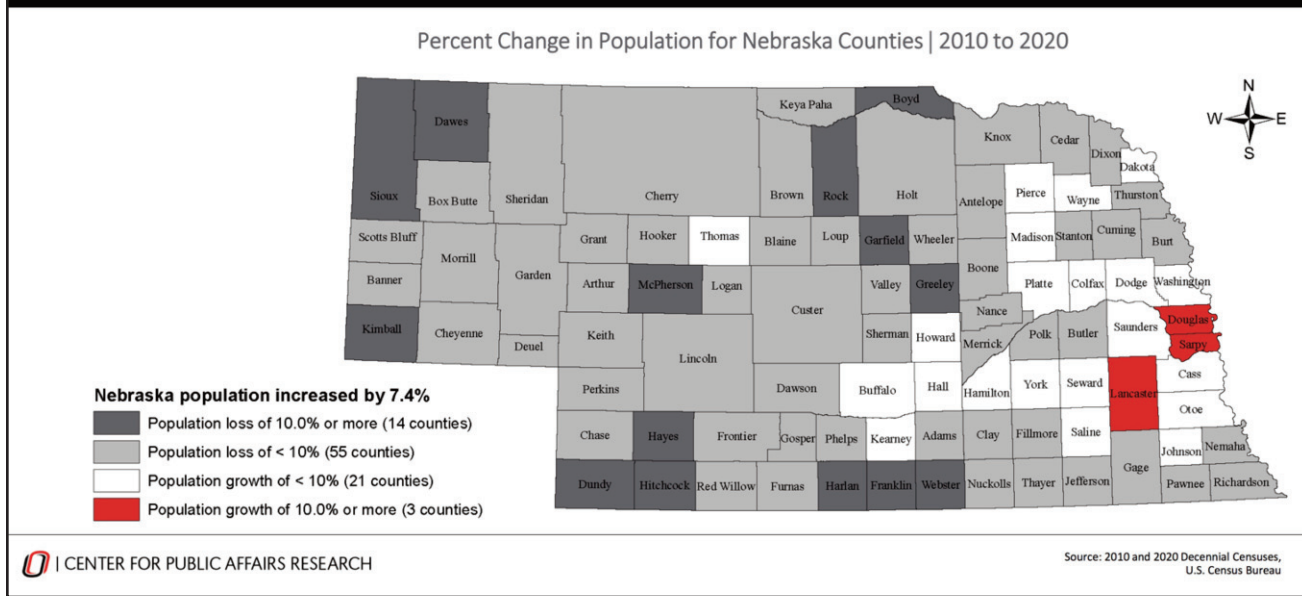


## Thomas County only western Nebraska county to grow

Population Growth is Mainly in Eastern Nebraska and Along the I-80 Corridor



Results of the 2020 census are in and it shows what most people already know. While Nebraska's population increased by 7.4%, most of that growth was in eastern Nebraska and along the I-80 corridor.

Fourteen counties showed a loss of 10% or more.

Among those 14 counties was McPherson. It saw a 26% decrease in numbers and is now the least populated county in the state. The county population stands at 399 compared to 539 residents reported in the 2010 census. Others with population losses of 10% or more were Sioux, Dawes, Kimball, Rock, Boyd, Garfield, Greeley, Hayes, Dundy, Hitchcock, Harlan, Franklin, and Webster.

Counties in our area with 10% or less population loss included Logan, Lincoln, Custer, Blaine, Hooker, Grant, Arthur, and Keith.

Thomas County was the only western Nebraska county showing growth. It was one of the 21 counties that grew less than 10%. Other counties in that category included Buffalo, Kearney, Howard, Hall, Hamilton, York, Seward, Saline, Johnson, Otoe, Cass, Saunders, Platte, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Madison, Pierce, Wayne, and Dakota.

Three counties saw a population growth of 10% or more and included Lancaster, Douglas, and Sarpy.

North Platte saw a 5.4% decline in population and is now the 11th largest city in the state. Scottsbluff and Beatrice also saw declining numbers.

A look at area county and village population:

McPherson	.....399 (-26.0%)
Logan	.....716 (-6.2%)
Thomas	.....669 (+3.4%)
Hooker	.....711 (-3.4%)
Custer	.....10,545 (-3.6%)
Arthur	.....434 (-5.7%)
Lincoln	.....54,676 (-4.4%)
Keith	.....8,335 (-0.4%)
Blaine	.....431 (-9.8%)
Grant	.....611 (-0.5%)

Thedford was among incorporated villages seeing an increase in population in our area. There are now 208 people compared to 188 in 2010 for an increase of 10.6%.

Stapleton, that has maintained population since 1990, dropped to 267, a decrease of 12.5% since the 2010 census of 305. Gandy grew by two and now has a population of 34.

Arnold continues to see

a decrease in population in the last five decades. From a population of 813 in 1980, the town's population now stands at 592.

The top 15 best and worst Nebraska counties for 2010-2020 rate of population change were:

- Best Counties
1. Sarpy.....20.0%
  2. Douglas.....13.05%
  3. Lancaster.....13.0%
  4. Buffalo.....8.6%
  5. Hall.....7.3%
  6. Saunders.....7.2%
  7. Platte.....6.4%
  8. Cass.....5.4%
  9. Seward.....5.1%
  10. Thomas.....3.4%
  11. York.....3.4%
  12. Hamilton.....3.3%
  13. Howard.....3.2%
  14. Washington.....3.1%
  15. Kearney.....3.1%

- Worst Counties
- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Blaine    | .....-9.8% (79)  |
| Hitchcock | .....-10.0% (80) |
| Kimball   | .....-10.1% (81) |
| Harlan    | .....-10.2% (82) |
| Franklin  | .....-10.4% (83) |
| Dawes     | .....-10.7% (84) |
| Webster   | .....-10.9% (85) |
| Hayes     | .....-11.5% (86) |
| Garfield  | .....-11.5% (87) |
| Sioux     | .....-13.4% (88) |
| Boyd      | .....-13.8% (89) |
| Greeley   | .....-13.8% (90) |
| Rock      | .....-17.3% (91) |
| Dundy     | .....-17.6% (92) |
| McPherson | .....-26.0% (93) |

Some of the 2020 Census highlights published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research included:

• Of Nebraska's 93 counties, 24 or 26% had population growth in the 2010's. Same as the 2000s when 24 grew, but less than 40 in the 1990s.

• Nebraska's more populated counties tend to rank as the fastest growing. The first most populated counties comprise the top five for population growth rates.

• Nebraska's "Big 3" most populated counties of Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster now contain 56.0% of the state's population. This has steadily increased over time (was 31.4% in 1950) and suggests the "Big 3" counties will hold 27 of 49 seats in the Unicameral after redistricting.

• The population of the 8-county Omaha metro stands at 967,604. This is an increase of 11.8% from 865,350 in 2010. With 2010s growth averaging 10,225 per year, Omaha metro is expected to hit 1 million in 2024.

• Lincoln metro of Lancaster and Seward Counties has 340,217 people. This is a gain of 12.6% from 302,157 in 2020; growth of about 3,800 per year.

• Nebraska's 2020 population of 1,961,504 equals an average congressional district size of 653,835.

Lincoln-based 1st District: 659,816 (9,981 above average)

Omaha-based 2nd District: 701,005 (47,170 above average)

Rural-based 3rd District: 600,683 (53,152 below average)

The release of the redistricting data from the 2020 census comes more than four months later

than expected.

It shows where populations have become older or younger, and the number of people living in dorms, prisons and nursing homes. The data covers geographies as small as neighborhoods and as large as states.

Another set of data released in April 2020, showed the United States had an official resident population of 331,449,281 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Sandhills Family Medicine to reopen As Great Plains Family Medicine

by Gerri Peterson  
Hooper County Tribune  
Sandhills Family Medicine will be closing on August 20, 2021, and will reopen on September 1, 2021, as Great Plains Family Medicine.

Drs. Steve Boyer and

Margaret Cavanaugh-Boyer will still be seeing patients under Great Plains Family Medicine.

For the week that the clinic is closed, patients can still call the office at 308-546-2213. However, visits will be limited to

emergencies only.

All patient records will be automatically transferred to Great Plains Family Medicine.

For pharmacy refills, patients can call their pharmacy and the clinic will take care of them.

## Thomas County Represented At Young Farmers & Ranchers Meeting

WATERLOO, NE - It is a brave new world in agriculture today. A world of drones, high tech implements, and cutting-edge technology on livestock operations monitoring animals 24/7, 365 days a year, analyzing their well-being, productivity, and performance. All to make farms and ranches more efficient and sustainable.

This was one of the messages given to Nebraska's congressional delegation from members of the Nebraska Farm Bureau (NEFB) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee. Rather than their annual trip to Washington, D.C., members of the committee met virtually to discuss climate/environmental markets, the elimination of stepped-up basis and 1031 exchanges, market conditions within the cattle industry, and international trade.

"Given the Biden administration's focus on climate, we need to have a seat at the table during these discussions. We want to see climate policies that are built upon voluntary, incentive-based programs, and market driven opportunities. They must promote resilience and adaptation in rural communities, and

they must be science-based," said Brady Revels, chairman of the NEFB YF&R Committee.

Nebraska Farm Bureau works to equip young farmers and ranchers in Nebraska to lead effectively and advocate for positive change in agriculture, by sharing personal stories of how decisions made in Washington, D.C. affects their farms and ranches. "We had a good and diverse group that visited with some members of our Nebraska delegation bringing a lot of perspective to the issues facing agriculture," said Revels.

Another issue front and

center addressed concerns on marketing conditions within the cattle industry. "NEFB strongly supports Sen. Deb Fischer's Cattle Market Transparency Act as it provides needed and common-sense reforms that will boost price transparency in U.S. cattle markets," Revels said.

Young farmers and ranchers are talking about the importance of expanding international markets. Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing, and production. Nebraska's top agricultural exports include soybeans and soybean products, beef, corn, pork, and ethanol.

"We need to extend Trade Promotion Authority, which expired in July 2021. This would allow for new agreements to be reached. We need to negotiate an agreement with the UK and the European Union and support U.S. participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership now known as the CPTPP," Revels said.

Young farmers and ranchers attending the National Affairs virtual

visit were: Brady Revels, chairman, YF&R Committee - Douglas County Farm Bureau  
Lance Atwater, YF&R representative, NEFB Board of Directors - Adams/Webster County Farm Bureau  
Joe and Jaden Melnick, South Central Region representatives, YF&R Committee - Adams/Webster County Farm Bureau  
Desarae Porter, North Central Region representative, YF&R Committee - Thomas County Farm Bureau  
Tyler and Alysha Ramsey, At-Large representatives, YF&R Committee - Adams/Webster County Farm Bureau  
Sye Tecker, Southwest Region representative, YF&R Committee - Dundy County Farm Bureau  
Adam and Kaylyn Venticicher, Northwest Region representatives, YF&R Committee - Pierce County Farm Bureau  
The Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grassroots, statewide organization dedicated to supporting farm and ranch families and working for the benefit of all Nebraskans through a wide variety of educational, service, and advocacy efforts.

## DeNaeyer wins Saddle Broncs at Thedford Rodeo

The Thedford Rodeo, held July 23 during the Thomas County Fair at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, drew cowboys and cowgirls from towns across Nebraska and surrounding states.

Seneca cowboy, Spencer DeNaeyer, won the bareback riding with a score of 75.

Complete results:

Barebacks: 1. Spencer DeNaeyer, Seneca, NE, 75, \$465.82; 2. Whitten Hoover, Ainsworth, 74, \$549.56; 3. Jared Schultis, Tryon, 71, \$232.91; 4. Logan Glendy, Oconto, 67, \$116.45.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Lane Day, Chadron, 4.5, \$638.26; 2. Chadron Coffield, Yuma, CO, 5.6, \$528.21; 3. Cord Hesselstine, Arnold, 5.7, \$418.17; 4. Austin Hurlburt, Norfolk, NE, 5.8, \$308.12; 5. Quade Potter, Cambridge, NE, 5.9, \$198.08; 6. Trevor Haake, Grand Island, 6.7, \$110.04.

Breakaway: 1. Bailey Brown, North Platte, 2.7, \$1,179.23; 2. Quincy Segelke, Bayard, 3.1, \$975.92; 3-4. Torie Kester, Grand Island and Lacey Camp, Arthur, 3.2, \$670.94 each; 5. Kelley Haythorn, Arthur, 3.3, \$565.97; 6. Hannah Schmitz, Ainsworth, 3.4, \$203.32.

Saddle Bronc: 1. Lane Whitelock, Lewellen, 74, \$465.82; 2. Joseph Whitelock, Lewellen, 70, \$349.36; 3. Lavern Bornte-

ger, Elsmere, 62, \$232.91; 4. Jared Schultis, Tryon, 60, \$116.45.

Mixed Team Roping: 1. Danielle Wray, Ord and Jade Nelson, Midland, SD, 6.7, \$561.01 each; 2. Peyton Mentzer, Ensign, KS, 7.0, \$567.56 each; 4-5. Haley Brown, Porcupine, SD and Cash Hetzel, Lemmon, SD, and Mercedes Trenary, Arthur and Bret Trenary, Salida, CO, 7.6, \$222.47 each; 6. Emily Finney, Anselmo and Doug Finney, Anselmo, 8.0, \$96.73 each.

Team Roping: 1. Jeff Johnston, Thedford and Quincy Opela, Stapleton, 5.5, \$918.76 each; 2. Andy Knott, Taylor and Dalton Pelster, Burwell, 5.8, \$760.36 each; 3. Spencer Sinner, Sargent and Doug Finney, Anselmo, 6.7, \$601.95 each; 4. Jade Schmidt, Box Elder, SD and Jade Nelson, Midland, SD, 7.2, \$445.54 each; 5. Amber Coleman, Orchard and Jett Hillman, Stoneham, CO, 7.6 each, \$285.13; 6. Cooper Brott, Gothenburg and Todd Hollenbeck, Long Pine, 11.2, \$158.41 each.

Barrel Racing: 1. Patty Finney, Ainsworth, 17.68, \$818.58; 2. D'Ann Gehlsen, Mission, SD, 17.91, \$677.45; 3. Ginalee Sinner, Sargent, 18.05, \$536.31; 4. Dori Hollenbeck, Winner, SD, 18.07, \$395.18; 5. Sandy Hickey, Comstock, 18.12, \$254.04; 6. Trena Fecht, Ashby, 18.25, \$141.14.

Bull Riding: No qualified riders.

Calf Roping: 1. Tanner Stec, Bassett, 10.1, \$798.55; 2. Mitch McAdow, Hyannis, 11.0, \$660.87; 3. Cody Henderson, Alliance, 11.3, \$523.19; 4-5. Cody Rieker, Lexington and Clay Bauer, 12.1, \$316.66 each; 6. Casey Redman, Burwell, 13.1, \$137.68.