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1128 Elm Street (2 Blocks South of Hwy 136) Fairbury, Nebraska

(402) 671-6879 fairburymuseum@diodecom.net Facebook.com/FairburyCityMuseum

Explore Fairbury's past with our many exhibits

Donate to the Jefferson County Veterans' Memorial The Fairbury City Museum & Ratt Studios are teaming up to build a veterans' memorial in the city park.

Donor Levels:

\$200 brick | \$1,000 - \$2,499 | \$2,500 - \$4,999* | \$5,000 - \$9,999* | \$10,000 and above* with donation * Miniature Statue/Brick

Make check out to: Fairbury Civic Foundation; memo: Veterans Memorial Mail to Fairbury City Museum, 1128 Elm St, Fairbury, NE 68352

Completion Date: Memorial Weekend, 2023 Learn More: Mick Suev 402-300-0906 or Wade Baldwin 402-729-7760

Jefferson County Historical Society

Collecting, preserving, and teaching the history of Jefferson County, Nebraska since 1955.

Visit our historic sites located throughout Jefferson County including...



Rock Island Railroad Museum Fairbury, NE



W.C. Smith House & Lime Kiln rural Fairbury, NE



District 10 Schoolhouse near Alexandria, NE

For tours and more information contact us today!

910 Bacon Road, Fairbury, Nebraska (402) 729-5131

Welcome to Jefferson County...

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Are we there yet?

That catchphrase stands out in modern English and is uttered frequently on most modern trips where people travel from Point A to Point B. However, it's highly unlikely pioneers during America's settling of the West, ever spoke those four words as a question. It probably had a lot to do with the fact that the average covered

wagon only traveled between 8 and 20 miles a day, depending on the terrain, weather and multiple other challenges. The view changed very little daily and most of these travelers hadn't figured out where "there" was yet either.

Most early settlers weren't headed to one certain location, but were simply looking for the spot they wanted to call home. Yes, it seemed to be a case of "We'll know it when we see it."

For whatever reason, many settlers chose to settle in Jefferson County. Maybe it was the rolling prairie and its good soil. Maybe it was its proximity to the Oregon Trail and other pioneer routes. Maybe it was good hunting. Luckily, the citizens who chose to settle in Jefferson County, stayed to put down roots, build towns, businesses and railroads and leave descendants to keep things moving forward.

Residents who live in Jefferson County like to show it off, which is great fun for visitors. Locals still strive to create the good life where they live, work and play. Travelers to Jefferson County will pick up on that and find quite a bit to enjoy.

Looking for something quiet, calm and peaceful? Check out camping at Crystal Springs, Rock Creek Station and numerous other camping/lake sites. Looking for some fast-paced action, spend some time at the Jefferson County Speedway, Diller Picnic or annual celebrations in Plymouth and Jansen. Still looking for something fun to do? You'll like the Steele City Flea Market, shopping in downtown Fairbury, the Shriner's Fourth of July Flea Market in the Fairbury City Park or watching a movie at the Bonham, the county's renovated movie theater.

Come visit us any time you can because our year-round events and activities give guests, visitors and residents a mix of quick, quiet, or middle of the road fun. Enjoy a town celebration or try your hand at hunting and fishing in Jefferson County. Sportsmen travel from across the country to hunt pheasant, quail, turkeys and

> deer. Don't forget the car races, county fair and sporting events!

> Relax and unwind in one of the county's great city parks and recreational areas. If hanging out outdoors is your style, pitch a tent or bring your camper and set up at one of our camping sites, equipped with electrical and water hookups. Catch supper in one of our well-stocked fishing lakes. Take a hike on one of several area trails or roam the countryside.

> Take it easy and enjoy your stay. Lodging is not a problem with local motels and several bed and breakfasts for those who don't want to rough it. Fill your tummy in one of the county's locally owned restaurants or find something delicious from one of several nationally known dining establishments. Choose from Chinese, Mexican and pizza to wings, burgers, sandwiches and steaks.

You can't leave without checking out Jefferson County's history. Plan a day at Rock Creek Station and discover how America was settled. Survey the local architecture with our historic downtown businesses and buildings. Check out our local museums and opera houses to see how we started. Shopping? You'll find great antique and gift shops plus many amazing boutiques, second-hand stores and florists.

Whatever you need to find or do, Jefferson County can deliver its own unique, one-of-a-kind style of fun and adventure or quiet

So, yes, you arrived just in time for a good time! Relax, you're

Important Numbers to Know Dialing from a landline requires 10 digit dialing.

Emergency 911 | Sheriff 402-729-2284 | Road Conditions 511

Hospital 402-729-3351 | Library 402-729-2843 | Fairbury Clinic 402-729-3361 | Courthouse 402-729-6818 Time and Temp 402-729-4321 | Local Transportation (Handi-Bus) 402-729-6475



This visitor's guide is produced by the Jefferson County Visitor's Committee in cooperation with the Fairbury Chamber of Commerce.

Jefferson County Visitors Committee

402-729-3000 | jcvc@diodecom.net | www.visitoregontrail.org **Fairbury Chamber of Commerce**

518 E St. | 402-729-3000 | www.fairburychamber.org fairburychamber@diodecom.net



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Jefferson County Origins

History reveals complicated beginnings

Present day Jefferson County officially came into existence in the fall of 1871. Prior to this, the area now known as Jefferson County followed a complicated path to its creation.

Initially, Jefferson County may have been included in the domain of Richardson County since Nebraska's first counties bordered the Missouri River. The western boundary of the state was in the unknown wilds of the Rocky Mountains. Richardson County, which was directly east of the Missouri river, claimed the right to levy and collect taxes in all territory west of it.

According to research done for "A Pictorial History of Jefferson County, Nebraska," "Prior to the formation of Gage and Jefferson counties, a strip of land 24 miles wide directly north of the 40th parallel (Kansas-Nebraska line), lying west of the Big Blue River, was called Jones County on territorial maps. However, Jones County had no legal existence and caused confusion for many years.

Jones County existed for only a few years, since few settlers lived in the area prior to 1860. It is the first pioneers that deserve the credit for shaping the territory into the condition to later be developed by the people residing here. Before the first white men came, the county was populated by Otoe Indians and wandering tribes of Pawnees and other Indians traveling to and from their hunting grounds. Jones County held its first election in the spring of 1861 and organized in 1862.

At a point in 1867, the legislature of the newly recognized state of Nebraska passed an act to enlarge Jones County by adding to it the county on the west and calling it Jefferson. For nearly five years, the present counties of Thayer and Jefferson were mapped and governed as Jefferson County. This proved unsatisfactory for its residents.



Laying the foundation The laying of the cornerstone for the new limestone Jefferson County Courthouse took place on July 7, 1891 in the rain.

In 1871, D.C. Jenkins introduced a bill in the Legislature to divide Jefferson County with the Sixth Principal Meridian being the division line. This was finalized in the fall of 1871, and two complete sets of county officers were elected, with the establishment of Thayer County to the west of the line and Jefferson County to the east.

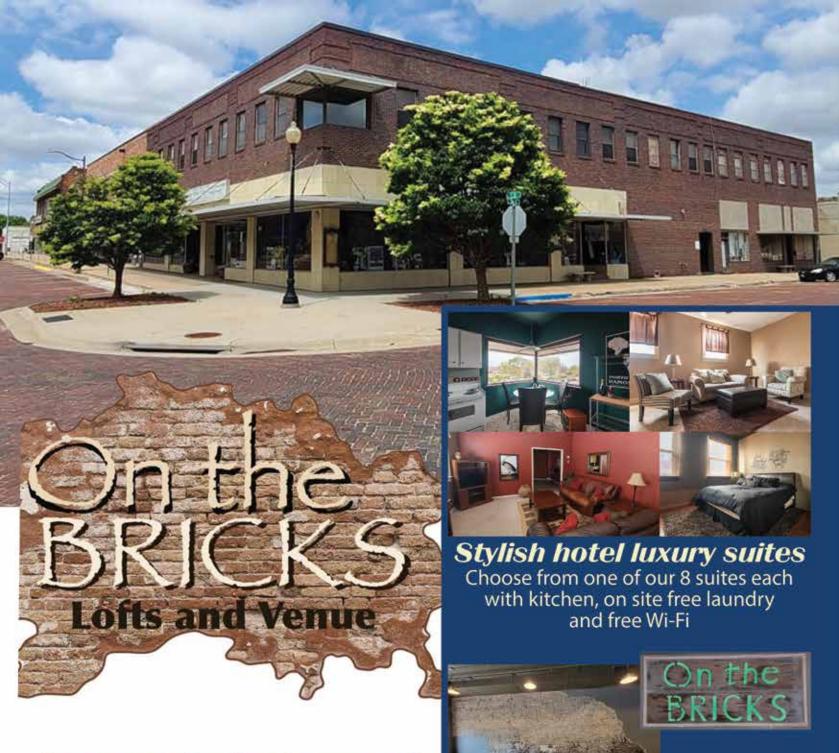
For almost 150 years, Jefferson County has been home to generations of individuals and families who built a life on the plains. Despite the struggles faced by every age in this time span, its citizens have been able to create towns and villages; excited about its possibilities, committed to its success and secure in its sense of place in history. This is the legacy, which will be passed on to future generations who also call Jefferson County home.







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Daykin

Platted in 1887, Daykin began as land homesteaded by William E. Ide and sold to John N. Daykin. He sold the land to two Fairbury residents, John Kesterson and George Cross, who began the village of Daykin on June 8, 1887. Attracted by the ideal farming

ZIP code:
68338
Elevation:
1,532 ft (467 m)
Population:
153 (2020)
Coordinates:
40°19'19" N
97°17'56" W

conditions, original residents were of German and Czech ancestry.

Initial rail lines paved early success for the community. The first building, Jefferson County Bank, survived the Great Depression and continues as Heartland Bank today.

Windmills played a large role in the town's history. Water was provided by windmills from a public well, many private wells and individual windmills. This status was also noted by a feature on "Ripley's Believe It or Not" calling Daykin the "Town of Windmills" because of their popularity.

In its heyday in 1910, Daykin had 210 residents much as it does today.



Community-minded The Daykin Community Building and Library are now housed in the former school building.



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Diller

Named for Samuel Diller, an early settler, Diller was platted on Oct. 1, 1880 and developed from the building of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad. Diller encouraged many of his friends from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to come to Nebraska,

ZIP code:
68342
Elevation:
1,355 ft (413 m)
Population:
247 (2020)
Coordinates:
40°6'31" N
96°56'16" W

even loaning money to many of the first settlers to purchase land. His home served as the first school and church. He also

donated the land for a cemetery.

Diller has been home to several b u s i n e s s e s , including a newspaper, a hotel, a bank, an opera house and even an orphanage.

The phone company, started in 1899, has evolved



Building preservation Owned by the Diller Opera House Society, the Opera house maintained and available for use by the community.

into Diode Communications and Technologies. It continues to serve Diller and surrounding communities.



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Endicott

Settled as early as the 1850s and 1860s because of its fertile land and proximity to the Oregon Trail, expansion by the St. Joe and Denver City Railroad enticed omore residents to move to the area. Early homesteaders Billy Smith and

Edward Hawkes saw the potential for a town and platted it in 1880 when the post office was officially established. Railway officials named Endicott after William Endicott of Massachusetts, Secretary of War under President Grover Cleveland.

ZIP code:
68350
Elevation:
1,345 ft (410 m)
Population:
113 (2020)
Coordinates:
40°4'54" N
97°5'56" W

At its height, Endicott included a hotel, built by the railroad, and several businesses. The hotel still exists today. The first school, taught in a dugout, was later replaced with a wooden structure in 1885. When fire destroyed that building in 1904, a two-story brick school was built at the same site and used for years as both an elementary and high school. Though the high school closed earlier, the elementary remained in session until merging with Fairbury school district in 1992.

Gladstone

The building of the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railroad, spurred the growth of Gladstone. James Hubble bought 80 acres of land from German settler Elias Weiker and quickly platted 23 blocks for the town in 1886. Hubble had great plans for the little town, but no major township developed.

Gladstone did boast several businesses, including a livery, multiple grocers, blacksmiths, a lumberyard, a hotel, a bank and a pool hall in its prime.



Country Church Zion Countryside Church sits east of Gladstone at the corner of 562nd Avenue & 713th Road.

Two grain elevators also engaged in commerce until one burned and the other eventually closed. The Depression drove many businesses to other areas.

A school district was organized in 1881, but consolidated with Fairbury in 1968. Two churches built east and west of town are called Gladstone churches since no such facility was ever built in Gladstone.

Harbine

Created in 1886 as a result of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad in the area, Harbine is situated on land donated by Fredrick Sandman, George H. Hansen and Charles Letton. It was named for a prominent Fairbury banker and land promoter Col. Thomas Harbine.

In its history, the town included a blacksmith shop and wagon maker, a physician, a farm implement dealer, a hotel, a general store and a windmill and pump business.

One of the first buildings was a two-story depot for the Rock Island Railroad, complete with living quarters upstairs. Harbine was also home to a creamery, which produced and shipped cheese and butter all over the United States at one time.

ZIP code: 68377 Elevation: 1,440 ft (439 m) Population: 56 (2020) Coordinates: 40°11'30" N 96°58'26" W

A tornado in 1903 leveled the Congregational Church, one of

three churches to exist in the town's tenure. Disaster by recession, fire and tornado took a toll on the community. The town's bank closed in 1933. A fire in 1946 destroyed many of the businesses and they never rebuilt.

At its height in 1900, Harbine boasted a population of 242.



Jansen

Russian settler Peter Jansesn (Jansen) and a small group of 50 fellow Mennonites left Russia in 1873 and purchased

20,000 acres from the Burlington and Missouri Railroad where they established seven settlements. With word of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad coming through the area, Jansen bought 80 more acres and on Aug. 20, 1886, mapped out the town.

ZIP code: 68377 Elevation: 1,460 ft (445 m) Population: 101 (2020) Coordinates: 40°11'9" N 97°4'58" W

Railroad officials honored

Jansen by naming the new town after him. Within one year, 13 businesses had been built, including a bank. Founded by Jansen, the bank has operated continuously since that time, though it has changed leaders and names.



Relax and play The community playground sits on the corner of Broad & Church Streets and features a picnic shelter.

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Plymouth

Of all the towns in Jefferson County, this community is one of the most interesting with two histories and two sites.

The original town of Plymouth began with 10 ministers from Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts and Wisconsin, one of which was a land agent for the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad. On Sept. 18, 1872, leaders planned to create a "Plymouth of the Prai-

to create a "Plymouth of the Prairies, a colony of conscience" and asked that "no [one] may join us who is not of unblemished morals". The sale of alcohol was also banned. The streets were named after Pilgrim leaders and most of the original settlers were of English descent. The early town flourished with several businesses and a post office.

ZIP code: 68424 Elevation: 1,430 ft (436 m) Population: 364 (2020) Coordinates: 40°18'12" N 96°59'23" W

Unfortunately, the railroad lines were not built and the town's population quickly left and moved their businesses to more prosperous places.

A new city began on a new site in April 1884 when the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific expanded its line from Lincoln to Jansen. Because the train would not stop on the uphill grade, a depot was built three miles north and one mile east of the old town. The post office moved to the depot and the name went with it. In less than a year the population reached over 200 with German settlers and many citizens from Ontario, Canada. The town's old rules did not apply. At its peak in 1910, approximately 400 citizens lived in Plymouth with 62 businesses. All that remains of Old Plymouth today is a cemetery and signs that mark the site.



Cornerstone of education The school bell and cornerstone of Plymouth Public School building are on display in the community park.

Reynolds

Again, the railroad expansion helped found Reynolds in 1880. Homesteaders William Menary and W.H. DeBuse enticed the Republican Valley Railroad to build its railroad through Debuse's property. The name Reynolds was given to honor the father of a conductor on the Republican Railroad.

ZIP code: 68429 Elevation: 1,391 ft (424 m) Population: 57 (2020) Coordinates: 40°3'37" N 97°20'5" W

The creation of Reynolds also resulted in the decline of Rose Creek City since the railroad had bypassed it. Many of the buildings here were put on skids, including the blacksmith shop, drug store, church, hotel and school and pulled by horses over the hills to Reynolds.



Farming community The Reynolds branch of the Farmers Cooperative continues to operate a grain elevator in Reynolds.

Steele City

Small, but surrounded by its pioneer past, Steele City includes a 19th century stone church, a 1900 stone livery stable and a brick bank museum. Modern day downtown includes a restaurant and bar and a small post office. Visitors can even water their horses in the historic

ZIP code: 68440 Elevation: 1,273 ft (388 m) Population: 44 (2020) Coordinates: 40°2'11" N 97°1'22" W

spring-fed troughs. Living history demonstrations occur each summer and during the annual Steele City Flea Market weekend each September.



Railroad town The 19th century stone Baptist Church sits on Ida Street, which lies parallel to the railroad tracks that cut through town.





Downtown Fairbury Offers Many Points of Interest

With buildings dating from the turn of the 20th century, Fairbury's downtown earns its historic reputation honestly. With the courthouse as the centerpiece of a quaint downtown "square," the area highlights small town

ZIP code: 68352 Elevation: 1,325 ft (404 m) Population: 3,970 (2020) Coordinates: 40°8'27" N 97°10'39" W America at its best with antique stores, floral shops, service and professional businesses and a variety of miscellaneous shops and restaurants. The downtown area draws visitors with its original brick streets, detailed building facades and the courthouse's plethora of shade trees. Side streets

also offer their own bits of history relived with a modern art mural on the Globe Rexall Pharmacy, the renovated J.C. Penney building now housing the corporate offices of Lambert Vet Supply and some of the oldest buildings in the business district.

Take a look at what the area has to offer. While you are at it, make sure to check out these buildings. Jefferson County Courthouse located in Fairbury and constructed in 1891 of hand-cut limestone, still boasts antique ceramic-fronted fireplaces in some offices. A unique feature is the antique furniture in the courtroom. Newly recreated replicas of original statues grace three sides at the top of



A different drum A key landmark in Fairbury, the courthouse square, features many historical landmarks. The VFW Drum & Bugle Corps march on the northside of the square in the mid to late 1930s.

the building. Remodling in 2016 and 2017 has strived to perserve the building's historic style while adding security and function.

Another interesting aspect of downtown Fairbury, the Campbell Bros. Circus mural, on the north exterior wall of Globe Rexall Pharmacy, depicts scenes that were reminiscent when the Campbell Bros. Circus stationed their winter home in Fairbury. From 1895 to 1913, the circus always opened their season in Fairbury, but traveled nationwide.



A look into the past The Campbell Bros. Circus mural fills the north wall outside Globe Rexall Pharmacy.



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Nobody in Jefferson County goes home hungry. Whatever your preference, a dash of American, a bit of fast food or some casual dining, your taste buds will be pleased.

Alexandria State Lakes

Snack Shack - 402-749-3111

56020 718th Rd - Short orders include hamburgers, nachos, chicken, sandwiches and more. Snack on soft serve ice cream, malts and beverages. Permits, tackle, bait, ice available along with beautiful scenery. Open seasonally, May through Labor Day. Tues -Sun 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Diller

The Field Sports Bar & Grill - 402-793-8557

415 Commercial St. - Classic bar food and atmosphere provide the best eats in the area. Daily specials draw a crowd and no one leaves hungry.

Endicott

Criner's Corner - 402-729-3571

201 Roscoe St. - For beer, spirits, food and fun! Check out the small town atmosphere with great burgers and sandwiches.

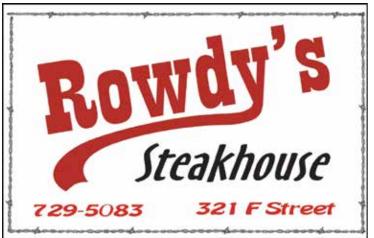
Fairbury

Griffey's Steakhouse & Lounge - 402-729-9951

400 4th St. - Situated in one of Fairbury's oldest downtown buildings, Griffey's is known for a wide selection of steaks, burgers, and sandwiches. The daily special is a huge draw for locals and visitors. Featuring an All-You-Can-Eat Salad Bar and all day Breakfast.

Harvest Chinese Restaurant - 402-729-6233

616 E St. - Choose from a full menu of traditional Asian fare. Customers are the winners here with great service, reasonable prices and lot of good food. Now featuring sushi.



Jalisco Mexican Restaurant - 402-729-2197

417 D St. - Offering a full Mexican menu, Jalisco's creates traditional dishes and full-meal deals as well. Its historic building on the square is an attraction in itself. Carry-out and catering available, too.

Belle Rose Boutique & Coffee - 402-587-5051

412 E St. - Offers authentic espresso, cappuccinos and lattes, plus real fruit smoothies, Italian sodas and a variety of frozen treats. Open Monday-Saturday. Closed Sunday.

McDonald's - 402-729-3123

1429 K Street - As American as it gets, McDonald's has it all from breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack menu items. A fast and speedy drive-thru gets you going where you need to be with quick, friendly service.

Pizza Hut - 402-729-6106

505 14th Street - Pizza? Yes. But so much more to enjoy here with pasta and sandwich selections as well. Dine-in, carry-out and delivery from open to close.

Ray's Apple Market Deli - 402-729-2355

1415 K St. - Daily luncheon and evening specials compliment a menu of broasted chicken, grilled ribs and chicken and sliced sandwich meat. Several salad and dessert options are also showcased for hungry stomachs each day. Catering and carry-out are also available. A small seating area provides a nice break.

Classic Cones - 402-587-0166

611 6th St. - Serving up classic ice cream treats, including malts, shake and more. Open seasonally May - September, weather permitting.



Restaurants

Rowdy's Steakhouse - 402-729-5083

321 F St. - Two blocks off the downtown square, Rowdy's customers never leave hungry. Lunch and dinner menus show a range of options from the daily specials to grilled steaks, sandwiches, and salads. A long-time favorite is the Chicken Fried Steak, also known as the "Elephant Ear".

Runza - 402-729-5248

2630 Industrial Drive - Nebraska's original fast food dining experience, Runza offers its unique Runza sandwich in several options. Grilled-to-order hamburgers, sandwiches, and ice cream treats round out the menu. Open daily, dine inside or on-the-go at the drive-thru.

Subway - 402-729-3995

1413 K St. - Where the sandwich is an art form. Pick from many options and watch it created before your eyes with exactly the ingredients you want.

Harbine

Side Trek - 402-754-4391

Hwy 136 - What came first? The chicken or the wing? At Side Trek, it definitely is the wing with locally famous Wing Night. Luckily, for fans, wings are also available

anytime, not just Thursday. Homemade chicken fried steak, served only on Tuesday, is also a hit. Check the homemade weekday lunch specials. Beer and drink specials help attract diners as well. Open 365 days a year.

Plymouth

Bart's Bar and Grill - 402-656-BEER

303 E Main - Family Friendly Bar & Grill

P-Town's Daily Grind

316 N. Madison Ave - P-Town's Daily Grind is located within P-Town Fitness in Plymouth. It is a great way to help jump start your day with great coffee, espressos, smoothies, and protein shakes!

Steele City

Salty Dog Saloon - 402-442-2233

200 W Main St. - A self-described gathering place for flamboyant, colorful and crazy characters. With a Mexican menu and lots of sandwiches hot off the grill, most people have a hard time deciding what to eat. Open Wed-Sun for lunch and dinner, its good food and great prices keep bringing folks back for more.









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Open: Sat-Sun 1-4 p.m. or by appointment Contact Info: 402-671-6879 fairburycitymuseum@diodecom.net

Fairbury City Museum

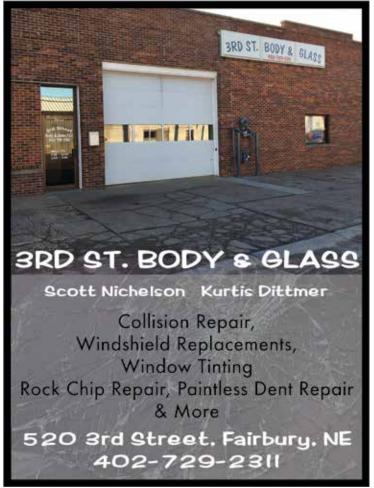
1128 Elm Street, Fairbury

Located in the former West Ward Elementary School, the Fairbury City Museum is an exciting educational experience in the history of Fairbury and Jefferson County. Organized thematically, the museum features an exhibit of local fossils from the Cretaceous and Pleistocene periods, a room of military items dating back to the Civil War, memorabilia from the world famous Campbell Brothers Circus, which wintered in Fairbury in the early 1900s, and many other displays depicting business and community growth, which allow visitors to relive Fairbury's colorful past. A variety of events take place at the museum. The annual car show, the 2nd Sunday in September around the historic square in downtown Fairbury.









What to Do & See in Jefferson County

Located 70 miles south of Lincoln and 30 minutes west of Beatrice, Jefferson County offers plenty of entertainment for those looking for a quick getaway or a longer more leisurely stay. Whether you are searching for a great antique find, exploring the region's history or settling in for a quiet weekend of camping, Jefferson County provides an excursion for almost everyone.

Alexandria State Recreation Area 56022-56032 718th Rd, Alexandria

A beautiful spot to spend a relaxing weekend, Alexandria boasts two lakes, which are ideal for fishing and canoeing. Camping facilities include, electrical hookups, playground and an RV dump station. On-site concession stand available during summer months. Reach Alexandria State Rec Area by taking Highway 136 west from Fairbury for 7 miles and following the signs north and west to find the spot.



Buckley Creek Recreational Area

1 mile east and 1/2 mile north of Reynolds on 561 Ave

Created in 1971, the area provides fishing, hiking and boating as well as a nine-hole golf course featuring sand greens in the 78-acre site. Owned and maintained by the Little Blue Natural Resources District, a 20-acre lake is the centerpiece.



Limited hook-ups are available, though there is no charge for camping. Tent camping areas include restrooms, grills and fresh water. Two picnic shelters with electricity are also available.





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Crystal Springs Park

Southwest of Fairbury off Crystal Springs Road

Located on the southwest edge of Fairbury, not too far south and west of the City Park, camping, fishing and family fun happen here. Campers will find RV hookups, updated showers and restrooms, picnic shelters, a horseshoe court and playground. Fishing enthusiasts will enjoy two spring-fed lakes and another man-made lake stocked with bass, catfish and blue gill, including trout in the center lake in the cooler months. Many ducks and geese also call Crystal Springs home year-round.

Diller Opera House 421 Commercial, Diller

Built in 1912-13 by Anna Diller, daughter-in-law of Samuel Diller, for whom the town was named, the Opera House stands on Diller's



main business street. The three-story brick building was designed in the Second Renaissance Revival style. The second level of the opera house has a raked floor, balcony, and orchestra pit. The walls and ceiling display stencil work and free hand painting by Danish immigrant artists Charles Hansen and James Willer.

Today, the Diller Opera House Society owns the building so that it can be preserved and used by the community for wedding receptions, celebrations and meetings.

Diller Bank Museum

Corner of Commerical & Castor Streets, Diller

Listed by The National Register of Historic Places, Diller Bank Museum pays homage to the citizens of Diller and the surrounding area. It was constructed in 1892-93 as the People's State Bank, then the First National Bank in 1904, and finally the Citizen's State Bank in 1914. A fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture, the bank stands as an intact example of one of Nebraska's late 19th century banking houses, retaining its original exterior appearance. Exhibits inside the museum showcase local history and the residents who shaped the community. 402-729-5131 or 402-793-5398

Cub Creek Rec Area

Southwest of Plymouth on 575 Ave between 719 and 718 Rd

Found 3 miles west and 4.5 miles south of Plymouth, a 40-acre lake nestles on 95 acres of land. Year-round activities include fishing, hiking, boating, campgrounds and hunting. Campers are offered a shelter, picnic tables, a playground, restrooms and more.







What to Do & See in Jefferson County



District 10 Schoolhouse

The corner of 717th Road and 559th Ave

The grounds of this old country school display monuments to the Oregon Trail, Pony Express and Mormon Trail. Located a half mile west and one mile southwest of Alexandria State Lakes, northwest of Fairbury. For information contact (402) 729-5131.

Endicott Clay Products-Beehive Brick Kilns 57120 707th Rd, Endicott

Providing both a historical and economic impact to Jefferson County, Endicott Clay Products manufactures and ships bricks around the world. Artists also create brick murals and brick art for customers. Located across the Little Blue River south of Endicott and two miles west. (402) 729-3315.







Fairbury's Little Blue River Trail 3rd & C Street

Added to Jefferson County in the fall of 2006 is the new hiking trail in Fairbury. Funded by federal, state and city grants, it was the project of a citizen's committee. Starting at the old dam site on south C Street, walkers can proceed to the Fairbury City Park or strike out across the old Rock Island Railroad Bridge and through the Flathead Wildlife Management Area, operated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Fairbury Country Club 56881 - 709th Rd, Fairbury

Just south of Fairbury on the slopes of the Little Blue River Valley sits the Fairbury Country Club and Golf Course. Enjoy the picturesque and challenging layout of the course.



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Fairbury City Park

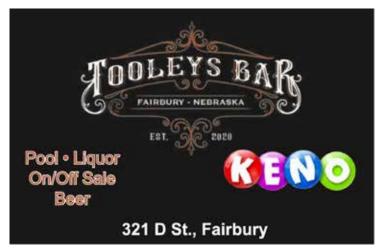
Entrances at 8th & Maple or W 5th Street

This place packs in a bit of everything including a massive tree-lined route, the new aquatic center, a softball complex, an original wooden playground, the Legion baseball field, a horseshoe complex, the Isaac Outdoor Game Center, a community building, updated dump station and the Girl Scout Cabin. Situated at 8th and Maple Streets, touring the park on foot or by car highlights the beauty of smalltown living.



Frontier Fun Park Inside Fairbury City Park

Created from local children's designs, the park, located in Fairbury's City Park was the first park of its kind in the state of Nebraska. Citizens took on a major maintenance project in 2016 to keep the equipment in top shape.



Rock Creek Aquaculture

70850 578th Ave

Located about as far away from a coast in any direction, Rock Creek Aquaculture provides a fresh and locally grown and premium seafood product. Call 402-793-5553 to schedule a tour. www.rockcreekshrimp.com.

Four-Corner Survey Marker

Located the 6th on Principal Meridian and 40th Parallel, this landmark was used in 1856 to legally describe Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota from this point west of the Missouri River. The marker can be reached by taking Highway 8 west to Reynolds, then



turning south to Mahaska, KS. From here, it is one mile west and one mile north of Mahaska.

Jefferson County Courthouse 411 4th St, Fairbury

Built in 1891 of handcut limestone and situated on a square in downtown Fairbury at 411 4th, the building also features ceramic-fronted fireplaces in some offices and unique antique furniture in the courtroom. Renovated



statues stand on top of the courthouse on three sides. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.



What to Do & See in Jefferson County



Jefferson County Speedway At the Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Satisfy the need for speed by attending mini sprint, truck and ¾ midget races on the banked oval dirt track. Running April through September at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds located southwest of Fairbury, the Jayhusker Racing Association attract hundreds of fans each season. The 4th Annual Midwest Midget Championship will be July 17-18. The event will feature USAC National Midgets as well as Jayhusker Non-Wing Micros; two nights race fans will not want to miss.

A12 E Street, Downtown Fairbury Open Tuesday - Saturday 402-587-5051 bellroseboutiqueandcoffee@gmail.com Facebook.com/BelleRoseBoutiqueAndCoffee

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

56885 PWF Rd., Fairbury

Home to the annual Jefferson County Fair held every July, the fairgrounds includes the 4-H Building, Merchants Building, Horse Arena, Grandstand and livestock barns. The fairgrounds is also used for many community events as well as home of the



Jefferson County Speedway and Jayhusker Racing.

Leisure Lake

South of Plymouth, 720th Road between 578 and 579th Ave

Centered around a 38-acre lake with 47 acres of land surrounding it, the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District owns and maintains this primitive lake. Enjoy a day of hiking, fishing and hunting here.

Tri-County Oregon Trail Monument

This marker is located five miles east and two miles south of Steele City. It gives the legend of the Oregon Trail through Washington County, Kansas and Gage and Jefferson County, Nebraska.





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Wildlife Management Areas

Rock Glen - 706 acres located on the south end of Rock Creek State Historical Park.

Flathead – 259 acres of land features a tree-lined path for hikers to explore the area.

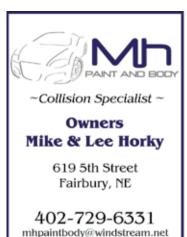
Rose Creek – A mixture of cropland, woods and grassland make up Rose Creek located on two parcels (664 combined acres) of land south of Jade Road east of Thompson. The locally famous McDowell Mausoleum is situated in the second section. Hunters are attracted to the area during deer and turkey season.



Brainchild Concepts

Digital Marketing Solutions: Websites Brand Identity Social Marketing

402-300-1139 nels@brainchildconcepts.com



McNish Park

Entrances on J Street between 13th and 11th

A drive or stroll through this shady Fairbury park details the rolling landscape and stone-lined pond. The area also boasts a disc golf course and newly updated playground equipment. Found at 14th and I Streets, visitors can enjoy a picnic shelter, the Boy Scout Cabin, and a relaxing waterfall. The fountain on the north end of the park has undergone recent restoration.



All rooms feature a private bath, high speed internet service and cable TV.



Call 402.587.4026 to book your stay today www.GRAYHOUSEINN.com

615 6th Street, Downtown Fairbury



Angie's Attic

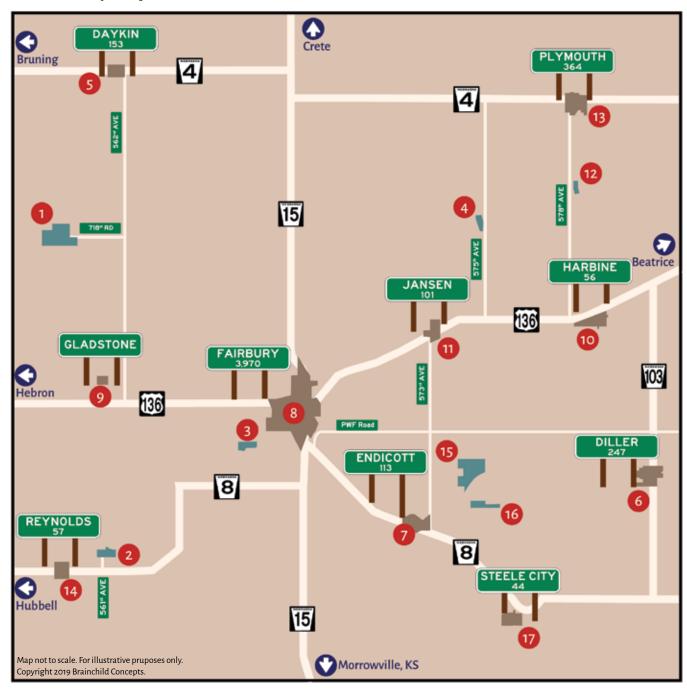
Selling vintage, repurposed items, furniture, glassware and costume jewelry.

402-587-5006

West Side Courthouse Square 421 D Street Downtown Fairbury

f Like us on Facebook!

Jefferson County Map



1. Alexandria State Lakes 560th Ave & 718th Rd

402-729-5777

2. Buckley Creek Rec Area

1/2 mile north of Hwy 8 on 561st Ave 402-364-2145

3. Crystal Springs Park

SW of Fairbury of f Crystal Springs Road on Walt Maughn Drive 402-729-2148 4. Cub Creek Rec Area

3 miles north of Hwy 136 on 575th Ave 402-228-3402

5. Daykin

6. Diller

7. Endicott

8. Fairbury

9. Gladstone

10. Harbine

11. Jansen

12. Leisure Lake Rec Area

57838-57850 720th Road Plymouth, NE 68424 402-228-3402

13. Plymouth

14. Reynolds

15. Rock Creek Station

57426 710th Rd Fairbury, NE 68352 402-729-5777

16. Rock Glenn State Wildlife Management Area

17. Steele City

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City of Fairbury Map Fairbury Municipal Airport 23rd St 22nd St **K** HASTINGS 68 **←** MCCOOK 196 Hospital NORTH PLATTE 245 **CHADRON** 492 **▼** SCOTTSBLUFF 417 **≯LINCOLN** 68 Circle Drive **≯** FREMONT 120 126 **≯** OMAHA ↑ NORFOLK 153 17th St 16th St Sunburst Dr. Tilden St. HSt. D St St. St W 10th St. 10th St 솼 9th St W 8th St. 8th St 7th St 6th St Cham W 4th St 4th St Fairgrounds Bacon Road Little Blue River Trail Rock Island Depot Museum PWF Road Fairbury Cemetery Little Blue River Crystal Springs Park Crystal Spring Rd. Fairbury, Nebraska

Population: 3,970

lap not to scale. For illustrative purposes only. lap design Copyright 2022 Brainchild Concepts.

Area Attractions

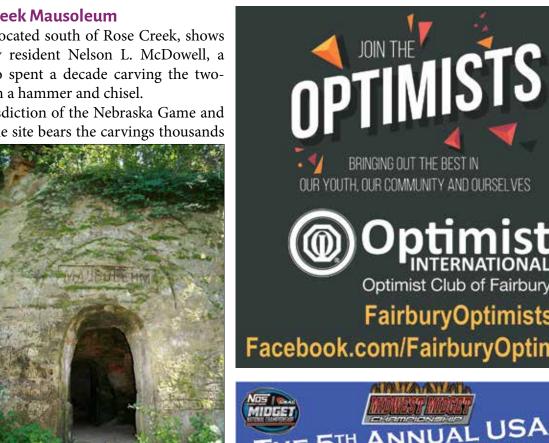
McDowell's Rose Creek Mausoleum

McDowell's Tomb, located south of Rose Creek, shows the work of Fairbury resident Nelson L. McDowell, a wealthy bachelor who spent a decade carving the tworoom mausoleum with a hammer and chisel.

Now under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the site bears the carvings thousands

left visitors their own legacy. Ironically, following his death in 1937 from a car-train accident, McDowell was buried in the Fairbury Cemetery. The trek to this site via unmarked trail may prove difficult for inexperienced hikers Hiking shoes recommended.













Whether you're having a Christmas party, Class Reunion, Wedding or Meeting, The Fairbury Elks Lodge has several different ways and pricing options to make your next even perfect.



For more information contact JoAnn, 402-729-2090



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PLUS JAYHUSKER NON-WING & RESTRICTOR MICROS

GENERAL ADMISSION-\$20(FRIDAY)...\$30(SATURDAY) HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUNGER - \$5 ALL ACCESS PIT PASSES - \$35

RESERVED SEATS AND CAMPING RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT JEFFERSONCOUNTYSPEEDWAY.COM

405-823-8095

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125TH ANNUAL DILLER PICNIC

"Let's Get Carried Away" • June 23-25, 2022

Come for the Picnic, stay for Diller's abundant community attractions! The Annual Diller Picnic is a 125-year tradition and Southeast Nebraska's largest community festival. Enjoy three days of food, fun, and festivities. While you're here, be sure to check out community points of pride like our beautiful parks, thriving local businesses, and historic Opera House and Bank Museum (call 402.729.5131 for a tour!).



JUNE 23: TRACTOR PULL **JUNE 25:** CAR SHOW



JUNE 24: BULL RIDI<u>NG</u>



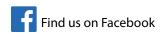
JUNE 25:
PARADE & TETHERED
HOT AIR BALLOOON
RIDES

FULL-SERVICE CAMPER PADS AVAILABLE

The Village of Diller has 12 camper hook ups in the Diller Village Park which offers water, sewer, and trash pick-up at a cost of \$13–15 per day. Wifi access to be available this summer. The park is shaded, serene, and offers a playground and a picnic shelter with restrooms. Contact Bob Wellsandt for details: **402.587.0757.**

The Diller Community Foundation Fund envisions a future where all are inspired to dream, grow and give back.

Learn more at www.nebcommfound.org/give/diller-community-foundation-fund



Lodging

A Place to Lay Your Head

Tefferson County has several lodging choices to consider. All are clean and well-maintained; warm hospitality, no extra charge!

The Edgewood Hotel & Suites - 1503 K Street, Fairbury.

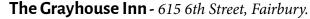
Featuring hot breakfast bar, exercise room, swimming pool, conference room, and guest laundry. Each room historic home that underwent a total renovation in 2016. includes a microwave, refrigerator, coffee service and high-speed internet. Call 402-587-5082 for rates and reservations.

Nebraska Prairie Rose Bed and Breakfast - Hwy 4, Daykin. Innkeepers Donovan and Doris Endorf are ready to make your stay a special one. Experience country living in rustic Daykin, Nebraska. No smoking, alcohol or pets. 402-446-7471 or online at neprairierose.weebly.com

The Capri Motel - *Highways* 15 and 136, Fairbury.

Standard motel rooms or extended-stay suites with kitchenettes. Pet-friendly motel. Handicap-accessible rooms available. Free local calls, cable TV and smoking or non-smoking rooms. Truck parking. Cold weather hookups. Call toll free 800-932-0589 for reservations. Major credit cards accepted.

RESERVATIONS 1-800-932-0589 FAIRBURY'S FINEST 1100 14th Street Phone P.O. Box 383 Fairbury, Nebr. 68352 402-729-3317



Once a boarding house, the Grayhouse Inn is a large

The Grayhouse Inn features a total of nine rooms, three of which are two-room suites. Each room has its own private bath. Two of the suites are located on the first floor.

There is a large living room and eat-in kitchen with full breakfast, served daily. Wireless internet available. Nightly, weekly rates available, including special rates for the entire house. Non-smoking property, small pets allowed with preapproved pet deposit. 402-990-2621 or online at GrayhouseInn.com.

On The Bricks Lofts & Venue - 510 E Street, Fairbury.

Featuring full suites for short and long term stays in fully furnished loft apartments. The Venue can host weddings, community events, birthday parties, company meetings and gatherings. Can host over 300! Call 402-318-7447 or visit onthebricksloftsandvenue.com for rates and reservations.







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Enjoy the Great Outdoors

If you are traveling to the Fairbury area in an RV or camper, you'll find beautiful camping options. All areas are clean, well-maintained and offer various recreational activities to enhance your stay.

Crystal Springs Park

Southwest of Fairbury. Three lakes for great fishing and camping. Newly updated camping pads with electrical and water hookups. Restrooms and showers available May 1 - October 15. Playground, horseshoe court and picnic shelters. For more information 402-729-2148.

Rock Creek Station State Historical Park*

Six miles southeast of Fairbury. Modern campground with paved pads. 30-amp electrical hook-ups, camp grill or fire ring and picnic table. Tent sites have picnic table and grill or fire ring. Horse camping available. Large picnic shelter with electricity, tables, grills, water and toilets available and may be reserved for a fee. The beautiful 3,200 sq. ft. visitor's center includes two wings of displays, lobby and theater with slide presentation upon request. While the park is open year-round, the visitors center, showers and bathrooms are available mid April - late October. Nebraska Park Entry Permit required. Permits available at the Visitor Center or from the Park Superintendent. Call 402-729-5777. OutdoorNebraska.org



Alexandria State Lakes*

12 miles northwest of Fairbury. Small 55-acre recreation area with two lakes. Fishing, picnic shelters and campsites. Basic camping and 45 non-pad sites with 30-amp & 50-amp electrical hook-ups. Picnic tables, grills, shelters, drinking water, modern restrooms, concession, playground, and a trailer dump station. Nebraska Parks permit required.

Village of Diller Campground

15 miles southeast of Fairbury. Diller Park with 12 camper hook ups with Wi-Fi access, water, sewer and trash pick up. and electricity. The park is shaded, serene and offers a playground and picnic shelter with restrooms. 402-587-0757

Historic Steele City Campground

12 miles southeast of Fairbury. Available year round. Playground, Bar and Grill, Post Office and pay phone. Camper hookups. 402-442-2360 or 402-613-1299

Buckley Creek Rec Area

14 miles southwest of Fairbury. Tent camping plus 4 camper hook ups. 402-364-2145

Cub Creek Rec Area

8 miles west of Fairbury. Tent camping. 402-228-3402

Endicott RV Park

7 miles southwest of Fairbury on Hwy 8

219 West Ridge Street, Endicott. 10 new spots, good location, complete hookups, 50 & 30 amp breakers. Open year round. 402-729-5621 or 402-587-1900

*A valid Nebraska State Park entry permit is required year round for all motor vehicles entering any state park, state historical park or state recreation area.



Discover a long-lost relative, a distant ancestor, or data on a missing family member

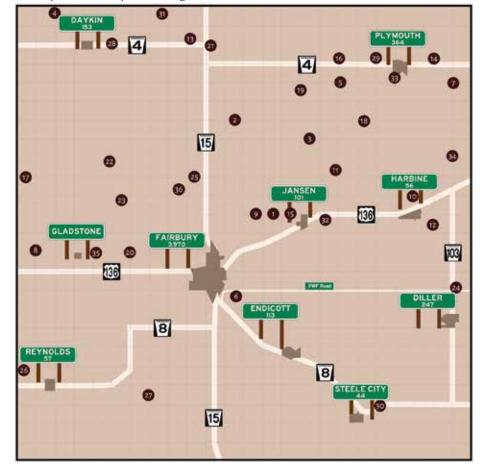
- **1. Bartel** 715th Rd between 571st & 572nd Ave
- **2. Bower** 720th Rd between 569th & 570th Ave
- 3. **Cub Creek aka St. Paul's Evangelical** 719th Rd between
 573rd & 574th Ave
- 4. Eureka aka Daykin Near 726th Rd & 560th Ave
- 5. Emanuel Evangelical Church - Near 722nd Rd & 575th Ave
- **6. Fairbury** 56924 PWF Rd
- 7. Friendship aka Kilpatrick
- Near 722nd Rd & 581st Ave
- 8. Grace Lutheran aka Trinity Lutheran - Near 713th Rd & 559th Ave
- **9. Grandy** 715th Rd between 570th & 571st Ave

- **10. Harbine** Near 716th Rd ජ 579th Ave
- 11. **Hildebrandt** 575th Ave between 717th & 718th Rd
- 12. Hope United Church of Christ 580th Ave between 714th & 715th Rd
- 13. Immanuel Lutheran -Daykin - Near 724th Rd ఈ 567th Ave
- 14. Immanuel Lutheran -Plymouth - Near 723rd Rd & 580th Ave
- **15. Jansen** 715th Rd between 572nd & 573rd Ave
- 16. **Megli-Yost** Near Hwy 4 ఈ 575th Ave
- 17. Meridian aka German Presbyterian - Near River Rd & Navy Ave

- 18. Old Plymouth 720th Rd between 576th & 577th Ave
- 19. Peace Lutheran 573rd Ave between 721st & 22nd Rd
- **20. Pleasant Hill** Near 713th Rd & 564th Ave
- 21. Pleasant View Near 724th Rd & 568th Ave
- 22. Powell aka Keeney aka Knispel - Near 718th Rd & 563 Ave
- **23. Prairie aka Moles** Section 25, Meridian Precinct
- 24. Prairie Home aka Diller
- PWF Rd & 581st Ave
- 25. Richland Center 717th Rd between 567 & 568th Ave
- 26. Rose Creek aka Reynolds
- 558th Ave between 707th & Hwy 8

- 27. Silver Creek 565th Ave & King Rd
- 28. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Hwy 4 between 562nd & 563rd Ave
- **29. St. Paul's Lutheran** Near 577th Ave & 723rd Rd
- **30. Steele City** 577th Ave off Hwy 8
- 31. Swan Creek aka Humphrey - 726th Rd between 565th & 566th Ave
- **32. Thiessen** Hwy 136 near 574th Ave
- **33. Woodlawn** *S County Rd*, *Plymouth*
- **34. Zion Lutheran** Near 718th Rd & 581 Ave
- 35. **Zion Countryside Church** 713th Rd & 562nd Ave

For more specific directions consult, http://genealogytrails.com/neb/jefferson/cem/cemetery.html *Country cemeteries may be located off unmaintained, dirt roads. <u>Proceed at own risk.</u>



36. George Winslow's Grave - Located about 3 miles north of Fairbury, then west on 716 Road 1 1/2 miles, the George Winslow gravesite is

north of the road, in a pasture. The ruts of the Oregon Trail are still visible there. Winslow's grave earns its distinction for being the only grave on the entire trail marked with a stone.

The gravesite is on private property, but the property



owners allow visitors. Please be respectful of their property and the gravesite, and remember to close any gates you may have opened.

The Oregon Trail claimed the lives of many that attempted the journey. Many Mormons died while camped along the trail. In Jefferson County, the Big Sandy crossing on the trail was the scene of many of these burials.

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Area Schools

Daykin

Meridian Public Schools

Home of the Mustangs

402-446-7265 | 72380 560 Ave. www.MeridianMustangs.org

DeWitt

Tri-County Public Schools Home of the Trojans

402-683-2015 | 72520 Hwy. 103 www.TriCountySchools.org Diller-Odell

Diller-Odell Public Schools

Home of the Griffins

Diller-Odell Elementary 402-793-5570

315 Smith Street, Diller Diller-Odell High

402-766-4210

506 Perry Street, Odell www.DillerOdell.org

Fairbury

Fairbury Public Schools Home of the Jeffs

Superintendent's Office 402-729-6104 | 703 K Street

Central Elementary 402-729-2418 | 808 F Street

Jefferson Intermediate 402-729-5041 | 924 K Street

Junior-Senior High 402-729-6116 | 1501 9th Street www.FairburyJeffs.org **Plymouth**

St. Paul's Lutheran School (Preschool - 8th Grade) 402-656-4465 | 108 Hwy 4

Area Churches

Fairbury

American Lutheran

12th and K Streets

Assembly of God

11th and D Streets

Fairbury United Methodist

605 E Street

Faith Lutheran (AFLC)

1630 I Street

First Baptist

901 F Street

First Christian

2625 H Street

First Church of God

12th and E Streets

First United Presbyterian

2310 H Street

Foursquare Gospel

Sixth and H Streets

Grace Lutheran (LCMS)

1100 G Street

St. Michael's Catholic

Eighth and F Streets

Seventh Day Adventist

11th and J Streets

Gladstone

Zion Countryside Church 56205 713 Rd.

Diller

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran

114 Lavelle St

Endicott

Endicott United Methodist

119 W Reynolds

Jansen

Jansen Bible Church

405 Nebraska

St. Paul's United Church of

Christ Cub Creek

57350 719 Road

Assembly of God

500 Broad

Steele City

Steele City Presbyterian

311 East Main

Harbine

Zion Lutheran

58115 718 Rd

Plymouth

Peace Lutheran ELCA

72165 573rd Avenue

Peace United Methodist

103 E. Main Street

St. Paul's Lutheran-WELS

106 E. Hwy. 4

Daykin

Immanuel Lutheran

5 miles east of Daykin

Daykin United Methodist

Hwy 4 & Nichol Ave

St. John's Lutheran

501 Francis Street



Globe Rexall Pharmacy

Bob Atkins R. Ph., Pat May R. Ph., Betty Devries R. Ph.

424 E Street • Fairbury • 402-729-2620





Local Services Hospital

Jefferson Community Health & Life 2200 H Street 402-729-3351

Clinic

Jefferson Community Health & Life -Fairbury Clinic 2200 H Street 402-729-3361

Jefferson Community Health & Life -Plymouth Clinic 316 N. Madison Ave 402-729-6888

Optometrists

Johnson Family Vision Care 523 E Street 402-729-6162

Dentists

Fairbury Dental Associates 416 4th 402-729-6177

Fairbury Smile Designs 501 7th Street 402-729-6277

Chiropractors

Tatro Chiropractic 414 E Street 402-729-5181

Rental Cars

Wheel N Deal Auto Sales 1832 K Street 402-729-5281

Pharmacy

Globe Rexall 424 E Street 402-729-6177

Korbel Drug 405 5th Street 402-729-6277

Walmart Supercenter 2831 N Hwy 15 402-729-3755

Towing Services

M&D Auto Service & Towing 620 C Street 402-239-8772

Painter Paul LTD Towing 808 S. K Street 402-729-6313

TAS Total Auto Services 408 6th Street 402-587-1655

Car Wash

Maatsch's Sinclair 1515 K Street 402-729-2455

Splash & Dash Car Wash 921 14th Street 402-729-3276

Deer Processing

Diller Locker 401 Commercial, Diller 402-793-5840

Laundromat

Dirty Biz Laundry 521 C Street 402-217-0784

Grocery Store/ Butcher

Den's Meat Distributing 115 14th Street 402-729-6199

Diller Locker - The Store 409 Commercial, Diller 402-793-5820

Ray's Apple Market 1415 K Street 402-729-2355

Fuel/Convenience

Casey's General Store 622 E Street 402-729-6664

Maatsch's Food Shop 1515 K Street 402-729-2455

Maatsch's Express 303 14th Street 402-729-5329

Daykin Country Store 708 Francis Street, Daykin 402-446-7292

Plymouth Country Store 216 Hwy 4, Plymouth 402-656-3905

Cell Phones

Victra - Verizon Wireless 528 E Street 402-729-2025

Selectel Wireless 425 D Street 402-587-5091

Auto & Tire Repair

Alan's Automotive 1401 E Street 402-729-2117

Behrends Service 305 Commerical St, Diller 402-793-5530

Farmers Cooperative 1105 23rd St 402-729-6147

Farmers Cooperative 602 Jefferson, Daykin 402-446-7285

Farmers Cooperative 503 Maple, Plymouth 402-656-4000

M&D Auto Service 620 C Street 402-729-2478

Riverside Chevrolet 601 4th Street 402-729-2275

TAS Total Auto Services 408 6th Street 402-587-1655

TO Haas Tire & Auto 1222 E Street 402-729-6164

Twin Rivers Ford 601 5th Street 402-729-2231

Locksmith

Lock and Key for Less 402-239-1692

Painter Paul 808 S K Street 402-729-6313

Listings subject to change without notice.

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Local Services

Boutiques

Blondie's Salon 320 Smith St, Diller 402-793-5300

Magnolia & Main 320 Commerical St, Diller

Belle Rose Boutique & Coffee 412 E Street 402-587-5051

Notions a Good Life Boutique 524 E Street 402-613-7541

The Repurposed Cottage Boutique 516 5th Street 402-729-5814

Liquor Store

K&D Liquor 1317 E Street 402-587-5009

Florists

Pictures & Petals 415 D Street 402-729-2049

Sims Florist & Gifts 420 4th Street 402-729-5125

Greenhouses

Fairbury 4th St. Greenhouse 308 W 4th Street 402-729-3728 402-729-3161

Beetley's Gardens 203 3rd Street 402-729-2376

Auto Parts

NAPA - Action Auto Supply 520 4th St 402-729-2221

Auto Value 607 3rd St 402-729-2267

Veterinarians

Fairbury Animal Clinic 805 S. K Street 402-729-2304

Plymouth Veterinary Clinic 402 S County Rd., Plymouth 402-656-3002

Winter's Countryside Vet Clinic 3030 Industrial Drive 402-729-2204

Emergency Services

EMERGENCY - 911

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office 606 3rd Street 402-729-2284

Jefferson County Ambulance 606 3rd Street 402-729-3304

Jefferson County Emergency Management 313 S K Street 402-729-3602





Together, we can do more.





A hunting and fishing we will go

Whether the target runs on two legs or four, flies, sits or swims, it can be found in abundance in Jefferson County, Nebraska's bountiful hunting and fishing spots.

Six publicly-operated Wildlife Management Areas, including Alexandria, Alexandria Southwest, Flathead, Rock Glen, Rose Creek and Rose Creek West, provide hunters with opportunities to bag a deer, dove, pheasant, quail, grouse, rabbit, squirrel, turkey or waterfowl across Jefferson County. Numerous private hunting fields complete the area. Local businesses can assist trackers with archery, guns and ammunition needs during the season. Area guides can also help visiting sports enthusiasts make the trip a success.

Fishermen can try their luck at four public fishing spots and bring home bass, catfish and blue gill. Anglers can cast a line at Crystal Springs Park in Fairbury or stake out a claim on the Little Blue River near Fairbury. Alexandra State Lakes east of Alexandria and Cub Creek also offer great options for those looking to make a catch.

Jefferson County, Nebraska is a true gem for hunters and fishermen, searching for a little getaway and a chance to bag a bird or a buck or grill their own catfish dinner.



I fish therefore I am Fishing enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy the numerous fishing spots in Jefferson County.







Saturday, April 1, 2023

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Crafts • Direct Sales Vendors Baked Goods • On Site Concessions

www.CatsMeowSpringMarket.org
Facebook.com/CatsMeowSpringMarket
Presented by Homeless No More Cat Rescue

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Historic Landmark Spotlight



Trail Days Visitors to Rock Creek Station listen to a reading prior to the buffalo stew cookout during Trail Days.

Rock Creek Station

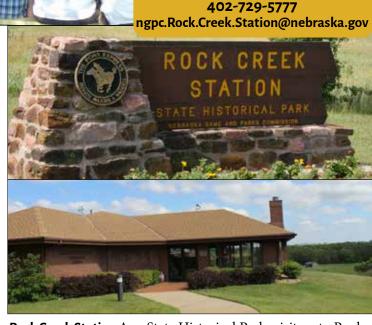
57426 710 Rd. Fairbury, NE

Located southwest of Fairbury, Rock Creek Station was established along the Oregon-California Trail in 1858 as a road ranch to sell supplies and other services to emigrants as they made their way West. The station also served as a relay station for the Pony Express as well as a stagecoach stop for the Overland Stage.

In 1861, Rock Creek Station became notorious one fateful day in July when James Butler Hickok killed David McCanles there. It was then that "Wild Bill" Hickok began his bloody career as a gunfighter.

Visitors can learn about the Oregon Trail, Pony Express and still see the deep ruts carved by pioneer wagon trains. The ruts cover 1600 feet to the northwest of the old station.

Open year round, the park encompasses 350 acres of prairie hilltops, timber-studded creek bottoms, and rugged ravines. It features an interpretive center, picnic areas, hiking and nature trails, tent camping, horse camping and a modern campground with services. Trail Days in June showcase living history demonstrations and a cookout.



Rock Creek Station As a State Historical Park, visitors to Rock Creek Station will need a Nebraska Game and Parks Park Entry Permit.

During the summer step back to 1860s ranch life; depicting the events of 150 years ago. We invite you to live a day in the life of the early Nebraskans who laid claim to the Great Plains. Experience this, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. every 3rd Saturday of the month from May - October. Learn more about Rock Creek Station State Historical Park at outdoornebraska.gov/rockcreekstation.





Event Spotlight



125th Diller Picnic

Diller, Nebraska

For over 120 years, the town of Diller has joined together in the summer to celebrate the community. The first picnic was held on Aug. 12, 1897 and sponsored by

the Ancient Order of United Workmen Lodge and women's auxiliary. It was estimated that 3,000-5,000 people attended that first picnic; a great feat for a town of 300.

In recent years, the Picnic is now sponsored by the Diller Community Club and area businesses. Events for the

June 23-25

DillerPicnic.net

Facebook.com/ DillerPicnic

weekend include a tractor pull, pancake feed, carnival and midway, bingo, bullriding show as well as the perennial favorite; the Parade.

Since that first Picnic, the events may have changed but the sentiment is still there. The citizens of Diller do know how to throw a good picnic. For up-to-date information on the 2022 Diller Picnic visit, www.dillerpicnic.net and on Facebook.com/DillerPicnic





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Annual Steele City Flea Market & Antique Farm Machinery Show

Steele City, Nebraska

Platted in 1873, Steele City was named in honor of D. M. Steele, then President of St. Joe & Western Railway. Four sites are owned and maintained by the Jefferson County

Historical Society: the limestone Baptist church built in 1882, the 1900 working blacksmith's shop, 1902 limestone livery stable and brick bank museum. Explore these historical sites during the Steele City Living History weekends held in May, July and September. The third weekend in September features the annual Steele City Flea Market and Old Farm Machinery Show.

Tentative Dates Sept. 17-18

Contact Info: Juliann Endorf 402-446-7486 or Kenneth Dodge 402-729-3109

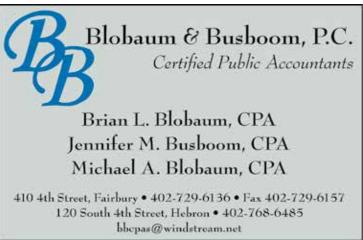
Highlights of the weekend include blacksmithing and horseshoeing demostrations, a working saw and shingles mill, an old farm machinery show and tours of the buildings that comprise the historic district.











Jefferson County Ghost Towns

Ghost Towns of Jefferson County, Nebraska

By Mitch Zabokrtsky

Never heard of Jenkin's Mills or Newton in Jefferson County? That's because you were born in the wrong century. Quite a few towns and communities were established in Jefferson County in the late 1800s with short lived histories. Probably the most prominent marker left is for Bower with a sign on Highway 15 while a few other townships have a few decaying buildings left in their once thriving, small communities.

1. Rose Creek City, Marks Mill

Buckley Precinct, Section 7

In 1862, the Rev. Ives Marks built a saw mill on the banks of Rose Creek. Later, the settlement included a flour mill, United Brethren Church, school, two blacksmith shops, harness show, hotel, two livery stables, pottery and three general stores. A sod fort was built nearby. In 1880, the Burlington Railroad line missed Rose Creek City and many of the buildings and businesses moved to the new village of Reynolds.

2. Meridian

Meridian Precinct, Section 19

George Weisel built a saw mill at this site in 1865 and later a grist mill. Some historians interchange the names of Big Sandy and Meridian. County business was conducted at Weisel's Store as early as 1868-1868 at Big Sandy Station. In 1868, the village was platted and was the County Seat. School District #10 was organized in the area. A German Presbyterian Church was also built. The County Seat was moved to Fairbury in 1871. The population of the village was 150 in 1872. The grist mill operated for many years.

3. Jenkins' Mills

Newton Precinct, Section 30

In 1867 D. C. Jenkins built saw and grist mills on the Little Blue River one-half mile southeast of present day Steele City. The community included a blacksmith shop, general store, hotel and school. With the building of the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad Depot (Union Pacific) at the new village of Steele City, the businesses and school were moved to Steele City. In 1869, Abner Baker published The Little Blue newspaper at Jenkins' Mills. The mill remained and continued to operate for a number of years. Based on the idea of future growth, the railrod built the depot at the new village of Steele City because there was not enough room between the river and the bluffs for the village of Jenkins's Mills to grow.

4. Freeport

Newton Precinct, Section 30

The settlement of Freeport was started across the Little Blue River from Jenkins' Mills in 1868. The settle mentconsisted of a mill and about a dozen business and dwellings. Abner Baker started the first newspaper, The Western Sun, in Jefferson County at Freeport. A flood of the Little Blue River in 1869 destroyed most of Freeport. The buildings that survived the flood were moved to Jenkins' Mills.

5. Bower

Washington Precinct, Section 35

In 1869, the Bower School was built. The village was established by Lewis Bower in 1870 and R. S. Graham open the first store. Early businesses included, a post office, blacksmith shop, general store, creamery and thirteen nurseries. In the area were a Christian Church, The First Church of Christ and the Bowerville Cemetery Association. In 1913, the East Bower School was built one mile east of the village. The school included grades nine and ten until 1942.

6. Old Plymouth

Plymouth Precinct, Section 3

In 1872 the original town of Plymouth was platted. That year, the Post Office was established with R. D. Anderson serving as postmaster. Listed as businesses in 1879 were an attorney, two millinery establishments, a feed mill, a blacksmith ship and a Justice of the Peace. By 1890, the village was disbanded as the Rock Island Railroad chose another site for a depot. The village of Plymouth was in a low place and a locomotive would not be able to leave the depot in either direction pulling a train.

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Jefferson County Ghost Towns

7. Powell

Meridian Precinct, Section 23

In 1872, John and Amelia Powell transferred land to the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad. In 1886, the Methodist Episcopal Church was founded. The population of the village reached 300 in 1890. In 1905, the Pickering Hotel was build. In 1910, eighteen businesses advertised in The Fairbury Journal.

8. Kesterson

Antelope Precinct, Sections, 3 and 4

In 1882, the Kesterson Station was located along the Burlington Railroad four miles south of Fairbury. Besides the depot, there was a post office, mill and blacksmith shop.

9. Helvey

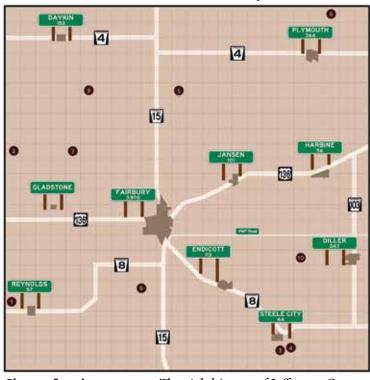
Eureka Precinct, Section 36

In the early 1890s, C. A. Gus Helve built the first elevator. In 1892, the Spring Valley Church was organized. In 1897 John Nelson was the first store keeper. In 1909 the town plat was filed. At its peak, 10 families lived in Helvey. Businesses included two grocery stores, drug store, hardware, lumberyard, blacksmith shop, bank and hotel.

10. Shea, Fitzgerald's Siding

Pleasant Precinct, Section 29

In the early 1900s, Shea was known as Fitzgerald Siding on the Burlington Railroad. In 1902, the name was changed to Shea. In 1904 O. F. Williams built a house and store at the site. In its heyday, Shea hosted an elevator, grain office, Sam Gaisford's blacksmith, Williams' store, stockyard, warehouse and five houses.



Ghosts of settlements past The rich history of Jefferson County includes settlements, that although no longer present, helped shape the county today. The map above illustrates the relative locations compared to present day towns and villages.

Sources: (1) Pioneer Tales of the Oregon Trail and of Jefferson County, Charles Dawson, Crane & Company, Topeka, Ks, 1912, (2) Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1882-1883. Compiled by J. M. Wolfe, Omaha, Nebraska, (3) Jefferson County Nebraska Post Offices 1849-1970, W. A. Woodward. Written August 13, 2019







2022 Community Events Calendar

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May - September Jayhusker Racing

Jefferson County Speedway jeffersoncountyspeedway.com

May 21, Saturday FREE Park Entry & Fishing Day

Rock Creek Station & Alexandria State Lakes 402-729-5777 ngpc.rock.creek.station@ nebraska.gov

May 27-29, Fri-Sun Fairbury Girls Softball Invitational

Fairbury Softball Complex Fairbury City Park 402-587-0432

June 4, Saturday Abate #7 Steele City Ride-In Bike Show

The Salty Dog Steele City 402-442-2233

June 4-5, Sat & Sun Rock Creek Station Trail Days

Rock Creek Station 402-729-5777 ngpc.rock.creek.station@ nebraska.gov

June 4-5, Sat & Sun Rock Island Rail Days

Rock Island Depot 402-729-5131

June 7, Tuesday Pony Express Re-Ride

Steele City (KS Line) to Hwy 53 in Thayer Co. 402-729-5629 Trail Captain Kevin Riggle nationalponyexpress.org

June 23-25, Thurs. - Sat. 125th Diller Picnic

Diller www.DillerPicnic.net Facebook.com/DillerPicnic

July 2-4, Sat-Mon On Mon. 10 a.m. Parade, Dusk VFW Fireworks 51st Annual Shriner's Flea Market

Fairbury City Park 402-729-3221 fairburyfleamarket@gmail.com FairburyFleaMarket.com

July 9, Saturday Jansen Fun Day

Jansen Andrew at 402-300-0644 or Eddie at 402-300-1098

July 14-17, Thurs - Sun Jefferson County Fair

Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds Fairbury 402-729-3487 www.JeffCoFair.us

July 15-16, Fri - Sat Midwest Midget Championships

Jefferson Co. Speedway Cody Brewer 405-823-8095

Aug. 20, Saturday Plymouth Annual Celebration

Downtown Plymouth



All times and dates subject to change.
Visit www.FairburyChamber.org or
call the Chamber at 402-729-3000 for most current info.

32nd Annual Frost Frolic Holiday Market

1st Saturday in November | Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Crafts • Direct Sales Vendors • Baked Goods www.FrostFrolic.org | Facebook.com/FrostFrolicHolidayMarket Presented by Homeless No More Cat Rescue

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2022 Community Events Calendar

May							
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Sept. 11, Sunday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Annual Museum** Car Show

Downtown Fairbury 402-671-6879 fairburycitymuseum@ diodecom.net

Sept. 16-18, Sat-Sun Steele City Flea Market/Old Farm **Machinery Show**

Steele City 402-446-7486 402-729-5805

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, Fri-Sun **Heritage Highway Trail of Treasures**

Highway 136 Flea Market / Garage Sales www.heritagehighway136.com

October 2, Saturday	
Lord's Acre Festiva	

Endicott 402-729-6048

Nov. 6, Saturday 31st Annual Frost Frolic **Holiday Market**

Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds 402-300-1139 www.FrostFrolic.org

Dec. 3, Friday Miracle on the Square Festival of Trees Santa & Free Wagon Rides

Downtown Fairbury 402-729-3000

March TBA, 2023 Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Shamrock Shuffle** 5K Run/Walk/Crawl

Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds 402-729-3000 www.fairburychamber.org

April TBD, Sunday 12 - 3 p.m. **Plow Day**

2 miles south & 1/2 mile east of Fairbury on Hwy 8. 402-729-3109 or 402-446-7486

April 1, 2023, Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cat's Meow **Spring Market**

Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds 402-300-1139 www.CatsMeowSpringMarket.org

April 8, 2023, Saturday 1 p.m. Chamber Easter Egg Hunt

Courthouse Lawn, Fairbury 402-729-3000 www.fairburychamber.org

2 p.m. Diller Easter Egg Hunt

Diller Park

April TBA, 2023, Saturday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Pork 'N' Pints Beer & Wine Tasting Festival

VFW, North K St., Fairbury 402-729-3000 www.fairburychamber.org

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Museum Spotlight



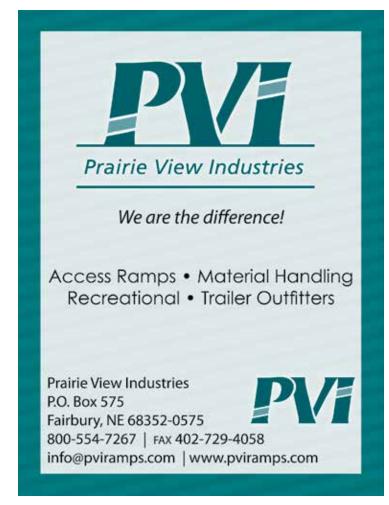
Rock Island Depot Railroad Museum

910 Bacon Road, Fairbury

Take a look at life when trains were the fastest and classiest way to go anywhere at the Rock Island Depot Railroad Museum. As the former Western Division Headquarters for the Rock Island, Fairbury dispatched all Rock Island Trains west of Des Moines before closing in 1980. The main floor of the depot has been restored and is used as a railroad museum. This includes the baggage room, and also houses the museum gift shop. The second floor,

Rail Days June 4-5 Open: Sat-Sun 1-5 p.m. Contact Info: 402-729-5131

which served as offices for the Western Division, now includes an extensive model train display, library and historial archives, and a meeting room. The grounds outside have also been restored, highlighting the original freight house which still stands, the garden that is under renovation and a brick Memory Wall to honor Rock Island employees and families.







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