

Crossroads Resource Center

7415 Humboldt Ave. S. / Minneapolis, Minnesota 55423 / 612.869.8664
kmeter@crcworks.org www.crcworks.org

Tools for Community Self-determination

Nebraska Farm & Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation

by Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis)
for

No More Empty Pots

November 19, 2010

Nebraska: (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

1.7 million residents receive \$69.8 billion of income annually (2008). Real personal income has more than doubled since 1969, despite a relatively small (21%) population increase. Government jobs rank as the largest single source of personal income with \$9.1 billion. Manufacturing jobs rank 2nd with \$5.7 billion of personal income, while health care jobs ranks a close 3rd, with \$5.6 billion. Finance and insurance workers earn nearly \$4 billion, as do transportation workers.

Although population has increased 21% since 1969, there has been only limited public planning to assure a secure and stable food supply.

Issues affecting low-income residents of Nebraska:

Over 413,314 residents (25%) earn less than 185% of federal poverty guidelines. At this level of income, children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. These lower-income residents earn a total of over \$4 billion each year, while spending \$852 million each year buying food. They also receive \$84 million of SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and additional millions in WIC coupons. The state's 47,712 farmers receive an average combined total of \$933 million in subsidies (40-year average, 1969-2008), mostly to raise crops such as wheat, corn or soybeans that are sold as commodities, not to directly feed state residents. *Data from Federal Census of 2000, Bureau of Labor Statistics, & Bureau of Economic Analysis.*

Eight percent of state households (nearly 142,000 residents) earn less than \$10,000 per year. *Source: Federal Census of 2000.*

14% of all Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs adults aged 18-64, and 16% of Metro Lincoln adults aged 18-64, have no health insurance. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

Food-related health conditions:

18% of Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs residents, and 20% of Metro Lincoln residents, reported in 2009 that they eat five or more servings of fruit or vegetables each day. That is to say, 80% do not. This is a key indicator of health, since proper fruit and vegetable consumption has been connected to better health outcomes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

48% of adults in both Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and Metro Lincoln report they do not regularly exercise. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

7% of Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs residents, and 6% of Metro Lincoln residents, have been diagnosed with diabetes. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.* Medical costs for treating diabetes conditions in Nebraska are estimated at \$1 billion per year. *Source: American Diabetes Association.*

62.3% of Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs residents are overweight (34.9%) or obese (27.4%). 60% of Metro Lincoln residents are overweight (35.1%) or obese (24.9%). Medical costs for treating these conditions in Nebraska are estimated at \$454 million per year. *Source: Centers for Disease Control.*

37% of Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs residents tested, and 36% of Metro Lincoln residents tested, were found to have high cholesterol.

The state's farms (Agricultural Census, 2007)

Agriculture Census data for 2007 were released February 4, 2009

Land:

- Nebraska has 47,712 farms. This is a 3.3% decrease in farms since 2002.
- 11,202 (23.5%) of these are 1,000 acres or more.
- This is the most prevalent farm size for Nebraska farms.
- 8,851 (18.6%) farms are less than 50 acres.
- Average farm size was 953 acres, up 2% over 2002.
- The state holds 45.5 million acres of farmland.
- This includes 21.5 million acres of cropland.
- 17,128 (36%) farms irrigate a total of 8.5 million acres of land.
- 1,604 farms receive water from the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Average value of land and buildings per farm is \$157,427.

Sales (Note that there may be discrepancies between Ag Census data and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, below):

- \$15.5 billion of crops and livestock were sold in 2007.
- This is 5% of the value of all farm commodities sold in the U.S.
- This is a 60% increase in sales over 2002 sales of \$9.7 billion.
- Total farm production expenses for all Nebraska farms totaled \$12.3 billion, 36% more than the 2002 level of \$9.0 billion.
- The largest expense paid by farmers was \$4.1 billion to buy livestock. Second largest expense item was feed costs totaling \$2.0 billion. Fertilizer costs ranked third, at \$914 million, while cash rent costs totaled \$831 million. Depreciation costs totaled \$790 million. Farmers spent \$625 million for supplies, \$608 million for fuel and oil, \$597 million for seeds, and \$481 million paying interest on loans. Hired labor costs totaled \$417 million for

Nebraska farms, and chemical costs totaled \$404 million. Farmers also spent a total of \$316 million paying property taxes.

- \$6.8 billion of crops were sold (44% of sales), \$3.5 billion (102%) more than in 2002.
- \$8.7 billion of livestock and products were sold (56% of sales). This is \$2.3 billion (37.2%) more sales than in 2002, by 3,000 fewer farms (-11.0%).
- 15,020 (31%) of the state's farms sold less than \$10,000 of products in 2007. Their aggregate sales of \$26.2 million amounted to 0.2% of the state's farm product sales.
- 19,576 farms (41%) sold more than \$100,000 of products, an aggregate total of \$14.9 billion, 96% of state farm product sales.
- 34,924 (73%) farms received \$387 million of federal subsidies in 2007, 11% more than in 2002. *[Note that Agriculture Census data differ from Bureau of Economic Analysis data; see below.]*
- 30% (14,244) of Nebraska farms reported net losses in 2007, after subsidies are taken into account.

Grains, Dry Edible Beans, Oil Crops, and others:

- Nebraska farms sold \$6.5 billion of grains, oil crops and edible beans, more than double the \$3.0 billion sold in 2002 .
- 22,812 Nebraska (47.8%) farms raised \$4.4 billion (1.4 billion bushels) of corn on 9.1 million acres in 2007.
- This was a production average of 155 bushels per acre.
- Corn sold at an average price of \$3.14 per bushel.
- In 2009, Nebraska farmers sold 11.5% of the nation's corn.
- 16,620 (35%) Nebraska farms sold \$1.5 billion (190 million bushels) of soybeans from 3.8 million acres in 2007.
- This is an average sale price of \$7.89 per bushel.
- Nebraska farmers sold 7.5% of the nation's soybeans in 2009.
- 8,037 of the state's farmers raised 81.7 million bushels of wheat, primarily winter wheat, on 1.9 million acres.
- The state's wheat crop brought a total of \$407 million.
- 885 farms raised 2.1 million bushels of oats on 35,108 acres.
- 35 farms produce 81,963 bushels of barley on 1,777 acres, worth \$194,000.
- 1,901 farms produced 22 million bushels of grain sorghum worth \$75 million.
- Nebraska farmers sold 26.6% of the proso millet sold by U.S. farmers in 2009, and 10% of the edible dry beans (state sales totaled \$81 million).
- State farmers sold \$66 million of sugar beets in 2009.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 21,424 farms hold an inventory of 6.6 million cattle and calves.
- 7.6 million cattle worth \$7.4 billion were sold from 20,218 farms in 2007. This represents a decline of 3,000 farms (-13.7%) since 2002, while total sales were \$1.9 billion (36.2%) higher.
- Nebraska farmers and ranchers sold 14.3% of the nation's cattle in 2009
- 494 farms were reported as selling milk or dairy products, 148 (23.1%) fewer than in 2002.
- Milk and dairy sales totaled \$172 million, \$23 million (15.5%) more than five years before.
- Nebraska farms held a total of 54,410 milk cows.
- 20,576 farms produced 6.2 million dry tons of forage crops (hay, etc.) on 2.6 million acres of cropland. Of these, 9,733 farms sold \$207 million of forage.
- In addition, 2,671 farms produced 3.1 million tons of corn silage on 185,584 acres.

Other livestock & animal products:

- 2,482 farms sold 10.9 million hogs and pigs for a total of \$923 million. This is a decrease of 1,112 farms (30.9%), and an increase of \$333 million (56.3%) in sales, over the past five years.
- 2,213 farms held an inventory of 3.3 million hogs and pigs.
- 1,657 farms sold a total of \$9 million of horses. This is a decrease of 5.9% in the number of farms selling horses, and a decline of 17.7% in sales, since 2002.
- The number of farms selling poultry and related products rose 160% from 722 in 2002 to 1,875 in 2007.
- Despite this rise, poultry sales only rose 16%, from \$142 million to \$165 million.
- Inventory of layers is 10.5 million on 1,960 farms.
- Nebraska has 206 broiler chicken producers, selling a total of 4.9 million birds.
- 1,637 farms sold \$10 million of sheep, lambs, and goats. This is an increase of 10.5% in the number of farms, and a 21.5% increase in sales, since 2002.

Nursery, Landscape and Ornamental Crops:

- 371 farms sold \$41 million of ornamental and nursery crops. This was \$7 million (20.3%) more than was sold in 2002.
- 71 Nebraska farms sold Christmas trees.

Vegetables & Melons (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- Nebraska farms sold \$63.8 million of vegetables and potatoes in 2007 — mostly potatoes. This is 9.4% more than the state's vegetable sales of \$58.3 million in 2002.
- 340 farms produced these vegetables on 23,646 acres of land; this is a 32% increase over the 261 vegetable farms in Nebraska in 2002.
- 135 farms raised potatoes. (Total potato sales by Nebraska farmers was \$71.7 million in 2009.)

Specific vegetables listed in the Agriculture Census:

Vegetables	Farms	Acres
Asparagus	30	17
Beans, snap	97	25
Beets	19	8
Broccoli	18	5
Cabbage, head	23	10
Cantaloupes	44	81
Carrots	13	7
Cauliflower	9	2
Cucumbers	65	30
Eggplant	24	5
Garlic	4	3
Herbs, fresh cut	9	1
Honeydew melons	2	(D)
Horseradish	2	(D)
Lettuce	14	2

Okra	7	1
Onions, dry	21	5
Peas, Chinese	4	1
Peas, green	3	(D)
Peppers, bell	97	(D)
Peppers, chile	58	22
Potatoes	135	20,438
Pumpkins	118	1,440
Radishes	14	30
Rhubarb	2	(D)
Spinach	5	5
Squash, summer	34	34
Squash, winter	33	95
Sweet corn	132	839
Sweet Potatoes	11	2
Tomatoes	154	91
Turnips	3	1
Watermelon	58	376

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.

Fruits & Nuts (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The state has 339 fruit farms with 1,500 acres of orchard, an increase of 60% over the 158 fruit farms operating in the state in 2002.
- These farms sold \$2.6 million of fruit and nuts, an increase of 88.7% over 2002 sales.
- Specific fruits and nuts listed in the Agriculture Census:

	Farms	Acres
Fruits & Nuts		
Apples	125	(D)
Apricots	32	9
Cherries, sweet	31	10
Cherries, tart	35	13
Grapes	216	611
Nectarines	5	(D)
Peaches	54	32
Pears	46	19
Persimmons	1	(D)
Plums & Prunes	32	19
Blackberries	25	(D)
Blueberries	1	(D)
Raspberries	38	14
Strawberries	27	41
Chestnuts	7	5

Hazelnuts	8	5
Pecans	23	102
Walnuts	17	24

Note: (D) means data suppressed by USDA to protect confidentiality.

Direct & organic sales:

- 1,288 (3%) farms sell \$5.9 million of food directly to consumers. This is an 18% increase in the number of farms selling direct (1,088 in 2002), and a 47% increase in direct sales, over \$4.0 million in 2002. Direct sales account for 0.04% of state farm sales, one-tenth the national average.
- Direct food sales from farms account for more sales than the state's 18th-largest crop, honey.
- 178 farms sold \$18.6 million of organic foods.
- This included \$12.9 million of crops (this may include ornamental and greenhouse crops), \$5.4 million of livestock and poultry, and \$220,000 of products from livestock and poultry (such as milk or eggs).
- Organic acreage totaled 82,407 acres. This is 0.2% of the state's farm land.
- This included 163 farms with 43,407 acres of harvested cropland, 28,510 acres of pastureland on 78 farms and ranches, and 23,007 acres on 149 farms undergoing organic conversion.
- 161 farms market through community supported agriculture (CSA) arrangements.
- 1,303 farms produce added-value products on the farm.

Nebraska highlights (Agriculture Census 2007):

- Nebraska ranks fourth in farm product sales in the U.S.
- Ranking higher were California (\$34.8 billion), Iowa (\$21.0 billion), and Texas (\$16.6 billion).
- Nebraska was also ranked fifth in the U.S. for value of livestock sold (\$8.6 billion) and crops sold (\$6.8 billion).
- The state ranked 3rd in the nation for sales of cattle and calves, with \$7.4 billion.
- With sales of \$6.5 billion, Nebraska ranked 3rd in the U.S. for sales of cash grains.
- Nebraska ranked 3rd in the U.S. for acres devoted to corn for grain, with 9.2 million acres.
- The state ranked 4th in the nation for acreage planted to grain sorghum, with 236,607 acres.
- Nebraska ranked 7th in acres planted to soybeans, with 3.8 million acres.
- The state ranked 8th in acres devoted to forage crops, with 2.6 million acres.
- Nebraska ranked 9th in acres planted to wheat, with 1.9 million acres.
- The most prevalent farm size was over 1,000 acres, with 11,202 farms.
- The next most prevalent farm size was 50-179 acres, with 10,104.
- The third most prevalent farm size was 180-499 acres, with 9,838 farms.
- 21,190 (44%) farms use conservation methods.
- 10,323 (22%) farms practice rotational management or intensive grazing.
- 426 farms generate energy or electricity on the farm.

Sales of Nebraska's top 25 farm products in 2009 (Economic Research Service)

See chart on next page

	\$ billions
Cattle & Calves	6.2
Corn	4.9
Soybeans	2.3
Hogs	0.7
Wheat	0.4
Dairy products	0.2
Chicken eggs	0.1
Hay	0.1
Other	0.4

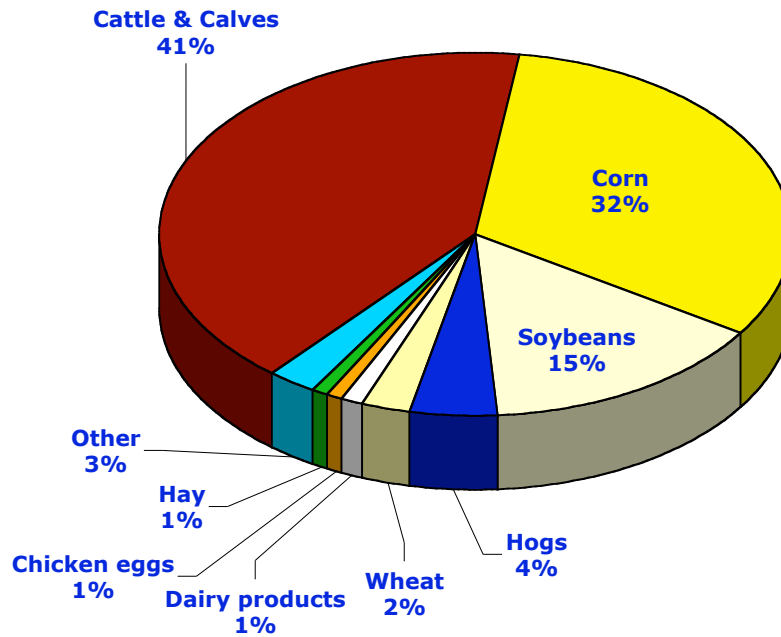
Note: "Other" category includes edible dry beans, potatoes, sugar beets, sorghum grain, nursery and ornamental crops, broiler chickens, sunflowers, millet, sheep & lambs, honey, oats, wool, and farm chickens, in that order. Turkeys and rye are also major Nebraska commodities, but sales figures for these two items were not released by ERS in an effort to protect confidentiality.

Note also that 95% of Nebraska farm sales involve the feeding or production of farm animals, while only 0.04% of state farm sales are made directly to consumers.

Note also that at \$5 million, direct sales from farmers to consumers amount to more value than the 18th ranking product, honey.

Sales of Nebraska's top 25 farm products in 2009 (Economic Research Service)

See table on previous page



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

Note: "Other" category includes edible dry beans, potatoes, sugar beets, sorghum grain, nursery and ornamental crops, broiler chickens, sunflowers, millet, sheep & lambs, honey, oats, wool, and farm chickens, in that order. Turkeys and rye are also major Nebraska commodities, but sales figures for these two items were not released by ERS in an effort to protect confidentiality.

Note also that 95% of Nebraska farm sales involve the feeding or production of farm animals, while only 0.04% of state farm sales are made directly to consumers.

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (Bureau of Economic Analysis):

Note: Bureau of Economic Analysis farm income data may differ from Agriculture Census data. For Nebraska, BEA farm income data is lower, while expense figures are higher, for an overall lower net income. For one thing, BEA data end in 2008, while USDA data are from 2007. BEA says the major difference between USDA and BEA data sets is that BEA data offer a more full accounting of depreciation costs, in line with international standards. BEA also says it hopes to update its computer models.

Nebraska farmers sell \$14.1 billion of commodities per year (1988-2008 average), spending \$12.9 billion to raise them, for an average gain of \$1.3 billion each year.

Overall, farm producers have experienced a surplus of \$26 billion since 1988. Yet 30% of the state's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2007 (Agriculture Census), even after subsidies are taken into account.

Nebraska farmers and ranchers earned \$1.3 billion more by selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2008 (in 2008 dollars). This is tempered by the fact that state farmers earned a surplus of \$5.4 billion in one year alone — 1974. Moreover, the \$2.8 billion of surplus gained in 2008 was fueled primarily by commodity speculation, not by lasting price increases. Nationally, net cash farm income fell to zero in 2009, after this speculative bubble burst.

Sales of livestock and related products stayed remarkably steady, about \$10 billion in 1969 as well as in 2008, while crop income fell steadily from 1975 to 2005 (after adjustment for inflation).

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$719 million per year of farm-related income — primarily rental income for land and insurance payments (21-year average for 1988-2008). Federal farm support payments averaged \$1 billion per year for the entire state over the same years.

Nebraska consumers (2008):

Nebraska consumers spend \$4.4 billion buying food each year, including \$2.6 billion for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the state. \$5.9 million of food products (0.04% of farm cash receipts, and 0.13% of local consumer needs) are sold by 1,288 farmers directly to consumers, but not always to Nebraska consumers.

Estimated change in net assets for all state households was a combined loss of \$2.6 billion in 2008 alone (BLS). This places additional pressure on Nebraska residents as they pay for food.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers gain \$1.3 billion each year producing food commodities, spending \$6 billion buying inputs from external suppliers, for a total outflow of \$4.7 billion from the state economy.

Meanwhile, consumers spend more than \$4 billion buying food from outside. Thus, total loss to the state is \$8.7 billion of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than half of the value of all farm commodities raised in the state.

State of Nebraska: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Nebraskans purchase \$4.4 billion of food per year, \$2.6 billion of this to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 557
Fruits & vegetables	439
Cereals and bakery products	359
Dairy products	313
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	953

If Nebraska consumers purchased only 15% of the food they need for home use directly from state farmers, this would produce \$400 million of new farm income in Nebraska — this would be only 3% of the 2007 farm commodity sales in the state.

Burt County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Burt County residents purchase \$17.3 million of food each year; \$10.2 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 2.2
Fruits & vegetables	1.7
Cereals and bakery products	1.4
Dairy products	1.2
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	3.7

Cass County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Cass County residents purchase \$63.7 million of food each year; \$37.7 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 8.0
Fruits & vegetables	6.3
Cereals and bakery products	5.2
Dairy products	4.5
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	13.7

Cuming County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Cuming County residents purchase \$22.9 million of food each year; \$13.5 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 2.9
Fruits & vegetables	2.3
Cereals and bakery products	1.9
Dairy products	1.6
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	4.9

Dodge County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dodge County residents purchase \$88.6 million of food each year; \$52.4 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$11.1
Fruits & vegetables	8.8
Cereals and bakery products	7.2
Dairy products	6.3
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	19.1

Douglas County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Douglas County residents purchase \$1.2 billion of food each year; \$739 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 157.2
Fruits & vegetables	123.9
Cereals and bakery products	101.2
Dairy products	88.2
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	268.9

Lancaster County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Lancaster County residents purchase \$691 million of food each year; \$409 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 86.9
Fruits & vegetables	68.5
Cereals and bakery products	55.9
Dairy products	48.8
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	148.6

Otoe County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Otoe County residents purchase \$38.2 million of food each year; \$22.6 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 4.8
Fruits & vegetables	3.8
Cereals and bakery products	3.1
Dairy products	2.7
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	8.2

Sarpy County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sarpy County residents purchase \$373.9 million of food each year; \$221.1 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 47.0
Fruits & vegetables	37.0
Cereals and bakery products	30.3
Dairy products	26.4
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	80.4

Saunders County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Saunders County residents purchase \$49.9 million of food each year; \$29.5 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 6.3
Fruits & vegetables	4.9
Cereals and bakery products	4.0
Dairy products	3.5
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	10.7

Washington County: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington County residents purchase \$49.0 million of food each year; \$29.0 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 6.2
Fruits & vegetables	4.9
Cereals and bakery products	4.0
Dairy products	3.5
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	10.5

Ten-County Region of Omaha and Lincoln: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Ten-County Region residents (residents of Burt, Cass, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Lancaster, Otoe, Sarpy, Spaulding, & Washington Counties combined) purchase \$2.6 billion of food each year; \$1.6 billion to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 332
Fruits & vegetables	262
Cereals and bakery products	214
Dairy products	187
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	569

Note that this region covers about 60% of the state's population

Omaha/Council Bluffs Metro (MSA) region: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Metro Omaha/Council Bluffs residents purchase \$2.0 billion of food each year; \$1.2 billion to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 262
Fruits & vegetables	207
Cereals and bakery products	169
Dairy products	147
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	449

Lincoln Metro (MSA) region: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Metro Lincoln residents purchase \$732 million of food each year; \$433 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 92.1
Fruits & vegetables	72.6
Cereals and bakery products	59.3
Dairy products	51.7
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	157.5

Scotts Bluff Economic Area: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Scotts Bluff residents purchase \$221.7 million of food each year; \$131.1 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 27.9
Fruits & vegetables	22.0
Cereals and bakery products	17.9
Dairy products	15.6
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	47.7

Sioux City (Iowa) Metro region: markets for food eaten at home (2008):

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Metro Sioux City residents purchase \$354.9 million of food each year; \$209.9 million to eat at home. Home purchases break down in the following way:

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 44.6
Fruits & vegetables	35.2
Cereals and bakery products	28.7
Dairy products	25.0
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	76.3

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

Centers for Disease Control: Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance System

BRFSS <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss-smart/>

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Big Cities Health Inventory <http://www.naccho.org/>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other counties of the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/locales.html>

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written by Ken Meter and Jon Rosales for the Community Design Center and the Southeast Minnesota Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>

To view a PowerPoint presented in March, 2008, by Ken Meter at Rep. Collin Peterson's (D-MN) Minnesota agricultural forum, called the "Home Grown Economy":

<http://www.crcworks.org/crcppts/petersonKM08.pdf>

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above,

<http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>

To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.:

<http://www.crcworks.org/econ.html>

Contact Ken Meter at Crossroads Resource Center

<kmeter@crcworks.org>

(612) 869-8664