

CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-2035.

Prepared For: Chase County Planning & Zoning Commission.

NOVEMBER, 2025

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CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – 2035.

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The background of the slide is a collage of four images. The top-left image shows a water tower with 'FVC' written on its side. The top-right image shows a large, multi-story white building with several windows. The bottom-left image shows a wide, calm body of water. The bottom-right image shows a row of large, cylindrical water storage tanks. The text is centered over the collage.

**SECTION 1:
THE CHASE COUNTY
PLANNING PROCESS.**

THE CHASE COUNTY PLANNING PROCESS & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

This **Comprehensive Plan** was prepared to replace the existing **Chase County, Nebraska Comprehensive Plan**, completed in 2015. This new **Plan** will serve as a guide to direct future growth and development opportunities in **Chase County, Nebraska** during the next 10-year planning period, until 2035. The geographic focus of this **Plan** is the unincorporated areas of Chase County, including the unincorporated Communities of Champion, Enders and Lamar and excluding the designated Community Planning Jurisdictions of the incorporated Communities of Imperial and Wauneta.

The primary focus of this **Comprehensive Plan** is to assess the effectiveness of balancing the preservation and protection of agricultural production lands and natural resource conservation, with the appropriate locating of development for non-farm dwellings, rural subdivisions and commercial and industrial land uses. This **Comprehensive Plan** is also intended to provide policy guidance to enable the County's elected officials to make decisions based upon the consensus of opinion by the **Chase County Planning & Zoning Board**. Implementation methods and activities should include incentives to stimulate private action consistent with the **Plan** and the use of Local, State and Federal programs for both economic development and land conservation activities.

The implementation of this **Comprehensive Plan** should be guided by “**Land Use Preservation & Development Initiatives**,” as determined by the evaluation and “**statistical analysis**” of local population, income, economic and agricultural figures, a “**Land Use Profile & Plan**,” “**Public Facilities & Transportation**” and an “**Energy Element**.” The **Comprehensive Plan** also serves as a foundation and guide for the implementation of **Zoning and Subdivision Regulations**, as needed, to achieve the specific **Initiatives** identified in the **Plan**.

The **Comprehensive Plan** was prepared under the direction of the **Chase County Planning & Zoning Board** and Planning Consultants, **Hanna:Keelan Associates**, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

PLANNING PERIOD.

The planning time period for achieving the goals, programs and economic development activities identified in this **Comprehensive Plan** for Chase County, Nebraska, is 10 years (2025-2035).

AUTHORITY TO PLAN.

This **Comprehensive Plan** for Chase County is prepared under the Authority of Sections 23-114 to 23-174.10, Nebraska State Statutes 1943, as Amended.

AMENDMENT.

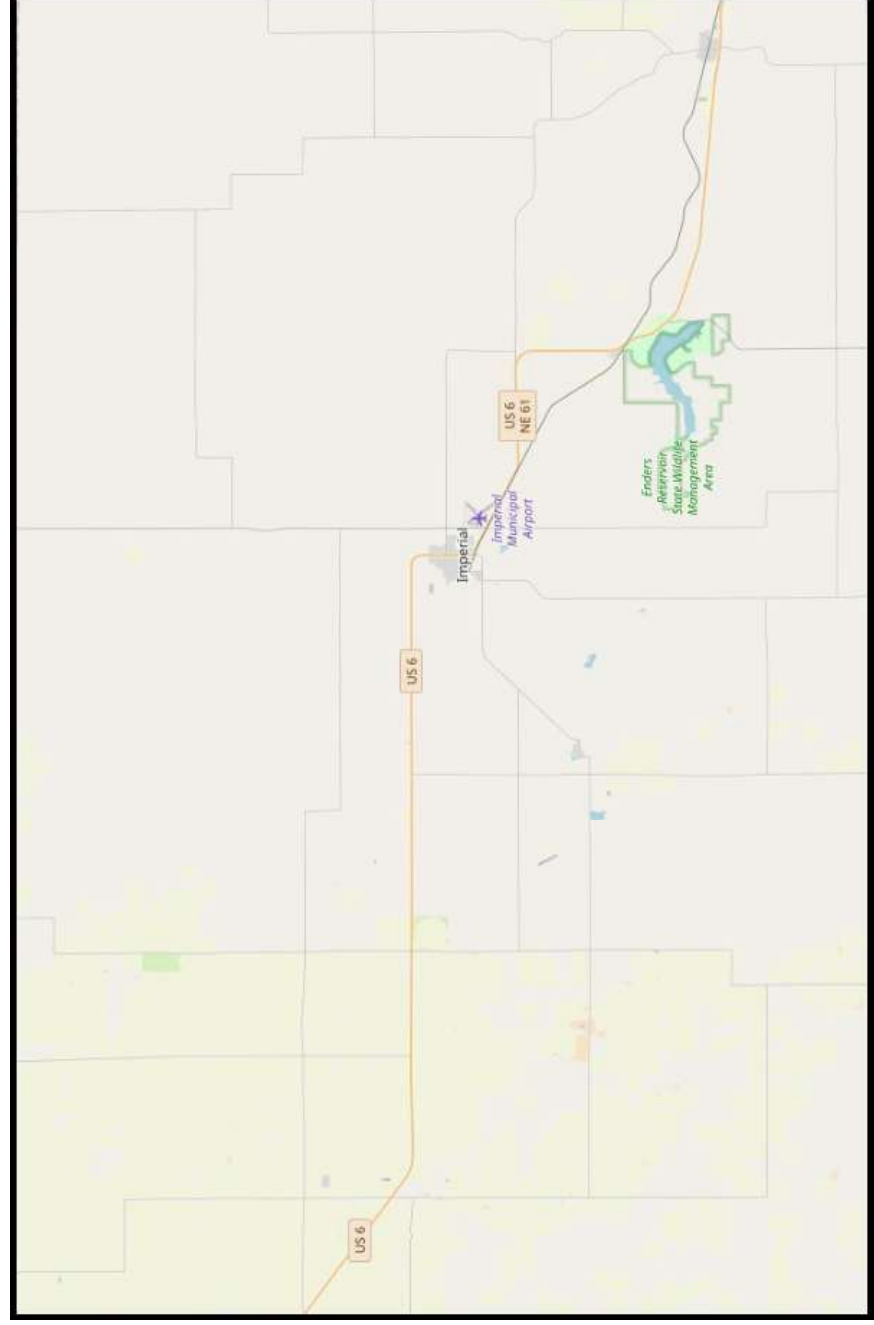
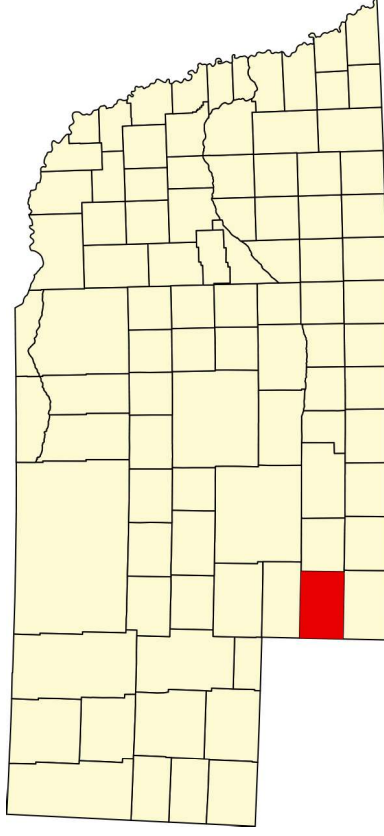
The **Comprehensive Plan** may be amended or updated as the need arises as provided in the Nebraska State Statutes.

ABOUT CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Illustration 1.1, Page 1.3, identifies the location of Chase County, Nebraska. Chase County is located in Southwest Nebraska, bordered by the Colorado State Line (West), Perkins County (North), Hayes County (East) and Dundy County (South). The County features both rolling hills and valleys along river corridors, as well as topography associated with the Nebraska Sandhills. The City of Imperial serves as the County-Seat. Transportation in the County is served by the Nebraska State Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 6 Corridors, as well as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Corridor. Significant recreational amenities include the Enders Reservoir and State Recreation Area, Champion Mill and Recreation Area and Enders Lake Golf Course and RV Park.



**ILLUSTRATION 1.1
LOCATION MAP
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA**



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: COUNTY PROFILE & OPINION SURVEY.

Population, income, economic and agricultural trends in **Chase County** serve as valuable indicators of future development needs and patterns and provide a basis for the realistic projection of future growth or decline. The quantity and location of social and economic features play an important role in shaping the details of various development plans to meet the County's needs. The population trends and projections for the years 2010 through 2035 were studied and forecasted, utilizing a process of both trend analysis and U.S. Census population estimates. A complete **"Table Profile"** is included in **"Appendix I"** of this **Comprehensive Plan**.

Population & Households.

- Total population in Chase County, between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses, has declined by 1.8 percent, or from 3,966 to 3,893. Through the same period, the Communities of Imperial and Wauneta, as well as the Balance of County, maintained a slightly declining but stable population. Annual population estimates from the U.S. Census, from 2020 to 2023, highlight a more stable population trend with only minimal declines population for the County, each Community and Balance of County.
- The current (2025) estimated population for **Chase County** is 3,805, representing a decrease of 2.2 percent since 2020. The populations of the City of Imperial and the Village of Wauneta, as well as the Balance of County have also continued to decline, but remain stable.
- By 2035, the population of **Chase County** is projected to remain stable, declining by an estimated 3.7 percent, or 143 persons. Slight declines in population are projected to occur in the City of Imperial, Village of Wauneta and the Balance of County through 2035.
- An estimated 1,524 households currently reside in **Chase County**, including 1,118 owner and 406 renter households. Of this, an estimated 424 households are located in **Rural Chase County**, comprised of an estimated 325 owner and 99 renter households.

- The total number of households is projected to remain stable in the County by 2035, consisting of 1,450 total households or 1,055 owner and 395 renter households. This includes an estimated 2035 projection of 401 households in **Rural Chase County**, or 309 owner and 92 renter households. An estimated 72.8 percent of all households in the County and 77.2 percent of all households in **Rural Chase County**, will be owners by 2035.
- The “19 and Under,” “55 to 64,” “65 to 74” and “85+” age cohorts for Chase County have experienced population increases between the 2010 and 2020 Censuses. The “19 and Under” and “35 to 54” age cohorts, both historically and currently, have been the largest population cohorts in both Chase County and **Rural Chase County** and are projected to remain the largest in the County through 2035.
- **Rural Chase County** currently maintains an estimated median age of 47.7 years. Median age in **Rural Chase County** is projected to increase to an estimated 49.5 by 2035.

Income.

- The median income for all households in **Rural Chase County**, in 2025, is estimated to be \$76,948. By 2035, median income in **Rural Chase County** is projected increase an estimated 16 percent, to \$89,295.
- Per Capita income in **Chase County**, currently estimated to be \$83,801, is projected to increase an estimated 18.1 percent by 2035 to \$98,974. This represents a faster rate of increase in the County, as compared to the State of Nebraska, projected to increase by 15.6 percent during the next 10 years, or from \$74,052 to \$85,648.

Economic/Employment.

- Between 2015 and 2025, the unemployment rate in **Chase County** ranged from a high of 3.2 percent to a low of 1.6 percent. During this period, the total number of employed persons experienced an overall decline from 2,292 employees in 2010, to an estimated 1,721 employed persons for 2025. By 2035, employed persons of Chase County is projected to increase, with an unemployment rate maintaining 2.8 percent. Local Government is the largest employment sector in the County.

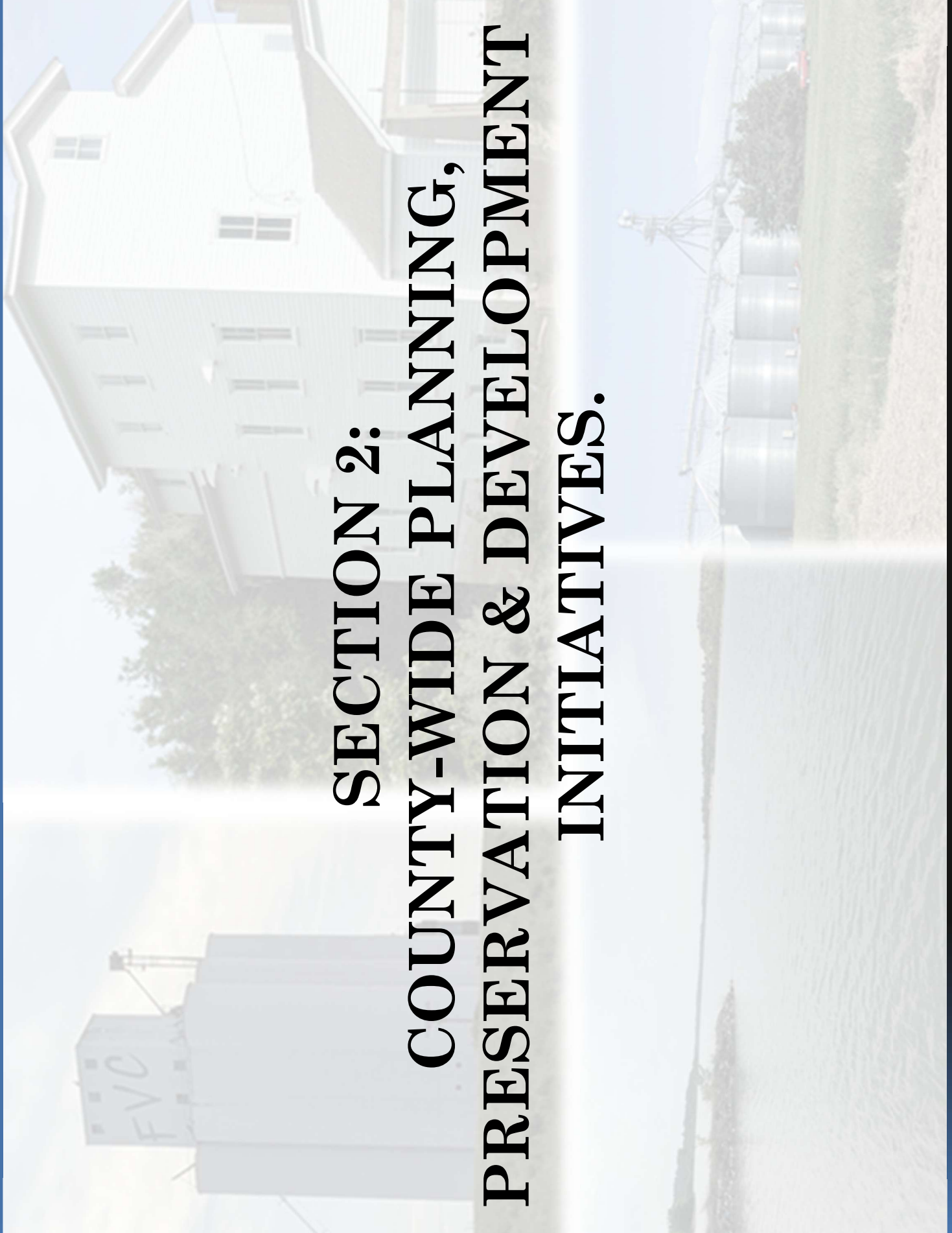
Agricultural Statistics.

- Total farms in Chase County have decreased from 342 in 2017 to 304 in 2022. The number of farms/ranches in the “10 to 49” acre category experienced the largest increases from 2017 to 2022, increasing by 28 farms/ranches, or 155.6 percent. The most prevalent size of farm in Chase County are those with 1,000+ acres, accounting for over one-third of all farms in the County. Total crop land, land in farms and average farm size in the County have either increased or remained stable from 2017 to 2022.
- The acreage of harvested cropland increased by 1.8 percent from 2012 to 2022, and the acreage of farms/ranches with irrigated cropland decreased by 8.6 percent. Overall, acres of total crop land decreased by 0.8 percent, while total number of crop land farms decreased by 16.8 percent. **This trend suggests that the total amount of farmland in the County is being repurposed for non-farming or agricultural uses.**
- From 2012 through 2022, the total number of livestock producing farms/ranches for “Cattle/Calves” decreased by 36 farms/ranches, while the total number of cattle/calves increased by 44,950 or 44.7 percent during the same period.

CHASE COUNTY-WIDE OPINION SURVEY.

The Chase County, Nebraska County-Wide Opinion Survey was completed by 246 respondents with 101 residing in Rural Chase County. An estimated 50 percent of participants didn’t have an opinion on whether or not the current Chase County Zoning and Subdivision Regulations were effective, while 31 percent of participants felt the County does not have effective Zoning Regulations.

Additionally, participants identified being “supportive” or “very supportive” of General or Intensive Agricultural Uses, Transportation Systems, Residential Development, Park/Recreation Facilities and Public Infrastructure/Utilities. The highest number of “not supportive” votes was for both Commercial Wind and Solar Alternative Energy Systems.



**SECTION 2:
COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING,
PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVES.**

COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING, PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

INTRODUCTION.

This Section of the **Comprehensive Plan** provides proposed **Planning, Preservation & Development Initiatives** for **Rural Chase County, Nebraska**. The **Initiatives** address a wide spectrum of land use and planning topics, ranging from the preservation of general agriculture to planned residential subdivisions to needed public facilities and economic development opportunities. The purpose of each **Initiative** is to create a “**balance**” of **both land use Preservation & Development practices** at all levels of planning implementation, in an effort to address the health, safety and overall general welfare of **Rural Chase County** residents. This, in turn, will promote the best possible planning and development practices to address the appropriate agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, public/quasi-public and land/water conservation needs and wants of the citizenry.

The **Planning, Preservation & Development Initiatives** are a product of the **qualitative and quantitative research activities** conducted for the **Comprehensive Plan**.

Qualitative research activities included meetings with the Chase County Planning & Zoning Commission, comprised of appointed rural residents of the County, representing various geographic points throughout the County. Also included was the implementation of the **Chase County, Nebraska County-Wide Opinion Survey**. The **Survey** allowed the **Chase County Citizenry** to provide their opinion of future land use activities in the **Rural County areas**. A total of **247 residents** of the County completed the **Survey**, which provided guidance for creating citizenry consensus and direction in the preparation of the following **Planning, Preservation & Development Initiatives**.

Quantitative research activities included the collection, analysis and projection of pertinent population, income, economic and agricultural data from local, State and National sources, all in an effort to understand both past and present demographic and land use development trends in **Rural Chase County**. **Chase County, Nebraska** is projected to continue to maintain a stable population during the next 10 years experiencing, only, a slight decline. These **Initiatives** will be the cornerstone of maintaining quality lifestyle and economic prosperity currently experienced in **Rural Chase County, Nebraska**.

An important statistical analysis of land use in Chase County was the preparation of a **Land Use Matrix**, presenting both the current and projected pertinent land use requirements in the County.

In essence, Land Use Preservation & Development Initiatives addresses the important components of planning implementation. The following identifies Three Primary Categories of Land Use Preservation & Development Initiatives in Rural Chase County.

1. **Population, Plan Participation & Implementation.**
 - **Population Stability & Growth.**
 - **Rural County Leadership.**
 - **Rural County Citizen Participation & Relationships.**
 - **Plan Review & Implementation.**
2. **Preservation of Existing Conditions in Rural Chase County.**
 - **Agricultural Land Areas & Associated Farmsteads.**
 - **Housing Preservation.**
 - **Parks/Recreation & Other Public Amenities.**
 - **Road Network & Other Transportation Systems.**
 - **Commercial & Industrial Preservation/Expansion.**
 - **Conservation Easements.**
3. **Future Development & Planning Practices.**
 - **Land Use Planning & Zoning.**
 - **Residential Development Practices.**
 - **Public Facilities, Utilities & Transportation.**
 - **Commercial & Industrial Development.**
 - **Alternative Energy Development Practices.**
 - **Broadband/Telecommunications.**

The implementation of the Comprehensive Plan should include the coordination of local **Rural County** groups and organizations to carry-out these Planning Initiatives. The **success of the Comprehensive Plan** will greatly depend upon **planned programs of citizen participation**, to allow local residents the opportunity to both monitor and provide input for Preservation & Development activities in **Rural Chase County, Nebraska.**

1. POPULATION, PLAN PARTICIPATION & IMPLEMENTATION.

- Annual population statistics from the U.S. Census have identified a stable population throughout the County, with only a minimal decline since the 2020 Census. Chase County, Nebraska, is expected to decline in population through 2035, with a projected population of 3,662. Rural Chase County currently has an estimated population of 1,164. This population base is expected to remain stable, decreasing, slightly, to 1,105 during the next 10 years. This represents a very stable population base, for both the County, overall, as well as the Rural County, which may incentivize or necessitate planned housing, public facilities and economic development activities.
- A stable population base in Rural Chase County will require local leadership to foster and market the values of rural residents to encourage the creation of organized local action to preserve and strengthen the Rural County.
- The success of this Comprehensive Plan will greatly depend upon planned programs of citizen participation, to allow local residents the opportunity to both monitor and provide input for Preservation & Development activities in Rural Chase County.
- Maintaining, at least, a stable population by 2035 will require local leadership to continue to strengthen relationships between Rural Chase County residents, rural business/industrial operations and the leadership of each Community, to conduct planning practices supportive of proper land usage, economic growth, housing development, public facilities and services, transportation and recreation opportunities. Appropriate planning and zoning administration procedures will ensure the proper implementation of each component of the Comprehensive Plan.



- **Chase County leadership** will need to continue to take an active role in **marketing the development potential of Rural Chase County** supporting the broadening of the local economic base, expanding employment opportunities. Emphasis will be placed on both **agricultural related commercial and industrial types and rural residential development**. This would generally take place along Chase County’s **highway corridors and hard-surfaced roadways, specifically in the designated “Development Corridors”** in central Chase County.
- Maintain and utilize the **Comprehensive Plan** as the **primary tool for decision making**, regarding the Preservation & Development of land areas in **Rural Chase County**. This includes an **annual review process of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Subdivision Regulations**, coupled with changes, modifications and/or amendments prepared upon consensus of the Commission and the public.

2. PRESERVATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS IN RURAL CHASE COUNTY.

- Local leadership should continue to promote the **preservation of the agricultural industry in Rural Chase County**, including the diversification of crop and livestock production and use of digital technology to boost the efficiency of general and intensive farming operations. Historically, agriculture has been the primary income producing activity for the **Rural County**. This is anticipated to remain as such through the 10-year planning period, ending in 2035.
- County leadership must be cognizant of farming operation trends in the County, including an overall decline in the number of farms and an increase in average farm size, as per the 2012, 2017 and 2022 Census of Agriculture. **A majority of County-Wide Opinion Survey participants identified the preservation of “General Agricultural Uses,” including farming and ranching operations, as the most important planning initiative in the County throughout the 10-year planning period.**
- **The existence of an affordable housing stock in Rural Chase County** should be a priority initiative of the **Comprehensive Plan**, during the next 10 years, focusing, first, on ensuring that safe and decent housing types exist for both existing and future farmsteads.
- *Non-agricultural, both large lot and planned residential subdivisions should involve little or no intent to infringe on the operation of general agricultural activities.*

- **Park and Recreation areas** should be maintained and preserved, including Enders Reservoir environs and local Recreation and Wildlife Areas. **Participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey were mostly “supportive” or “very supportive” of protecting park and recreation land uses in Chase County throughout the 10-year planning period.**



The Enders Reservoir and State Recreation Area provide a important recreation amenity to Chase County. The Reservoir impounds the Frenchman Creek and provides irrigation storage and flood control to the surrounding area. A variety of recreation activities including camping, fishing, boating and hiking are available to visitors, as well as the nearby Enders Reservoir Golf Course. County officials will need to continue to be cognizant of issues and threats to the Reservoir environs including declining water levels and any evidence of the presence of invasive species in an effort to maintain the vitality of the Reservoir and State Recreation Area.



- **Public emergency services**, including police, fire and ambulance services should be maintained and enhanced where necessary to provide Rural Chase County residents with reliable access to these services. Continue to provide the necessary funding for equipment and apparatus enhancements to maintain sufficient response times and personnel safety.
- The preservation of the **Rural Chase County transportation system** will require proper planning and implementation of all levels of local road networks, with emphasis on the safe transport of people and goods. Both the **State and County One-Year Road Plans** should be “key” in directing a proper, modern road system in **Rural Chase County**.
- Preserve and support the continuation and expansion of **existing commercial and industrial land uses**, as needed, with emphasis on commercial and industrial types that benefit **Rural Chase County** residents, especially the local agricultural sector.

3. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING PRACTICES.

- **Maintain and follow the Land Use Plan for Rural Chase County**, which is based upon present conditions and the sound forecast of future needs. Coordinate all land development and planning activities, including land use changes with the input of the general public and County and State officials.
- Ensure that **all developments in Rural Chase County conform to uniform planning standards** and are in conformance with local **Zoning Regulations**. Evaluate the concepts of “**permitted**” and “**conditional**” **land uses** throughout the rural County, as it pertains to future developments. Special permitted uses should contain all land use provisions associated with permissive uses, with the addition of other development and/or operational conditions as deemed necessary by the County.
- Utilize the **Land Use Plan** and associated **Zoning Regulations** as a means to ensure that all development efforts in **Rural Chase County** result in the preservation and protection of the **highest concentration of irrigated and dry land crop production areas** County-wide. Emphasis on groundwater protection and preservation of agricultural land uses should be emphasized.



- **General farming practices** should continue to be the priority agricultural land use type in **Rural Chase County**. The **development of new and expansion of existing intensive agricultural operations, including feedlots and livestock confinement facilities**, should only be allowed by Special or Conditional Use Permit and be avoided in **Rural Chase County** areas containing sensitive soils conditions.
- Avoid the development and promotion of business/industrial operations that could result in the **contamination of soils and ground water resources**. Enforce State and Local regulations protecting the environment from developments resulting in **contamination or pollutants**.

- Limit **future non-agricultural developments** in **Rural Chase County**, including **general commercial and industrial operations** to locations that are relatively free of environmental constraints relating to soils, slope, flood plain, drainage, ground water, endangered species or other natural resources, or along hard-surfaced roads and highways.

Primary focus should be on three areas identified on the Chase County Future Land Use Map, designated as **“Development Corridors”** in the County. These Development Corridors are located along State and U.S. Highways and are the most capable of supporting new development with little or no natural barriers.

An estimated **14.8 acres** of land should be designated and planned for future **commercial development**, and an additional **54.2 acres** of land should be designated and planned for future **industrial development**, mainly focused on agriculturally-based operations.

- Continue to practice modern measures that limit or reduce flood hazards, control water run-off and enhance the quality of surface and ground water while avoiding development in and around floodplains and associated floodways.
- Promote the **development of housing** in **Rural Chase County**, in locations consistent with the Future Land Use Map, utilizing appropriate Zoning Ordinances. Encourage **future residential development** in **Rural Chase County** to be located in close proximity to communities, or at appropriate locations along paved transportation corridors.

68 percent of County-Wide Opinion Survey participants identified being “supportive” or “very supportive” of housing development occurring in Rural Chase County. Additionally, 58 percent of participants were “supportive” or “very supportive” of the development of organized residential subdivisions in Rural Chase County.





- Encourage moderate and/or substantial housing rehabilitation of deteriorating housing structures throughout the County, especially in the three unincorporated Communities of Champion, Enders and Lamar. Purchase/rehab/resale or re-rent activities on vacated housing units could be a beneficial project to these three Communities and the rural County as a whole.
- **Demolish substantially dilapidated housing units within Rural Chase County that are a detriment to the health, safety and welfare of rural County residents.**
- **Provide adequate, efficient and appropriate public facilities, utilities and services to both new and existing agricultural and residential developments in Rural Chase County.** Ongoing communication with public service providers will be pertinent to the proper location and design and development of any new facilities and/or systems. These public facilities should be consistent in meeting the **cultural, educational, social, recreational, safety and health needs of the Rural County.**
- **Ensure adequate open and recreational space, including state recreation and wildlife management areas are both maintained and developed in Rural Chase County.** Emphasize both existing and potential recreational opportunities associated with local river corridors and channels. **The Champion Recreation Area and Champion Mill are significant recreational and historical amenities to the County that should be promoted and preserved.**



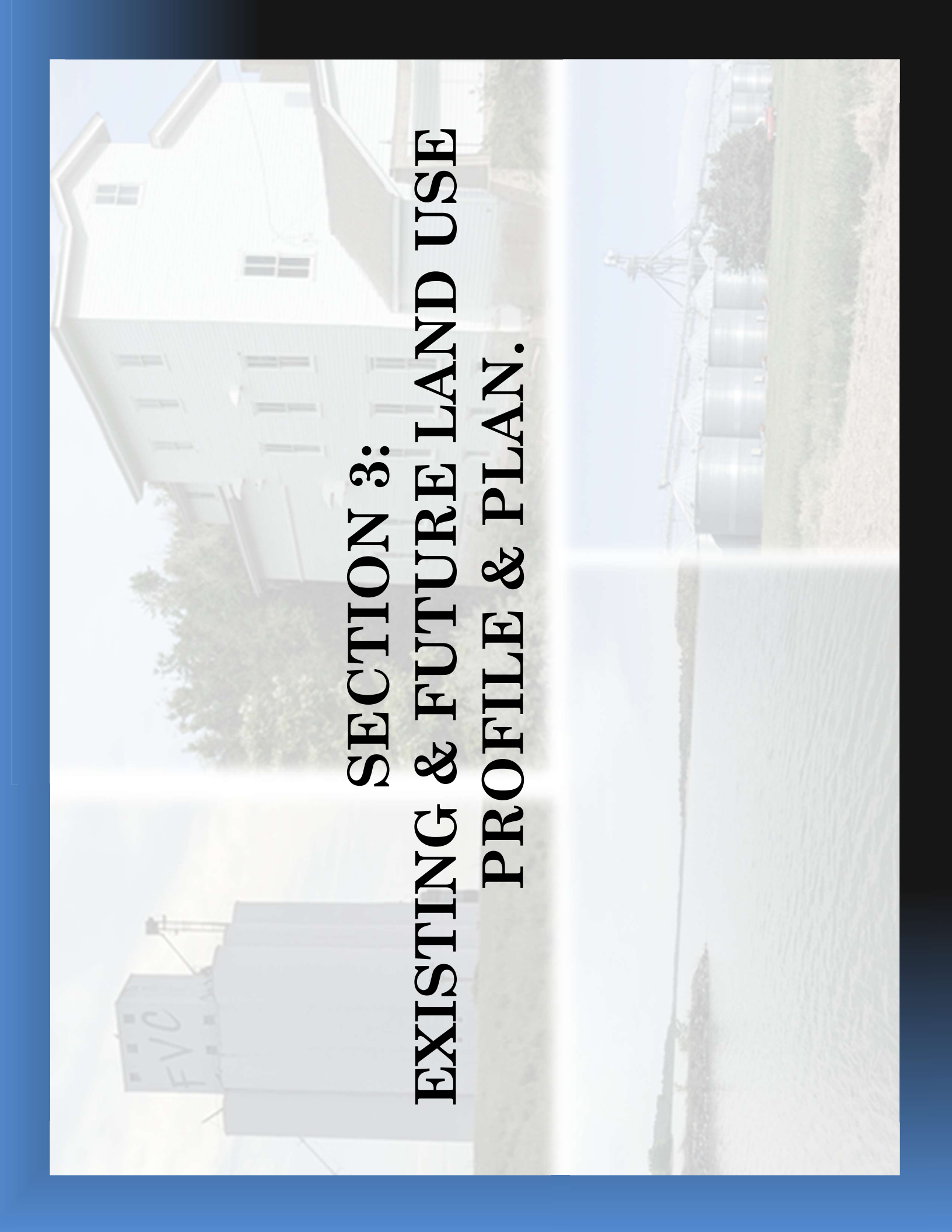
- Encourage **joint Community/County economic development activities in Rural Chase County** that create stable, long-term employment opportunities with competitive wages, especially for low- to moderate income persons and families.
- Provide facilities and services in **Rural Chase County necessary to prevent degradation of the environment**, including modern sewage treatment and similar environmental control processes as necessary. This includes the proper disposal of animal waste.
- Ensure rules and regulations governing **potable water and sewage treatment** are adhered to.
- Ensure that **adequate public health, safety and crime prevention systems** are provided and accessible throughout the **County**.
- **Promote a social and cultural environment that provides opportunities for all residents to experience, develop and share their values, abilities, ambitions and heritage.**
- Continue to support the **evolution of the public educational system** and ensure that it is capable of maintaining and elevating the **Rural County’s overall educational level.**
- Utilize the **County’s and State’s One & Six Year Road Plans** to both maintain and provide new and improved transportation networks in **Rural Chase County**. Coordinate **transportation systems with the planning and development of other elements of Rural Chase County.**
- Continue to maintain County road systems in accordance with the standard State of Nebraska Department of Transportation “Functional Street Classifications”.
- **Utilize the Comprehensive Plan’s “Energy Element” directed at both documenting and monitoring the consumption of energy and conservation policies** for all sectors in **Rural Chase County** and promote the implementation of **personal or small-scale alternative energy sources, only**, such as Wind, Solar, Geothermal, Biomass and Methane, to reduce the reliance on traditional fuel and energy sources. Overall, residents of Chase County were not supportive of the development of commercial scale wind and solar energy projects, as per the County-Wide Opinion Survey results. The Energy Element could be utilized to **create planning and zoning guidelines for the provision of personal alternative energy systems** to supplement individual residential and business, in **Rural Chase County**, with electric consumption in accordance with Nebraska State Statute 70-1012, as amended February, 2025 (LB 43).

- A site in Chase County, near the Community of Wauneta, has been selected as one of 16 potential locations for the construction of a “Small Modular Reactor” to produce nuclear power for the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). A feasibility study, currently in progress, will determine the suitability of the selected nuclear generator site in the Wauneta area and whether or not a development project could move forward. **It will be beneficial for Chase County and Wauneta leadership to collaborate and work closely with NPPD in understanding the potential benefits and risks such a project could produce. Public knowledge regarding feasibility study findings and other development progressions will be critical throughout the life of this potential project.**



- Encourage and promote the continued development and use of **broadband and telecommunication technologies** throughout **Rural Chase County**, with an emphasis for provisions in the underserved areas of Chase County. Support the creation of **public-private partnerships** with the Chase County Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Commissioners, local municipal governments, public power districts, communications providers and private investments in providing **broadband and fiber optic infrastructure** to underserved areas of **Rural Chase County**.

According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey, an estimated 88 percent of all households in Chase County maintain a broadband internet connection.



**SECTION 3:
EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE
PROFILE & PLAN.**

EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE PROFILE & PLAN.

INTRODUCTION.

The following Existing & Future Land Use Profile & Plan for the Chase County, Nebraska Comprehensive Plan focuses on the analysis of existing and future land uses throughout Rural Chase County.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

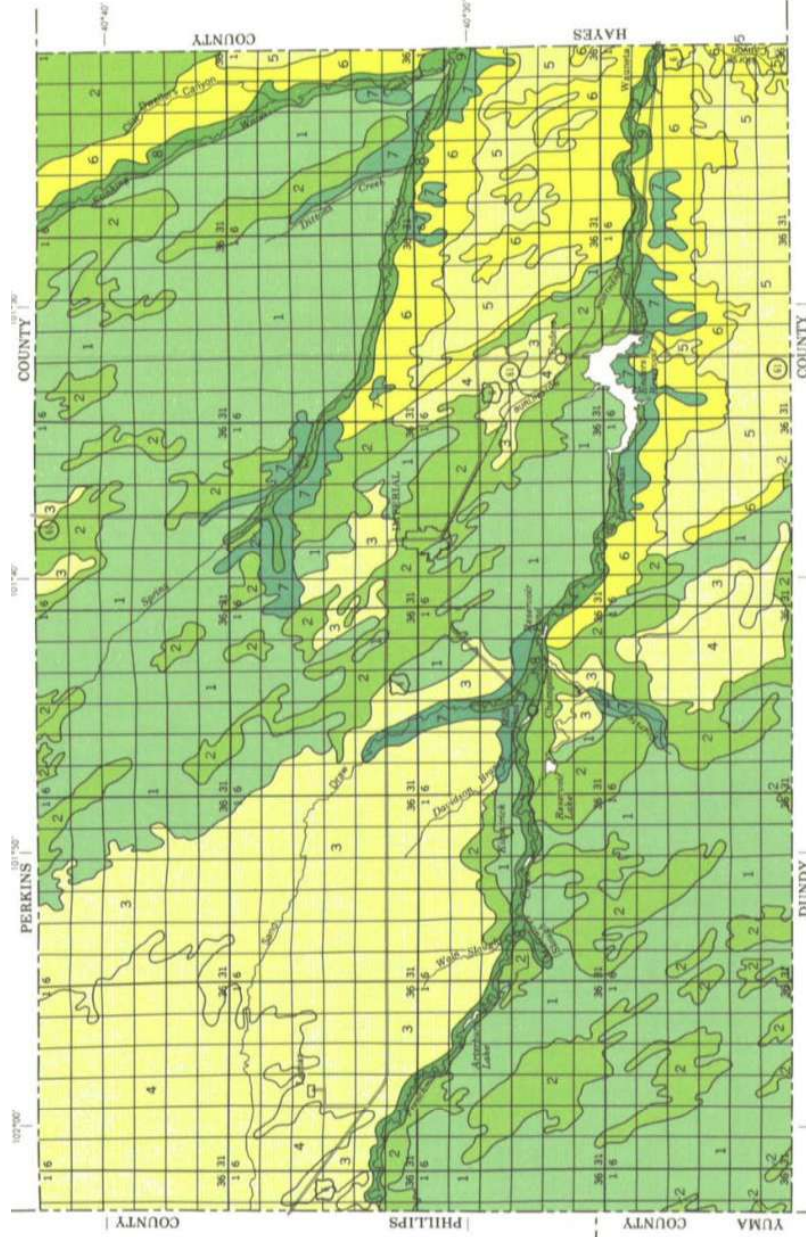
Proper land use practices can protect Rural Chase County's natural resources and complement the built environment. The natural environment provides opportunities and constraints for existing and future developments. As humans strive to create a sustainable living environment, they must work and live in harmony with their natural surroundings. This can occur by designing with nature, conserving unique features, protecting watersheds and using sensitive development practices. An objective of the **Comprehensive Plan** is to protect agricultural lands and, where appropriate, provide for the potential development of commercial/industrial buildings, and for new dwellings and subdivisions. The challenge is to balance agricultural preservation with rural residential development in appropriate areas of the Rural County.

Chase County contains an estimated total land area of 574,080 acres. **Rural Chase County, including land not within a Community planning jurisdiction, comprises an estimated 561,104.2 acres.** Spring Creek and Frenchman Creek are two waterways that flow through Rural Chase County. Frenchman Creek supports the capacity of water that forms the Enders Reservoir in southeastern Chase County. Soils are primarily used for pasture, range land and crop production.

SOILS ASSOCIATIONS.

The Soil Conservation Services has identified nine Soils Associations in the Soil Survey of Chase County. These include Valent, Woody-Jayem-Ascalon, Rosebud-Canyon, Alliance-Mace-Kuma, Kuma, Colby, Otero-Canyon, Gannett-Wann-Gibbon and Bridget-McCook Associations. **Illustration 3.1, Page 3.2**, identifies the location of soils associations in Chase County. The following narrative describes the general characteristics of the nine soil types. For a detailed analysis, refer to the Soil Survey of Chase County, Nebraska.

**GENERAL SOIL ASSOCIATION MAP
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 3.1**



SOIL LEGEND*

- 1** DEEP, SANDY SOILS ON UPLANDS
Valent association: Deep, nearly level to very steep, excessively drained, sandy soils that formed in eolian sands
- 2** DEEP, LOAMY AND SANDY SOILS ON UPLANDS
Woody-Jayem-Ascalon association: Deep, nearly level to gently sloping, well drained, loamy and sandy soils that formed in loamy and sandy eolian material
- 3** DEEP TO SHALLOW, SILTY AND LOAMY SOILS ON UPLANDS
Rosebud-Canyon association: Moderately deep and shallow, nearly level to strongly sloping, well drained, loamy soils that formed in residuum of weakly cemented caliche
- 4** Alliance-Mace-Kuma association: Deep and moderately deep, nearly level and very gently sloping, well drained, silty soils that formed in loess and residuum of weakly cemented caliche
- 5** Kuma association: Deep, nearly level to gently sloping, well drained, silty soils that formed in loess
- 6** DEEP, SILTY SOILS ON UPLANDS
Colby association: Deep, strongly sloping to very steep, well drained and somewhat excessively drained, silty soils that formed in loess
- 7** DEEP AND SHALLOW, LOAMY SOILS ON UPLANDS
Otero-Canyon association: Deep and shallow, strongly sloping to very steep, well drained, loamy soils that formed in loamy material and residuum of weakly cemented caliche
- 8** DEEP, SILTY AND LOAMY SOILS ON BOTTOM LANDS AND STREAM TERRACES
Gannett-Wann-Gibbon association: Deep, nearly level, very poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained, silty and loamy soils that formed in alluvium
- 9** Bridget-McCook association: Deep, nearly level to very gently sloping, well drained and moderately well drained, silty soils that formed in colluvial and alluvial deposits

*The texture given in the descriptive heading of each association refers to the surface layer of the major soils in that association.

EXISTING LAND USE ANALYSIS.

An Existing and Future Land Use Matrix for Chase County, from 2025 to 2035, is presented in Table 3.1, Pages 3.3 and 3.4. Chase County, Nebraska, consists of an estimated 574,080 acres of land in southwestern Nebraska. Currently, an estimated 12,975.8 acres are encompassed by the planning jurisdictions of each Community in the County. Rural Chase County consists of an estimated 561,104.2 acres, comprised of a variety of land uses including, but not limited to agricultural, commercial, industrial, public/quasi-public and park and recreation areas.

The Existing Land Use Maps for Chase County, Illustration 3.2, and the unincorporated Communities of Champion, Enders and Lamar, Illustration 3.3, serve as the basis for establishing a Future Land Use Plan for Rural Chase County and the unincorporated Communities. These Existing Land Use Maps highlight the impact of concentrations of rural dwellings, commercial businesses and agricultural areas throughout the County.

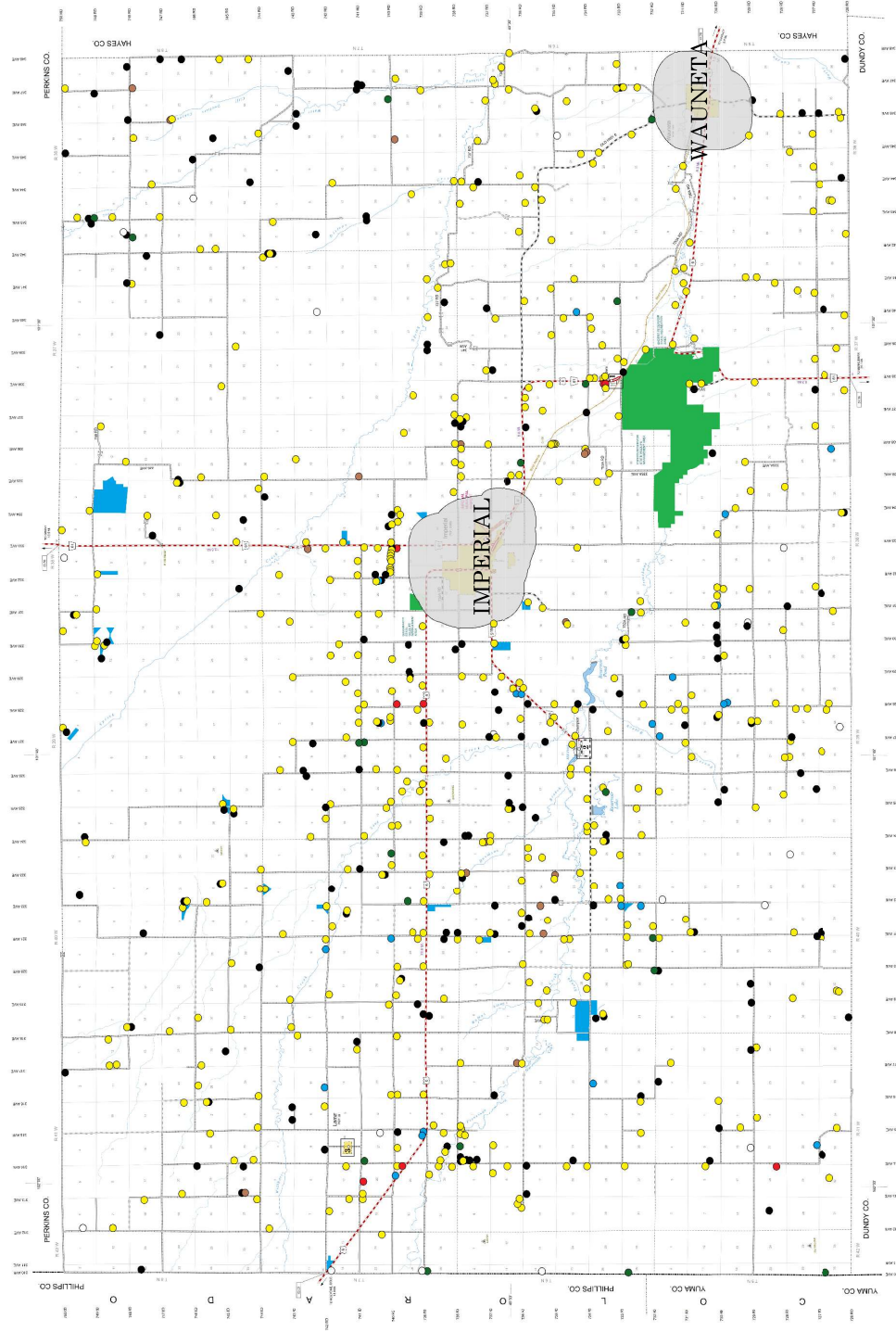
<u>Land Use</u>	<u>2025 Land Area (Acres)</u>	<u>2035 Land Area (Acres)</u>
- TOTAL ACRES	574,080	574,080
- <i>Land Area</i>	<i>572,096</i>	<i>572,096</i>
- <i>Water Area</i>	<i>1,984</i>	<i>1,984</i>
- Community Corporate Limits (CL) & Planning Jurisdictions (PJ)	12,975.8	12,975.8
- <i>City of Imperial</i>	<i>8,388.1</i>	<i>8,388.1</i>
- <i>Village of Wauneta</i>	<i>4,587.7</i>	<i>4,587.7</i>
CONTINUED:		

**TABLE 3.1 (CONTINUED)
ESTIMATED EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE CAPACITY MATRIX
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2025 & 2035**

- Agricultural (Rural County) - <i>Farming / Pasture / Ranch Land</i> - <i>Outbuildings / Other Structures</i>	549,199.9 548,339.6 860.3	549,104.7 548,224.4 860.3
- Public/Quasi-Public - <i>Rural Cemeteries</i>	90.3 23.1	90.3 23.1
- Park/Recreation/Management Area - <i>Wanamaker State Wildlife Mgt Area</i> <i>(Rural County Area Only)</i> - <i>Enders Reservoir / State Recreation Area</i> - <i>Land Area</i> - <i>Water Surface Area</i>	5,789.1 89.1 5,700.0 3,993.0 1,707.0	5,789.1 89.1 5,700.0 3,993.0 1,707.0
- Residential/Farmsteads - <i>Single Family Residential</i> - <i>Mobile Home Residential</i> - <i>Abandoned Residential</i>	4,493.4 4,170.2 189.8 133.4	4,520.6 4,213.5 204.8 102.3
- Commercial	42.5	56.3
- Industrial/Intensive Agricultural*	1,489.0	1,543.2
*Includes confined feeding operations/feedlots. Source: Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.		

SECTION 3: EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE PROFILE & PLAN.

EXISTING LAND USE MAP.
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 3.2



LEGEND

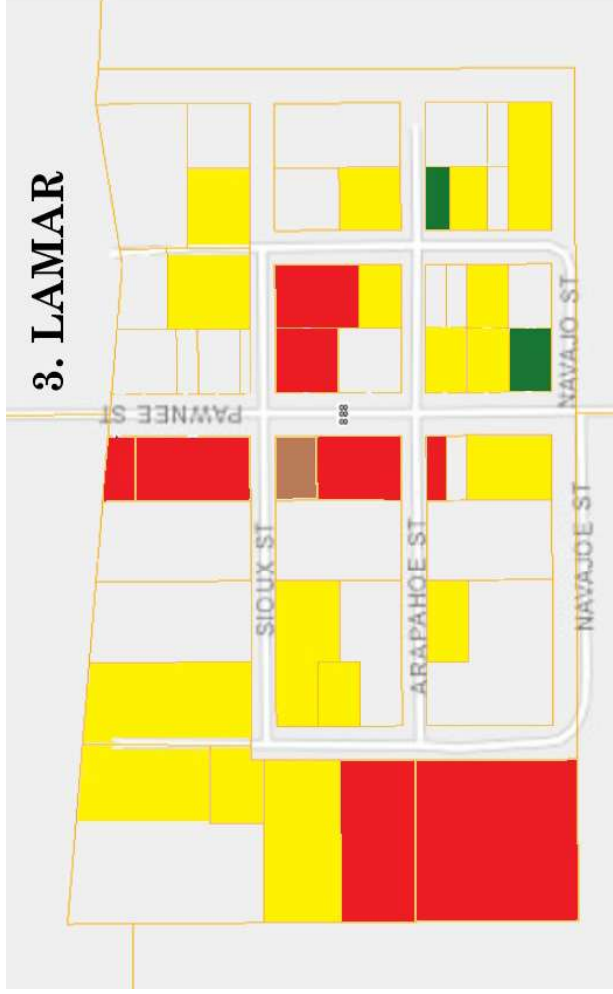
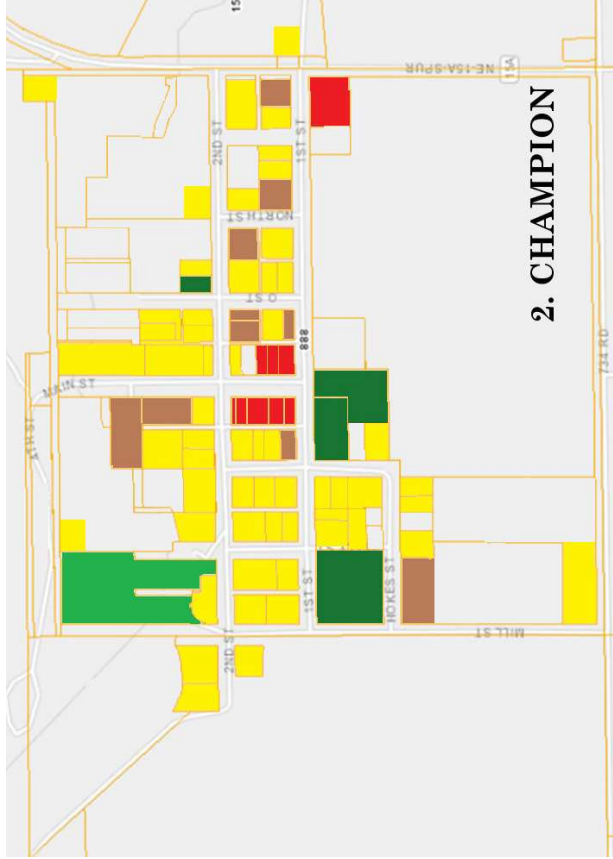
- COMMUNITY PLANNING JURISDICTIONS
- PARK/RECREATION
- PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC
- RESIDENTIAL (SINGLE FAMILY/FARMSTEAD)
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL (GENERAL FARMING OPERATION)
- INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL OPERATION
- ABANDONED STRUCTURE
- OTHER STRUCTURE



**EXISTING LAND USE MAP.
COMMUNITIES OF ENDERS, CHAMPION & LAMAR, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 3.3**



- LEGEND**
- UNDEVELOPED (VACANT OR AGRICULTURAL)
 - PARK/RECREATION
 - PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC
 - SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
 - MOBILE HOME RESIDENTIAL
 - COMMERCIAL
 - INDUSTRIAL
 - RAILROAD CORRIDOR



EXISTING LAND USES.

❖ **Agricultural Uses.**

Agricultural land for traditional crop harvest, and livestock production are the most prolific rural land uses in Rural Chase County. An estimated 548,339.6 acres of land in the Rural Chase County are utilized for general agricultural purposes, including farming and ranch/pasture land, and are not associated with any land conservation easements/ restrictions. An estimated 860.3 acres of land support agricultural outbuildings or “other structures”.



❖ **Rural Residential Development (Farmsteads & Residential Subdivisions).**

The **Existing Land Use Map** indicates rural dwellings exist throughout Chase County in areas where soil conditions are permissible for development. Most rural residential dwellings are located along hard surfaced and gravel roads, with larger concentrations located west, southwest and northwest of the City of Imperial. These single family residential homes are connected by a common grid-pattern rural road system. Northeastern Chase County maintains significantly fewer residential dwellings due to rugged terrain and the soil conditions associated with the Nebraska Sandhills that allow for limited accessibility by County roads.

An estimated 4,170.2 acres of land in Chase County is currently dedicated to a single family residential development, including farmsteads. An additional 323.2 acres are comprised of both mobile home and abandoned residential structures.

❖ **Public/Quasi-Public, Park & Recreational Uses.**

Public/quasi-public land uses, such as churches, cemeteries and rural utility substations are scattered throughout the County and account for an estimated 90.3 acres. The Chase County Museum and a Community Center are located in Champion. Other public/quasi-public land uses associated with the functions of Rural Chase County are located in the Communities/Planning Jurisdictions of Imperial and Wauneta.



Park and recreation lands in Rural Chase County comprise an estimated 5,789.1 total acres. Nearly all dedicated park and recreation land uses are associated with the Enders Reservoir and State Recreation Area in southeastern Chase County. The Church Grove Recreation Area is part of the Enders Reservoir environs. A portion of the Wanamaker State Wildlife management Area is located in Rural Chase County, adjacent the Imperial One-Mile Planning Jurisdiction. Other recreation areas include the Enders Lake Golf Course and Champion Mill Park.



❖ **Commercial & Industrial/Intensive Agricultural Uses.**

Commercial and Industrial uses are generally located within the Cities and Villages and their associated planning jurisdictions in the County, as well as along National, State and County highways. Commercial and industrial land uses are functioning throughout Chase County in areas both zoned and not zoned for a particular use.

An estimated 42.5 acres in Rural Chase County are being utilized for commercial uses, scattered throughout the County and located in each of the three unincorporated Communities. An estimated 1,489.4 acres of industrial and intensive agricultural land uses (including feedlots, grain elevators and large-scale agricultural production operations) exist in Rural Chase County.

FUTURE LAND USE ANALYSIS.

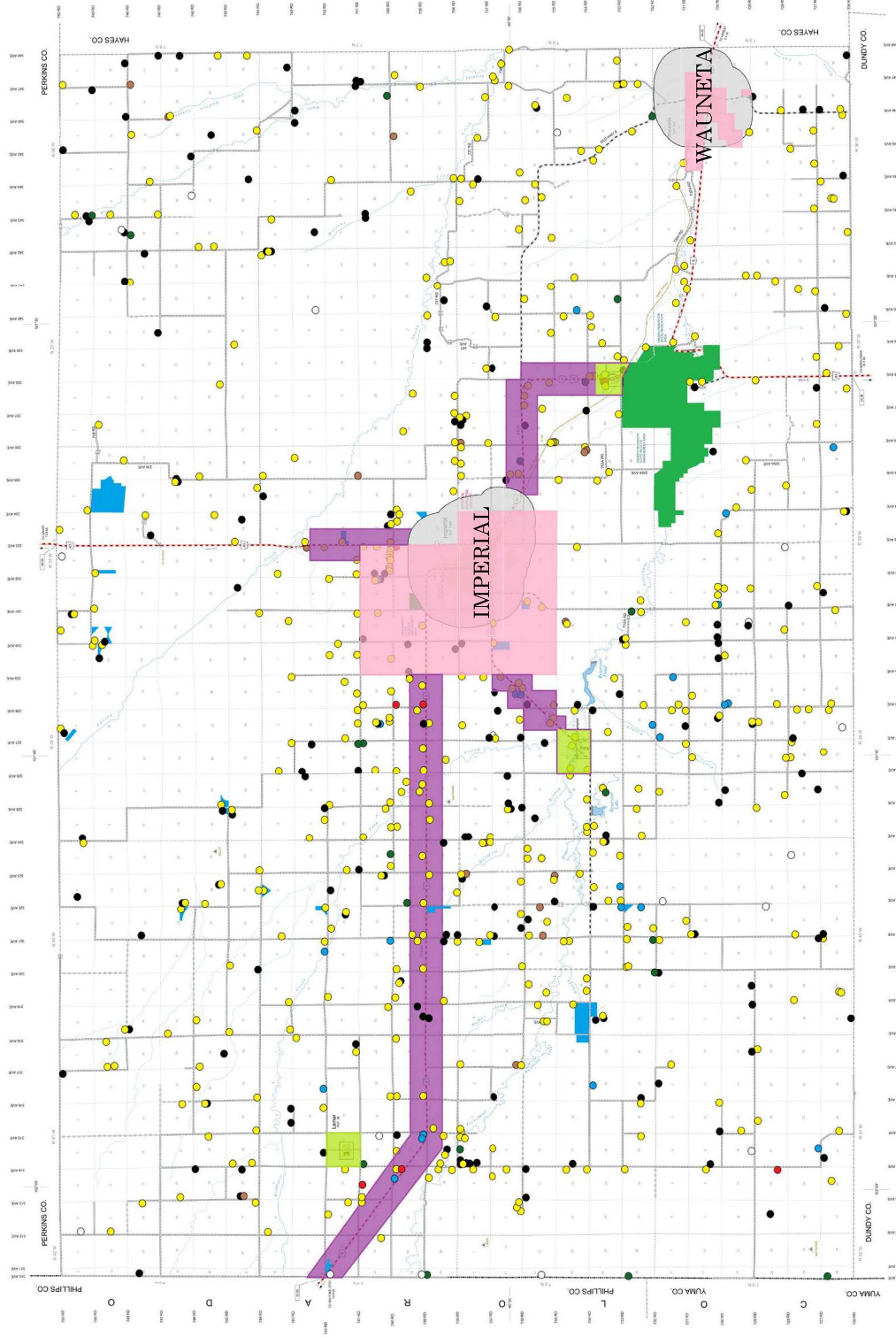
Illustrations 3.4 and 3.5, Pages 3.10 and 3.11, identifies the **Future Land Use** for Rural Chase County and each of the three unincorporated Communities. The primary hard-surfaced County roads and State highways were reviewed to determine the potential impact of rural development adjacent these corridors. Rural residential land uses not associated with farming or ranching are most suitable adjacent County, State and Federal Highways.

❖ **General Agricultural Areas.**

Agricultural and ranch lands exist for a large majority of Rural Chase County, as identified in the **Future Land Use Map**. These areas are recommended to be preserved and protected from unnecessary encroachment of undesirable residential, commercial or industrial development and allowing said developments to be permitted in respective Zoning Districts. Non-farm/ranch rural residential dwellings are widely scattered along County roads and major highways in Chase County. Rural Chase County maintains a variety of irrigated cropland, dry crop land and open pasture for grazing.

SECTION 3: EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE PROFILE & PLAN.

FUTURE LAND USE MAP
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 3.4



- LEGEND**
- COMMUNITY PLANNING JURISDICTIONS
 - PARK/RECREATION
 - PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC
 - RESIDENTIAL (SINGLE FAMILY/FARMSTEAD)
 - COMMERCIAL
 - INDUSTRIAL (GENERAL FARMING OPERATION)
 - INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL OPERATION
 - OTHER STRUCTURE
 - WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREA
 - TRANSITIONAL AGRICULTURAL AREA
 - HIGHWAY "DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR"



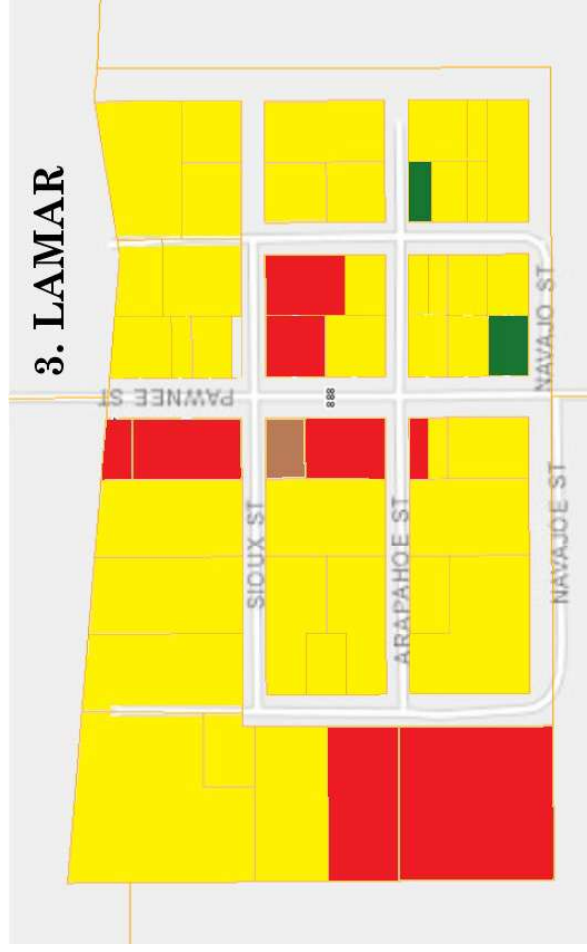
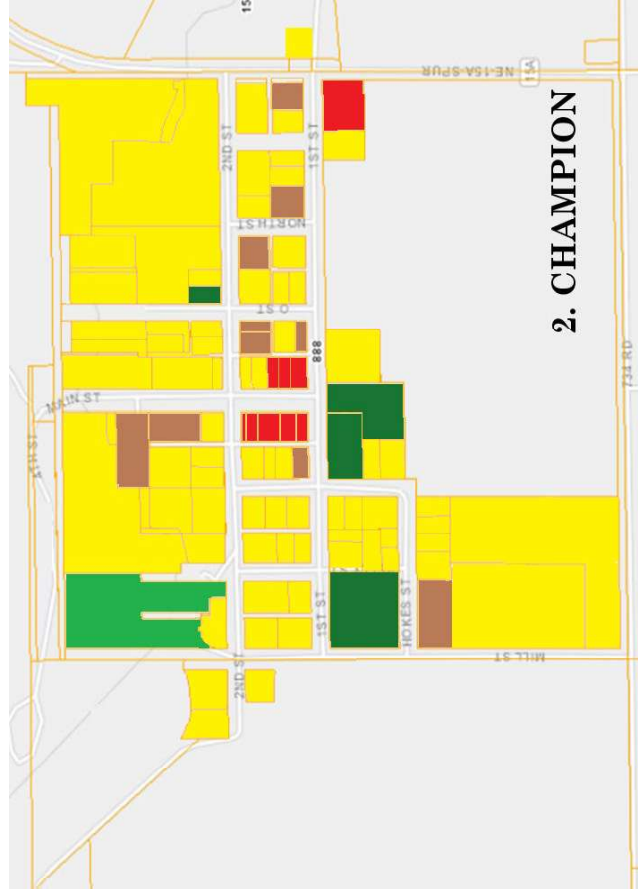


**FUTURE LAND USE MAP
COMMUNITIES OF ENDERS, CHAMPION & LAMAR, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 3.5**



LEGEND

- PARK/RECREATION
- PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC
- SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- MOBILE HOME RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- RAILROAD CORRIDOR



❖ Residential Areas.

Single family dwellings exist in areas suitable for such development in Rural Chase County, primarily in the Communities of Champion, Enders and Lamar, as well as in portions of western and central Chase County, along and in close proximity to the Highway 6 Corridor. While County representatives and elected officials should seek to preserve and protect agricultural production areas from encroachment of conflicting uses, there should also be an understanding that a desire for individuals and families to construct housing in rural areas also exists. A solution would be to encourage locating these future dwellings nearest to hard-surfaced roads and highways, as well as close to local goods and services.

An estimated 43.3 acres of land are projected to be developed for single family residential purposes/uses by 2035, for a total of 4,213.5 acres designated for single family residential uses. Additionally, an estimated 15 acres could be designated for mobile home residential uses in Rural Chase County.

❖ Park And Recreation Areas.

The County should strive to maintain the existing **5,789.1 acres of park and recreation land** throughout Rural Chase County. State Recreation and Wildlife Management Areas, as well as the environs supporting the Enders Reservoir and Champion Mill areas should be protected and restricted from developments that will endanger sensitive soil and water areas. Preservation of these and other natural open space areas, Frenchman Creek and other creeks/ waterways and sensitive soil areas, should be a priority during the 10-year planning period. **Comments from the Chase County Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as participants of the County-Wide Opinion Survey, were highly supportive of policies and initiatives that protect water quality and the surrounding environs.**

❖ Commercial & Industrial Areas.

Future commercial uses in Rural Chase County should consist of “General Commercial” developments, including all permissible uses, as allowed via the **Chase County Zoning Regulations**. By 2035, total designated commercial land uses are projected to increase to an estimated **56.3 acres**.



Industrial areas are encouraged to locate in close proximity to major transportation routes within local planning jurisdictions or specified rural areas adjacent local highway corridors. The recommended industrial uses should include “light manufacturing” and agriculture-related industries. These types of industries are often clean and efficient in operation and provide various employment opportunities.



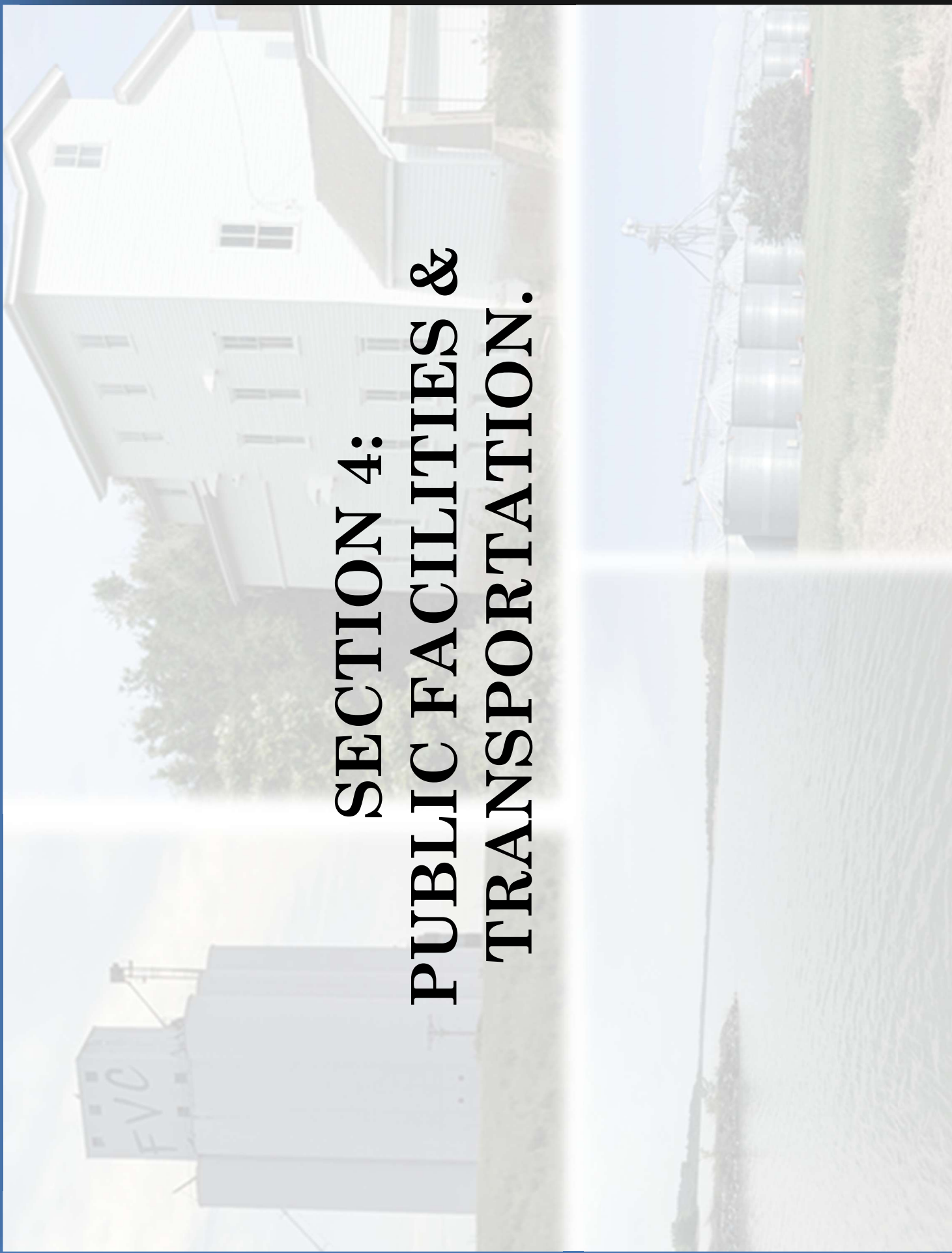
Much of the existing industrial land areas in **Rural Chase County**, generally, support intensive agricultural uses, including feedlots, gravel extraction and animal confinement operations. By 2035, total designated industrial land uses should be an estimated **1,543.2 acres** in appropriately-zoned districts (granted by Special Use Permit). This would require an additional 54.2 acres, in the Rural Chase County, from the current land designation of 1,489 acres.

Chase County leadership should encourage the development of new Commercial and light industrial developments within the designated “Highway Development Corridors” located along Highway 61 north of the City of Imperial, Highway 6 from Imperial east to Enders, Highway 6 from Imperial west to the Colorado State Line and State Highway Spur 15-A from Imperial to Champion. This area currently maintains, or has the potential to support a significant amount of both commercial and agricultural/industrial development and is largely free from sensitive soil and topographic issues. While a development project would still need to be proposed, the sale of any land completed and proper building permits and inspections completed before development, the Development Corridors would serve to provide economic development initiatives and opportunities to the County and show support from local leadership on any development projects that enhance the local business profile and economics.

The expansion or development of any animal and livestock confinement facilities should be carefully reviewed to ensure conformance with the land use preservation and development initiatives of the County. Animal confinement facilities should not be located within flood prone areas along rivers, creeks, streams and drainage ways, nor areas which have topographical or soil constraints, or in close proximity to existing residential uses.



SECTION 4: PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION.



PUBLIC FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION.

INTRODUCTION.

Section 4 of this **Comprehensive Plan** discusses current conditions and planned improvements to existing **public facilities and transportation systems** in Chase County, including the **Rural County**. All improvements to these components are aimed at maintaining or improving the quality of life in the County. The intent of this **Section** is to determine the adequacy of these public facilities to meet the future estimated demand during the current planning period.

PUBLIC FACILITIES.

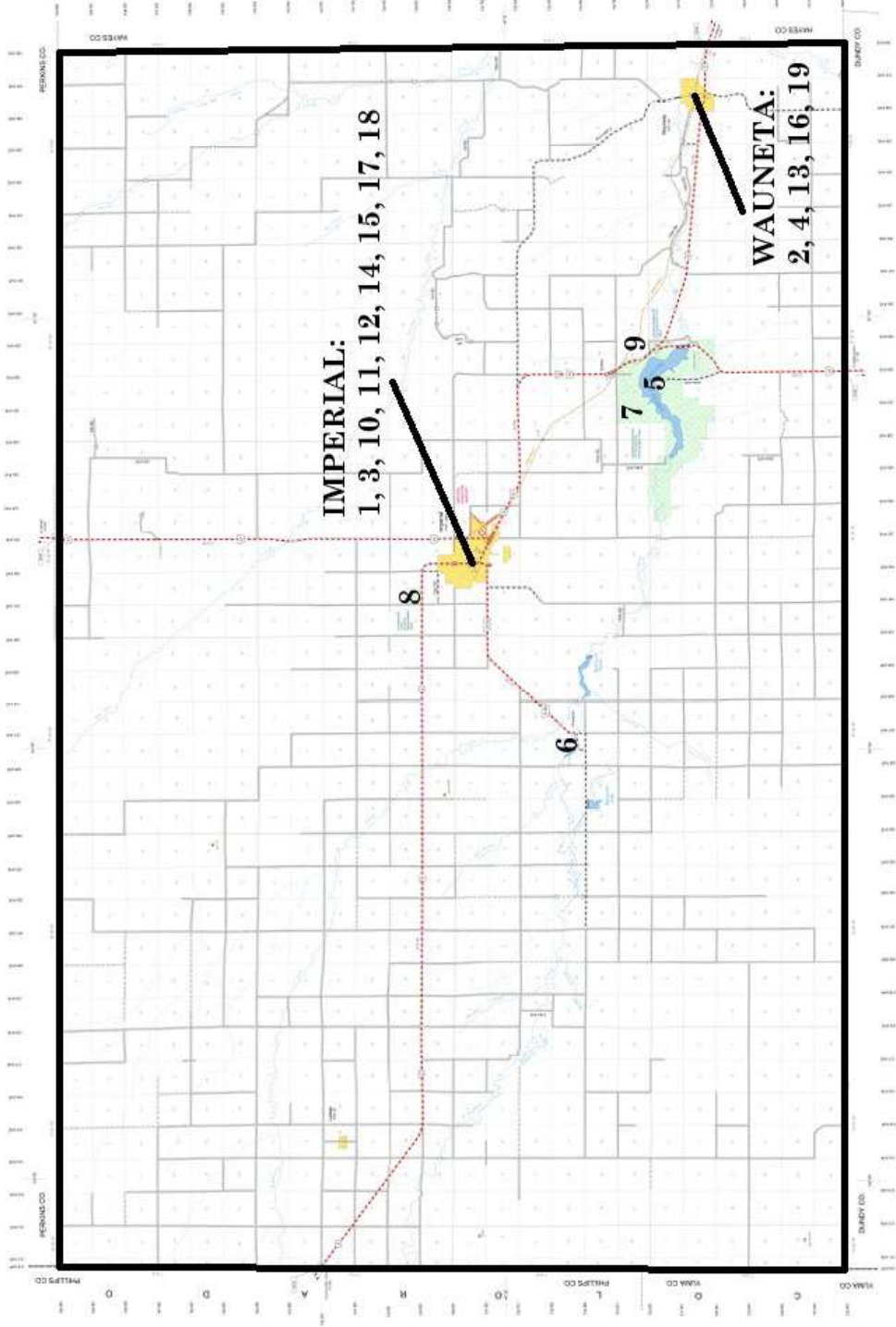
Public Facilities identify existing public places in the County and determine future needs of and desires for pertinent public facilities during the planning period (2025-2035). Public facilities provide citizens with social, cultural and educational opportunities in Chase County. Facilities can include, but are not limited to schools, fire protection, medical/elderly services and recreational facilities such as parks and sports fields. A majority of the listed and other public facilities are located within Community Corporate Limits or Planning Jurisdictions, but serve the needs of the **Rural Chase County** residents.





**PUBLIC FACILITIES MAP
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 4.1**

1. Chase Co. Public Schools
2. Wauneta Palisade Public Schools
3. Lied Imperial Public Library
4. Wauneta City Library
5. Enders Reservoir/State Rec. Area
6. Champion Mill Recreation Area
7. Church Grove Recreation Area
8. Wanamaker State WMA
9. Enders Lake Golf Course
10. Chase County Fairgrounds
11. Chase County Hospital
12. Imperial Community Center
13. Wauneta Senior Center
14. Chase County Sheriff
15. Imperial Vol. Fire Dept.
16. Wauneta Rural Fire Dept.
17. Chase County Courthouse
18. Imperial Post Office
19. Wauneta Post Office



EDUCATION.

A broader-based education, with emphasis on technical and human relation skills has become necessary and desired in today's society. Standards developed by educators and planners can provide guidance in the creation of, and addition to, the educational facilities within a Public School District. It will be important, during the 10-year planning period, that the facilities are able to support both the existing and future school-age or youth populations.

The public school system in Chase County should strive to meet the following general standards and guidelines:

- Schools should be centrally located.
 - Schools should not be located near high traffic or heavily concentrated areas with high noise levels.
 - Land acquisition should be made with future expansion in mind.
 - Adequate open space should be available to students.
 - Provide safe routes to schools from all neighborhoods of Chase County Communities, including sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and school bus access.
- ❖ **School Districts in Chase County.**

Chase County Public Schools – All facilities associated with Chase County Public Schools are located in the City of Imperial, at 520 Ease 9th Street. As per the latest State of the Schools report from the Nebraska Department of Education (2023-2024), Chase County Public Schools maintains a District-wide enrollment of 634 students (an increase from the previous school year of 617 students) and employs 52 total teachers. Per pupil expenditures totaled \$17,441, compared to the State of Nebraska average per pupil expenditure of \$15,889. Athletics compete at the Class C1 Level, as designated by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

Wauneta Palisade Public Schools – Central offices and school facilities are located in the Village of Wauneta, in southeastern Chase County. An elementary school is also located in the nearby Village of Palisade in neighboring Hitchcock County. Wauneta Palisade Public Schools maintained 211 enrolled students during the 2023-2024 school year and employs 19 total teachers. Enrollment in 2023-2024 declined from the previous school year's enrollment of 230 students. Per pupil expenditures totaled \$17,441, Public Schools athletics compete at the Class D2 Level.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Lied Imperial Public Library – this Public Library is located at 703 Broadway Street in Downtown Imperial. The Library maintains a collection of 36,800 items and an average annual circulation of 32,067.

Wauneta City Library – A public library in Wauneta is located at 319 North Tecumseh Avenue in Wauneta. The Library maintains a collection of 10,946 items and an average annual circulation of 2,381.

These libraries also host a variety of reading programs for local residents and youth. Both Libraries are part of the **Western Library System**, which provides educational services and support to local libraries in western Nebraska and maintains central offices in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

PARKS/RECREATION.

An integral part to the quality of life in any community or rural county is a well-maintained park system and recreational opportunities to serve its residents and visitors. Additionally, parks and recreational facilities ensure the health of families and individuals, and contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of the entire County. The following highlights Chase County's variety of public recreation and land conservation areas. Additional public parks are located within the Corporate Limits of Imperial and Wauneta.

- ❖ **Enders Reservoir & State Recreation Area** – Located in east central Chase County, this Recreation Area comprises an estimated 5,700 acres of land, including a 1,707 acre lake and wildlife refuge. The environs of this State Recreation area include a variety of boating, fishing, hunting and camping amenities.



- ❖ **Champion Mill Historical Park & Recreation Area** – This historic flour and feed mill is located in the unincorporated Community of Champion and was known to be Nebraska’s last working water-powered mill until its commercial production was ended in 1968. Today, the mill serves as a museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ❖ **Church Grove Recreation Area** – This Recreation Area is located west of the Enders Reservoir and offers primitive and basic campsites.
- ❖ **State Wildlife Management Area in Chase County.** A Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a protected area set aside for the conservation of wildlife and for recreational activities involving wildlife. In Nebraska, WMAs are managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission’s Wildlife Division for the enhancement of wildlife habitat and for public hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, nature study and primitive camping.

Wanamaker State WMA – A portion of this Wildlife Management Area is partially located in Rural Chase County, along the Highway 6 Corridor, with the remainder inside the City of Imperial One-Mile Planning Jurisdiction.

- ❖ **Enders Lake Golf Course** - This nine-hole semi-private golf course is located east of the Enders Reservoir in east central Chase County. The Course features a clubhouse with storage sheds for golf carts and materials.



- ❖ **Chase County Fairgrounds** – Home to the Chase County Fair and Expo and located in the eastern portion of the City of Imperial, the Fairgrounds annually holds a carnival and a variety of concerts and agricultural related presentations in early August. A variety of expo buildings and rodeo arena are located on the Fairgrounds.

MEDICAL & SENIOR FACILITIES.

Medical facilities for **Rural Chase County** residents are primarily located in the City of Imperial. This includes a variety of specialized clinics, as well as a hospital. Nursing homes and senior centers also exist in Imperial and Wauneta.

- ❖ **Chase County Community Hospital** – Located at 600 West 12th Street in Imperial, the main hospital is a 15-bed critical access facility for all residents of the County. A variety of outpatient, inpatient, skilled care, specialty clinic, surgery and emergency services are available at the Hospital. Family practice clinics are also located in both Imperial and Wauneta.
- ❖ **Imperial Community Center/Wauneta Senior Center** – These two facilities provide meals and senior activities five days a week. The Imperial Community Center is located at the northeast corner of East 9th and Wellington Streets, north of Downtown Imperial. The Wauneta Senior Center is located at 231 North Tecumseh Avenue in the northern portion of Downtown Wauneta.

PUBLIC SAFETY.

Public administration facilities serve the citizens of Chase County and conduct the business of government and associated operations.

- ❖ **Law Enforcement** – Law Enforcement in Rural Chase County is provided by the **Chase County Sheriff's Office**, located at 921 Broadway Street, in Imperial, Nebraska, at the Chase County Courthouse.
- ❖ **Fire Protection** – To assist in serving **Rural Chase County**, fire departments are located in the Communities of Imperial and Wauneta. The **Venango Fire District** also serves the northwest portion of **Rural Chase County**.
Imperial Volunteer Fire Department is located at 315 Broadway Street in Imperial, Nebraska. The Imperial Fire District covers the majority of Rural Chase County.
Wauneta Rural Fire Department is located 318 South Tecumseh Avenue in Wauneta, Nebraska.

- ❖ **Emergency Management** – The present emergency management services in Chase County are managed by the **Chase County Emergency Management**. Local volunteer fire departments, the County Sheriff's Department and other County officials also provide emergency management services .

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

- ❖ **County Courthouse** – The **Chase County District/County Court** is located at 921 Broadway Street in Imperial, Nebraska. Chase County Planning & Zoning Board and Board of Commissioner meetings are conducted at the Courthouse. The Courthouse is also the location of the **Chase County Road Department**. **Chase County Court** includes the Chase County Jail, Child Support, County Assessor, County Attorney, County Clerk, County Clerk of District Court, County Election Commissioner, County Register of Deeds and County Treasurer.



- ❖ **Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)** – The **Upper Republican NRD** serves all of Chase County. The main operation of these NRDs is to protect, develop and manage soil and water quality resources.
- ❖ **Postal Services** – There are Post Offices located in Imperial and Wauneta, Nebraska. These Post Offices offer services including general delivery, domestic money orders and pickup of hold mail among other services.
 - Imperial Post Office** is located at 523 Wellington Street in Imperial. The post office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm as well as Saturday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.
 - Wauneta Post Office** is located at 215 North Tecumseh Avenue in Wauneta. The post office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm as well as Saturday from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.

BROADBAND & TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Broadband infrastructure and technology is a critical component for information accessibility in the United States, the State of Nebraska and **Rural Chase County**. Fiber optic, wireless, Digital Subscriber Line and Cable/Satellite are the most common methods of modern broadband delivery. According to “Fixed Broadband Deployment” statistics from the Federal Communications Commission, **an estimated 50.4 percent of Rural Chase County residents have broadband available through fiber and cable accessibility, compared to 86.3 percent of the State of Nebraska.**

TRANSPORTATION.

The availability of a convenient and efficient transportation system is essential to the continued economic and physical development of the entire Chase County area. An adequate transportation system is required to transport goods and services to and from major travel routes and market centers within and outside the County. The overall purpose of this transportation analysis is to provide the necessary guidelines for the safe movement of people and vehicles throughout the County.

HIGHWAY/ROAD TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

The primary sources of information utilized to develop the transportation analysis were the (1) Chase County “One- and Six-Year Road Improvement Program” and (2) State of Nebraska Department of Transportation “Nebraska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)” (Fiscal Years 2025-2030).

The **State Functional Classification Map** as identified by the Nebraska Department of Transportation in **Illustration 4.2, Page 4.10**, depicts the transportation system in Chase County. The transportation network in the County comprises U.S. Highway 6, Nebraska State Highway 61 and local access County roads.

ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS.

Nebraska Highway Law identifies the nine functional classifications of rural highways as follows:

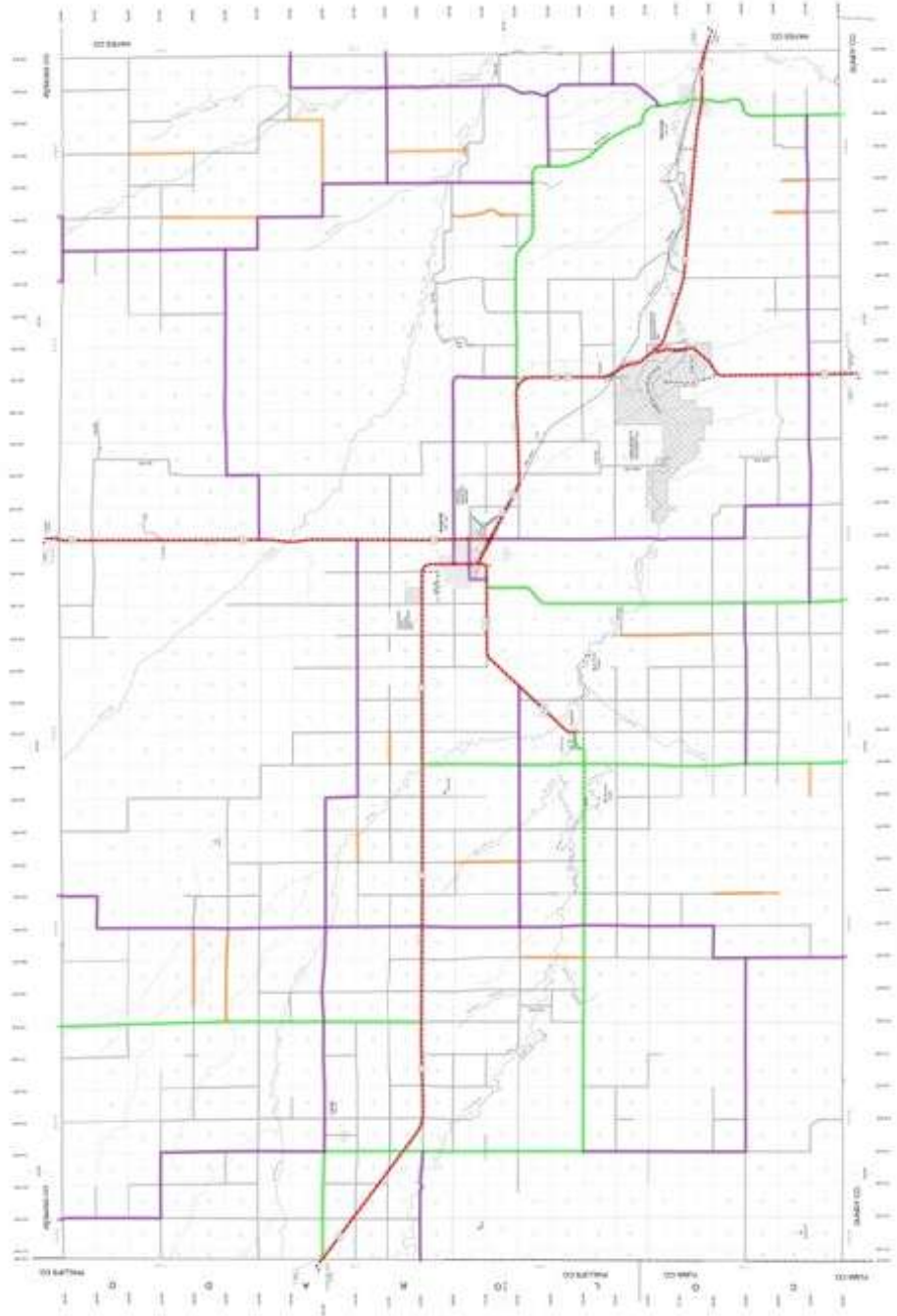
- (1) **Interstate:** Which shall consist of the federally designated National System of Interstate and Defense

Highways;

- (2) **Expressway (Other Freeways & Expressways):** Second in importance to Interstate. Shall consist of a group of highways following major traffic desires in Nebraska and ultimately should be developed to multilane divided highway standards;
- (3) **Major Arterial (Other Principal Arterials):** Consists of the balance of routes which serve major statewide interests for highway transportation in Nebraska. Characterized by high speed, relatively long distances, and travel patterns;
- (4) **Scenic-Recreation:** Consists of highways or roads located within or which provide access to or through state parks, recreation or wilderness areas, other areas of geological, historical, recreational, biological, or archaeological significance, or areas of scenic beauty;
- (5) **Other Arterial (Minor Arterials):** Which shall consist of a group of highways of less importance as through-travel routes which would serve places of smaller population and smaller recreation areas not served by the higher systems;
- (6) **Collector (Major and Minor Collectors):** Which shall consist of a group of highways which pick up traffic from many local or land-service roads and carry it to community centers or to the arterial systems. They are the main school bus routes, mail routes, and farm-to-market routes;
- (7) **Local:** Which shall consist of all remaining rural roads, except minimum maintenance roads,
- (8) **Minimum Maintenance:** Which shall consist of (a) roads used occasionally by a limited number of people as alternative access roads for area served primarily by local, collector, or arterial roads, or (b) roads which are the principal access roads to agricultural lands for farm machinery and which are not primarily used by passenger or commercial vehicles; and
- (9) **Remote Residential:** Consists of roads or segments of roads in remote areas of counties with (a) a population density of no more than five people per square mile or (b) an area of at least one thousand square miles, and which roads or segments of roads serve as primary access to no more than seven residences.

The Rural Chase County highways classified under subdivisions (1) through (3) of this Section should, combined, serve every incorporated municipality having a minimum population of 100 inhabitants or sufficient commerce, a part of which will be served by stubs or spurs, and along with rural highways classified under subsection (4) of this section, should serve the major recreational areas of the State. Sufficient commerce shall mean a minimum of \$200,000 of gross receipts under the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967.

**STATE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ILLUSTRATION 4.2**



LEGEND

STATE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

- INTERSTATE
- EXPRESSWAY
- MAJOR ARTERIAL
- OTHER ARTERIAL
- COLLECTOR
- REMOTE RESIDENTIAL (Rural Only)
- MINIMUM MAINTENANCE (Rural Only)
- SCENIC RECREATION (Rural Only)
- URBANIZED BOUNDARY

All Roads Not Otherwise Indicated Are Classified As Local
Revised September 06, 2016.

Source: Nebraska Department of Transportation.

TRAFFIC VOLUME.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation monitors traffic volume in **Rural Chase County**, for local roads and State and Federal highways. This tabulation process is done to identify appropriate existing road classification and engineering standards.

Table 4.1 identifies the average daily traffic counts for State and Federal transportation routes throughout Chase County, for 2023. Each of the road segments are identified as “*Major Arterial*” roads. All other roads within the County are classified as “*Other Arterial*,” “*Collector*” or minimum maintenance roads.

The analysis of average 24-hour traffic volumes at the identified locations indicates 2023 traffic volumes on various roads and highways through Chase County, outside the One-Mile Planning Jurisdictions of Imperial and Wauneta. As depicted in **Table 4.1**, the highest volumes of traffic are generally along the Highway 6 Corridor, between Imperial and the Enders Reservoir area.

TABLE 4.1	
TRAFFIC VOLUME – ANNUAL AVERAGE	
DAILY TRAFFIC COUNTS	
STATE AND FEDERAL ROADS	
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA	
2023	2023
Location	
HWY 6, NE/CO State Line	592
HWY 6, 314 Avenue	655
HWY 6, 335 Avenue	2,100
HWY 6, 732 Road	1,805
HWY 6, 339 Avenue	1,225
HWY 61, Enders Reservoir	790
HWY 61, 727 Road	520

Source: Nebraska Department of Transportation, 2025.

FUTURE CHASE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

COUNTY AND STATE ONE- AND SIX-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

The future transportation system is outlined in the **Chase County One- and Six- Year Road Improvement Plan**. The County’s One-Year Plan identifies projects to be undertaken in Fiscal Year 2025, while the Six-Year Plan includes projects to be undertaken through 2030, or earlier if funding becomes available. **Road Improvement Plans are available in the office of the County Clerk.**

The Chase County Highway Superintendent annually prepares the One and Six-Year Road Plan and reports directly to the Board of Commissioners. The County Board of Commissioners approves the Plan and files it with the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

The Nebraska “State Surface Transportation Program 2024-2029” is an annual publication that includes a list of one-year short-term and six-year long-range improvement projects for State and Federal Highways. Improvement projects located in Chase County include the following projects:

One Year (2024-2025)

- C-15 (317) Onyx Application on Old Highway 6, \$400,000 (Completed in 2024).
- C-15 (331) County Road 331 Avenue, Armor Coat, \$480,000.

Six Year (2025-2030)

- C-15 (324) County Road 331 Avenue, Armor Coat, \$80,000.
- C-15 (326) County Road 740, Gravel, \$100,000.
- C-15 (332) Enders, Armor Coat, \$70,000.



**SECTION 5:
ENERGY ELEMENT &
CONSERVATION POLICIES.**

ENERGY ELEMENT & CONSERVATION POLICIES.

INTRODUCTION.

This Section of the Chase County, Nebraska, Comprehensive Plan complies with a July, 2010, amendment to Nebraska State Statutes 23-114.02, requiring new and updated County Comprehensive Plans include an “Energy Element.” This component of the Plan profiles the energy infrastructure and energy use by sector, in the County, including residential, commercial and industrial. This Section also discusses the utilization of renewable energy sources and the promotion of energy conservation measures.

PUBLIC POWER DISTRIBUTION.

Energy usage and consumption throughout Chase County has followed the trends prevalent in the State of Nebraska. Electrical power is distributed throughout Chase County by the **Southwest Public Power District (SWPPD)**. The SWPPD is supplied electricity by the **Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)**. The SWPPD Utility District does not generate electricity; 100 percent of the electricity they distribute originates from NPPD. Power is also supplied to Chase County by **Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation** and **Highline Electric Association**. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. supplies energy to the two distribution cooperatives that serve in Chase County through a power purchase agreement with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT (NPPD).

As the largest electric generating utility in the State of Nebraska, NPPD provides electricity to all or parts of 84 of the State’s 93 Counties, including 35 individual municipalities and 23 public power districts, cooperatives and their member communities.

- ❖ NPPD was formed in 1970 through the merger of two public power districts and the assets of the former Nebraska Public Power System.
- ❖ More than 5,200 miles of overhead and underground power lines make up NPPD’s electric system.

- ❖ NPPD revenue is derived from wholesale power supply agreements with 46 municipalities and 25 public power districts and cooperatives. NPPD also serves 80 Nebraska communities at retail, consisting of more than 89,000 customers.

GENERATING RESOURCES.

The source of NPPD’s generating facilities includes Fossil fuels – coal, oil or natural gas, Nuclear, Hydroelectric, Wind and Methane. Additionally, NPPD purchases electricity from the **Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)**, which markets and transmits electricity for federally owned hydropower facilities.

2024 data regarding NPPD’s energy generation for Nebraska customers was comprised of:

- ❖ 28.4 percent of NPPD’s energy generation was from coal.
- ❖ 45.0 percent was from nuclear.
- ❖ 4.0 percent generation from oil & natural gas.
- ❖ 6.0 percent from renewable wind generation.
- ❖ 6.9 percent from renewable hydroelectric generation.
- ❖ 0.3 percent from renewable solar generation.
- ❖ The remaining 9.4 percent of NPPD’s energy was supplied through wholesale purchases.

MORE THAN 58% OF NPPD’S GENERATION SOURCES ARE CARBON-FREE.

NPPD RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPABILITIES.

1.) Hydroelectric Facilities

NPPD operates two hydroelectric generating facilities, at North Platte and Kearney on the Platte River and purchases 100 percent of the energy output from two facilities owned by Loup Public Power District and one facility owned by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. Combined, these facilities produce 107 megawatts of power.

2.) Wind Turbine Generators

NPPD owns 32 MW of the Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility, while Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) owns 10 MWs of the facility, the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska purchases seven MWs, and the City of Grand Island purchases one MW.

NPPD has power purchase agreements with seven additional wind generating facilities in Nebraska. NPPD purchases a total of 435 MWs, of which NPPD utilizes 281 MWs and has purchase agreements for the remaining 154 MWs to other utility districts.

3.) Solar Energy

Under NPPD's wholesale power contract, customers have the ability to invest in their own, local renewable energy sources by installing qualifying local generation, including solar, and offset its purchases of demand and energy from NPPD by up to two megawatts or 10 percent of their demand, whichever is greater.

Central City installed a 200-kilowatt (KW) facility and became Nebraska's first "Community Solar Garden." This 100-panel system was installed in an industrial park and is owned by the City. Additionally, 600 KW and 25 KW solar projects were developed in 2016 near Callaway, Nebraska, in Custer County. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment reports 2,325 KW (or 2.325 megawatts) of solar generation within Custer County.

NPPD also developed a "Community Solar Program" that is now in effect in pilot programs in Kearney, Scottsbluff and Venango, Nebraska. The Program allows community members to purchase solar energy without having to install solar panels on individual rooftops. Solar subscribers can purchase different amounts of solar energy based on their annual electricity usage.

NPPD TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

Coal-Fired Generators

NPPD owns the Gerald Gentleman and Sheldon Stations, which are both coal-fired generating stations. Together, these facilities produce 1,590 MWs. The Gerald Gentleman Station produces enough power to supply electricity to 600,000 Nebraskans. Additionally, NPPD has a coal power purchase agreement with the Nebraska City #2 facility, owned by Omaha Public Power District, for 162 MWs.

Natural Gas & Oil-Fired Generators

Gas and oil-fired generators are utilized primarily during peak loads or as replacement power if another facility is down. NPPD owns two natural gas-fired generation facilities, the Beatrice Power Station and the Canaday Station that produce a combined total of 350 MW.

Three oil-fired generation facilities located in Hallam, McCook and Hebron, Nebraska produce 162 MW. NPPD also have capacity purchases agreements with 12 municipal systems in Nebraska for an additional 93 MWs.

NPPD EMISSION FREE ELECTRICITY.

Nuclear Facilities

Cooper Nuclear Station operates as the largest single unit electrical generator in Nebraska, by generating 810 MW of electricity. This facility is capable of supplying power to more than 310,000 customers during peak summer usage. In November of 2010, NPPD received an additional 20 years beyond its initial 40-year license to provide power through at least January, 2034.

“NET METERING”.

In 2009, the State of Nebraska Legislature approved and signed into law, LB 439 (**Nebraska State Statute §70-2001 to 2005**), which is also referred to as “**Net Metering**.” This law allows individual residences and businesses to supplement their standard electric service with one, or combinations of, five alternate energy systems, including Solar, Methane, Wind, Biomass, Hydropower and Geothermal.

By implementing these types of alternative energy systems, individuals will reduce their reliance on public utility systems, potentially generating more electricity than they use and profit by the public utility districts purchasing their excess energy. The Chase County Planning Commission can choose to allow usage control of Net Metering by allowing residential and businesses property owners to seek a **Special Use Permit**, if the applicant can document a project in conformance with allowable provisions included in the **Chase County Zoning Regulations**.

STATEWIDE TRENDS IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

During the last 40+ years, the State of Nebraska, as a whole, has vastly increased energy consumption. Trends in the Total Energy Consumption for the State of Nebraska, published in the “*2024 Annual State Energy Report*” of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, is mirrored in each of the individual energy categories, coal, natural gas, gasoline and distillate fuel oil (primarily diesel fuel), nuclear power and hydroelectric production. Each energy type is detailed between 1960 and 2022, as follows:

- ❖ **Coal** consumption has increased from 20 trillion British Thermal Units (BTUs) in 1960 to 223.5 trillion BTUs in 2022. Peak use of coal was reached in 2013, at 292.9 BTUs. The increase through 2013 was attributable to coal energy used to generate electricity.
- ❖ **Natural Gas** consumption has risen and fallen during the 58-year period between 1960 and 2022, beginning at 140.4 trillion BTUs, peaking in 1973 at 230.8 trillion BTUs and, by 2022, declining to 198.6 trillion BTUs.
- ❖ **Petroleum** product has nearly doubled in consumption from 1960 to 2022. In 1960, 136 trillion BTUs were consumed, while 236.3 trillion BTUs have been consumed in 2022. Gasoline and distillate fuel comprise a vast majority of consumed petroleum.
- ❖ **Diesel Fuel** consumption nearly doubled in Nebraska between 1960 and 2022. Gasoline consumption increased, from 78.8 to 99.9 trillion BTUs, as of 2022, and peaked in 1978 at 116 trillion BTUs.
- ❖ **Nuclear** power generation began in Nebraska in 1973 at 6.5 trillion BTUs. Usage has since increased to 58.6 trillion BTUs as of 2022. The peak use of nuclear power was in 2007 at 115.8 trillion BTUs.
- ❖ **Renewable energy** consumption has grown, beginning in 1960 at 13.4 trillion BTUs, and peaking in 2019 at 199.3 trillion BTUs. For 2022, a total of 168.6 BTUs were consumed. Hydropower was the primary renewable energy source from 1960 to 1994. Biofuels, or ethanol production, began equating hydropower in 1995. As of 2022, 69 percent of all renewable energy produced came from biofuels, 2 percent from hydroelectric, 26 percent from wind and 2 percent from wood products. Minor amounts came from geothermal and solar energy.

NEBRASKA ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY SECTOR.

- ❖ **Commercial Sector:** The commercial sector includes non-manufacturing business establishments, including energy use by local, state and federal governments. Energy use in the commercial sector closely parallels consumer energy use and economic activity in the State of Nebraska. More than 90 percent of all fuel used in the commercial sector was supplied by natural gas and electricity. Although natural gas has historically been the dominant fuel type, recent trends suggest a period of near parity between the two fuel types is likely into the near future. In 2022, a total of 122.7 trillion BTUs were consumed in the commercial sector.
- ❖ **Residential Sector:** The residential sector consumed 143 trillion BTUs in 2022. Natural gas and electricity accounted for 90.8 percent of the total energy use in the residential sector.
- ❖ **Industrial Sector:** The industrial sector includes manufacturing, construction, mining, forestry and agricultural operations. Energy use in the industrial is more diverse, with natural gas, renewable energy, electricity, coal and a variety of petroleum products all being utilized. The industrial sector consumes more energy than any other sector in the State. In 2022, it accounted for 45 percent, or 381.2 trillion BTUs, of the State's total energy consumption.
- ❖ **Transportation Sector:** Public and private vehicles, railroads, aircraft and boats are all included in the transportation sector. Motor gasoline and diesel fuel products accounted for 94 percent of the energy use in the transportation sector in 2022. Approximately 199.7 trillion BTUs were used in the transportation sector in 2022.
- ❖ **Agricultural Sector:** As per the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 47,400 farms and ranches on 45.2 million acres in Nebraska in 2017, encompassing 91 percent of the State's total land area. Energy demand information in this sector is not available on a consistent or annual basis. However, energy needs in the agricultural sector is mainly due to irrigation demand. In Nebraska, 3.1 million acres were irrigated in 1966 and has increased to 9.4 million acres in 2022.

Agricultural Energy Demand & Conservation.

A comparison of “**Total Energy Expenditures Per Capita**” between the United States and the State of Nebraska indicated that between 1970 and 1994, Nebraska and the Nation's per capita energy consumption were very close to one another. But, after 1994, Nebraska's consumption began to be drastically higher than that of the Nation. The agricultural sector was surging in energy consumption in Nebraska.

In 2022, 9.4 million acres in Nebraska were irrigated. As 3.1 million acres were irrigated in 1966, irrigated lands have increased by at least 6 million acres over the last five decades. In addition to transportation of agricultural products and inputs, irrigation makes up a growing share of the energy demand for Nebraska's agricultural sector. According to the USDA Irrigation and Water Management Survey, irrigation pumps were powered by electricity (58.7%), diesel (24.3%), natural gas (11.4%), propane (5.4%) and gasoline/ethanol (0.2%).

The increasing use of irrigation helps to boost yields and helps minimize losses during drought, but it creates an increased dependence on energy use in Nebraska's agricultural sector. The increase in irrigated acres results in a significantly higher electrical demand during periods of drought. For example, in 2012, record droughts put strain on the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) transmission system due to increased irrigation use. Mobile diesel generators were used to meet this additional demand, though NPPD has since made transmission system additions and upgrades to meet additional demand.

As Nebraska's agricultural energy demand and costs have increased, conservation practices are also gaining popularity in the agricultural sector. The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a report in 2008 which concluded that farmers have increased conservation practices. Technological innovations have increased the ability for farmers to monitor for soil moisture, leading to more efficient irrigation practices. Additionally, switching from fossil fuels to electrically powered irrigation systems has improved energy efficiency. Conservation tillage (and no-till agriculture) has reduced the use of heavy equipment.

The agricultural sector is also an energy producer. Nebraska biofuels, especially ethanol, helps decrease the transportation's sector consumption of gasoline. Ethanol production in Nebraska in 1994 was 78.9 million gallons, by 2020 production had increased to an estimated 2.3 billion gallons. Considering ethanol production uses high volumes of both electricity and natural gas, the State's energy expenditures per capita increased as well. In 2020, approximately 44 percent of the State's total corn harvested, or 790 million of the total 1.81 billion bushels of corn, was consumed by ethanol production.

Untapped renewable energy sources present additional opportunities for energy production in the agricultural sector. Waste from livestock generates methane, which is usually not captured, acts as a harmful greenhouse gas. The University of Nebraska, NPPD, the former Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Organic Waste Energy, Nebraska Cattlemen and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture estimated that livestock operations could capture enough methane to generate 95.4 MW of electricity.

ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICIES.

The most effective means for Chase County to reduce its total energy consumption in each of the Energy Sectors (and by selected energy type) is through conservation practices and by continuing to promote the conversion to alternative energy systems when appropriate.

The following is a list of policies to guide energy practices throughout the County:

- ❖ **Promote the use of “Net Metering” or the use of one or more combinations of selected alternative energy sources to reduce public/quasi-public, residential, commercial and industrial facilities consumption of energy.**
 - Utilize the Chase County Zoning Regulations to control the placement and operation of alternative energy systems.
 - Require compliance with a Conditional or Special Use Permit process so that established conditions are met by the applicant.
 - Utilize the net metering services of Southern Public Power District to assist Chase County in complying with Nebraska’s Net Metering Law.
 - Promote the development of vocational education opportunities in the Public School Districts of Chase County, as well as regional State and Community Colleges, to educate the current and future workforce in alternative energy design, fabrication of equipment and maintenance.
- ❖ **As other sources of Alternative Energy Systems are developed, or become cost-effective for use in Nebraska, the planning documents of the County are recommended to be revised to guide their locations and monitor their operation.**
- ❖ **Increase Building Efficiency.**
 - Lighting – consider converting street lighting to a Light Emitting Diode (LED) system.

- Retrofit Residential Buildings – provide incentives and construction advice to the public to expand the restoration of homes including windows, doors, attic ventilation, insulation, and alternative energy systems such as solar panels.
- Retrofit Old Public and Commercial Buildings – provide incentives and construction advice to the public for Restoration Best Management Practices for windows, doors, attic ventilation, insulation, solar panels and lighting.
- New Construction Codes Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to city codes and educate homeowners and realtors.
- Encourage residents to plant new trees and replace damaged trees to maintain and expand the urban tree canopy. Shade from trees reduces peak electric demands during the summer and provides wind breaks during the winter.
- ❖ **Promote the use of conservation methods to reduce the consumption of energy usage in each of the individual sectors including commercial and industrial (which includes agricultural and public uses).**
 - Promote the expanded use of solar, methane, biomass, hydropower and geothermal exchange energy systems, or other sources of alternative energy systems, for applications throughout Chase County. The use of an alternate energy source or combinations of these energy sources should be considered by farming and ranching operations to lower energy consumption and to make energy more affordable.
 - Promote the use of conservation programs supported by Southern Public Power District, and in its association with Nebraska Public Power District, for its member Communities and public power districts. For example, the Prescriptive Lighting or Custom Lighting Programs provide cash incentives to businesses that replace old lighting fixtures with high-efficient light fixtures such as LED to reduce energy costs.
 - The Chase County residents and farming/ranching operations could also access grant and loan programs to replace light fixtures with LED fixtures that reduce consumption and are more energy efficient.
 - Support and provide incentives for the expanded use of agricultural practices to reduce energy consumption. Techniques such as conservation tillage, high efficiency irrigation equipment and cost-effective fuel sources to power irrigation systems.

- Support State and Federal incentive programs to continue to provide low-cost financing to purchase modern agricultural equipment such as low-pressure pivots and no-till equipment. Programs such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that finances irrigation efficiency improvements switching diesel, propane and natural gas pumps to electric operated.
 - Promote the availability of incentives provided by public power districts to develop alternative energy sources for, and from, agricultural practices. Modern methods such as producing methane gas from livestock confinement facilities to power agricultural equipment, is one example.
 - Promote the use of solar and geothermal exchange energy systems for agricultural applications that power equipment and heat/cool farm and ranch buildings.
- ❖ **Support Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure Programs.**
- Specify LID design option in engineering services contracts for subdivision development, stormwater and parking lot improvements.
 - Provide continuous education to Chase County and Municipalities, Public Works Staff in the new LID designs and BMPs (Best Management Practices) for operation and maintenance of LID projects.
 - Calculate and track the public and private construction and life cycle cost savings for LID projects.
 - Promote Water Conservation through use of low impact lawn care, rain barrels, alternative to paved driveways, gray water & potable water systems and xeriscaping.
 - Require LID and Green Infrastructure Storm Water Detention and urban forestry practices in Subdivision Agreements.
 - Provide incentives to the public and developers to expand energy efficiency, LID and Green Infrastructure, within the annual City Budget.
- ❖ **Plant Urban Forests.**
- Trees / Urban Forest – provide incentives for city rebate programs to replant new trees.

- Compost brush and trimmings – utilize the Best Management Practices utilized by other communities to provide a public deposit site to compost brush and trimmings.
- Create a waste wood recycling/composting/energy generation program.
- ❖ **Create “Zero Waste” Communities/Counties.**
 - Reduce waste disposal with a 10-year Zero Waste strategy in support of achieving 90% resource recovery (recycling, reuse, repair, composting, redesign).
 - Provide universal access to curbside recycling services for all residential dwellings and businesses.
 - Establish financial incentive to increase recycling by charging for trash service based on volume.
 - Gather annual data on waste disposal and resource recovery by volume.
 - Provide access to recycling in public areas and major Community and County-Wide events.
 - Establish designated public drop-off sites and promote the benefits of recycling facilities and develop the most efficient collection and transport of recycled materials possible.
 - Investigate “regional hub and spoke system” promoting efficient transportation of recycled materials.
 - Support creation of publicly owned Zero Waste facilities, including contracting approaches for private operations, or explore public-private partnership opportunities for Zero Waste infrastructure and services.
 - Upcycle goods for other uses.
 - Provide Community Gardens & Composting – divert organic compost to a local compost operation.
 - Establish education and awareness campaigns promoting the benefits of Zero Waste for the local economy, the environment, and public health.

The background of the slide is a collage of four images. The top-left image shows a large, multi-story white building with many windows. The top-right image shows a body of water, possibly a lake or reservoir, with a small island in the distance. The bottom-left image shows a water tower with the letters 'FVC' on its side. The bottom-right image shows a row of large, cylindrical water storage tanks.

**APPENDIX I:
CHASE COUNTY
TABLE PROFILE.**

**TABLE 1
POPULATION TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL/BALANCE OF COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2000-2035**

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2035</u>	# Change	2035
						<u>2025-2035</u>	<u>CGI*</u>
Chase County	4,068	3,966	3,893	3,805	3,662	-143	3,720
Imperial	1,982	2,071	2,068	2,035	1,989	-46	2,003
Imperial CPJ	63	60	54	52	50	-2	50
Wauneta	625	577	549	533	502	-31	521
Wauneta CPJ	25	23	21	21	16	-5	16
Rural Community of Chase County[^]	1,373	1,235	1,201	1,164	1,105	-59	1,130

*Includes potential estimated population increase associated with a planned “County Growth Initiative” (CGI). This could include increases in Full-Time Employment (FTE) positions and/or Housing Development activities associated with workforce/population recruitment during the next 10 years.

[^]Includes Rural Agriculture and unincorporated Champion CDP, Enders CDP and Lamar, Nebraska.

Source: 2000, 2010 & 2020 Census, 2023 Census Estimates.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

**TABLE 2
SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2010-2035**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Group Quarters</u>	<u>Persons in Households</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Persons Per Household</u>
<u>Chase County</u>					
2010	3,966	66	3,900	1,681	2.32
2020	3,893	110	3,783	1,575	2.40
2025	3,805	115	3,690	1,524	2.42
2035	3,662	123	3,539	1,450	2.44
<u>Rural Community of Chase County</u>					
2010	1,235	0	1,235	482	2.56
2020	1,201	0	1,201	440	2.72
2025	1,164	0	1,164	424	2.74
2035	1,105	0	1,105	401	2.75

Source: 2000, 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

**TABLE 3
TENURE BY HOUSEHOLD
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2010-2035**

<u>Chase County</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Households</u>		<u>Owner</u>		<u>Renter</u>	
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	2010	1,681	74.4%	1,251	74.4%	430	25.6%
	2020	1,575	73.8%	1,163	73.8%	412	26.2%
	2025	1,524	73.4%	1,118	73.4%	406	26.6%
	2035	1,450	72.8%	1,055	72.8%	395	27.2%
<u>Rural Community of</u>	2010	482	74.4%	359	74.4%	123	25.6%
<u>Chase County</u>	2020	440	76.4%	336	76.4%	104	23.6%
	2025	424	76.7%	325	76.7%	99	23.3%
	2035	401	77.2%	309	77.2%	92	22.8%

Source: 2000, 2010 & 2020 Census.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

**TABLE 4
HOUSEHOLD TYPE BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2023 ESTIMATE***

<u>Chase County</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>4</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>7+</u>	
	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Persons</u>
<u>Chase County</u>	428	560	140	128	145	17	19							
<u>Rural Community of</u>														
<u>Chase County</u>	74	163	35	16	22	0	0							

*Subject to margin of error.
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

TABLE 5
POPULATION AGE DISTRIBUTION
TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2010-2035

Chase County Age Group	2010	2020	2010-2020		2025	2035	2025-2035	
			Change	Change			Change	Change
19 and Under	1,021	1,037	+16		1,024	1,008	-16	
20-34	602	532	-70		478	421	-57	
35-54	1,007	872	-135		781	711	-70	
55-64	526	550	+24		558	565	+7	
65-74	362	445	+83		513	527	+14	
75-84	298	278	-20		265	237	-28	
<u>85+</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>+29</u>		<u>186</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>+7</u>	
Totals	3,966	3,893	-73		3,805	3,662	-143	
Median Age	43.6	43.9	+0.3		44.1	44.5	+0.4	
Rural Community of Chase County								
Age Group								
19 and Under	321	318	-3		305	289	-16	
20-34	175	163	-12		153	132	-21	
35-54	322	304	-18		292	279	-13	
55-64	190	171	-19		160	140	-20	
65-74	127	148	+21		161	172	+11	
75-84	84	80	-4		78	80	+2	
<u>85+</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>+1</u>		<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-2</u>	
Totals	1,235	1,201	-34		1,164	1,105	-59	
Median Age	43.2	45.4	+2.2		47.7	49.5	+1.8	

Source: 2000, 2010 & 2020 Census.

Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

**TABLE 6
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2010, 2020 & 2023 ESTIMATE**

<u>Race</u>	<u>2010</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2023 Est.*</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
White	3,644	91.8%	3,310	85.0%	3,127	86.0%
Black	5	0.1%	20	0.5%	16	0.4%
Native American	3	0.1%	9	0.2%	57	1.6%
Asian	4	0.1%	11	0.3%	81	2.2%
<u>Other</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>7.9%</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>14.0%</u>	<u>358</u>	<u>9.8%</u>
Totals	3,966	100.0%	3,893	100.0%	3,639	100.0%
Hispanic Origin	442	11.1%	562	14.4%	668	18.3%

*Specified Data.

Source: 2010 & 2020 Census

2019-2023 American Community Survey.

**TABLE 7
ESTIMATED MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME TRENDS & PROJECTIONS
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2010-2035**

	<u>2020 Est.*</u>	<u>2023 Est.*</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2035</u>
<u>Chase County</u>	<u>\$56,135</u>	<u>\$62,782</u>	<u>\$64,332</u>	<u>\$77,194</u>
<u>Rural Community of Chase County</u>	<u>\$66,401</u>	<u>\$73,773</u>	<u>\$76,948</u>	<u>\$89,295</u>

*Specified data used, subject to margin of error.

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

**TABLE 8
PER CAPITA INCOME
TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
CHASE COUNTY / STATE OF NEBRASKA
2015-2035**

Year	Chase County		State of Nebraska	
	Income	% Change	Income	% Change
2015	\$61,348	--	\$50,556	--
2016	\$66,169	+7.9%	\$49,360	-2.4%
2017	\$54,407	-17.8%	\$50,144	+1.6%
2018	\$52,428	-3.6%	\$51,916	+3.5%
2019	\$59,803	+14.1%	\$54,182	+4.4%
2020	\$68,042	+13.8%	\$57,421	+6.0%
2021	\$76,003	+11.7%	\$61,205	+6.6%
2022	\$75,661	-0.4%	\$64,263	+5.0%
2023	\$80,528	+6.4%	\$71,347	+11.0%
2025	\$83,801	+4.1%	\$74,052	+3.8%
2015-2025	\$61,348-\$83,801	+36.6%	\$50,556-\$74,052	+46.5%
2025-2035	\$83,801-\$98,974	+18.1%	\$74,052-\$85,648	+15.6%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2025.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

TABLE 9 PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA 2023 ESTIMATE		
	<u>Social Security Income-2023</u>	<u>Number of Beneficiaries</u>
<u>Retirement Benefits</u>		
Retired Workers	710	
Wives & Husbands	25	
Children	5	
<u>Survivor Benefits</u>		
Widows & Widowers	75	
Children	15	
<u>Disability Benefits</u>		
Disabled Persons	45	
Wives & Husbands	0	
Children	<u>15</u>	
Total	890	
<u>Aged 65 & Older</u>		
Men	345	
Women	<u>445</u>	
Total		
<u>Supplemental Security Income-2023</u>		
Aged		(X)
Blind and Disabled		(X)
Total		29

(X) = Data suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.
 Source: Department of Health and Human Services,
 Social Security Administration, 2025.

**TABLE 10
EMPLOYMENT DATA TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2015-2035**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Employed Persons</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent Unemployment</u>
2015	2,292	--	1.9%
2016	2,242	-50	1.7%
2017	2,258	+16	1.9%
2018	2,224	-34	2.2%
2019	2,225	+1	2.3%
2020	2,244	+19	1.8%
2021	2,227	-17	1.6%
2022	2,242	+15	1.7%
2023	2,190	-52	1.7%
2024	2,169	-21	1.5%
2025*	1,721	-448	3.2%
2035	1,884	+163	2.8%
2015-2025	2,292-1,721	-571	1.9%-3.2%
2025-2035	1,721-1,884	+163	3.2%-2.8%

* Estimate as of February 2025.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, 2025.
Hanna:Keelan Associates, 2025.

**TABLE 11
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2023 ESTIMATE***

9 Minutes or Less	10-19 Minutes	20-29 Minutes	30-39 Minutes	40 Minutes or More
780	235	194	61	173

*Subject to margin of error.
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey.



Inflow/Outflow Job Counts in 2022
All Workers

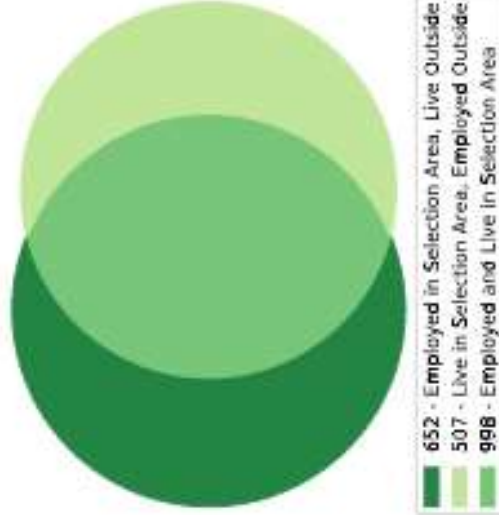


TABLE 12
WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
FEBRUARY, 2025

Workforce	Non-Farm Employment (Wage and Salary)	1,537
Agriculture Forestry, Fishing & Hunting.	0	
Mining, Quarrying and Oil/Gas Extraction.	0	
Utilities.	*	
Construction.	*	
Manufacturing.	*	
Wholesale Trade.	200	
Retail Trade.	227	
Transportation & Warehousing.	*	
Information.	34	
Finance & Insurance.	*	
Real Estate & Rental/Leasing.	*	
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.	34	
Management of Companies & Enterprises.	*	
Administrative/Support/Waste.	*	
Educational Services.	46	
Health Care & Social Assistance.	92	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation.	*	
Accommodation & Food Service.	*	
Other Services (except Public Administration).	47	
Federal Government.	27	
State Government.	16	
Local Government.	489	

*Data not available because of disclosure suppression.
 Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, 2025.

**TABLE 13
HOUSING STOCK PROFILE/UNITS IN STRUCTURE
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2020 & 2023 ESTIMATES***

	<u>Year</u>	<u>1 unit</u>	<u>2-9 units</u>	<u>10+ units</u>	<u>Other**</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Chase County</u>	2020	1,700	16	21	252	1,989
	2023	1,606	31	12	221	1,870
<u>Rural Community of</u>	2020	489	0	0	91	580
<u>Chase County</u>	2023	520	0	0	38	558

*Specified Data Used. Estimate subject to margin of error.

**Includes mobile homes and trailers.

Source: 2016-2020 & 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

**TABLE 14
HOUSING STOCK PROFILE
SUBSTANDARD HOUSING - HUD
CHASE COUNTY & RURAL COMMUNITY, NEBRASKA
2023 ESTIMATE***

	Complete Plumbing		Lack of Complete Plumbing		Units with 1.01+ Persons per Room	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
<u>Chase County</u>	1,437	1,437	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<u>Rural Community of Chase County</u>	420	420	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

*Specified Data Used. 2023 Estimate subject to margin of error.
Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey.

**TABLE 15
FARMS BY SIZE
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022**

<u>Size</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>% Change 2012 - 2017</u>	<u>% Change 2012 - 2022</u>
1 to 9 Acres	22	28	13	27.3%	-40.9%
10 to 49 Acres	18	17	46	-5.6%	155.6%
50 to 179 Acres	71	64	48	-9.9%	-32.4%
180 to 499 Acres	46	52	32	13.0%	-30.4%
500 to 999 Acres	46	29	61	-37.0%	32.6%
<u>1,000 to Acres or More</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>-2.9%</u>	<u>-25.2%</u>
Total Farms	342	325	304	-5.0%	-11.1%
Total Crop Land	290,647	322,955	288,319	11.1%	-0.8%
Land in Farms	541,250	568,622	544,157	5.1%	0.5%
Average Farm Size	1,583	1,750	1,790	10.5%	13.1%

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.

TABLE 16
STATUS OF CROP PRODUCTION
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>2012 - 2017</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>2012 - 2022</u>
<u>IRRIGATED LAND</u>					
Farms	162	148	139	-8.6%	-14.2%
Acres	159,692	138,871	146,000	-13.0%	-8.6%
<u>HARVESTED CROP LAND</u>					
Farms	209	191	156	-8.6%	-25.4%
Acres	230,430	280,005	234,630	+21.5%	+1.8%
<u>TOTAL CROP LAND</u>					
Farms	274	244	228	-10.9%	-16.8%
Acres	290,647	322,955	288,319	+11.1%	-0.8%

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.

**TABLE 17
HARVESTED CROPS BY TYPE
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022**

<u>CROP BY TYPE</u>	<u>Production in Acres</u>			<u>% Change</u>	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2012-2017</u>	<u>2012-2022</u>
Corn for Grain or Seed	160,913	173,747	140,977	+8.0%	-12.4%
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	8,656	3,436	4,575	-60.3%	-47.1%
Wheat for Grain	31,551	38,503	31,124	+22.0%	-1.4%
Oats for Grain	N/A	2,578	1,968	N/A	N/A
Barley for Grain	N/A	(D)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sorghum for Grain	1,522	3,098	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.

**TABLE 18
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION TRENDS
CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
2012-2022**

<u>Type</u>	<u>Total Farms / Total Animals</u>			<u>% Change</u>	
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2012-2017</u>	<u>2012-2022</u>
Cattle/Calves	140 / 100,481	119 / 129,338	104 / 145,431	-15.0% / +28.7%	-25.7% / +44.7%
Beef Cows	108 / 15,565	88 / (D)	93 / 13,958	-18.5% / N/A	-13.9% / -10.3%
Milk Cows	N/A	2 / (D)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hogs and Pigs	12 / (D)	4 / (D)	2 / (D)	-66.6% / (D)	-83.3% / (D)
Sheep and Lambs	7 / 381	2 / (D)	2 / (D)	-71.4% / N/A	-71.4% / N/A

N/A = Not Available.

*(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Source: Nebraska Census of Agriculture, 2012, 2017 & 2022.

**APPENDIX II:
CHASE COUNTY
SURVEY RESULTS.**



CHASE COUNTY SURVEY RESULTS.

CHASE COUNTY, NEBRASKA COUNTY-WIDE OPINION SURVEY RESULTS.

Survey Submits 247

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Where do you live?

Answer Choice	Response Count
Rural Chase County	101
Champion	6
Enders	5
Imperial	102
Lamar	2
Wauneta	25
Outside Chase County	6
Total Responses	247

MULTIPLE CHOICE

2. If you live in Rural Chase County, do you live within one mile of a City/Village?

Answer Choice	Response Count
Yes	34
No	120
Total Responses	154

3. Do you own property in Rural Chase County?

Answer Choice	Response Count
Yes	153
No	91
Total Responses	244

4. Do you feel the current Chase County Zoning & Subdivision Regulations are effective in managing growth and land development?

Answer Choice	Response Count
Yes	41
No	75
No Opinion	119
Total Responses	235

Please explain why or why not. (SEE COMMENTS)

5. Which of the following Land Use items do you support for the future of Rural Chase County?

Commercial Wind Farms/Energy Systems	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	25
2 – Not Supportive	192
3 – Supportive	19
4 – Very Supportive	9
Mean	2.05
Total Responses	245

Commercial Solar Farms/Energy Systems	
Answer Choice	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	24
2 – Not Supportive	186
3 – Supportive	22
4 – Very Supportive	14
Mean	2.11
Total Responses	246

General Agricultural Uses	
Answer Choice	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	8
2 – Not Supportive	4
3 – Supportive	43
4 – Very Supportive	190
Mean	3.69
Total Responses	245

Land Conservation Easements	
Answer Choice	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	45
2 – Not Supportive	33
3 – Supportive	97
4 – Very Supportive	69
Mean	2.78
Total Responses	244

Intensive Agricultural Uses	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	37
2 – Not Supportive	35
3 – Supportive	93
4 – Very Supportive	76
Mean	2.86
Total Responses	241

Residential Development (General)	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	25
2 – Not Supportive	28
3 – Supportive	134
4 – Very Supportive	59
Mean	2.92
Total Responses	246

Planned Rural Residential Subdivisions	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	37
2 – Not Supportive	64
3 – Supportive	98
4 – Very Supportive	48
Mean	2.64
Total Responses	247

Parks/Recreation	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	15
2 – Not Supportive	26
3 – Supportive	110
4 – Very Supportive	96
Mean	3.16
Total Responses	247

Public Infrastructure/Facilities/Utilities	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	34
2 – Not Supportive	29
3 – Supportive	109
4 – Very Supportive	71
Mean	2.89
Total Responses	243

Commercial Development	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	18
2 – Not Supportive	57
3 – Supportive	109
4 – Very Supportive	63
Mean	2.88
Total Responses	247

Industrial Development Answer Choice	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	35
2 – Not Supportive	67
3 – Supportive	94
4 – Very Supportive	48
Mean	2.64
Total Responses	244

Zoning/Subdivision Ordinances/Regulations Answer Choice	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	36
2 – Not Supportive	59
3 – Supportive	98
4 – Very Supportive	50
Mean	2.67
Total Responses	243

Transportation Systems (Roads, Rail, Air, etc.) Answer Choice	Response Count
1 – No Opinion	26
2 – Not Supportive	21
3 – Supportive	125
4 – Very Supportive	73
Mean	3
Total Responses	245

Personal Alternative Energy Systems (Solar, Wind, etc.)

Answer Choice	Response Count
---------------	----------------

1 – No Opinion	40
2 – Not Supportive	122
3 – Supportive	63
4 – Very Supportive	20
Mean	2.26
Total Responses	245

Entertainment Facilities ("Party Barns")

Answer Choice	Response Count
---------------	----------------

1 – No Opinion	53
2 – Not Supportive	69
3 – Supportive	82
4 – Very Supportive	42
Mean	2.46
Total Responses	246

Short-Term Rental Housing (AirBNB, VRBO, etc.)

Answer Choice	Response Count
---------------	----------------

1 – No Opinion	30
2 – Not Supportive	42
3 – Supportive	125
4 – Very Supportive	50
Mean	2.79
Total Responses	247

Data Processing Centers	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	65
2 – Not Supportive	83
3 – Supportive	64
4 – Very Supportive	28
Mean	2.23
Total Responses	240

Nuclear Power Plants	Response Count
Answer Choice	
1 – No Opinion	54
2 – Not Supportive	118
3 – Supportive	38
4 – Very Supportive	32
Mean	2.2
Total Responses	242

COMMENTS.

3,200 acres of solar panels will have a negative affect on the community, wildlife, and negative value on neighbors property. We need to think about every one that lives in the county and how they will be affected, Not so a select few will benefit.

Solar or wind farms provide little to no value long term in Chase county.

We don't need large solar wind development in Chase County. The long term effect doesn't justify short term gain.

I think we need to weigh the pros and cons of the above topics. How will it benefit us as a community as well as the future generations.

Keep alternative energy facilities out of Chase County. Our scenic views and open land make us who we are. They are eyesores on the land and only rob the beauty of it not to mention the government interference that can come with it.

I watched the wind turbines destroy the landscape of an area I once called home. Those companies could care less about the community or its neighbors! They are corporate America in for the money that's it, when the money runs out they leave a mess for the community to clean up and are off to their next investment to make a quick buck. We do not need them here wind or solar it's all government subsidies money and it's will fade out and who cleans up the mess?

Populations just going to keep going down. It doesn't take as many farmers to farm. The land machinery is bigger. The farms are bigger. Unless you bring commercial industries in our towns are going to waste away. Hence Hamlet, Lamar, and other little towns. When it comes to developing NRD land that our taxes paid for. I do not believe they should be able to develop it besides what they purchased it for. Thanks for your time.

We don't need wind and solar farms here. When you talk to people In other places that have had they, often they wish they didn't. There are drawbacks.

No solar or wind farms.

Do not allow wind and solar companies and greedy land owners to grandfather these horrible things in. They will be obsolete soon.

Wind and solar energy are not effective in terms of producing green energy the wind turbines use more energy to produce than they make in their life. Solar panels are a waste of space and water is something that is already limited in the area and solar panels use a lot to stay clean so they can stay efficient otherwise in dust is collected on them the efficiency goes down dramatically for these reasons and many more please keep these big companies out of chase county. I think the size of the projects should be considered. Large and small scale are different.

Area lakes need to be accessible for people with disabilities

I am not in favor of solar farms or wind farms in Chase County. The proposed solar farms location shows the lack of respect for natural resources with its proximity to a major drainage area that runs all the way to the Frenchman River and also Enders Lake. Water is vital to this county.

The solar farm proposed near Enders will ruin the esthetics of the primitive little state park there. It is all we have for fun here. We don't need it to also be ugly. All it will benefit is a very few individuals but at great loss to everyone else.

People love our rural communities and are appreciative of the recreation areas in place. Allowing these commercial solar farms to grow isn't the way of life for Chase County. The zoning committee should be ashamed that it was ever considered.

All these proposed solar farms will have a negative impact on our rural way of life. Our peaceful Nebraska landscape will be ruined with these solar farms and possible wind chargers. Will negatively impact wildlife and living conditions for those who have to live closest to them. They will litter up our countryside and not provide us with any electricity for our own use.

I believe the county needs to account for not only crop agriculture but animal agriculture, and everything that comes with it. The facts are agriculture, supports this community and its growth. If you limit what producers can do in the county because Susie and Johnny down the road perfect retreat might be disturbed by smell or sound. This does not support agriculture in the community. Hence it does not support county growth

Build the solar farm, the county will not survive once the lake is dry, and farming dries up. I would start recruiting any kind of revenue generating business to the county ASAP. The not in my backyard mentality is the reason nothing new has moved into the county in a long time.

Chase County is the most populated county in Southwest Nebraska. If nothing is done about the housing shortage, Chase County will soon be on the brink of losing its residents and potential young residents to other communities and will follow the trends of other counties in our area.

Anything but wind and solar energy. Do you really ruin the land with retarded solar panels and what happens when a hail storm happens

It's important to communicate with the public when it comes to the use of our land. Many of us value the beauty and tranquility that our county provides and don't want to make changes to the land if it can be preserved.

We DO NOT need any solar or wind farm companies trying to push in and destroy land that can be used for farming. If we allow solar and wind farms into our communities then we might as well kiss our way of life good bye! The solar and wind farms will do nothing to benefit us in any way.

Nearly all crops & livestock produced in Chase County is exported on the back of 50 to 60 billion gallons of underground water pumped every year. 45% of corn is used for ethanol production, which requires the use of fertilizer, herbicides & pesticides that pollute "all" corn production acres. The negative environmental footprint (water & pesticides) of corn for ethanol is much worse than a solar farm that can produce far more energy per acre than corn for ethanol. Solar needs to be allowed.

Decisions need to be thought through completely in the event an industry moves out and or the damage to the current environmental elements we are stewards of. It's imperative to bring in businesses/industry to help support the economy. It is projected that Nebraska will be growing a majority of the vegetables that are currently grown in Colorado due to their water shortage. We need to be pro active but extremely cautious with looking at the whole picture and not just an immediate satisfaction

Passing this can also ruin the habitat of animals.

I do not want Rural Chase County to become land with wind turbines and solar panels. We have beautiful rural land that does not need to be ruined by the sight of these physical systems that will be disregarded after a few years and will be an eye sore for our Rural community of chase county. I live in the country and the last thing I want to look at every day is solar panels or huge wind turbines daily.

If it doesn't benefit THE people of chase county, towns , or schools, WE DO NOT WANT IT

A few people that want to sell out the community to pad there own pockets with no benefit to the community such as solar panels and wind towers should be stopped. It's just an eye sore!!

Solar Power, check recycling of panels, half mile setbacks, check drainage r. O. W. O. Cost of reclaiming land after bankruptcy, storms, fire, miagrating patterns of Cranes, geese, ducks. Habitat for pheasants, deer etc.

I live in rural Chase County because I like the open space, the scenery, as well as farm. I don't want to see our county ruined by solar and wind farms. There will be no scenery to view. Our county wont see any benefits to solar or wind farms only the land owners who sell them their land will. Please keep our county pristine and beautiful.

I didn't retire and move my residence to rural Chase County, Enders Lake, to witness a 3,500 acres of solar panels out my back door. I suggest that if Lincoln and Omaha need power those entities build them in Lancaster and Douglas Counties. A huge detriment to our real estate investment.

I don't think anyone should be able to tell a landowner what they can or cannot do with land they own within reason. I believe if we aren't on the forefront of change and aren't open to new things that would benefit the county with tax revenue we are moving backwards.

Zoning must include need to limit damage, and decline in home, business, and land values of ground near and within view of project.

We live in a great community. People don't live here to be surrounded by commercial entities. We live here to farm and ranch. We need to keep it that way. Large scale commercial projects will benefit the few and harm the majority. I hope and pray that what we all love about this area won't be taken from us for profits of a few

No solar farms

I do not want to see our land covered with solar panels or wind farms.

I 100% DO NOT support solar farms, or windmill farms, anywhere in our county.

The proposed solar farm at hand is right by one of the most scenic areas of our county. Why would you stick a bunch of mirrors at the start of the driven by scenic Frenchman River Valley and across the road from a highly visited area of the lake.

We need industry to keep growing

Land owners should be able to decide what to do on their land.

We already have a beam me up tower directly in the middle of town. Did you know we had in the cities these telephone towers were put on school property and brain tumors in children skyrocketed!! True! We had now knowledge of that tower going up until it was going up. That's bad enough !!! We don't need wind or solar farms in the area to destroy our health. Pop lease no solar or wind power. They are not cost effective anyway. I can find all kinds of articles on these subjects!

Please do not allow this money grab into our county. These landowners are abandoning their due diligence to take care of the land they own.

Do not take land from land owners for solar/wind energy!

No wind or solar farms.

No wind and solar in my opinion. They are an eyesore and inefficient. I have no problem with a single person who wants this for their property just not commercial. We have a large number of livestock that will need fed and taking out large swaths of production land would be detrimental I'm unsure on new nuclear plants. I think a lot of improvements have been made in technology to make facilities smaller more efficient and safer. I would need more info before I could make an informed decision.

No to wind and solar.

Why would we want to ruin our landscape with wind chargers and solar panels.

We are a rural farm community, that prides itself on the crops we grow and livestock we raise. This is what made this county so great. Let's keep this RURAL not commercial.

Be careful what you do with our property rights. We have lost some of our rights with water limitations. Lots of research and deep thought needs to be put into any decisions that will affect our rights we have in property ownership. We are already being taxed to the limit.

Let's keep rural Chase County rural agriculture what made this county thrive in the past and it will do it in the future Let's just keep it that way.

All should be supporting community growth and open for change for the future of our community.

Progressive but not in a way to harm our land or water or the beauty of chase county.

We definitely need more rental options available for younger couples maybe some townhouses or condos. We also need some better and more income friendly apartments for our older residents .