



(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)



**ATKINSON**  
PROUD & ALIVE

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

still intact. If you like adventure and you're looking for the perfect blend of old and new, small and large, then begin your discovery in America's Favorite Small Town... **Aurora**, Nebraska.

**Aurora** is a vibrant community proud of its ag-based heritage and poised for dynamic growth with an eye toward technology. Conveniently located just off of I-80, **Aurora** has something for everyone. No matter what you're looking for, you'll find it here.

The Edgerton Explorit Center, a tribute to Harold "Doc" Edgerton, is Nebraska's Hands-on Science Center. Its exhibits and activities educate and entertain people of all ages. Directly next door the Plainsman Museum tells the history of Hamilton County and the Great Plains.

**Aurora's** Central Park Square is the hub of the city's retail industry. As you enjoy a leisurely stroll around the perimeter of the historic Hamilton County Courthouse, you'll find a number of shops and services. Downtown **Aurora** offers a relaxing and quaint shopping experience where service is a priority.

If you're looking for the art scene check out the L'eglise Art Center and Gallery or the Renaissance gallery both located inside old Aurora churches. Or stop by Espressions, a coffeehouse and deli in downtown **Aurora**, which works to create an arts and music community that includes live acoustic music on the weekends and various art shows throughout the year.

**Aurora** is home to a nine-hole golf course, three large parks (complete with playgrounds, athletic fields, a swimming pool, and lighted tennis courts) and a recreation trail. Streater's Park also has excellent camping facilities.

The Leadership Center is a destination for learning and recreation. Located on the edge of **Aurora** in an idyllic setting, it features motel accommodations, food service, meeting facilities, an indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, ball fields, fishing, and paddleboats.

Community events celebrate

**Aurora's** love for its community; A'ROR'N Days takes place the last weekend in June. In September, **Aurora** holds FAMFest, the Fall Arts & Music Festival. In July, the Hamilton County Fair brings agricultural exhibits, competitions, and entertainment. The Hamilton County Home and Garden show help break up the long winter months and the MCC Quilt Auction is an early sign of spring.

Whether it's history, shopping, or entertainment; we've got it all right here in **Aurora**.

**Aurora**, look no further!

### BASSETT

**Bassett**, the seat of Rock County, is a peaceful little town with history and legends of rustlers, outlaws and vigilantes. Accused horse thief, Kid Wade, was hung and buried on the outskirts of **Bassett** in February, 1884. Today, visitors will be greeted by one of the friendliest populations in Nebraska.

Bassett City Park and Rock County Fair Grounds are located on the southwest side of town on Highway 20. This park is equipped with swimming pool, rodeo arena, band shell, children's playground, horseshoe pits and camping area with hookups and shower facilities. Camping fees are still by donation. The annual Rock County Fair, which is held in August, hosts a two day rodeo, tractor pull, parade, displays local projects and brings in outside entertainment and exhibitors. The annual Health Fair is also held at this time. Also held on Rock County Fair grounds, is the annual Nebraska Ranch EXPO and Craft Show in June that features over 300 exhibitors from all over the country.

The Rock County Historical Museum, consisting of a complete village, is also located on these grounds. This museum features the original Bassett Railroad Depot with caboose, a one-room school house, first home built in **Bassett**, a pioneer log house and historical St. Michael's Church...all housing many antiques.

Bassett Country Club (BCC) has a 9-hole golf course that is open to the public. BCC holds

many tournaments throughout the season. **Bassett** has an active Arts Council which brings in various entertainment and artists throughout the year, including hypnotists/comedians, Missoula Children's Theatre and many artists display their work in the Bassett Art Gallery. Each summer and fall, a Farmers' Market is held in **Bassett's** downtown park where local producers can bring fruits, vegetables, baked goods and many other items for customers to purchase.

**Bassett** has ample lodging, food, gas, Cowboy Trail, airport and other services including a flower and gift shop located in the Railroad Depot and an old-fashioned variety store downtown with complete soda fountain. Rock County, bordering the National Scenic Niobrara River is noted for hunting and fishing. Wild Turkeys are known to roam the streets of **Bassett**. Come and enjoy "Nebraska's Hometown"!

Check out our web site for a variety of information about our community at: [www.bassettnebr.com](http://www.bassettnebr.com). While on the website click "Play Bassett Video" and view a video about us!

### THE BLACK CROW

**The Black Crow** is an oasis of fresh and delicious food, reasonably priced, served with style and grace, in an atmosphere that is elegant, yet relaxed, and never stuffy. Located in a beautifully restored 1890's building in Historic Downtown Beatrice, NE. This

destination restaurant, opened 16 years ago by husband and wife team, Ray Arter and Kate Ratigan, has become a mecca for lovers of good food and fine service, and has received rave reviews at the local, regional and even national level.

The critically acclaimed menu is served up by Chef Ray Arter, from Philadelphia, who worked in New York City, and Vail, Colorado, before opening **The Black Crow** and features a variety of hand cut Nebraska beef steaks, fresh fish, oysters, succulent shrimp and shellfish dishes, gourmet pastas, salads, and pizzas; roast duck, pork, and chicken, homemade soups, breads and gourmet desserts.

An extensive wine list of over 150 wines, many by the glass, crafted by partner Kate Ratigan, along with the well stocked bar and large beer list, are sure to please any palate.

A new Party Room added in 2006 can accommodate large parties as well as small. **The Black Crow** serves lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Dinner is served 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### BEATRICE, GAGE COUNTY

**Gage County** is home to the Homestead National Monument of America and the new Homestead Heritage Center. **Gage County** has 14 towns, and villages, each rich in their own unique history. The surroundings villag-



226 S. 6th Street • Beatrice, NE 68310

(800) 755-7745 • (402) 223-2338

[www.visitbeatrice.com](http://www.visitbeatrice.com) • [www.beatricechamber.com](http://www.beatricechamber.com)

*The Black Crow*  
**Restaurant and Bar**  
*Elegant Atmosphere, Casual Attire,*  
*Reasonable Prices*

- Hand Cut NE Beef Steaks, Prime Rib
- Fresh Fish, Oysters, Shellfish, Shrimp
- Homemade Desserts, Breads & Soups
- Gourmet Pasta, Pizzas, Salads & Appetizers
- Extensive Wine List, Imported Beers & Well Stocked Bar

405 Court St. • Beatrice, NE 68310 • (402) 228-7200

### Bassett / Rock County Chamber of Commerce



P.O. Box 383  
**Bassett, NE 68714**  
**(402) 684-3319**

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