Skilled</b>			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.70	11.73	13.98
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor Trailer	8.35	14.28	21.69
Maintenance Workers, Machinery*	9.79	13.91	20.09
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters*	9.47	13.24	18.82
Drilling/Boring Machine Tool Setters*	9.23	12.61	17.19
Milling & Planing Machine Setters*	9.75	13.85	20.92
Grinding, Lapping & Buffing Mach. Oper.*	8.38	11.20	14.13
Cutting & Slicing Machine Operators*	7.51	10.82	15.09
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Oper.*	8.49	11.82	14.63
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	10.50	12.71	14.93
<b>Skilled</b>			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	8.66	13.16	17.81
Electricians	13.77	16.40	20.71
Maintenance Workers, Machinery*	9.79	13.91	20.09
Machinists*	9.45	13.36	17.34
Tool & Die Makers*	10.78	15.74	21.05
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.14	12.50	16.94
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Oper.*	9.75	13.12	17.06
<b>Technical</b>			
Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technicians	12.42	20.14	27.18
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	10.05	14.24	20.58
Computer Operators	8.05	11.39	19.31

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

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, 4th Quarter 2002, Midplains Region, [www.dol.state.ne.us/limwages/toc000.htm](http://www.dol.state.ne.us/limwages/toc000.htm).

## FRINGE BENEFITS

Based on present experience of existing local industry, workers are, on the average, granted eight paid holidays and one to two weeks vacation annually. Seventy to 100 percent of the premiums for group life, accident and sickness, and hospitalization and medical-surgical insurance are paid by industries. Industrial pension plans, stock sharing plans, and profit sharing year-end bonuses are also available.

# TRANSPORTATION

## RAILROADS

Ogallala is served by a main line of the Union Pacific Railroad. Freight trains run through Ogallala daily. Switching is done by local switch crews as needed.

Railroad mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Omaha	331
Chicago	795
Dallas	925
Denver	227
Detroit	1,110
Kansas City	453
Los Angeles	1,462
Minneapolis	675
New York	1,610
St. Louis	728
San Francisco	1,519

## MOTOR

### Highways

Interstate 80 is located within the city limits. U.S. Highways 30 (east-west) and 26 (northwest) as well as Nebraska Highway 61 (north-south) intersect in Ogallala. There are no local load restrictions. Interstate 76 is 26 miles west of Ogallala.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	277
Omaha	330
Chicago	794
Dallas	801
Denver	214
Detroit	1,062
Kansas City	468
Los Angeles	1,225
Minneapolis	705
New York	1,568
St. Louis	762
San Francisco	1,341

U.S. Highway 30 east of Ogallala was completed in 2002 as was a north-south bypass west of the city connecting U.S. Highway 30 to Nebraska Highway 61. Reconstruction of U.S. Highway 30 west of Ogallala is scheduled to be completed in 2004.

### Trucklines

Interstate/intrastate trucklines serving Ogallala:

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trucks Daily
<b>North Platte</b> Brown Transfer	1-2

### Bus Lines

Ogallala is served by Greyhound Bus Lines with seven inbound and seven outbound buses daily. Bus parcel service is available. Direct service is provided to Omaha, Nebraska; Denver, Colorado; and Cheyenne, Wyoming. Interconnections are made at these points to major cities in the United States. Bus charter service is available through Wade Bus Lines.

Ogallala Transit System provides bus service anywhere within the Ogallala city limits for \$1.00 each way and is available to the public. This service is operated by the city of Ogallala.

## AIR

Searle Field, the municipal air field located two miles west of Ogallala, is staffed weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The airport has two paved and lighted runways (5,100 feet and 3,700 feet), hangars, fuel, pilots lounge, maintenance shop, tie down, VOR, VASI, GPS, DME, RNAV, and Unicom. Twenty private planes are hangared there; two are available for charter. The elevation is 3,276 feet, the latitude is 41°07'18"N, and the longitude is 101°46'14"W. The airport was closed approximately six days during the last three years due to inclement weather.

The North Platte Regional Airport, 51 miles (45 minutes) east of Ogallala, has three paved and lighted runways—4,926 feet, 4,436 feet, and 8,000 feet. Other services include field, instruction, charter service, repairs, weather on field, restaurant, lounge, rental car, and courtesy car. The elevation at the airport is 2,778 feet, the latitude is 41°07'18"N, and the longitude is 101°46'14"W.

Direct service to Denver, Colorado, includes six flights Monday thru Friday and two flights inbound and outbound on Saturday and Sunday. Planes coming from Denver, Colorado, will also stop in North Platte and Norfolk, Nebraska.

**WATER**

Ogallala has no nearby water transportation.

<b>Airline</b>	<b>Flights Daily</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>
Great Lakes Airlines	6	Beechcraft 1900



Searle Field in Ogallala

# UTILITIES

## ELECTRICITY

Ogallala is provided retail electric service by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). The Ogallala distribution has a 34.5 kV ring bus to which two 34.5 kV/4.16 kV substations and three 34.5/12.5 kV substations are connected. The ring bus can be fed from three sources of power. Two sources include Western Area Power Association (WAPA) 115/34.5 kV substations located just south of Ogallala and north and west of Brule. The third source is a 34.5 kV line to NPPD's 230/115/34.5 kV substation located just south of Ogallala. The power complex, located south of Ogallala, consists of a 115/34.5 kV substation owned by WAPA, a 115 kV switching station owned by Tri-State G & T, and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation owned by NPPD. This complex is tied into the statewide grid system by means of 115,000 volt and 345,000 volt transmission lines.

The 50 MW Kingsley hydro generation plant, completed in 1984 and located just a few miles northeast of Ogallala, is connected to the NPPD 115,000 volt grid. Kingsley hydro can independently feed the city of Ogallala and surrounding areas in case of a major storm outage.

**BASE ELECTRIC RATES** (effective 2/1/03)  
Summer bills run from June - September.

**Residential Service** (electric water heat):

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

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

**General Service:**

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

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

**Commercial Electric Space Heating:**

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

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

**General Service Demand:**

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

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which the District 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 several off-peak and curtailable service rates available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

Load Factor		Customer Billed	
%	kW	kWh	¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
41	100	30,000	6.55
41	300	90,000	6.36
41	500	150,000	6.33
50	100	36,000	5.99
70	300	150,000	5.09
50	500	180,000	5.80

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

**High Tension Service\*:**

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

**Spring/Fall Season** rate applies to the Customer's demand and energy use from April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through November 30.

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

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

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

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

Load Factor		Customer Billed	
%	kW	kWh	¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
28	150	30,000	7.46
28	500	100,000	6.79
28	1,000	200,000	6.65
92	150	100,000	4.08
90	500	300,000	4.02
90	1,000	650,000	3.87

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

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

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

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

## NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is supplied to the community of Ogallala by Kinder Morgan through 12- and 16-inch transmission pipelines with an operating pressure of approximately 800 to 1,000 pounds per square inch.

Kinder Morgan is also the distributor of natural gas within Ogallala, serving approximately 1,900 residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

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

## OTHER FUELS

### LP Gas

LP gas is available for residential and commercial uses at Farmers Co-Op Association and Sapp Brothers.

### Oil

Oil is available for residential and commercial uses in Ogallala at Sapp Brothers, Farmers Co-Op Association, and B&J Petroleum.

## WATER

The municipal water system in Ogallala is supplied by seven wells, which have an average depth of 300-400 feet. The system has a combined pumping capacity of 6,000 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 1,200,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 1,400,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 4,000,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 9,840,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 40-85 pounds per square inch and the residual pressure varies.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 300-foot well will produce 1,000 gallons of water per minute. The water table fluctuates seasonally.

The quality of water in Ogallala does not necessitate a water treatment plant.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, ranges from 172-196. The average tap water temperature varies from 58° in winter to 64° in summer.

### Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.9
Total Solids	314
Iron	<.1
Manganese	<.05
Fluoride	.6
Total Alkalinity	164
Total Hardness	172-196
Calcium	58
Nitrates	3.3
Chlorides	10
Sulfates	31
Sodium	16

### WATER RATES (effective 10/1/02)

#### Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

First 4,000 gallons	\$ 11.55
Excess gallons	\$ 1.05 per thousand
<b>Minimum Bill:</b>	<b>\$ 11.55 per month</b>

In 2000 city installed a water line across the river at a cost of \$123,000.

## SEWERAGE

Ogallala has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The trickling filter sewerage treatment plant, built in 1985 and updated in 2001, has a daily capacity of 1,500,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 600,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily discharge is 1,200,000 gallons.

### SEWER USE CHARGES (effective 10/1/02)

#### Residential:

\$9.20 per month for the first 4,000 gallons (based on average usage during months of January, February, and March)
\$2.65 per thousand gallons for excess usage
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$9.20 per month

**Commercial & Industrial:**

\$9.20 per month for the first 4,000 gallons  
(based on current month usage)  
\$2.65 per hundred gallons for excess usage  
**Minimum Bill:** \$9.20 per month

A \$2 million sewer treatment plant update was completed in 2001 financed by a revolving loan through the State of Nebraska.

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

Privately owned and operated waste removal services are available. The privately owned landfills, located 12.5 miles from Ogallala, have a lifespan of 25 years. Approximately 8,500 tons of refuse are delivered to the disposal site monthly.

**WASTE REMOVAL RATES** (effective 10/1/02)

**Residential:**

\$11.75 per month (once a week pickup)

**Commercial:**

\$58.00 per month for weekly pickup of one 3-yard dumpster

**Industrial:**

\$35.25 per ton

**RECYCLING**

High Plains Recycling, located in Ogallala, accepts aluminum, plastic bottles, magazines, colored paper, and cardboard. The recycling drop-off area is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Water Treatment Plant

# COMMUNICATIONS

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications services to the Ogallala area are provided by Qwest Communications with a digital central office on a self-healing fiber ring monitored remotely. Installation and maintenance personnel are located in Ogallala. Dual fiber is fed from the Central Switching Office of the local exchange carriers with diverse routing available.

### TARIFFED RATES (effective 5/28/02)

Residential Line	\$ 18.65
Business Line	\$ 28.55

## INTERNET

Broadband Internet service is provided in Ogallala by Megavision of Columbus; Atcjet.net of Arapahoe; Charter Digital Pipeline of Ogallala; and Lakemac.net of Lemoyne.

## POST OFFICE

The post office in Ogallala provides house-to-house delivery and has one mail receipt and two dispatches daily. The nearest general mail facility is located in North Platte. Next day delivery is available in Nebraska and some parts of Colorado. Postal receipts for the past five fiscal years:

2002	\$1,133,000
2001	\$1,146,000
2000	\$1,082,000
1999	\$1,070,000
1998	\$ 936,000

## PACKAGE DELIVERY

Overnight express service is available in Ogallala by the United Parcel Service and Federal Express, with the latest pickup time of 4 p.m. Airborne will deliver upon contact of the company.

## NEWSPAPER

The Keith County News, the local paper published semi-weekly, has 4,300 subscribers. Other papers delivered locally include North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World-Herald, Denver Post, USA Today, and Rocky Mountain News.

## RADIO

Radio stations serving Ogallala:

Call Letters	Frequency
KOGA-AM	930 KHz
KOGA-FM	99.7 MHz
KMCX-FM	106.5 MHz

## TELEVISION

The television station carrying local news is:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KNOP-TV	3	North Platte, NE

Cable television is available on 197 channels including 16 basic, 48 expanded basic, 38 premium channels, and 19 pay-per-view channels. Forty-one digital channels along with 35 digital music channels are available.



United States Post Office



Ogallala Police Department



Ogallala Fire & Rescue



Ogallala Auditorium

## TAX STRUCTURE

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

All real property is subject to tax at 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		
	2000	2001	2002
Real Estate	\$145,557,085	\$155,053,065	\$164,968,770
Personal Property	9,512,985	9,478,750	8,659,220
Special (railroad & utilities)	5,183,283	5,555,267	5,894,931
TOTAL	\$160,253,353	\$170,087,082	\$179,522,921

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

	2000	2001	2002
City	\$0.36983503	\$0.41828300	\$0.4182830
County	.37096500	.33540400	.3156760
School District - Ogallala	1.26336500	1.15365500	1.1693210
Community College	.03403500	.06808800	.0700000
Educational Service Unit	.01687300	.01614800	.0151750
Natural Resource District	.01295700	.01495200	.0143900
CRA	.02458000	.02351700	.0235170
Agricultural Society	.01589700	.01500900	.0145500
TOTAL	\$2.12520600	\$2.04505600	\$ 2.0409120

The 2002 tax rate at the industrial site outside the city limits is \$1.658726 per \$100 of actual value.

### CITY SALES TAX

A 1.5 percent city sales tax is imposed in Ogallala.

### LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of September 30, 2002:

City—Revenue Bonds	\$2,210,000
City—General Obligation Bonds	\$1,860,000
County	None
School District (as of 11-1-02)	\$3,495,000

## CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 9/30/02	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Combined Revenue	04-15-99	\$2,715,000	\$2,210,000	4.5493	12-15-14

## GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 09-30-02	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Various Purpose	06-01-94	\$ 180,000	\$ 40,000	5.175	06-01-04
Street	12-29-98	\$ 1,855,000	\$ 1,670,000	4.9521	12-15-18
Highway Allocation	06-26-01	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	4.6837	12-15-12

## SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 11-1-02	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
High School	05-03-01	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	4.3	11-2009
Ogallala Middle School	10-2002	\$2,295,000	\$2,295,000	2.8	11-2009



Ogallala City Administration Building



Keith County Courthouse

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Keith County has five townships and is governed by five county commissioners elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be May 2004. Keith County belongs to the West Central Nebraska Development District along with 17 other counties. The proposed budget for 2002-2003 is \$8,457,986. County zoning classifications are:

H	Historic District
A	Agricultural
RM	Residential Medium Density
RR	Residential Rural
RR2	Residential Rural 2
GB	General Business
TS	Tourist Service Density
HD	Highway
NC	Neighborhood & Conservation
LI	Light Industrial
HI	Heavy Industrial
O	Open District

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Ogallala, a first-class city, has a council-city manager form of government. The 2001-02 actual budget was \$8,721,792. The next election will be held May 2004. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected at Large</b>	
Council Members (5)	4 years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Manager	Indefinite
City Clerk/Treasurer	Indefinite

### FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided to the community by a 36-member volunteer fire department. This department also provides protection to rural areas outside the city limits from the south side of Lake

McConaughy to Perkins County by operating the Rural Fire District's equipment, which is housed in Ogallala. The department also assists in mutual aid calls.

Ogallala has 500 fire hydrants. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 6; outside it is 8/9. Average annual expenditures for fire protection during the last three years were \$150,000.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
<b>City</b>	
1986 Ford	1,250 gal. per min.
1976 Ford	45' aerial 750 gal. per min.
1997 Ford	Ambulance
2000 Ford	Ambulance
1968 GMC	3/4 ton pickup dive rescue
1983 Dodge	Rescue truck
1981 Chevrolet	Heavy rescue truck
2000 Dodge	Mini van command vehicle/personnel carrier
<b>Rural</b>	
1982 International	2,500 gal. tanker
1998 International	2,500 gal. tanker
1985 Ford	Grass truck - 1 ton
1999 Ford	F450 grass truck
<b>City/Rural</b>	
1995 Freightliner	1250 gal. per min.
1995 Chevrolet	Suburban command vehicle

Fire losses for the last five years have been:

Year	Fire Losses
2002	\$ 374,400
2001	\$ 207,680
2000	\$ 45,075
1999	\$ 217,550
1998	\$ 54,600

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Police Department**

The Ogallala Police Department employs 11 full-time policemen and 1 support person. Equipment in the department includes two-way radios, law enforcement teletype system, emergency center, four marked units, two staff cars, mobile radar control, recording systems, electronic surveillance equipment, intoxilizer, computers, in-car camera, and other standard equipment. Annual expenditures for police protection for the last three years averaged \$630,000.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in Ogallala in 2001 was 21.6 compared to a state crime rate of 40.4, and a national rate of 41.2.

### **Sheriff's Department**

The Keith County Sheriff's Department is staffed by eight sworn officers and seven support personnel. The department has two-way radios, radar, fingerprint equipment, camera, in-car computers, and other standard equipment. Police and sheriff's patrols provide protection to existing industries.

The city of Ogallala and Keith County have a joint enhanced 911 system.

### **State Patrol**

Troop D of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in North Platte and covers a 23-county area. Six patrolmen and one criminal investigator are stationed in Ogallala.

## **STREETS**

Ogallala has 53.27 miles or 167 lane miles of streets in the community; 66.45 lane miles of which are hard-surfaced with concrete and 77.32 lane

miles are asphalt. There are no local load restrictions. Approximately 86 percent of the streets have curbs and 70 percent have sidewalks. Street equipment includes one street sweeper, two sanding units with plows, one liquid de-icing unit, two graders, one loader mounted snow blower, two tractor/mowers, tar kettle, lift truck, loader, skid loader, backhoe, paint striper, etc.

In 2003 Ogallala plans street resurfacing at an estimated cost of \$1,650,000.

## **BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS**

The Uniform Building, Plumbing and Solar Energy Codes, the National Electric and Fuel Gas Codes, and the 101 Life Safety Codes are enforced in Keith County.

Local zoning classifications in Ogallala are:

- A-1 Agricultural
- A-2 Agricultural Residential
- R-1 Low-Density Residential
- R-2 Medium-Density Residential
- R-3 High-Density Residential
- R-1S Special Residential
- C-1 Commercial Central Business
- C-2 Commercial Highway District
- C-4 Commercial Interstate District
- H-1 Historical
- I-1 Industrial

## **PLANNING**

Ogallala has a nine-member planning commission. Each member is appointed by the city council for a three-year term.

A Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 1995 by Hanna Keelan Associates PC of Lincoln, Nebraska, and is in the process of a complete revision.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### Ogallala School System

Type of School	Number	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary	3	26	408	1 to 13	1 to 4
Elementary*	2	9	118	1 to 12	1 to 5
Middle School	1	30	276	1 to 12	1 to 3
High School	1	37	401	1 to 12	1 to 2

\* Catholic and Lutheran

School District 1 in Keith County covers 158 square miles and has an 2002-03 actual valuation of \$430,571,367. This Class 3, K-12 district is accredited by the North Central Association.

The 2002-03 school operating expenses totaled \$11,857,730, with an average cost per pupil of \$10,929. The actual valuation per resident pupil was \$390,000.

#### Test Results

Title	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
<b>4th Grade</b>		
<b>Achievement</b>	98	57
<b>ACT</b>	78	22.0
<b>SAT</b>	3	1389

It is estimated that 97 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 70 percent of the seniors pursue a college degree, and 25 percent of the seniors enter the job market.

The maximum capacity of the public elementary schools is 600. The public middle school, built in 1924 with an addition in 1996, has a maximum capacity of 500. The public high school, built in 1963 with additions in 1983 and 2001, has a maximum capacity of 550.

Vocational courses offered in the high school include woods, metals, auto mechanics, construction trades, and home living. Adult education programs are

available in the high school in cooperation with the Mid-Plains Community College, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and Chadron State College. Evening classes include computer science, keyboarding, woods, accounting, psychology, physiology, and history.

Internet is available in the classrooms.

#### Parochial Schools

**St. Luke's Catholic School** has a 2002-03 enrollment of 49 students in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. The teacher/pupil ratio is 1:10 and the computer/pupil ratio is 1:5. Tuition for parishioners is \$80 per month for the first child, and \$40 per month for siblings. Nonparishioners pay tuition of \$130 per month for the first child and \$60 per month for siblings.

**St. Paul's Lutheran School** is a pre-school through eighth grade facility with a 2002-03 enrollment of 67 students. The teacher/pupil ratio is 1:13 and the computer/pupil ratio is 1:5. Tuition for parishioners is \$70 per month per family and nonparishioners is \$95 per month per family.

#### Special Schools

P.A.K.S. Developmental Services Inc., offers vocational and residential services to clients in a community-based mental retardation program designed to provide a viable alternative to institutional placement of developmentally disabled adults.

## Educational Service Unit (ESU)

Ogallala participates in Educational Service Unit 16, which is headquartered in Ogallala serving nine counties. Services available include school improvement, curriculum services, instructional practice, mentor program, high ability learner program, grant development and facilitation, video library, telecomputing/Internet, distance learning, integrating technology, Title 1 cooperative, technology demos and consultations, Star Lab, program supervision, resource itinerant teachers, psychological services, speech therapy, deaf education consultation, preschool services, behavioral consultant, teacher, consultant, inclusion facilitator, transition specialist, vision/assistive technology consultant, service credit program, cooperative purchasing, health screening, and policy development.

Distance learning programs are available through the ESU to more than 40 locations in southwest Nebraska. The system delivered 149 secondary and post-secondary classes to more than 2,500 students throughout the consortium in 2002. Programs include health care training, continuing education, organization meetings, governmental interaction, post-secondary education, statewide connectivity link, and much more. With live, interactive links, community residents can take a college course, attend a meeting in another community or obtain continuing education, all without leaving home.

## Community College

Ogallala is part of the Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC) which consists of McCook Community College, North Platte Community College, Broken Bow Extended Campus, Ogallala Extended Campus, and Valentine Extended Campus. The Mid-Plains Community College encompasses 18 central Nebraska counties and is governed by an 11-member elected Board of Governors.

MPCC established an Extended Campus site at Ogallala in December 2000. Two-year Associates of Arts Academic Transfer Degrees are obtainable

from the Ogallala site without traveling into North Platte. For the degree, other academic classes are taught each semester. All classes are taught evenings at the Ogallala High School, usually meeting once weekly. The development of Adult Education Classes for non-credit is also a part of the Ogallala Extended Campus.

Courses offered, depending on demand, at the Ogallala Extended Campus include accounting, art, biology, business, computer science, education, English, fire science, health education, history, health occupations, mathematics, music, physical sciences, political science, psychology, sociology, speech, welding, small engine repair, upholstery, photography, drafting, real estate, and sign language. The majority of the courses offered at the Ogallala Extended Campus site are done in cooperation with Ogallala Public Schools, using their facilities.

During the 2001-2002 academic year, the Ogallala Extended Campus Center served 230 part-time (primarily) students who registered for 504 semester credit hours.

Mid-Plains Community College Area Degree and Certificate Graduates for academic year 2000/2001:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Annual Graduate Degrees</b>
Academic Transfer	140
Associates Degree Nursing	21
Business	25
Office Technology	16
Info Technology or Comp Info Spec.	4
Child Care	8
Electronics Technology	3
HVAC	1
Automotive	1
Building Construction	1
Diesel Technology	5
Industrial Electronic Technology	1
Administrative/Office Science	8
Computer Science/MIS	8
Customer Service Management	5



Ogallala Senior High School



Ogallala Middle School



Educational Service Unit #16



Prairie View Elementary



Progress Elementary



West Fifth Elementary



St. Luke's Catholic School



St. Paul's Lutheran School



Ogallala Community Hospital



Family Medical Center



Goodall City Library



Indian Hills Manor



Wel-Life Center, Assisted Living Facility

## Other Schools

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

<b>Community/College or University</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
<b>North Platte, NE</b> Mid-Plains Community College	50
<b>Sidney, NE</b> Western Nebraska Community College, Sidney Campus	70
<b>McCook, NE</b> Mid-Plains Community College, McCook Campus	108
<b>Scottsbluff, NE</b> Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus	122
<b>Kearney, NE</b> University of Nebraska at Kearney	149
<b>Chadron, NE</b> Chadron State College	187
<b>Laramie, WY</b> Wyoming Technical College	226
<b>Lincoln, NE</b> University of Nebraska-Lincoln	277
<b>Omaha, NE</b> University of Nebraska at Omaha	330

## CHURCHES

<b>Denomination</b>	<b>Number of Churches</b>
Assembly of God	2
Berean	1
Congregational	2
Church of Christ	1
Faith Evangelical Free	1
First Church of God	1
First Baptist	1
Jehovah's Witnesses	1
Lutheran - Missouri Synod	4
United Methodist	1
United Pentecostal	1

## MEDICAL

### Hospital

A new hospital facility completed in 2000 consists of a 18-bed acute and skilled care hospital with two operating rooms, one LDRP, fixed base CAT scan, and all telemetry monitored beds. Surgery is scheduled five days a week; emergency surgery is available at all times.

### Clinics

The Ogallala Medical Group has four doctors and two physician's assistants. Services include outpatient surgery and echo and vascular diagnostic screening.

The Specialty Clinic, located in the hospital's Ogallala Medical Group Clinic area, houses the location for specialty doctors from other locations to see patients in Ogallala.

### Home Health

Nebraska Home Health Care, based in the Ogallala Community Hospital, is owned by Banner Health Systems. Certified by Medicare and Medicaid, the agency serves Keith, Arthur, Deuel, Garden, and Perkins counties in Nebraska as well as Sedgwick County in Colorado. Round-the-clock services include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, aides, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and social work. Additional services include high tech nursing, case management, IV therapy, terminal care, infusion therapy including antibiotics, chemotherapy, enteral, hydration, pain management, and TPN (total paternal nourishment).

### Rescue Squad

Seventeen Emergency Medical Technicians, two of which are paramedics, respond to rescue calls with the two ambulances owned by the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department. The ambulances are equipped with Jaws of Life and defibrillator.

## NURSING HOMES

Indian Hills Manor, built in 1968, is an 82-bed, long-term care facility. It is licensed by the state of Nebraska as a Skilled Care Facility and is certified for Medicare/Medicaid. Indian Hills has recently completed the addition of a ten-bed Alzheimer's Center. Quality nursing care is provided on a 24-hour basis.

## LIBRARY

The handicap accessible Goodall City Library, contains 30,000 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 69,000. Library activities include summer reading program, preschool story hour. Internet is available at the library for public use with six computers for adult use and two computers for children. The library also has books on tape. The Ogallala Library Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has two annual book sales.

## RECREATION AND PARKS

Six parks in Ogallala cover 50 acres and have ten ball fields (seven lighted), six tennis courts (four lighted), covered picnic area, swimming pool, band shell, and grills. Four playgrounds have playground equipment, play centers, covered picnic areas, grills, and three indoor rest rooms. The parks department employs two full-time and eight seasonal personnel and has a 2002-03 budget of \$189,750.

Various sports activity programs are managed by their individual associations .

The Goodall Recreation Complex consists of an indoor pool (75 feet x 42 feet) and well-equipped weight and exercise rooms. This \$425,000 project was constructed for the city in 1976 and donated by Mrs. R. A. Goodall.

Ogallala has facilities for:

Boating — Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala—sailboating, outboard and inboard motors, pontoons, canoes, and paddle boats; canoeing on North and South Platte Rivers

Bowling — One bowling alley with 16 lanes  
Fishing — Excellent fishing at Lake McConaughy—trout, pike, perch, bass, catfish, and walleye. Lake McConaughy holds many state records  
Golf — Two 18-hole courses with grass greens and clubhouses  
Frisbee golf — Williams Park  
Hunting — Upland game, migratory birds and big game, rabbits  
Sand volleyball — One court  
Skating — A skate park is planned for 2003 at Callister Park  
Soccer — Six fields at Western Diamonds  
Swimming — Outdoor pool with torpedo slide at the park and an indoor pool at the Goodall Recreation Complex  
Tennis — Six hard-surfaced courts, 4 are lighted  
Theatres — One indoor movie theatre seating 295  
Weight room — Goodall Recreation Center

Local celebrations held annually are the Ashhollow pageant in June; the Governor's Cup Sailboat Regatta, Trans Mac Regatta, and Kites & Castles in July; exhibits, rodeo, barbecue, and parade in conjunction with the Keith County Fair in August; music, crafts, quilt show at the Indian Summer Rendezvous and Big Mac Rod Run held in September.

Summer recreation programs include tennis, archery, volleyball, arts and crafts, tether ball, badminton, skateboard, gymnastics, kickball, softball, swimming, soccer, Kids-in-Motion, and Camp Cool. Tournaments, invitationals, band concerts, swimming marathons for charity, and Night Court are also held.

The Keith County Senior Center in Ogallala provides noon lunches, meals on wheels for shut-ins, crafts, music, games, films, and other entertainment for senior citizens. A handibus provides transportation.

Other senior centers in Keith County are located in Brule, Paxton, and Grant.



Berean Fundamental Church



First Congregational Church



Faith Evangelical Free Church



First United Methodist Church



St. Luke's Catholic Church



St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Band Shell



Collister Park



North Park



Swimming Pool



Tennis Courts



Western Diamonds Sports Complex



Goodall Recreation Center



Keith County Senior Center

Ogallala's recreated "**Front Street**" depicts the era of 1875 to 1885 of the Texas trail drives. It was started in September 1964 and contains a souvenir shop, museum (jail facilities, funeral parlor, and barber shop), Crystal Palace (one show nightly, seven nights a week during the summer months), and a Cowboy's Rest. An average of 1,100 people per day tour "Front Street" during July and August.

**Kingsley Dam**, completed in 1941, at a cost of approximately \$61,400,000 is one of the largest earthen dams in the world. Located on the North Platte River, the dam towers 162 feet. The base measures 1,100 feet and tapers off to a 28-foot crest that carries State Highway 61. The crest or roadway is three miles in length.

**Lake McConaughy** is located on State Highway 61, just nine miles north of Ogallala. It backs up into the valley for approximately 25 miles, is about 3 miles at its widest point, with a shoreline of 105 miles. Water is 140 feet deep near the base of the dam.

Water from the reservoir provides irrigation for a potential 255,000 acres of central Nebraska farmland. At capacity, the reservoir contains three million acre-feet of water. On its way to irrigate farmland, the water is diverted through a 785-mile canal system to hydroelectric plants.

The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's new Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area \$2.5 million Visitor/Water Interpretive Center represents a unique public-private partnership. Perched on a bluff one-quarter mile south of Kingsley Dam overlooking Lake McConaughy, the 8,700 square foot facility houses administrative offices for both the Game & Parks Commission and Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District. The Visitor Center is located about eight miles northeast of Ogallala on Nebraska Highway 61. The facility also includes: The Big Mac Community Room, two fresh water aquariums, 50 seat theater, reception area and information desk, gift shop, and public rest rooms.

Located downstream from the dam is **Lake Ogallala**, an offspring of the parent lake. Just to the east is **Lake Keystone**, impounded by the Keystone diversion dam.

An abundance of northern and walleyed pike, crappies, perch, bass, and trout makes these lakes a fisherman's paradise. Not only a summertime sport, ice fishing is enjoyed in winter. Boating, fishing, swimming, waterskiing, hunting, and a multitude of other sports make this area ideal for tourists and sportsmen.

Other area attractions include hike-bike trail, softball complex and nature study park, Mansion on the Hill, Boot Hill, Little Church at Keystone, eagle viewing at Lake Ogallala, Ole's Big Game Lounge in Paxton, and Kenfield's Petrified Wood Gallery.

Cultural activities are provided by the Regional Arts Council which brings operas, drama, and theatre in Ogallala.

## HOUSING

### New Construction

Six new homes plus 10 manufactured/deeded lots were constructed during the past two years, and it is estimated that 39 will be built in 2003. Seven hundred and thirty-seven building permits were issued from 1999 to 2002.

The average cost of new home construction for the past five years was \$81 per square foot with basement and \$68 per square foot without a basement. Average monthly rental on a three bedroom home ranges from \$350 - \$500; apartment rentals begin at \$325 depending on the number of bedrooms.

### As of 10/01/02:

#### Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family 134

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

Single Family Home	
3,500 sq. ft. - 4 bedrooms	\$167,200
2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms	\$157,975
1,000 sq. ft. - 3 bedrooms	\$ 76,222

#### Rentals - Average Monthly Rent

New 2 Bedroom Apartment	\$550
Apartment Vacancy Rate	10%

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

Less than \$100,000	84
\$100,001 - \$150,000	18
\$150,001 - \$200,000	16
\$200,001 - \$250,000	9
\$250,001 - over	7

**Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing**

The **Low-Cost Housing Village** consists of 30 units in four buildings built in 1973.

**Oak Ridge Apartments**, completed in 2003, consists of eight 2-bedroom duplexes with laundry facilities and attached garages. These apartments are available to low to moderate income families.

The **Ogallala Housing Authority** built 12 units in 1977, 28 units in 1980, and 12 units in 1988 for the elderly and low-income families. The project includes a community center and three laundromats.

**Cedar**, a 43-unit low-cost family housing facility, was built from 1980 through 1988. The complex has a laundry room and storage facilities.



Adams Bank & Trust



Pinnacle Bank

**Assisted Living**

WEL-Life of Ogallala, a 28-unit, \$1.1 million assisted living center opened in 1999. WEL-Life offers four styles of apartments, with several different levels of assistance and three homemade meals daily. This modern facility offers a library, laundry, whirlpool, beauty shop, fitness center, and private dining room.

**FINANCIAL**

As of December 31, 2002\*:

Name	Capital Account	Deposits	Loans
<i>-----thousand dollars-----</i>			
Adams Bank & Trust	\$ 21,347	\$ 230,917	\$ 217,280
Pinnacle Bank	\$ 143,923	\$ 1,409,463	\$ 1,243,876
Valley Bank & Trust	\$ 1,598	\$ 15,155	\$ 20,056

\* All totals represent headquarter's report.

Other financial concerns in Ogallala are the American Shizuki Credit Union, Farmers Home Administration, and Farm Credit Services.



Valley Bank & Trust of Ogallala

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

Attorneys .....	14
Auctioneers .....	3
Certified Public Accountants .....	9
Chiropractors .....	2
Dentists .....	3
Medical Doctors (residing in Ogallala)	
—general practitioners .....	5
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff)	
—cardiologists .....	2
—ear/nose/throat .....	1
—ophthalmologists .....	1
—orthopedic surgeons .....	2
—pathologists .....	4
—pediatricians .....	1
—radiologists .....	1
—urologists .....	1
Nurse Practitioners .....	27
Nurses, Registered .....	53
Optometrists .....	3
Orthodontists .....	1
Pharmacists .....	8
Physician Assistants .....	3
Veterinarians .....	5

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies .....	5
Advertising Agencies .....	1
Agricultural Implement Dealers .....	1
Antique Shops .....	1
Apparel Stores—combination .....	2
Appliance Stores .....	2
Auto Repair & Services .....	4
Auto Supply Parts .....	2
Automobile Dealers .....	3
Automobile Renting & Leasing .....	3
Aviation Seeding & Spraying .....	1
Bakeries .....	2
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums .....	3
Beauty Saloons & Barber Shops .....	9
Carpet & Rug Dealers .....	3
Caterers .....	3
Child Care Services .....	4
Contractors—carpentry .....	30
—concrete .....	6
—electric .....	5

—excavating .....	2
—general.....	5
—heating & air conditioning .....	4
—painting .....	2
—plumbing.....	4
—remodeling & repairing.....	30
—roofing .....	2
—well digging .....	2
Convenience Stores .....	10
Copying Duplicating Services .....	2
Craft Stores .....	3
Dance Studios .....	1
Department Stores .....	2
Discount Stores .....	2
Drug Stores .....	3
Dry Cleaning & Laundry .....	1
Fast Food .....	9
Floral Shops .....	3
Garbage Colletion .....	2
Gift Shops .....	5
Grocery Stores .....	2
Hardware Stores .....	2
Health Clubs .....	1
Industrial Equipment & Supplies .....	2
Insurance .....	10
Jewelry Stores .....	1
Landscaping Equipment & Supplies .....	2
Laundries, self service .....	1
Lawn Services .....	5
Lumberyards .....	2
Machine Shops .....	2
Meat Lockers.....	1
Motels .....	17 (approx. 700 units)
Nurseries & Garden Centers .....	2
Office Machine Repairs.....	1
Office Equipment Services & Supplies .....	1
Photography Studios .....	2
Preschools .....	4
Printers .....	1
Real Estate Firms .....	4
Restaurants (sit down) .....	14
Service Stations (gas & oil) .....	13
Shoe Stores .....	2
Television & Radio Repair .....	1
Theatres .....	1
Tire Store .....	2
Tool & Die Makers .....	1
Travel Agencies & Bureaus .....	1
Upholstrey Shops .....	1
Variety Stores .....	2
Welding Shops .....	2

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

Statistics	Keith County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms (2001)	365	53,000
Land in Farms (acres)	606,891	46,400,000
Average Size of Farms (acres)	1,663	875
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 1997	\$102,788,000	\$9,831,519,000
Market Value Per Farm, 1997	\$289,544	\$191,074
Wells Registered, 2001	1,092	84,061
Total Acres Irrigated, 2001	94,000	8,175,000
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	15.5%	17.6%
<b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (1997-2001)</b>		
All Alfalfa Hay	56,200 tons	4,797,600 tons
Corn for Grain	11,041,100 bu.	1,136,440,000 bu.
Dry Edible Beans	87,600 bu.	3,505,800 bu.
Oats	21,200 bu.	4,274,000 bu.
Sorghum Grains	15,500 bu.	46,124,000 bu.
Soybeans	144,500 bu.	139,790,000 bu.
Sunflowers	4,379,200 lbs.	58,920,000 lbs.
Sugar Beets	30,300 tons	1,031,000 tons
Winter Wheat	2,138,200 bu.	70,660,000 bu.
<b>Five-Year Average Production Livestock Population (1997-2001)</b>		
Cattle on Farms	74,400	6,620,000

Keith County ranked in the top ten counties in Nebraska in the production of sugar beets during the last five years, in the production of dry edible beans four of five years, and in the production of winter wheat two of the last five years.

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

### RAW MATERIALS

Metallic minerals are not available locally; however, sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are found in unlimited quantities in the area.

# CLIMATE

## TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity*	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning (C.S.T.)	Afternoon (C.S.T.)
January	11.3	24.2	37.1	.46	5.80	80	65
February	16.3	29.8	43.2	.43	5.10	79	62
March	23.4	36.7	50.0	1.20	7.40	80	56
April	33.7	47.9	62.1	1.77	2.30	80	51
May	45.1	58.5	71.9	3.47	.30	83	55
June	54.9	68.7	82.5	2.93	0.0	84	56
July	60.5	75.1	89.6	2.75	0.0	84	55
August	58.3	73.0	87.7	2.17	0.0	85	56
September	47.3	62.7	78.0	1.38	.10	83	52
October	34.6	50.5	66.5	.95	.40	81	51
November	22.5	36.5	50.4	.62	3.50	81	58
December	14.3	27.4	40.4	.46	3.30	80	63
<b>Annual</b>	35.2	49.2	63.3	18.58	28.20	82	57

\* Recorded at North Platte Weather Station

## FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring .....	May 6
Average date of first frost in fall .....	October 4
Average length of growing season .....	151 days
Average number of “heating degree days” per season (July 1 through June 30) .....	6,565
Average number of “cooling degree days” per season (January 1 through December 31) .....	843
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average) .....	10
Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....	Northwest

SOURCE: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1931-2001, <http://www.hpccsun.unl.edu>



Boot Hill



Front Street Steakhouse & Crystal Palace Saloon



Mansion on the Hill



Petrified Wood Gallery



Scenes from Lake McConaughy