



Historical picture of the old roundhouse turntable of the CBQ Railroad (photo courtesy Alliance Chamber of Commerce)

1980 at 9,869 due to the activities of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The town has remained at about 9,000 population.

Although the railroad was its primary reason for existence, the importance of agriculture and ranching cannot be ignored. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided 160 acres of free land to homesteaders who could "prove up" their claim after five years. An additional 160 acres could be acquired as a "tree claim" as the Congress attempted to forest the Plains. In 1904 Moses P. Kinkaid of Nebraska sponsored a bill changing the number of acres in the semi-arid regions to 640 acres per homesteader. With that bill, farming came to western Nebraska. Popular crops included potatoes and wheat. Dairy farming in this area was very popular and the Alliance Creamery was established to process cream and butter.

Ranching was equally important to Alliance. The Nebraska Stock Growers Association, founded in Alliance in 1889, was to protect stockmen from illegal rustling. The Alliance Livestock Commission Company bought and sold market cattle locally until December 1976.

Alliance was the first town in

Nebraska to adopt the city manager form of government. Initiating this innovative system in 1921, it is still in use today.

Downtown Alliance is an old town, where many beautiful brick buildings carry the names of past owners and early-1900 dates. Older homes with elegant designs, from Sweetwater to Cheyenne Avenues and 1st to 8th Streets, bespeak of gracious living and citizens with much community pride. Alliance has survived the drought and grasshoppers, business booms and busts, and many social changes. The town's history is at times comical, joyous, and tragic. But throughout the years, the steadfast character of the true pioneer comes through. The stories of the strength, integrity, and love for Alliance carries on!

By Deb Dopheide, Alliance, NE 69301

**ARAPAHOE**

Arapahoe is located in the heart of the beautiful Republican River Valley and sits directly at the intersection of Highway 6/34 and 283 in southwest Nebraska in Furnas County.

Arapahoe with a population of 1,028 is a rural, ag related community that prides itself on

a strong and thriving business district. Arapahoe prides itself on leading the area with locally-owned, state of the art, telephone, high speed internet and cable television services. Some of the other businesses include financial institutions, law office, grocery, clothing, appliance and hardware stores. A pharmacy, car and implement dealerships, floral shop, auto parts, insurance agencies, real estate, barber and beauty shops as well as a weekly newspaper.

Arapahoe also has several restaurants and motels to choose from. Arapahoe has rest home, assisted living, and retirement facilities as well as low-cost housing. As a community of faith, Arapahoe has six churches. Attractions include the recently constructed Veterans Wall monument, Furnas/Gosper Historical Society Museum, Outdoor Classroom, tennis courts, swimming pool, golf course and volunteer run movie theatre. The Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce sponsors several activities throughout the year including the huge, annual 4th of July celebration, Prairie Pioneer Days. There is a car show the first Saturday of August each year accompanied by city-wide garage sales. Other events include the annual children's Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday

Highlights Craft and Gift Show, Children's Halloween Costume parade and many more! Summer activities include softball and baseball, swim team, and motor cross bike racing.

For the outdoorsman, Arapahoe and the surrounding area is known for it's excellent hunting and fishing. Whether you're looking to relocate or just visiting, Arapahoe can provide you with everything you'll need!

For additional information concerning Arapahoe, please contact the Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce at (308) 962-7777. Arapahoe's web site address is www.arapahoe-ne.com

**ARNOLD**

Arnold is nothing if not beautiful. Though small and off the beaten track, it rewards visitors with to-the-horizon views of dramatic landscapes and fantastic light effects. Visitors say, "I never dreamed Nebraska was this beautiful," "Why have I never heard of this before," or "This is more like Colorado than Colorado." Newcomers can't stop pinching themselves over "all this beauty at a fraction of the prices found on either of the coasts or in neighboring Colorado." Anywhere we look, a postcard-quality picture greets our eyes. And it doesn't cost a dime.



(Photo courtesy Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce)

**Arnold Economic Development Corporation**

Welcome to Arnold, Nebraska. To find out about one of our popular events or for other information, visit [www.arnoldne.org](http://www.arnoldne.org) or call **(308) 848-2211**

**Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce**  
 P.O. Box 624  
 Arapahoe, NE 68922  
**(308) 962-7777**  
[www.arapahoe-ne.com](http://www.arapahoe-ne.com)



(Photo courtesy Arnold Economic Development Corporation)

Situated on the Great Plains, **Arnold** enjoys four landscapes – the South Loup River bottom, the clay and sand tablelands to the south and west, the loess canyons to the north and east, and the famed Nebraska Sandhills coming just to the north edge of town.

Settlers began coming into the area in 1875, but it was 1883 before the official town of **Arnold** was surveyed and platted. Although today it only has 613 residents, **Arnold** is becoming known as the “little town that could.” Volunteers put on events that draw visitors nationwide. The Night of Thunder Tractor Pull, held during the 4th of July Blowout, brings in nationally ranked pullers and more clubs every year. It is the largest tractor pull in the western half of the state.

The South Loup River Blues Fest, currently in its 17th year, is true heaven for the serious blues fan. To be held July 10-11, 2010, it brings in major headlining blues groups, such as Tinsley Ellis, Tab Benoit, and Jimmy Thackery.

The Sandhills Open Road Challenge, which is one of only four races of its kind in the nation and the only one in the state of Nebraska, will be held August 6-8, 2009. It is a three-day event that has 125 cars and pickups racing a 55-mile round trip through the steep canyons of

Devil’s Den and the many curves of the rolling Sandhills. Participants come from as far as California, New York, and Texas to run this challenging course.

The chamber hosts activities year-round including the 4th of July Blowout, Christmas Around Town, and the Chili Cook-Off. For a quieter, less populated experience, check out the Arnold State Recreation Area for camping and fishing, try a round at the Arnold Golf Course, participate in a guided hunt, or just take in our natural beauty. Visit [www.arnoldne.org](http://www.arnoldne.org) for more information.

**ATKINSON**

**Atkinson** is Proud and Alive! Our many interesting shopping opportunities and special events bring visitors from across this great Nation of ours to **Atkinson**, Nebraska. We are “Proud and Alive” on historic U.S. Highway 20 making this a thoroughfare for travelers. Plan to spend most of your vacation time in **Atkinson**, Nebraska. There is always something wonderful going on!

**Atkinson** is located in Holt County in north-central Nebraska. Living here is easy! Lots of friendly people, open spaces and wonderful things to do.

We have an RV Park in town and camping and tenting sights at the State Lake Recreation area. The 9 hole golf course is

right across the fence-watch out for all the water hazards and the huge grass greens. Also at the state lake are swings and fun things to play on plus fishing and a Bluebird Trail. The Cowboy Trail cuts through **Atkinson** for walking or biking. Our airport is located West of town.

Wait until you see our swimming pool-the water slide and mushroom fountain, plus the squirting lemon drops and diving board are so much fun for the whole family. Next to the pool is our Community Center and City Park with swings and slides and picnic tables.

When you travel to **Atkinson** you may stop at an authentic five and dime store-enjoy a banana spit or malt and even lunch. We have a clothing - shoes and fabric store along with grocery stores and C- stores and bars and other places that serve food and drinks.

It is always Christmas in **Atkinson** thanks to our official Christmas store that has 3 floors of some of the most unique and specialty items found for miles around. Shop our hardware stores with many quality items. You can buy a tractor in town or a car and even a hay baler. We pride ourselves in living in the heart of hay and cattle country! Great things are happening! We have Ethanol, Galvanizing and Manufacturing plants that ship products world wide.

Our new library features free internet and a vast collection of books. We are also proud of our new motel.

We have a wonderful health care with full service hospital, medical clinic, lab, pharmacy and long term health care. Our EMS and fire fighting volunteers are the best.

August is when we have our annual Hay Days celebration. Many free and fun activities! We have a parade down main street, crown a Hay Days Queen and King and enjoy games at the city park and the Children’s Theater. It is a three day celebration packed with food and fun for the whole family. You can enjoy Cruise Night, eat at the Chamber BBQ and enjoy a dance or two and free music in the park.

When you travel West - include **Atkinson** on your travel plans - you will be glad you did and so will we - hope to see you soon! Check us out at: [www.atkinsonne.com](http://www.atkinsonne.com)

**AURORA**

Traveling across the open spaces of land and sky known as the Great Plains, far from the noise and crowds of large cities, the world of nature, science, agriculture, technology and history is opening to the attentive observer. This is America’s heartland, where the products that feed and fuel the world are produced and the charm of rural America is



(Photo courtesy Aurora Area Chamber & Development Corporation)



Golf Course · City Park · Camping · Pool  
State Park · Motel · Airport  
Hay Days - 3rd week of August

Atkinson Chamber of  
Commerce

P.O. Box 871  
Atkinson, NE 68713  
**(402) 925-5571**  
[www.atkinsonne.com](http://www.atkinsonne.com)



AURORA

...look no further



Visit our website — [www.auroranebraska.com](http://www.auroranebraska.com)  
Aurora Area Chamber & Development 1604 L St. PO Box 146  
Aurora, NE 68818 Phone: 402-694-6911 Fax 402-694-5766