

COMMUNITY FACTS
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA
www.cityofoneill.com

MARCH 2010

POPULATION
(Official U.S. Census)

| | <u>2000</u> | <u>2008 Est.</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| O'Neill | 3,733 | 3,309 |
| Holt County | 11,551 | 10,233 |
| Labor Market* | 37,054 | 32,980 |

*Includes Holt County and contiguous counties

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

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INTRODUCTION

The following pages contain basic information about O'Neill, Nebraska. This material was compiled by Holt County Economic Development, O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, city of O'Neill, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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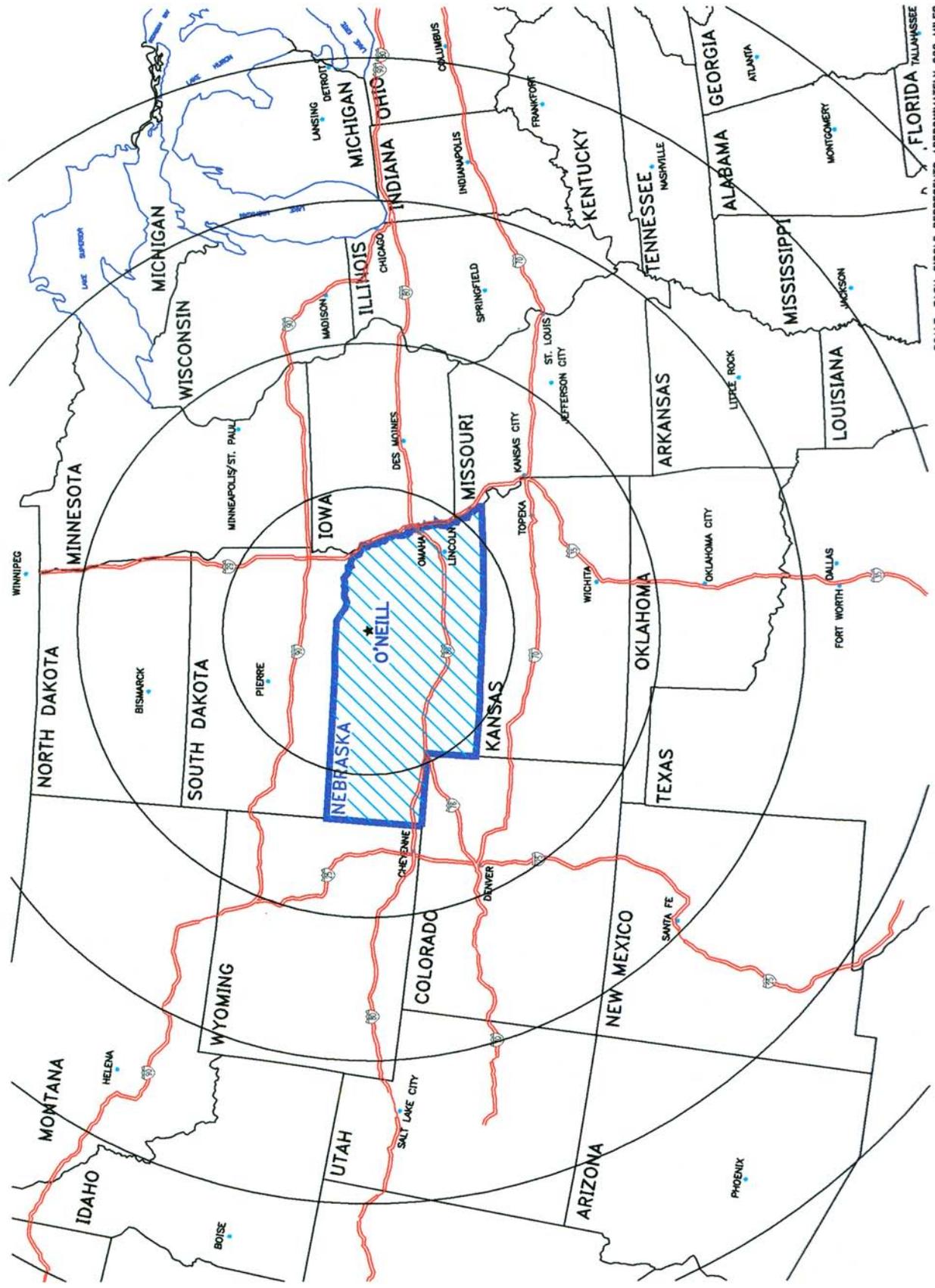
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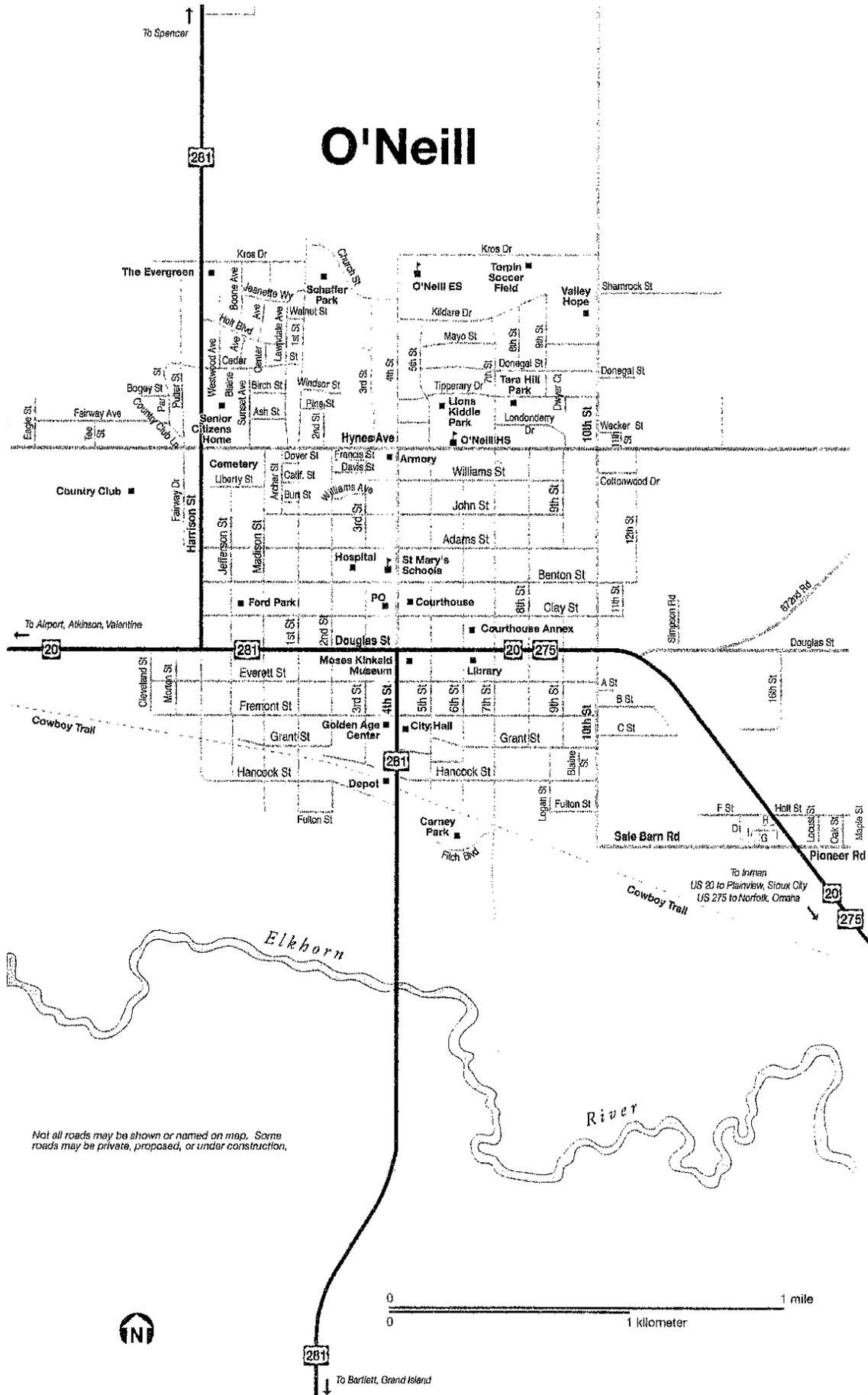
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

O'Neill



Not all roads may be shown or named on map. Some roads may be private, proposed, or under construction.



0 1 mile
0 1 kilometer

281

To Bartlett, Grand Island

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

O’Neill, the county seat of Holt County, is located in north-central Nebraska. The community is served by U.S. Highways 281, 20, and 275 and Nebraska Highway 59. O’Neill is 126 miles west of Sioux City, Iowa, and 188 miles northwest of Omaha, Nebraska.

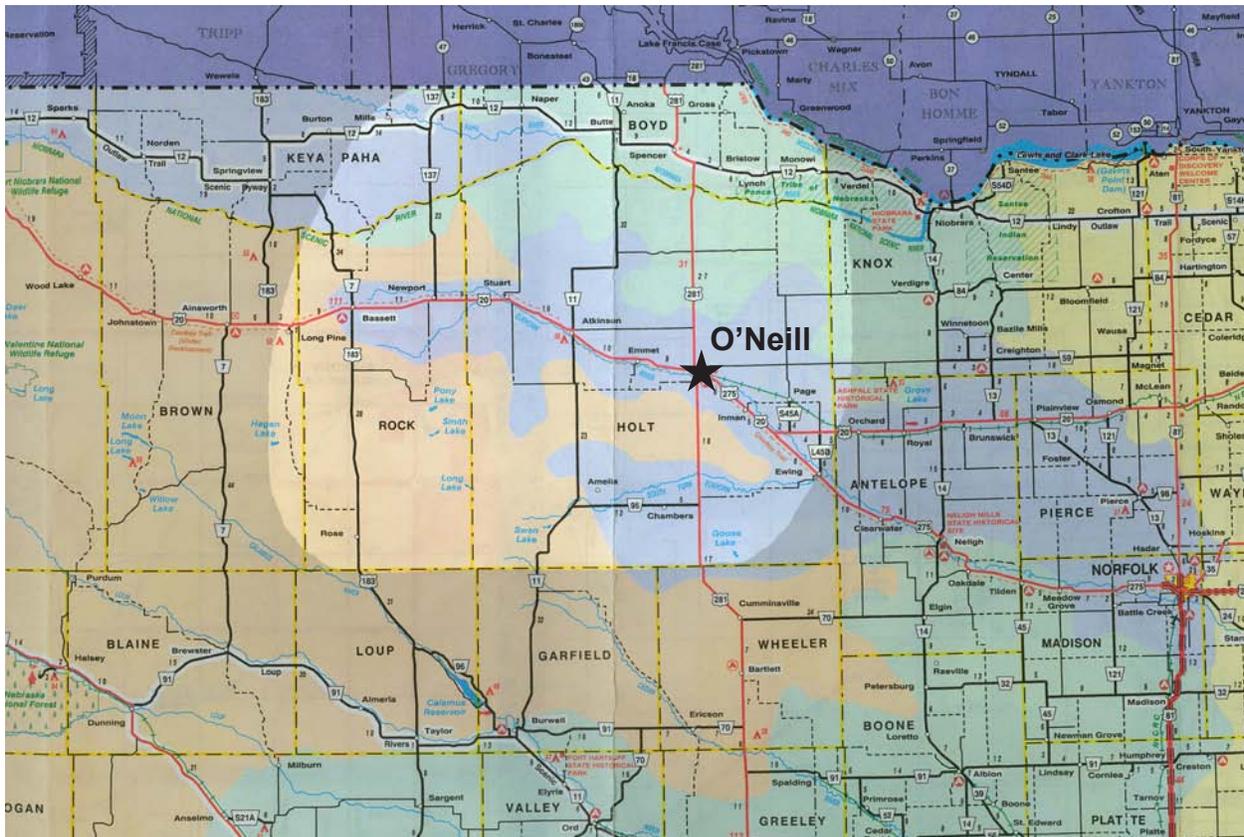
POPULATION (U.S. Census)

| Year | O’Neill | Holt County |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 1970 | 3,753 | 12,933 |
| 1980 | 4,049 | 13,552 |
| 1990 | 4,009 | 12,599 |
| 2000 | 3,733 | 11,551 |
| 2008 (Est.) | 3,309 | 10,233 |

Holt County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2008 U.S. Census

| | |
|--|-------|
| One Race | |
| White | 98.8% |
| Black | 0.1% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 0.4% |
| Asian | 0.2% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.1% |
| Two or More Races | 0.4% |
| Hispanic or Latino Origin* | |
| Persons Not Hispanic | 97.4% |

*Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.



Primary Retail Trade Area

The 2008 U.S. Census estimates 32,980 people live in Holt County and the contiguous counties of Antelope, Boyd, Garfield, Keya Paha, Knox, Loup, Rock, and Wheeler.

There are more than 200 people in O’Neill who are fluent in a second language—Spanish, 195; German, 2; and Chinese, 6.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Basic economic activities of O’Neill, the county seat of Holt County, include farming, ranching, cattle feeding, retail, and medical services. Cattle, potatoes, tomatoes, soybeans, and corn are the major products produced in the area.

The primary retail trade area extends approximately 23 miles northeast, 19 miles southeast, 38 miles southwest, 53 miles northwest, and 39 miles north and contains an estimated 14,100 people. Firms in O’Neill with retail sales tax permits reported 2008 net taxable retail sales of \$72,327,181, while Holt County reported retail sales of \$103,122,048. Wholesale firms in the community distribute potatoes, tomatoes, beverages, and exercise equipment.

In 2006 BankFirst opened a new branch in O’Neill. Decorative lighting was added to the downtown area in 2007. Garden Fresh Vegetables, a 10-acre facility that produces hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers, opened in 2008 and employs 50 full-time employees.

Thirteen new homes were built in 2009 in the new Country Clover Estates subdivision through a partnership with the city of O’Neill, Central Nebraska Housing Developers, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and Excel Development Group. Eleven of the homes are rent-to-own homes, the other two are down-payment assistance homes. Grant funds received paid for infrastructure and down-payment assistance costs. Future plans for the subdivision include the building of six more new homes, based on need.

The community of O’Neill is currently in the process of a capital campaign and securing USDA financing for a 14,000-square-foot community center that will be available for many community events, shows, and conferences.

ELEVATION

O’Neill is 2,031 feet above sea level.

TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain is nearly level to gently sloping. Sandy soils are deep, excessively drained in the west, moderately drained in the north, and poorly drained in the south due to a high water table.

HISTORY

J. T. Prouty was the first settler of the future city of O’Neill, and was, at the time of the filing on his homestead, one of the first white settlers in the Upper Elkhorn Valley. He was the first merchant, first postmaster, and the first notary public in the county and held several other premier honors of the early day. Mr. Prouty moved onto his homestead quarter on July 14, 1873. The town was first known as Rockford.

While a prisoner in Burlington, Vermont, in 1870, General John O’Neill, founder of the city of O’Neill, conceived the idea of establishing the Irish of the eastern mining cities on farms in the Middle West.

General O’Neill knew the dire poverty in those large centers of population and he longed to relieve the suffering of his countrymen. In one of his letters of that time, he wrote “I have always believed that the next best thing to giving the Irish people their freedom at home is to encourage some of them to come to this country either from choice or from necessity to take up lands and build homes in America.”

Being determined to carry out his plans as soon as possible, General O’Neill spent most of the years of 1872 and 1873 traveling through the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska. He was convinced that Nebraska possessed the greatest advantage for the settlers.

Its healthful climate, pure water, and fertile land appealed to him. There were millions of acres of free government land, cheap railroad, and speculation land waiting for settlers. He felt that nowhere could better opportunities be found.

General O'Neill met Patrick Fahy, a land agent, who interested him in a town site in Holt County in November 1873. O'Neill entered into an agreement with Fahy and his partner, Mr. Boyd, whereby he received \$600 and some lots in the town site on condition that he would go East and work up immigration for the county.

During the first three months of 1874, O'Neill gave lectures in all of the leading cities of mining districts in Pennsylvania. "Why," he said, "are you content to work on the public projects and at coal mining when you might in a few years own farms of your own and become wealthy and influential people?"

While General O'Neill was struggling to win Irish recruits, work on the proposed town site began. Thomas J. Atwood, a civil engineer from Lincoln, plotted the town. Patrick Fahy's brother, James Fahy, had just returned from college and helped in the survey. The name of Holt County was given to the new town site but was afterward changed to O'Neill City by Colonel James Noteware, immigration agent from the state of Nebraska.

In early April, the first group of colonists headed west toward Nebraska and arrived at the new site on May 12, 1874.

The first major task for the colonists was to provide immediate shelter for themselves and their families. Together they constructed a crude 36 by 18 foot sod house. As soon as the basic structure was in place, six of the original party left for Red Bird Creek and the nearest timber. They took with them a wagonload of willows, which were driven into the ground at intervals to provide markers so that the party could find their way back to the settlement. When the timber was procured, a roof was placed on the sod house and the residents moved in on May 19, 1874, one week after their arrival. This first dwelling in O'Neill City was the home for 13 men, 2 women, and 5 children. It was dubbed the "Grand Central Hotel."

After establishing somewhat adequate housing, the settler's next task was to plant crops. Having lived in the eastern cities, the methods of prairie

farming were new to them. It is little wonder that the first results of their efforts showed little bounty.

After crops were planted, the settlers again turned their attention to housing. Not wanting to live in the Grand Central Hotel any longer than possible, new dwellings were constructed. These were dugouts carved into the ground, usually four feet long. The dugouts were then covered with limbs and plastered with mud, grass, and sod. Later, when time permitted, cabins replaced the dugouts. The logs for the cabins were cut on Eagle Creek and hauled a distance of 18 miles to O'Neill City.

In spite of the severe droughts and other hardships, more than half of the original party remained at the end of the summer.

As the first colony was preparing for the coming winter of 1874-75, John O'Neill went back East and began preparations for bringing the second colony to Nebraska.

The actual construction of permanent buildings in O'Neill City was not to begin until October 1875. A carpenter, John Mayberry, under contract to Patrick Fahy, erected the first frame building. The new structure was a general merchandise store, which Patrick Hagerty rented from Fahy.

Having successfully established the second group of settlers in O'Neill City, General O'Neill immediately returned East to begin preparations to secure a third group who arrived in late April or early May of 1876.

The group consisted of 102 men, women, and children. Unlike settlers in groups before them, these colonists saw some tangible results of O'Neill's efforts. They viewed a town which was plated out with buildings under construction. Although it did not have everything the settlers expected, it did provide the essentials to start a new life in the West.

In 1877 General O'Neill brought his fourth and last colony to O'Neill. He died the following year, but the town took his name and is known today as O'Neill.

O'Neill was established as the county seat of Holt County in 1879 and incorporated in 1882. The first courthouse was erected in 1885 at a cost of \$20,000.

Moses Kinkaid, a young attorney, moved to O'Neill from Pierre, Dakota Territory, and opened his law practice. He was elected to the State Senate shortly after his arrival and was elected as a Congressman for the Sixth Congressional District in 1902. The Kinkaid Land Act was enacted in 1904, offering 640 acres to homesteaders. Kinkaid died in 1922 and was buried in O'Neill. The Nebraska Legislature voted Moses P. Kinkaid one of the "Nebraska Men of the Millennium" in 2000.

In 1882 the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad reached O'Neill. In 1890 the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad reached O'Neill; today it is known as the Nebraska Northeastern Rail Line.

Although the first years were bad years for the colonists, O'Neill continued to grow and remain primarily an Irish town with special customs such as celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

The first official St. Patrick's Day celebration sponsored by the O'Neill Jaycees was held on March 17, 1967. Events included a kangaroo court, beard contest, parade, and banquet for Notre Dame coach, Frank Leahy.

A historical marker for General John O'Neill was dedicated three miles southeast of O'Neill on Highway 20 the following St. Patrick's Day.

On St. Patrick's Day of 1969, Governor Norbert Tiemann officially proclaimed O'Neill "The Irish Capital of Nebraska."

Governor J. James Exon dedicated a historical marker at the 1972 St. Patrick's Day Celebration, proclaiming the city "The Irish Capital of Nebraska" as a follow-up to his predecessor's proclamation. On May 17, 1977, the Nebraska Unicameral passed a resolution stating that O'Neill was the Official Irish Capital of Nebraska.

Each year since the official St. Patrick's Day Celebration began members of the Jaycees and later the O'Neill Men's Club painted the World's Largest Shamrock in the middle of the intersection where Highways 275, 20, and 281 cross in downtown O'Neill. A fund raiser led by the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce financed the permanent shamrock.

As the Irish Capital, O'Neill celebrates St. Patrick's each March. Highlights each year include coronation of an Irish King and Queen, a Grande Parade, a Fun Run, the Irish Dancers performance, along with many other activities. St. Patrick's Day in O'Neill is Nebraska's first outdoor celebration each year. This celebration has been known to draw as many as 20,000 people from all over the United States and has hosted many special guests from Ireland.



Aerial of Downtown O'Neil



St. Patrick's Day



Shamrock Aerial View

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANUFACTURERS

| <u>Company/Year Established</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Market</u> | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Union</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Breiner Welding 2003 | Welding, machine lathe work | Local | 3 | None |
| Cole Redi-Mix 1977 | Ready-mix concrete | Regional | 7 | None |
| K & K Welding 1996 | Welding/machine | Local | 3 | None |
| Miles Publishing 1889 | Commercial printing | Local | 7 | None |
| Needak Rebounders 1990 | Rebounders/exercise | International | 8 1* | None |
| Nonpareil RDO 1997 | Potato processing | National | 100 | None |
| R & D Manufacturing 2000 | Hydraulic rakes | National | 16 | None |

*Part-time and/or seasonal

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 20 or more)

| <u>Employer</u> | <u>Type of Activity</u> | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Union</u> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Alco | Retail | 20 | None |
| City of O'Neill | Government | 31 | None |
| Garden Fresh Vegetables | Hydroponic greenhouse | 50 | None |
| Golden LivingCenter | Nursing home | 73 | None |
| Holt County | Government | 100 | None |
| Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation | Electric utility | 23 | IBEW (linemen only) |
| O'Neill City Schools | Education | 125 | NSEA |

*Part-time and/or seasonal

| <u>Employer</u> | <u>Type of Activity</u> | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Union</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Pamida | Retail | 31 | None |
| St. Anthony's Hospital | Medical | 153 50* | None |
| Shamrock Nursery | Plants, wholesale nursery | 8 20* | None |
| Valley Hope | Drug & alcohol rehabilitation | 44 | None |

*Part-time and/or seasonal

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

| <u>Employer</u> | <u>Type of Activity</u> | <u>Employees</u> | <u>Union</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Atkinson, 18 miles | | | |
| Christensen Farms | Hog operations | 185 | None |
| Neligh, 40 miles | | | |
| Antelope Memorial Hospital | Medical | 165 | None |
| Educational Service Unit 8 | Education | 92 24* | NSEA |

*Part-time and/or seasonal

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Holt County Economic Development Agency, O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, O'Neill Economic Development Corporation, O'Neill Community Foundation, and the city of O'Neill combine their efforts for economic development in the community.

The O'Neill Economic Development Corporation is a nonprofit corporation with 20 members. Funds are derived by raising money as needed.

Holt County Economic Development Agency was formed in 2007 with an interlocal agreement between Holt County and its municipalities.

Funds are generated on a per capita basis by the county and the communities as well as grants, government, and annual private partners.

Economic progress includes Garden Fresh Vegetables, a 10-acre facility that produces hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers. The company, which opened in 2008, employs 50 full-time employees.

Approximately 317 acres of land in and adjacent to the community are zoned for industry. The price of industrially zoned land ranges from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per acre.



Nonpareil RDO



R & D Manufacturing



Employees at Garden Fresh Vegetables



Crop at Garden Fresh Vegetables



Shamrock Nursery

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the O’Neill labor market, which is defined as the whole of Holt County and the total labor market consisting of Holt County and the contiguous counties of Antelope, Boyd, Garfield, Keya Paha, Knox, Loup, Rock, and Wheeler (2009 annual average):

| <u>Nonfarm Employment</u> (wage and salary workers) | <u>Holt County</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| Goods-Producing | 278 | 864 |
| Manufacturing | 163 | (D) |
| Natural Resources & Construction | 115 | (D) |
| Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities | 1,115 | (D) |
| Wholesale Trade | 332 | (D) |
| Retail Trade | 615 | (D) |
| Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities | 168 | (D) |
| Information | 64 | (D) |
| Financial Activities | 188 | (D) |
| Professional & Business Services | 129 | (D) |
| Education & Health Services | 735 | (D) |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 334 | (D) |
| Other Services | 145 | (D) |
| Government | 843 | 3,447 |
| TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS | 3,829 | 10,425 |
| Farm Employment | 1,690 | 5,405 |
| TOTAL EMPLOYMENT | 5,797 | 17,677 |
| B. Commuting Out of County | 647 | N/A |
| C. Unemployment | 202 | 684 |
| TOTAL LABOR FORCE | 6,000 | 18,361 |
| 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. | 3,600 | |
| E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually | 165 | |
| TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E) | 4,614 | |

(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

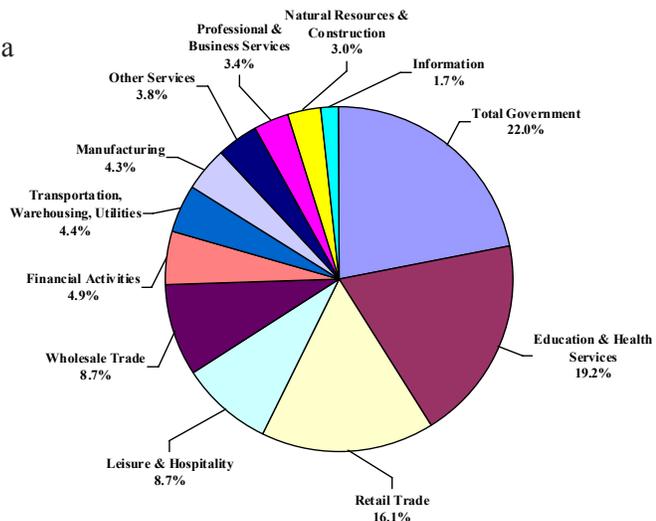
Source: Nebraska Workforce Development

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2007

U.S. Census

O’Neill is willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industry.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
HOLT COUNTY
2009 ANNUAL AVERAGE**



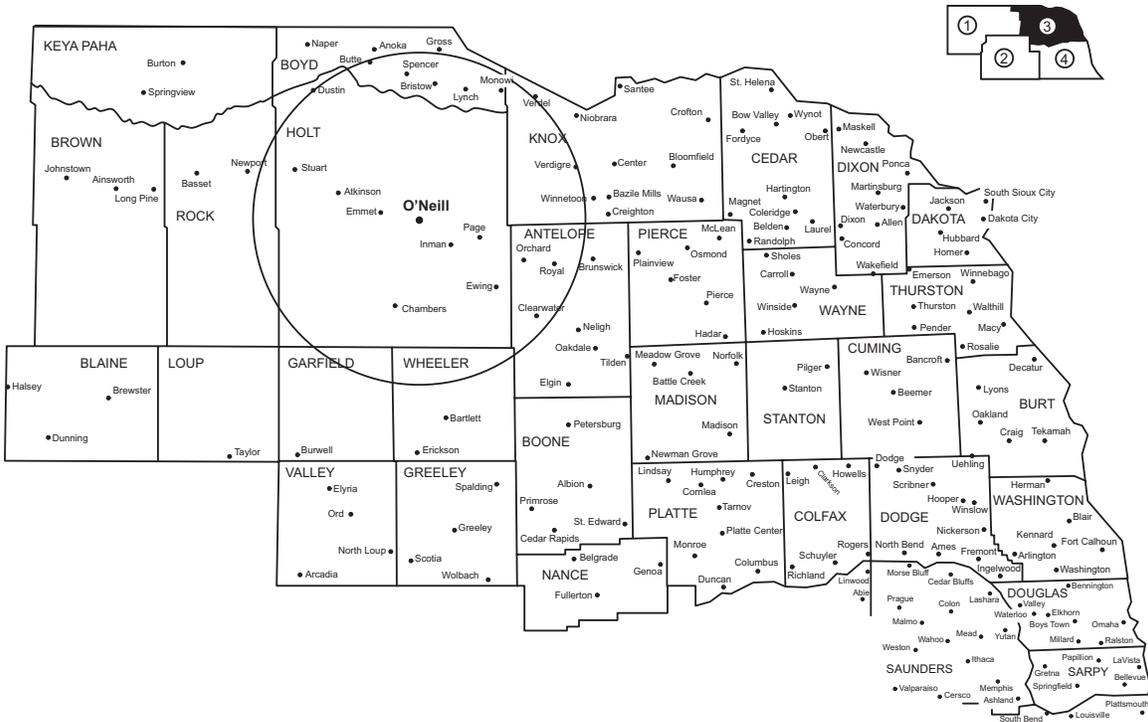
POPULATION DATA

| Location | 2000 | | | 2008 | | County Median Family Income |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|------|-----------------------------|
| | % High School Graduate or Higher | % Bachelor's Degree or Higher | % 65 Yrs. & Over | Median Age | | |
| Holt Co. | 4.8 | 84.5 | 14.5 | 22.0 | 46.5 | \$46,800 |
| Nebraska | 22.3 | 86.6 | 23.7 | 13.5 | 36.2 | \$59,800 |
| U.S. | 79.6 | 80.4 | 24.4 | 12.8 | 36.8 | \$61,500 |

Holt County had 7,279 registered voters in 2008; 68.7 percent voted in the national election compared to 70.2 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, www.census.gov
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009
 Statewide General Election 2008 Results, www.sos.state.ne.us

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE O'NEILL AREA



**POPULATION DATA
U.S. Census Estimates**

| 2008 Estimate | | |
|-----------------|---|--------|
| City of O'Neill | — | 3,309 |
| Holt County | — | 10,233 |
| 30-Mile Radius | — | 14,859 |

| Holt County Population Ages/Gender, 2008 | | |
|---|-------|--------|
| Ages | Male | Female |
| 18-24 | 479 | 382 |
| 25-44 | 930 | 857 |
| 45-64 | 1,571 | 1,551 |

UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right to work provision in its constitution. In 2006, 7.9 percent of Nebraska's nonfarm wage and salary workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 12.0 percent.

Labor organizations operating in O'Neill:

| <u>Company</u> | <u>Union</u> |
|---|---|
| O'Neill City Schools | Nebraska State Education Association |
| Educational Service Unit 8 | Nebraska State Education Association |
| Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers |

It is estimated that less than 1 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in O'Neill is unionized. There have been no known strikes.

WAGES

| <u>Occupation Title</u> | <u>Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile</u> | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>10th</u> | <u>50th</u> | <u>90th</u> |
| Professional | | | |
| Accountants & Auditors | 16.48 | 23.37 | 45.50 |
| Engineers | | | |
| Civil Engineers | 18.23 | 29.52 | 41.98 |
| Electrical Engineers | 27.60 | 35.75 | 51.14 |
| Industrial Engineers | 22.84 | 30.39 | 42.23 |
| Mechanical Engineers | 16.96 | 28.31 | 46.88 |
| Computer Programmers | 14.90 | 28.14 | 42.19 |
| Computer Systems Analysts | 23.81 | 35.06 | 45.46 |
| Registered Nurses | 17.02 | 23.95 | 31.98 |
| Retail | | | |
| Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks | 6.39 | 7.59 | 12.47 |
| Retail Salespersons | 6.37 | 8.52 | 18.33 |
| Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services | 6.82 | 11.67 | 19.89 |
| Driver/Sales Workers | 7.00 | 16.81 | 27.60 |
| Stock Clerks & Order Fillers | 6.58 | 8.90 | 15.27 |
| Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks | 8.91 | 13.32 | 19.00 |
| Clerical | | | |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks | 8.21 | 12.57 | 18.54 |
| Customer Service Representatives | 7.37 | 12.36 | 19.97 |
| Data Entry Keyers | 7.98 | 10.99 | 16.67 |
| Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive | 8.09 | 11.42 | 16.22 |
| Office Clerks, General | 6.68 | 10.05 | 15.19 |
| Receptionists & Information Clerks | 7.35 | 10.71 | 14.80 |
| Telemarketers | 7.92 | 10.42 | 11.92 |

*Wage information taken from Balance of State

| Occupation Title | Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 10th | 50th | 90th |
| Unskilled | | | |
| Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand | 8.28 | 11.80 | 16.20 |
| Packers & Packagers, Hand | 6.96 | 11.33 | 15.00 |
| Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other | 10.49 | 14.12 | 16.34 |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants | 8.49 | 10.69 | 13.84 |
| Semi-Skilled | | | |
| Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators | 10.24 | 13.68 | 17.77 |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer | 10.06 | 18.22 | 25.45 |
| Maintenance Workers, Machinery | 12.88 | 20.41 | 25.20 |
| Machine Operators | | | |
| Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.* | 10.50 | 17.11 | 20.19 |
| Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.* | 9.72 | 13.84 | 16.52 |
| Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper. | 12.77 | 14.42 | 16.00 |
| Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper. | 8.42 | 9.77 | 17.80 |
| Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper. | 13.21 | 15.52 | 19.46 |
| Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper. | 8.34 | 12.41 | 16.49 |
| Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.* | 12.35 | 15.51 | 19.83 |
| Skilled | | | |
| Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics | 9.86 | 15.69 | 23.77 |
| Electricians | 11.33 | 17.60 | 26.50 |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 13.49 | 18.19 | 30.79 |
| Machinists | 12.26 | 17.95 | 37.60 |
| Tool & Die Makers | 13.92 | 18.89 | 24.47 |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers | 10.99 | 14.26 | 18.88 |
| Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters | 11.54 | 14.52 | 18.22 |
| Technical | | | |
| Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians | 17.79 | 26.40 | 30.72 |
| Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists | 17.42 | 25.45 | 32.10 |
| Computer Operators | 8.02 | 11.54 | 16.81 |

*Wage information taken from Balance of State

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Fourth Quarter 2009 wage estimates, All Industries, Northeast Region, <http://neblswages.nwd.ne.gov>.

Production workers are, for the most part, paid on a straight-time basis.

FRINGE BENEFITS

Local industries estimate fringe benefits to range from 15 to 20 percent of wages.

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

O'Neill is served by a short line of the Nebraska Northeast Railway Company.

MOTOR

Highways

U.S. Highways 281 (north-south), 20 (east-west), 275 (southeast), and Nebraska Highway 59 (east) serve O'Neill. There are no local load restrictions. Interstate 80 (east-west) is located 115 miles south and Interstate 90 (east-west) is 130 miles north of O'Neill.

Highway mileage to major cities:

| Destination | Mileage |
|---------------|---------|
| Lincoln | 211 |
| Omaha | 188 |
| Chicago | 653 |
| Dallas | 751 |
| Denver | 492 |
| Detroit | 918 |
| Kansas City | 373 |
| Los Angeles | 1,506 |
| Minneapolis | 432 |
| New York | 1,427 |
| St. Louis | 626 |
| San Francisco | 1,622 |
| Sioux City | 126 |

U.S. Highway 281 from south of O'Neill to Nebraska Highway 95 junction was resurfaced and shoulders widened in 2009.

Trucklines

More than 11,500 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America.

Brown Truck Line in O'Neill has one truck that travels to Omaha each night for freight.

Bus Line

K & S Express provides passenger and package delivery services with a 12-passenger minivan. One round trip is made weekly along U.S. Highway 20 from Norfolk, 76 miles southeast of O'Neill, to Chadron, 248 miles northwest.

Avera St. Anthony's Hospital provides transportation to O'Neill residents. In-town transportation is provided Monday through Friday and out-of-town transportation is provided as scheduled.

AIR

The O'Neill Municipal Airport (John L. Baker Field) is located two miles northwest of O'Neill. The airport has a 4,400 foot lighted and paved runway and a 3,030 foot turf runway. Facilities include full instrument landing system, 100-low lead fuel, beacon, VOR, overnight hangar storage, overnight lodging, next day air freight, wind sock, wind tee, major and minor repair, tie down, terminal, and automated weather service. None of the 21 private planes hangared there are available for charter. The elevation at the airport is 2,031 feet, the latitude is 42-28N, and the longitude is 098-41W.

Commercial air service is available at the Central Nebraska Regional Airport near Grand Island, 111 miles (1 hour 56 minutes) south; Sioux Gateway Airport, Sioux City, Iowa, 128 miles (2 hours 18 minutes) east; Kearney Regional Airport, 159 miles (2 hours 45 minutes) south; Eppley Airfield, Omaha, 197 miles (3 hours 31 minutes) southeast of O'Neill.

WATER

Barge transportation is not available near O'Neill.



O'Neill Municipal Airport
John L. Baker Field

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

O'Neill is provided retail electric service by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Service is supplied by a 20 MVA, 115/34.5 kV transformer and a 56 MVA, 115/69.0 kV transformer in the O'Neill substation. Alternate sources are available from the west, east, and north. All services are supplied from substations which are connected to the statewide grid system by 115,000 and 345,000 volt transmission lines. The distribution voltage is 12.5 kV wye with a total transformer capacity of 15 MVA in two distribution substations.

BASE ELECTRIC RATES (effective 1/1/10)

Summer bills run from June–September.

Winter bills run from October–May.

Residential Service:

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| Customer Charge: \$15.00 per month | | |
| Summer | Winter | |
| 8.88¢ | 7.01¢ | per kWh for the first 750 kWh used per month |
| 8.88¢ | 4.54¢ | per kWh for all additional use |
| Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments | | |

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

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

General Service:

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| Customer Charge: | | |
| | Single Phase | \$17.00 per month |
| | Three Phase | \$21.00 per month |
| Summer | Winter | |
| 9.38¢ | 7.57¢ | per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month |
| 9.38¢ | 6.30¢ | per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month |
| 9.38¢ | 6.00¢ | per kWh for all additional use |
| Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments | | |

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

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

Commercial Electric Space Heating:

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Customer Charge: | | |
| | Single Phase | \$45.00 per month |
| | Three Phase | \$50.00 per month |
| Summer | Winter | |
| 10.65¢ | 6.77¢ | per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month |
| 4.19¢ | 2.92¢ | per kWh for all additional use |
| Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments | | |

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

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

General Service Demand:

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Customer Charge: | | |
| Single Phase | | \$80.00 per month |
| Three Phase | | \$90.00 per month |
| Summer | Winter | |
| 10.80¢ | 7.29¢ | per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month |
| 3.90¢ | 2.99¢ | per kWh for all additional use |
| Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments | | |

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

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

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

Sample Cost per kWh for General Service Demand:

| kW | kWh | Annual Average ¢/kWh ¹ |
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 100 | 30,000 | 8.48 |
| 100 | 50,000 | 6.67 |
| 300 | 90,000 | 8.24 |
| 300 | 150,000 | 6.53 |
| 500 | 150,000 | 8.19 |
| 500 | 180,000 | 7.49 |

¹Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

High Tension Service:

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Customer Charge: \$310.00 per month | | |
| Demand Charge: | | |
| Summer | Winter | |
| \$12.75 | \$7.80 | per kW of billing demand |
| Energy Charge: | | |
| Summer | Winter | |
| 4.45¢ | 3.23¢ | per kWh for all on-peak energy |
| 3.22¢ | 2.16¢ | per kWh for all off-peak energy |
| Minimum Bill: The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments | | |

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

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

| Energy Season | On-Peak Hours | Off-Peak Hours |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Summer | 10:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday | All Other Hours |
| Winter | 8:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday | All Other Hours |

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

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

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

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

Sample Cost per kWh for High Tension Service:

| kW | kWh | Annual Average ¢/kWh¹ |
|-----------|------------|---|
| 1,000 | 300,000 | 7.20 |
| 2,500 | 750,000 | 7.13 |
| 2,500 | 1,250,000 | 5.68 |
| 5,000 | 1,500,000 | 7.10 |
| 5,000 | 2,500,000 | 5.66 |
| 10,000 | 6,400,000 | 5.18 |

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

The annual average ¢/kWh cost assumes 46 percent of monthly energy is consumed during on-peak hours of the four summer months and 53 percent during on-peak hours of the eight winter months.

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

The Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District, serves the rural area surrounding O’Neill. For more information regarding electrical services in the Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation service area, contact John Hoke, manager, O’Neill, Nebraska, (402) 336-2803, johnh@nvemc.org, www.nvemc.org.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is supplied to O’Neill by SourceGas Distribution, LLC, through a six-inch transmission pipeline with an operating pressure of approximately 600 pounds per square inch.

SourceGas is the retail distributor of natural gas within the community, serving approximately 1,400 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 SourceGas’s Service Center at (800) 563-0012.

OTHER FUELS

LP Gas

LP gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses in O’Neill at Great Western Gas Company and Holt County Co-Op.

Oil

Oil is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses in O’Neill from Shelhamer Petroleum, Cole Petroleum Company, and Gokie Oil Company.

WATER

The municipal water system in O’Neill is supplied by 5 wells, which have an average depth of 362 feet. The system has a pumping capacity of 4,860 gallons per minute and serves 97 percent of the city population. The overhead storage capacity is 750,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 1,400,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 4,800,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 7,748,400 gallons per day. The static pressure is 60 pounds and the residual pressure is 45–48 pounds per square inch.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 116. The average tap water temperature varies from 40° in the winter to 58° in the summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Hydrogen Ion Concentration | 7.5 |
| Calcium | 33 |
| Total Solids | 166.4 |
| Magnesium | 0.3 |
| Iron | 0.14 |
| Nitrate | 0.23–1.4 |
| Manganese | <0.03 |
| Chloride | 21.2 |

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Fluoride | 0.35–0.66 |
| Sulfate | 0 |
| Total Alkalinity | 150.6 |
| Sodium | 8.6 |
| Total Hardness | 116 |
| Potassium | NA |

NA - Not available

WATER RATES (effective 1/1/10)

Residential:

Customer Charge: \$8.00 per month
 \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$8.00 per month

Commercial:

Customer Charge: \$8.00 per month
 \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons up to 100,000 gallons
 \$0.95 per 1,000 gallons over 100,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$8.00 per month

Improvements during the last two years included new water lines at a cost of \$300,000, which were financed by the city. Contemplated improvements for the next ten years include a new well, water valve replacement, alternate pressure controller, 500,000-gallon water tower, and transition to radio meter heads at a cost of \$1.6 million, which will be financed by the city.

SEWERAGE

O’Neill has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The activated sludge treatment plant, updated in 1997, has a daily capacity of 600,000 gallons, an average daily flow of 400,000 gallons, and a historic peak daily discharge of 1,400,000 gallons.

SEWER-USE CHARGES (effective 1/1/10)

Residential:

Customer Charge: \$8.00 per month
 \$1.85 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$8.00 per month

Commercial & Industrial:

Customer Charge: \$8.00 per month
 \$2.20 per 1,000 gallons up to 100,000 gallons
 \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons over 100,000 gallons
Minimum Bill: \$8.00 per month

Improvements during the last two years included new sewer lines at a cost of \$250,000, which were financed by the city. Contemplated improvements in the next ten years include manhole replacements and several sewer line upgrades and replacements at a cost of \$300,000, which will be financed by the city.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The city operates the municipal solid waste collection system. The transfer station disposal site is located in the city limits. Waste is taken to the Butler County Landfill, in David City, 152 miles southeast of O’Neill.

SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES

(effective 10/1/09)

Residential:

\$15.00 per month
 \$12.00 per month senior citizen

Commercial & Industrial:

Varies on size of dumpster

Dumping Fee:

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| \$0.03 | per lb. for construction |
| \$0.04 | per lb. for mixed load |
| \$50.00 | per ton under two ton |
| \$25.00 | per ton more than two ton |

RECYCLING

The city of O’Neill operates a recycling program collecting paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, and plastics. Drop off areas include St. Mary’s School and the public school.

COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications services are provided to the O'Neill area by Qwest Communications with a digital central office fed by a self-healing fiber ring. Qwest uses a DMS 10 switch, which is monitored both locally and remotely. Fiber is placed based on customer needs and services. In addition to local exchange service, the O'Neill central office provides DSL, telecommunications services, including but not limited to business lines, long distance, frame relay, MPLS, private line (DS-1 to OC-192), Internet, voice and data equipment, and professional services. Diverse routing is available, contingent on funding approval. The extended service area includes the communities of Aktinson, Butte, Chambers, Page, and Stuart. Technicians and networking personnel reside in O'Neill, providing 24-hour on-call service.

INTERNET

Local Internet access is provided in O'Neill by:

| Company | |
|--|----------------|
| Cable Nebraska www.cablene.com | (402) 760-2590 |
| Internet Nebraska www.internetnebraska.com | (402) 434-8680 |
| Telebeep www.telebeep.com | (800) 846-2337 |
| Qwest www.qwest.com | (800) 475-7526 |

POST OFFICE

The O'Neill post office provides house-to-house delivery service and has one mail receipt and two dispatches daily.

Postal receipts for the past four fiscal years:

| Year | Receipts |
|------|-----------|
| 2008 | \$774,800 |
| 2007 | \$751,047 |
| 2006 | \$751,907 |
| 2005 | \$681,370 |

PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

| | UPS | Federal Express | U.S. Postal Service |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Latest Pick-up Time | 5:00 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. | 4:00 p.m. |
| Earliest Delivery | 10:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| Next Day Delivery Guarantee | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Saturday Delivery Guarantee | Yes | Yes | Yes |

NEWSPAPER

The Holt County Independent, the local weekly newspaper, has 3,500 subscribers. The Norfolk Daily News is delivered locally.

RADIO

Radio stations in O'Neill:

| Call Letters | Frequency |
|--------------|-----------|
| KBRX-AM | 1350 KHz |
| KBRX-FM | 102.9 MHz |
| KGRD-FM | 105.3 MHz |

TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news:

| Call Letters | Channel | Location |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| KOLN/KGIN | 10/11 (CBS) | Lincoln/ Grand Island, NE |
| KHAS | 5 (NBC) | Hastings, NE |
| KHGI | 13 (ABC) | Kearney, NE |
| KELO | 6 (CBS) | Sioux Falls, SD |
| KDLT | 12 (NBC) | Sioux Falls, SD |

Cable television service is provided by Three River Telco of Lynch, Nebraska. Satellite service is provided by Dish Network and DIRECTV in O'Neill.



O'Neill Post Office



Holt County Independent

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES—CITY OF O'NEILL

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 72 percent of its market 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 | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Real Estate | \$105,904,905 | \$107,490,230 | \$115,419,410 |
| Personal Property | 5,353,282 | 5,560,561 | 6,505,778 |
| Special (railroad and utilities) | 1,223,847 | 1,333,865 | 1,408,250 |
| TOTAL | <u>\$112,482,034</u> | <u>\$114,384,656</u> | <u>\$123,333,438</u> |

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

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| City | \$0.713023 | \$0.719474 | \$0.682837 |
| County | .367543 | .367632 | .333073 |
| School District | 1.140700 | 1.078759 | 1.082054 |
| Community College | .082300 | .090000 | .093540 |
| Educational Service Unit | .014972 | .014990 | .014939 |
| Natural Resource District | .025419 | .024138 | .024257 |
| Agricultural Society | .002457 | .002339 | .002165 |
| Township | .011677 | .011419 | .010793 |
| TOTAL | <u>\$2.358091</u> | <u>\$2.308751</u> | <u>\$2.243658</u> |

The tax rate at the industrially zoned land outside the city limits is \$1.581393 per \$100 of actual value.

CITY SALES TAX

The city of O'Neill imposes a 1 percent city sales tax.

LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of August 2009:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| City—Revenue Bonds | \$2,463,453 |
| City—General Obligation Bonds | \$1,670,640 |
| School District (as of 5/31/09) | \$1,897,708 |
| County | \$1,965,000 |

CITY BOND ISSUES

| Type | Date Issued | Original Amount | Unpaid Balance As of 8/1/09 | Interest Rate (%) | Date Due |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Refunding - Combined Utility | 2/13/09 | \$2,463,453 | \$2,463,453 | 1.35 | 11/15/20 |
| General Obligation | | | | | |
| Refunding - Sewer & Street Bonds | 2/13/09 | \$1,670,640 | \$1,670,640 | 1.50 | 11/1/19 |

SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

| Type | Date Issued | Original Amount | Unpaid Balance As of 5/31/09 | Interest Rate (%) | Date Due |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Elementary School | 12/1/95 | \$4,735,000 | \$1,897,708 | 1.6–2.4 | 12/1/14 |

COUNTY BOND ISSUES

| Type | Date Issued | Original Amount | Unpaid Balance As of 8/1/09 | Interest Rate (%) | Date Due |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Refunding & Limited Tax Building Bond | 2005 | \$2,115,000 | \$1,965,000 | 3.7 | 6/15/27 |



Carney Park Scenes



Holt County Courthouse



O'Neill City Offices



O'Neill Fire Department



O'Neill Police Department

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Holt County has 37 townships and is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors, who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2012. The actual county budget for 2009–10 is \$4,829,937. The county is zoned AG-Agricultural.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

O’Neill, a second-class city, has a mayor-council form of government. The 2009–10 actual budget was \$8,261,566. The next election will be held in 2010.

Municipal officials are:

| Title | Term of Office |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Elected at Large | |
| Mayor | 4 Years |
| Elected by Ward | |
| Council Members (8) | 4 Years |
| Appointed | |
| Police Chief | Indefinite |
| Utility Superintendent | Indefinite |
| Street Commission | Indefinite |
| City Clerk/Treasurer | Indefinite |
| Deputy Clerk/Treasurer | Indefinite |
| Fire Chief | Indefinite |

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided to the community by a 31-member volunteer fire department; 25 members are EMT certified. The department also provides protection to areas outside the city limits by housing and operating the Rural Fire District’s equipment. The department also responds to mutual aid calls.

There are 213 fire hydrants in O’Neill. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 4; outside it is 7. Annual expenditures for fire protection for the past three years averaged \$62,260.

Equipment in the fire department:

| Year/Make City | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| 2007 Ford E450 | Ambulance |
| 2003 International | 1,250 gpm, 1,200 gal. tank |
| 2002 Ford F550 | 4x4 rescue truck with 500 watt generator |
| 2002 Ford E450 | Ambulance |
| 2001 Ford E350 | Ambulance |
| 1996 Freightliner | 1,250 gpm |
| 1992 International | 2,200 gal. tank |
| 1992 Ford | 1,250 gpm, 500 gal. tank |
| 1972 Ford F600 | 300 gpm, 1,200 gal. tank |
| 1972 Smeal | 1,000 gpm, 75' aerial ladder |

Fire losses for the past three years totaled \$790,000.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Department

The city of O’Neill employs seven full-time police officers and two support personnel. The police department has four fully equipped patrol units. Annual expenditures for police protection for the last three years averaged \$445,000.

Sheriff’s Department

The Holt County Sheriff’s Department in O’Neill employs six sworn officers (five full-time and one part-time) and two support personnel (one full-time and one part-time). The sheriff’s department has five patrol units. Regular patrol provides protection to existing industries in the area by the police and sheriff’s departments.

Crime rates per 1,000 population, 2008:

| Location | Violent Crimes | Property Crimes |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| O'Neill | 0.0 | 3.3 |
| Nebraska | 3.0 | 30.9 |
| U.S. | 4.5 | 32.1 |

State Patrol

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol covers a 23-county area, including Holt County. Headquartered in Norfolk, 76 miles southeast of O'Neill, Troop B is home to 50 troopers; 4 troopers are stationed in O'Neill.

STREETS

O'Neill has 92.8 miles of streets, 68 percent are hard-surfaced with concrete or asphalt.

Street maintenance includes grading, sweeping, snow removal, and curb and street maintenance.

Street projects completed in 2009 included paving of several streets, inlets, intersection, and a storm sewer. These projects were financed through the city at a cost of \$500,000.

Contemplated improvements in the next five years include pavement and storm sewer upgrades at an estimated cost of \$1.9 million.

BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS

Zoning and subdivision codes are enforced within the city.

Zoning classifications are:

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| AG | General Agricultural District |
| R | Residential District |
| R-R | Residential Ranchette |
| R-O | Residential Office |
| C-1 | Central Business |
| C-2 | General Commercial |
| I-1 | Light Industrial |
| I-2 | Industrial |

PLANNING

O'Neill has a nine-member planning commission. Members are appointed by the Mayor to serve a three-year term.

The Comprehensive Plan for O'Neill was prepared by Stahr & Associates of York in 2003.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

O'Neill City School System

| Type of School | Classrooms | Students | Teacher/ Pupil Ratio | Computer/ Pupil Ratio |
|---------------------------|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elementary (K–6), O'Neill | 30 | 386 | 1:10 | 1:2 |
| Elementary (K–8), Emmet | 2 | 7 | 1:4 | 1:1 |
| Elementary (K–8), Inman | 2 | 10 | 1:5 | 1:1 |
| Jr.–Sr. High School | 33 | 387 | 1:10 | 1:1 |

O'Neill Public School District No. 7 covers approximately 114 square miles and had a 2008–09 actual valuation of \$512,403,736 and an actual valuation per student of \$648,612. This Class 3 District is accredited by the state of Nebraska and North Central Association.

The 2008–09 school operating budget was \$10,726,567, with an average cost per pupil of \$13,577.

The O'Neill public elementary school, built in 1996, has a maximum capacity of 500. The public junior–senior high school was built in 1964 and has a maximum capacity of 500.

The O'Neill Elementary School serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade with three sections of each grade level. Students are provided with the latest curriculum materials, including new science, social studies, reading, and math text books, along with newly aligned curriculums. Students also have up-to-date technology including MacBooks, SMART Boards, Palm Pilots, iPods, and video equipment. Special service programs are also available to students including HAL, ELL, Special Education, and Title I. The Developing Eagles Program is available to all students after school from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the school year and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the summer. This program assists students in completing homework, playing educational games to reinforce classroom instruction, and physical activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. In cooperation with the Head Start Program and Chambers Public

School, the O'Neill district opened a preschool program during the 2008–09 school year.

O'Neill Jr.–Sr. High School provides a broad spectrum of courses. In addition to 13 core classes, high school students can follow a vocational program with 29 course offerings or a college preparatory curriculum with 31 courses. Classes are also offered through a variety of post-secondary institutions during the regular school day. Students may enroll in TANN (Technology Academy of Northeast Nebraska) classes for both high school and college credit. O'Neill High School has had tremendous success in scholastic competition over the years. During the last 20 years, students have won their division of the Chadron State College Scholastic Contest 16 times and has been overall champion several times. Students from O'Neill High School consistently score higher than the state average on the ACT.

Test Results

| Name | % Students Taking Test | Average Score |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 8 th Grade CAT 6 | | |
| Reading | 100 | 52.3 |
| Math | 100 | 49.9 |
| ACT | 70 | 21.7 |

It is estimated that 95 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 85 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree and 15 percent of the seniors enter the job market or military following graduation.

The city school system contracts with Educational Service Unit 8 to provide services for more severe/profound special needs students.

Parochial Schools

St. Mary's Catholic School, a K–12 school, serves as a center for Christian education with St. Patrick's Parish. St. Mary's has 25 classrooms with 222 students. The teacher/pupil ratio is 1:12 and the computer/pupil ratio is 1:2.

In 2007 a \$1 million renovation project was initiated. Through the generosity of friends, benefactors, parishioners, and alumni, St. Mary's was able to renovate and add many areas to the school including the gym, classrooms, library, chapel, nurse's station, office area, staff lounge, commons area, elevator, and paved parking.

Word of Life is a Pre-K–8 Christian School. The school has 6 classrooms with 17 students. The teacher/pupil ratio and the computer/pupil ratio is 1:10.

Educational Service Unit

Educational Service Unit 8 (ESU), headquartered in Neligh, serves seven counties including Holt County. Services provided include art, early childhood, media center, nursing, special education, and staff development.

Community College

O'Neill is part of the **Northeast Community College (NECC)** service area. The college, governed by an 11-member elected board, serves 20 counties in northeast Nebraska from the main campus located in Norfolk, 76 miles southeast of O'Neill, and through regional education centers located in O'Neill, South Sioux City, and West Point. Enrollment at NECC for 2008–09 included 7,326 students taking credit courses and 18,316 students taking noncredit classes or 3,133 full-time equivalent students. Northeast also provided adult education classes for 1,299 students in 2008–09. Those students were taking classes for the acquisition of basic math and English skills, English as a Second Language, English language civics, General Educational Development (GED)

for a high school diploma, or preparation for the Naturalization Test.

Northeast Community College programming continues to increase at the **Northeast Education Center in O'Neill**. In May 2009, 19 students who took most of their classes at the O'Neill Education Center joined more than 700 others who earned Northeast degrees or diplomas. A total of 122 students, including 12 nursing students, were registered in 64 different credit classes at the O'Neill Education Center at the beginning of the fall 2009 semester.

NECC offers more than 70 concentrations of study preparing students for immediate employment or transfer to a four-year college or university. Some 729 students completed their studies for a diploma or degree during the 2008–09 academic year. According to the latest Graduate Employment Report, 99 percent of the 2008 graduates seeking employment found jobs.

The Graduate Employment Report also showed that 35 percent of the 2008 graduates chose to continue their education, with 93 percent transferring to a Nebraska institution of higher learning. Other data confirm that college transfer students from NECC who continue their education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln do as well as, or better, than native and other transfer students.

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

The Business and Industry Division served 214 employers and trained more than 6,000 employees through customized training workshops and seminars in fiscal year 2008–09. The division also worked with nine communities on strategic planning and economic development initiatives. More than 20 individuals seeking to start or expand their businesses received



O'Neill Elementary School



O'Neill High School



St. Mary's Catholic School



Northeast Community College
Education Center

assistance through this division. An additional four minority-owned businesses were provided startup assistance and consulting services. NECC also assisted in recruiting several new companies and divisions to the region.

The Business and Industry Division also assisted four area ethanol plants with start-up and expansion training through Nebraska Advantage customized training.

The **205-acre main campus in Norfolk** includes 25 buildings with classroom, shop, and lab facilities; library/resource center; student center; an activities center with gym and theater; the Lifelong Learning Center; and residence halls and 2 apartment buildings for student living. Northeast also owns a 566-acre college farm with all facilities necessary for teaching farm operations.

Northeast Community College's library in Norfolk, with its 26,000 books, approximately 35,000 electronic books, and 146 magazines and journals, is open to the residents of Northeast's 20-county service area. The library also offers 57 different newspapers, including those published in the 20 counties in northeast Nebraska. The library is part of the ONELibrary Consortium which includes the public libraries of Columbus, Norfolk, South Sioux City, Scottsbluff, Schuyler, and Wayne, and the libraries of Central Community College and Northeast Community College.

Northeast Community College continues to grow. The \$2.7 million, 36,800-square-foot Utility Line Building was dedicated in August 2007. Northeast's professional truck driver training program is also located in the facility, which accommodates more than 100 full-time utility line students on a daily basis and up to 48 truck driving students a year.

A unique partnership between Northeast Community College and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing calls for construction of a 34,973-square-foot facility on Northeast's campus in Norfolk. The facility, now under construction, will house all of Northeast's nursing programs including the basic nurse

aide (commonly called the certified nurse aide), licensed practical nursing, and associate degree nursing and bachelor's and graduate nursing programs from the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division. An \$11.9 million capital campaign, believed by some to be the largest capital campaign in northeast Nebraska history, was recently completed with a donation of well over \$1,000,000 from J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh. The building will be named the J. Paul and Eleanor McIntosh College of Nursing and will open in late summer 2010.

The \$7.9 million, 40,025-square-foot College Welcome Center on the Northeast campus in Norfolk opened in October 2009. It houses most Student Services' and Administrative Services' functions. Designed to be a "one stop shop," the facility includes a welcome/reception area, testing and academic advisement area, financial aid offices, student counseling facilities, and the business offices for payment of tuition and fees.

The College Welcome Center is also home to recruitment/admissions, disabilities services, adaptive technology center, career services, registration and records, and veteran's services. Prospective students begin their college tours from this facility, which also has conference rooms.

Enrollments continue to grow at the 10,000-square-foot **Northeast Community College Education Center in South Sioux City**, which opened in 2005. Currently students can earn associate degrees in academic transfer, administrative assistant-general, administrative assistant-medical, business administration, business management, behavioral science, criminal justice-corrections, and elementary education. Nursing classes are also offered, as are vocational classes, continuing education, and customized training for business and industry at this location. A one-year welding diploma and industrial technology diploma can also be earned in South Sioux City.

Ground was broken in 2009 for the College Center at South Sioux City. The center will be built on 57 acres of prime real estate along U.S. Highway 77, donated to Northeast by

South Sioux City Community Development Agency. Students will be able to take their freshman and sophomore classes from Northeast Community College and continue their education from Wayne State College, all in the same location. The Nebraska Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million for Wayne State's share of the facility. Tentative opening date of the College Center is late 2010.

Northeast tentatively plans to offer associate of arts degrees with an emphasis in academic transfer, accounting, behavioral science, business administration, criminal justice/corrections, early childhood education, elementary education, journalism, and library technical assistant. Associate of applied science degrees in administrative assistant-medical or general, business-marketing option, and accounting are also tentatively planned. These programs may be delivered via a combination of traditional classes, interactive television classes, and online classes.

A 6,240-square-foot building near U.S. Highway 77 in South Sioux City is currently being used by Northeast Community College as a training site to meet the growing needs of business and industry. That building

will be replaced by a new 5,750-square-foot Industrial Training Building on the College Center grounds, scheduled to be completed in May 2010.

The **Northeast Education Center in West Point** is comprised of 8,000-square-feet in the Shirley and Jake Weber Education Center, which is a part of the \$5.4 million Donald E. Nielsen Community Center, dedicated in August 2008. Construction of NECC's portion of the building was financed with a \$500,000 grant from the Louis and Abby Faye Dinklage Foundation and a \$250,000 gift from Hank and Mona Stalp.

The Northeast Education Center contains five classrooms, four offices, a conference room/COMPASS testing/mobile ITV classroom, student lounge, registration area, lobby area, workroom, and storeroom. General education, nursing, business, English as a Second Language, computer training, business/industry training, and continuing/community education classes are offered.

For more information on Northeast Community College, visit www.northeast.edu or call (800) 348-9033.

| Northeast Community College Representative Sample of the Class of 2009 | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Program | Degree/Certificate* | Conferred |
| Accounting | A.A. & A.A.S. | 11 |
| Administrative Assistant (Medical) | A.A., A.A.S. & 1-year diploma | 22 |
| Agriculture | A.A.S., A.A. & A.S. | 66 |
| Audio Recording Technology | A.A.S. | 9 |
| Auto/Auto Body Technology | A.A.S. | 13 |
| Building Construction | A.A.S. | 21 |
| Diesel Technology | A.A.S. | 31 |
| Electrical Construction & Control | A.A.S. | 22 |
| Nursing-LPN (Licensed Practical) | 1-year diploma | 44 |
| Nursing-ADN (Registered Nursing) | A.D.N. | 52 |
| Utility Line | A.A.S. | 37 |

*Key to abbreviations: A.A.S. - Associate of Applied Science; A.A. - Associate of Arts; A.S. - Associate of Science; A.D.N. - Associate Degree Nursing

Lifelong Learning Center

The Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College in Norfolk serves the business and professional community through a variety of uses. The 20,000-square-foot educational wing includes two classrooms which can be opened into one large room, two distance-learning classrooms, a computer center for software training, and the conference center that can be divided into six rooms and accommodate up to 700 people. Full technology, including video conferencing, and food services are available to make the center a highly-desirable location for meetings, training activities, and conferences.

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

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

Colleges & Universities

Wayne State College (WSC) in Wayne, 99 miles east of O'Neill, serves approximately 3,600 students from throughout Nebraska and Iowa as well as more than 28 other states and 24 foreign countries. At the undergraduate level, WSC offers more than 70 nonteaching majors and minors plus 38 various teaching endorsements in four academic schools including arts and

humanities, business and technology, education and counseling, and natural and social sciences. Masters degrees are also available in business, education, and organizational management.

Of those undergraduate students declaring a major, approximately 12 percent major in the arts and humanities, 22 percent in education and counseling, 26 percent in business and technology, and 40 percent in natural and social sciences.

Founded in 1891, the college became a State College in 1909. The picturesque 128-acre campus serves as a state arboretum and features a walking/jogging trail, numerous indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, a renovated and expanded Student Center, a state-of-the-art business building, and a new studio arts building.

The Office of Continuing Education at Wayne State College offers undergraduate and graduate coursework via Internet and distance learning. In addition, a variety of courses are also offered on site in several area cities. Schedules and course offerings vary.

Groundbreaking for the College Center of South Sioux City was held in 2009. The College Center of South Sioux City will partner with Northeast Community College and Wayne State College in the same building. Northeast and Wayne State will offer additional opportunities for students to earn associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees without having to relocate; a combination of customized training for businesses and industry, continuing education, licensing programs, and career and technical training. Construction on the approximately 39,600-square-foot facility should be completed in December 2010.

For more information, contact Wayne State College at (800) 228-9972 or visit www.wsc.edu.

| Wayne State College | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Program | Undergraduate | | Graduate | |
| | Majors* | Degrees** | Majors* | Degrees** |
| Applied Human & Sport Physiology | 35 | 5 | — | — |
| Art | 43 | 5 | — | — |
| Business | 431 | 129 | 76 | 16 |
| Chemistry | 53 | 22 | — | — |
| Computer Information Systems | 71 | 13 | — | — |
| Computer Science | 29 | 2 | — | — |
| Counselor Education/Counseling | — | — | 57 | 11 |
| Criminal Justice | 174 | 37 | — | — |
| Curriculum & Instruction | — | — | 234 | 170 |
| Early Childhood | 20 | 3 | — | — |
| Early Childhood Education | 109 | 22 | — | — |
| Elementary Education | 360 | 49 | — | — |
| English | 75 | 10 | — | — |
| Exercise Science | 77 | 17 | 5 | 1 |
| Family & Consumer Sciences | 56 | 12 | — | — |
| French Education | 1 | 0 | — | — |
| Geography | 27 | 7 | — | — |
| Graphic Design | 62 | 12 | — | — |
| Health & PE | 90 | 7 | — | — |
| History | 69 | 8 | — | — |
| Human Service Counseling | 87 | 27 | — | — |
| Industrial Technology | 136 | 32 | — | — |
| Interdisciplinary Studies | 2 | 5 | — | — |
| Life Sciences | 107 | 26 | — | — |
| Mass Communication | 40 | 7 | — | — |
| Mathematics | 38 | 5 | — | — |
| Middle Level Education | 24 | 5 | — | — |
| Modern Language and Culture-French | — | 1 | — | — |
| Music | 77 | 4 | — | — |
| Natural Sciences | 10 | — | — | — |
| Organizational Management | — | — | 34 | 7 |
| Physical Science | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| Political Science | 37 | 5 | — | — |
| Pre-Professional | 254 | — | — | — |
| Psychology | 64 | 17 | — | — |
| School Administration | — | — | 153 | 38 |
| Social Sciences | 47 | 6 | — | — |
| Sociology | 11 | 8 | — | — |
| Spanish | 33 | 6 | — | — |
| Special Education | 76 | 10 | 5 | 2 |
| Speech Communications | 44 | 12 | — | — |
| Sport Management | 114 | 24 | — | 1 |
| Technology | 8 | 2 | — | — |
| Theatre | 13 | 6 | — | — |
| Undeclared | 313 | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 3,321 | 569 | 564 | 246 |

*Includes first and second majors for Fall 2009 (as of 9/30/09)

**Includes Degrees Awarded December 2008 through August 2009

Other Schools

Colleges, universities, and community colleges frequently attended by O'Neill High School graduates include:

| Community/ College or University | Mileage |
|---|----------------|
| Norfolk, NE Northeast Community College | 76 |
| Wayne, NE Wayne State College | 99 |
| Vermillion, SD University of South Dakota | 127 |
| Kearney, NE University of Nebraska at Kearney | 162 |
| Omaha, NE University of Nebraska at Omaha | 188 |
| Lincoln, NE University of Nebraska-Lincoln | 211 |
| Chadron, NE Chadron State College | 248 |

CHURCHES

| Denomination | Number of Churches |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Assembly of God | 1 |
| Catholic | 2 |
| First Christian Church | 1 |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints | 1 |
| Faith Community (nondenominational) | 1 |
| Jehovah Witness | 1 |
| Lutheran, ELCA | 1 |
| Lutheran, Missouri Synod | 1 |
| Presbyterian | 1 |
| Resurrection Revival Center | 1 |
| United Methodist | 1 |
| Word of Life | 1 |

HEALTH CARE

Hospital

The **Avera St. Anthony's Hospital** in O'Neill, a 25-bed facility, was built in 1952 with additions in 1976 and 2002. Facility services include: medical, surgical, OB/GYN, pediatric, skilled nursing care, cardiology, urology, ENT, pulmonary, podiatry, ophthalmology, orthopedic, weight, oncology, vascular, neurology, mammography, ultrasound, CT scan, diagnostic radiographic services, MRI, dietary counseling, blood bank, laboratory, pharmacy, respiratory therapy, stress testing, Holter monitoring, pastoral care, Lifeline, cardiopulmonary rehab, AICD - pacemaker checks, audiology, sleep studies, nuclear medicine, pain management, kidney dialysis, and e-ICU. The hospital is sponsored by the Presentation of Benedictine Sisters and is operated by Avera from Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Patient transfers are arranged through local physicians. The hospital provides transportation services both in and out of O'Neill.

Ground breaking for a \$16-million renovation and expansion of the hospital is scheduled in April 2010. The building will include single patient rooms, medical office building, new physical/occupational therapy and chemotherapy space, and increased capacity in the surgery department.

Clinics

There are three family practice clinics, one general surgery, one orthopedic surgery clinic, along with specialty clinics serving the hospital.

Rescue Squad

There are 25 Emergency Medical Technicians who respond to calls with the fire department's three ambulances.

REHABILITATION CENTER

Valley Hope, which opened in 1977, is a 75-bed drug and alcohol residential treatment center. This private, nonprofit organization is governed by a board of directors. The individually tailored services include 24-hour nursing care, psychological, spiritual, and vocational counseling. Valley Hope works with those with chemical dependency issues as well as their family members.

NURSING HOMES

The **Golden LivingCenter** was built in 1963 with an addition in 1993. Twenty-four hour professional nursing coverage is provided in this skilled care facility approved for Medicare and licensed for 88 beds by the Nebraska Health Department and the Nebraska Department of Social Services. Therapeutic diet management; physical therapy and rehabilitation; social services consultation; speech, occupational, and outpatient therapy; and recreational activities are provided in-house. An Alzheimer's unit, called the Irish Cottage, opened in 2006. Telephone reassurance calls, Alzheimer's group meetings, congregate meals, over 60s monthly birthday parties, and many other events are provided for the senior citizens in the community by the Golden LivingCenter.

LIBRARY

The **O'Neill Public Library** contains 36,126 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 97,341. The library, with 2,493 patrons, is part of the Nebraska Interlibrary Book Loan program. Story hour is held during the summer months and other special times during the year. Books and records for the blind are also provided. There are four computers with Internet access available to library patrons.

RECREATION

There are six parks in O'Neill covering 103 acres. Facilities include a swimming pool, playground equipment, picnic tables, fishing pond, lighted softball and baseball fields, tennis courts, soccer fields, horse arena, and camping area.

The Parks and Recreation Department has one full-time director and approximately 24 seasonal employees. The annual budget for the last three years averaged \$248,577. Programs offered by the department include Red Cross swimming lessons, aquarobics, lap swimming, swim team, softball, baseball, and soccer.

Area facilities:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Basketball | — 1 court at Ford Park |
| Boating | — Goose Lake, 30 miles; Calamus Dam & Fort Randall Dam, 50 miles |
| Bowling | — Alley with 12 lanes |
| Campgrounds | — Carney Park & other parks within an hour drive |
| Fishing | — Excellent fishing for trout, bass, catfish & other species at Carney Park; Goose Lake, Calamus Dam, Fort Randall Dam, Grove Lake, Spencer Dam, and Swan Lake within an hour |
| Golf Courses | — Private 9-hole grass greens course with clubhouse |
| Hiking Trails | — Hiking trails all over the area including the Cowboy Trail |
| Horseshoes | — Pits at Carney Park |
| Hunting | — Deer, pheasant, duck, quail, turkey, prairie chicken, rabbit, squirrel, and coyote |
| Racquetball | — 2 courts at Hansen Courts |
| Sand Volleyball | — 2 courts at Carney Park and 1 at Ford Park |
| Soccer | — 6 fields at Torpins Soccer Fields |
| Swimming | — Outdoor pool at Ford Park |
| Tennis | — 1 court at Kiddie Park |
| Theatres | — Indoor theatre with 400 seats |



Avera St. Anthony's Hospital



Valley Hope



O'Neill Public Library



Golden Age Senior Center

Residents in O’Neill prepare for the **St. Patrick’s Day Celebration** in March honoring the patron saint of Ireland. The celebrations have drawn crowds of more than 10,000 to the “Irish Capital of Nebraska.” Another annual event is the Summerfest held the second weekend in July. Family celebration highlighted by a rodeo, cruise night car show, and many other family activities.

The **Golden Age Senior Center**, opened in 1982, provides education, nutrition, recreation, and health-related services, with an emphasis on the total well-being of all persons over the age of 60. The center serves meals (inhouse and delivery) five days a week and two evening meals monthly during September through June. Meals are also provided to the towns of Inman and Chambers. Activities at the center include musical entertainment, card games, the Wii game, puzzles, weekly bingo, monthly birthday parties, as well as holiday parties throughout the year.

The **Moses P. Kinkaid Law Office Museum** has been designated by the U.S. Department of Interior as a National Historic Site in honor of Moses P. Kinkaid. The museum tells the story of Congressman M. L. Kinkaid as well as displays many exhibits from the settlement of Holt County.

The **Golden Hotel**, also listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, is still in use today. The lobby has been restored to its former grandeur.

The **Cowboy Trail**, the longest rails-to-trails conversion in the nation, will span 321 miles through northern Nebraska when completed. Today, 161 miles of the trail are open to the public for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. This includes a 143-mile segment from Norfolk to Ainsworth, a 16-mile segment from Bassett to Ainsworth. This trail follows the gentle slopes of the old Chicago and North Western rail line. The O’Neill Depot is currently being renovated to benefit the development of the Cowboy Trail.

Attractions within a one-hour drive of O’Neill include Atkinson State Lakes, 20 miles west; Goose Lake, 27 miles south; Fort Randall Reservoir and Fort Randall Casino, 50 miles north; and Calamus Dam, 50 miles, south.

The community of O’Neill is currently in the process of a capital campaign and securing USDA financing for a 14,000-square-foot community center that will be available for many community events, shows, and conferences.

Cultural activities include Friends of the Library Dinner Theater, Hospital Dinner Theater, O’Neill Community Band, and Art Show.

HOUSING

New Construction

Twenty-five new homes were constructed in 2008 and 2009. The cost of new home construction averages \$110 per square foot. Building permits were issued for 37 single-family homes during the last five years:

O’Neill Housing Market (as of 8/09):

Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family - 35

Avg. Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home \$95,000

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

Less than \$100,000 35

Rentals

Executive Style Home - 700 sq. ft. - 1,000 sq. ft. \$450

Apartment - 2 bedroom \$350

Apartment Vacancy Rate 5%

Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing

North Park Homes was completed in 1978 with an addition in 1990. This low-cost housing facility contains 2 units for the handicapped, 34 subsidized units, a community room, and 2 laundry rooms.

Shannon Apartments, with 16 units, was built in 1992 for the low income, elderly, or handicapped individuals.

Eastwood Apartments, with 16 low-income units, was built in 1982.

Kinkade Village, an apartment building with 18 units built in 1999, is income-based.

Assisted Living

The Evergreen, a 33-unit assisted living residence, was built in 2001. All units are handicap accessible. Well-balanced meals and daily activities are planned.

FINANCIAL

Financial institutions in O’Neill:

- BankFirst
- Farm Credit Services
- Great Western Bank
- Pinnacle Bank
- TierOne Bank



Eastwood Apartments



The Evergreen



O'Neill Public Swimming Pool



Ford Park



BankFirst



Farm Credit Services



Great Western Bank



Pinnacle Bank



TierOne Bank

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL

| | |
|--|----|
| Architects | 1 |
| Attorneys | 6 |
| Auctioneers | 4 |
| Certified Public Accountants | 6 |
| Chiropractors..... | 3 |
| Dentists | 4 |
| Engineering Firms..... | 1 |
| Medical Doctors (residing in O’Neill) | |
| —family practitioners | 6 |
| Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff) | |
| —ear, nose & throat | 3 |
| —family practitioners | 6 |
| —general surgeons..... | 1 |
| —ophthalmologists | 1 |
| —orthopedic surgeons | 2 |
| —pathologists | 1 |
| —radiologists..... | 4 |
| —urologists..... | 3 |
| Nurse Anesthetists..... | 4 |
| Nurse Practitioners..... | 3 |
| Nurses, Registered | 52 |
| Optometrists | 3 |
| Pharmacists | 3 |
| Physician Assistants | 4 |
| Podiatrists..... | 2 |
| Veterinarians | 3 |

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

| | |
|--|----|
| Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies..... | 4 |
| Advertising Agencies | 4 |
| Agricultural Implement Dealers | 3 |
| Antique Shops..... | 2 |
| Apparel Stores—combination..... | 6 |
| —men’s | 1 |
| Appliance Repair | 1 |
| Appliance Stores | 2 |
| Auto Repair & Service..... | 12 |
| Auto Supply Parts | 4 |
| Automobile Dealers (new & used) | 5 |
| Automobile Renting & Leasing | 3 |
| Aviation Seeding & Spraying | 1 |
| Bakeries..... | 1 |
| Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums..... | 5 |
| Beauty Salons & Barber Shops..... | 10 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Carpet & Rug Dealers | 3 |
| Caterers | 2 |
| Child Care Services..... | 8 |
| Contractors—building..... | 6 |
| —carpentry..... | 6 |
| —concrete | 3 |
| —electric | 4 |
| —excavating..... | 2 |
| —flooring | 3 |
| —general | 6 |
| —gravel | 3 |
| —heating & air conditioning..... | 5 |
| —painting..... | 3 |
| —plumbing..... | 2 |
| —remodeling & repairing | 6 |
| —roofing | 2 |
| —well digging..... | 1 |
| Convenience Stores..... | 5 |
| Copying & Duplicating Services | 2 |
| Craft Stores | 2 |
| Dance Studios | 1 |
| Discount Stores | 2 |
| Dry Cleaning & Laundries..... | 1 |
| Drug Stores | 2 |
| Farm/Ranch Supplies | 2 |
| Feedlots (commercial & private)..... | 2 |
| Fertilizers | 5 |
| Floral Shops | 4 |
| Furniture Stores..... | 2 |
| Garbage Collectors..... | 1 |
| Gift Shops | 4 |
| Grain Dealers | 2 |
| Grocery Stores | 3 |
| Hardware Stores..... | 2 |
| Health Clubs..... | 2 |
| Industrial Equipment & Supplies..... | 2 |
| Insurance Companies | 7 |
| Interior Decorators & Designers..... | 1 |
| Irrigation | 3 |
| Jewelry Stores | 1 |
| Landscaping Equipment & Supplies..... | 1 |
| Laundries (self-service) | 1 |
| Lawn Services..... | 4 |
| Livestock Market | 1 |
| Lumberyards | 3 |
| Machine Shops..... | 2 |
| Motels | 5 (175 rooms) |
| Nurseries & Garden Centers | 3 |
| Office Machine Repairs | 1 |
| Office Equipment Services & Supplies | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Photography Studios | 2 |
| Preschools | 3 |
| Printers | 3 |
| Real Estate Firms | 3 |
| Restaurants | 16 |
| Service Stations | 5 |
| Shoe Stores | 2 |
| Specialized Shops (dental lab) | 1 |
| Television & Radio Repair Shops | 1 |
| Theatres | 1 |
| Travel Agencies & Bureaus | 1 |
| Upholstery Shops | 1 |
| Variety Stores | 1 |
| Welding Shops | 2 |



Flags at O’Neill Cemetery



Country Clover Estates
New Housing Development



Golden Hotel

AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

AGRICULTURE

| 2007 Statistics | Holt County | State of Nebraska |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Number of Farms | 1,171 | 47,712 |
| Land in Farms (acres) | 1,532,629 | 45,480,358 |
| Average Size of Farms (acres) | 1,309 | 953 |
| Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold | \$373,623,000 | \$15,506,035,000 |
| Market Value Per Farm | \$319,063 | \$324,992 |
| Total Acres Irrigated | 339,080 | 8,558,559 |
| Percent of Farmland Irrigated | 22.1% | 18.8% |
| Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2004–2008) | | |
| Hay Alfalfa (Dry) | 79,400 tons | 4,232,000 tons |
| All Wheat | 701,520 bu. | 69,730,000 bu. |
| Corn for Grain | 28,228,980 bu. | 1,326,770,000 bu. |
| Oats | 156,500 bu.* | 2,878,000 bu. |
| Soybeans | 3,634,140 bu. | 225,334,000 bu. |
| Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2005–2009) | | |
| All Cattle | 212,000 | 6,470,000 |

*4-year average

Holt County ranked in the top six counties in the number of cattle and calves during the last five years and the top five counties in the production of oats during the last four years.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2004–2009
2007 Census of Agriculture

RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in commercial quantities; however, metallic minerals are not found in the O'Neill area.

Cedar, oak, and ash lumber are available in limited quantities.

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

| Month | AVERAGES | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------|------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Temperature | | | Precipitation | | Humidity* | |
| | Min. | Mean | Max. | Rain (Inches) | Snow (Inches) | Morning | Afternoon |
| January | 9.9 | 21.0 | 32.1 | 0.47 | 4.6 | 76 | 65 |
| February | 13.7 | 24.9 | 36.1 | 0.61 | 5.6 | 79 | 65 |
| March | 22.7 | 34.6 | 46.6 | 1.42 | 7.4 | 80 | 62 |
| April | 35.1 | 48.0 | 60.9 | 2.50 | 2.6 | 79 | 52 |
| May | 46.5 | 59.2 | 72.0 | 3.34 | 0.1 | 80 | 53 |
| June | 56.5 | 69.1 | 81.6 | 3.74 | 0.0 | 82 | 55 |
| July | 62.0 | 75.4 | 88.8 | 2.86 | 0.0 | 84 | 56 |
| August | 60.0 | 73.4 | 86.8 | 2.57 | 0.0 | 86 | 58 |
| September | 49.9 | 63.7 | 77.5 | 2.21 | 0.0 | 83 | 54 |
| October | 37.7 | 51.5 | 65.4 | 1.46 | 0.8 | 79 | 52 |
| November | 24.1 | 35.7 | 47.3 | 0.91 | 4.1 | 80 | 60 |
| December | 13.9 | 24.7 | 35.4 | 0.58 | 5.2 | 79 | 66 |
| Annual | 36.0 | 48.4 | 60.9 | 22.66 | 30.5 | 81 | 58 |

*Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

FROST DATA

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Average date of spring freeze probability | May 7 |
| Average date of fall freeze probability | September 29 |
| Average length of freeze free season probability | 147 days |
| Average number of heating degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit | 6,932 |
| Average number of cooling degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit | 922 |
| Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average) | 12 |
| Prevailing wind direction (annual average) | South |

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1893–2008, www.hprcc.unl.edu