

NEW RESIDENTS SURVEY



Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope to:
Center for Applied Rural Innovation
111 W Court, Room 3 ● Pierce, NE 68767

NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION

Q1. In what month and year did you move to your current community?

Month _____ Year _____

Q2. In what state and county did you live immediately before moving to your present community?

State: _____

County: _____

Q3. How long did you live in your previous community?

_____ Years

Q4. At your previous location, did you own or rent your residence? Circle the number of your answer.

1 Owned

2 Rented

3 Other (please specify): _____

Q5. Did you make this move alone or did others move with you? Check all that apply.

I moved alone

I moved with a spouse/partner

I moved with a child or children

I moved with other related adults

I moved with other unrelated adults

Q6. Have you and your spouse/partner (if applicable) ever lived in this state, county and community before? *Circle “yes” or “no” for each person, if applicable.*

YOURSELF		SPOUSE/ PARTNER	
▼	▼	▼	▼
Yes	No	Yes	No
Yes	No	Yes	No
Yes	No	Yes	No

- Ever lived in current state?
- Ever lived in current county?
- Ever lived in current community?

Q7. How many times have you and your spouse/partner (if applicable) moved your primary residence since becoming an adult (age 18 or older)?

- As an adult, I have moved _____ times.
- As an adult, my spouse/partner has moved _____ times.

Q8. What job/occupational skills do you possess (even if you are not currently using them)? *Read each and circle the number of all that apply.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Management, business and financial operations | 8 Sales and related |
| 2 Professional and related occupations | 9 Office and administrative support |
| 3 Healthcare support | 10 Construction and extraction |
| 4 Protective services | 11 Installation, maintenance and repair |
| 5 Food and beverage preparation and serving | 12 Production |
| 6 Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance | 13 Transportation and materials moving |
| 7 Personal care and services | 14 Agriculture |
| | 15 Education or teaching |
| | 16 Other (specify): _____ |

Q9. In your previous community, did you own and operate a business, farm or ranch? *Circle the number of your answer.*

- Yes, I owned and operated a farm or ranch and another type of business
- Yes, I owned and operated only a farm or ranch
- Yes, I owned and operated only a business and not a farm or ranch
- No, I did not own and operate either

Q10. Do you currently own and operate a business, farm or ranch? *Circle the number of your answer.*

- I own and operate a farm or ranch and another type of business
- I own and operate only a farm or ranch
- I own and operate only a business and not a farm or ranch
- No, I do not own and operate either

Q11. Are you interested in starting a new, expanded or additional business in this community? *Circle the number of your answer.*

- Yes → *If yes, what type of business?* _____
- No
- Don't know

Q12. Which of the following types of training in business development, management or entrepreneurship have you had? *Circle the number of all that apply.*

- College course(s)
- Formal training course
- Workshop
- Conference
- On the job training
- Other: _____
- None of the above

Q13. For each of the following statements about businesses and business owners in your community, please indicate how much you agree or disagree. Circle a number for each.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

- a. People are supportive of new businesses. 1 2 3 4 5
- b. People look up to business entrepreneurs. 1 2 3 4 5
- c. Leaders in this community are supportive of new business ventures. 1 2 3 4 5
- d. Anyone interested in starting a business is treated fairly. 1 2 3 4 5

Q14. Did you do any of the following items in your previous community? Have you done any of the following in your current community? Check all that apply for both your previous and current community.

Previous Community	Current Community
▼	▼

- a. Belonged to a community, church, school, civic, or any other type of group or organization in your local community
- b. Volunteered your time for a community, church, school, civic or any other type of group or organization in your local community
- c. Held a leadership role in a community, church, school, civic, or any other type of group or organization in your local community
- d. Held public office or served on a government board or committee in your local community
- e. Donated money to local community organizations, charities, or causes in your local community

REASONS FOR MOVING

Q15. In your decision to leave your previous community, how important were each of the following reasons for leaving the community? Circle a number for each.

Very Unimportant		Neither		Very Important
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

- a. High cost of living 1 2 3 4 5
- b. Fear of crime 1 2 3 4 5
- c. Undesirable climate 1 2 3 4 5
- d. Urban congestion 1 2 3 4 5
- e. High state and/or local taxes 1 2 3 4 5
- f. Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities 1 2 3 4 5
- g. Long commute 1 2 3 4 5
- h. Poor schools 1 2 3 4 5
- i. High cost of operating business 1 2 3 4 5
- j. Too close to relatives 1 2 3 4 5
- k. Too far from relatives 1 2 3 4 5
- l. Unsafe place to live 1 2 3 4 5
- m. Quality of the natural environment 1 2 3 4 5
- n. Few cultural opportunities 1 2 3 4 5
- o. Lack of job opportunities 1 2 3 4 5
- p. Lack of Internet access 1 2 3 4 5
- q. Poor place to raise children 1 2 3 4 5
- r. Lack of community pride 1 2 3 4 5
- s. Community did not share my (our) values 1 2 3 4 5
- t. Other: _____ 1 2 3 4 5

Q16. In your decision to move to your current community, how important were each of the following factors for your household? Circle a number for each.

	Very Unimportant		Neither		Very Important				
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼				
a. To be closer to relatives	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
b. To be nearer friends and acquaintances	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
c. To be farther from family and relatives	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
d. To find available and affordable childcare	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
e. To find better quality local schools	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
f. A better environment for raising children	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
g. To find a less congested place to live	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
h. To find a safer place to live	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
i. To lower the cost of housing	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
j. To have lower taxes	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
k. To have better Internet access	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
l. To live in a desirable natural environment	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
m. To find more outdoor recreational activities	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
n. To find arts, entertainment, cultural activities	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
o. To find a simpler pace of life	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
p. To have more ethnic diversity	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
q. To have less ethnic diversity	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
r. This community shares my (our) attitudes/values	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
s. To lower the cost of living	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
t. To have a more desirable climate	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
u. To get more affordable health care	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
v. To find higher quality housing	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
w. To obtain a higher paying job	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
x. To obtain a job more in line with my skills	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
y. To secure a better job for my spouse/partner	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
z. To spend more quality time with family	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
aa. Other: _____	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5

Q17. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your motivation for moving to your current community.

	Strongly Disagree		Neither		Strongly Agree				
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼				
a. I (we) moved here for a job, this just happens to be where that job was located.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
b. I (we) wanted to move to this specific location, and the availability of a job made that possible.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
c. I (we) wanted to move this specific location, so did so and looked for work after our arrival.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
d. I (we) wanted to move to a rural area, and settled on this one because of an available job.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
e. I (we) wanted to move to a rural area, and chose this one as our favorite, looking for a job after that decision was made.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
f. I (we) had job opportunities in more than one location and selected this community because of the amenities.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5
g. I (we) had job opportunities in more than one location and selected this community as the best job offer.	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5

Q18. Did any of the following job-related considerations influence your decision to move to your current community? Please circle "yes" or "no" for each item.

	YOURSELF		SPOUSE/ PARTNER	
	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. A transfer by current employer (except military)	Yes	No	Yes	No
b. To look for new work/job	Yes	No	Yes	No
c. To accept employment by a new employer	Yes	No	Yes	No
d. To start/take over a business, farm or ranch	Yes	No	Yes	No
e. A military transfer	Yes	No	Yes	No
f. Other work or job related factors: _____	Yes	No	Yes	No

Q19. In thinking about why you left the place you lived and moved to your current community, which one of the following best sums up why you moved? Circle one number.

- 1 I wanted to leave the place I was living
- 2 I wanted to move to the place I am now living
- 3 Both considerations were about the same
- 4 Neither of these reasons apply

DECISION MAKING TOOLS USED

Q20. How useful were each of the following information sources when making your decision to move to your current location? Circle a number for each item.

	Not Applicable	Not at All Useful	Somewhat Useful	Very Useful
a. Community web sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
b. School web sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
c. Internet searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
d. Advertisements in TV, magazines, newspapers, business publications	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
e. Current community resident	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
f. Employer or co-workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
g. Friends and acquaintances	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
h. Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
i. Travel or vacation to new location	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
j. Attended school or college in new location	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
k. Recruitment information from city government	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
l. Recruitment information from community chamber of commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
m. Recruitment information from high school alumni association	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
n. Recruitment information from employer	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
o. Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3

Q21. Before choosing your current location, what other locations did you consider? Circle the number of your answer.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Only this location | 4 Other locations in both this state and other states |
| 2 Other locations in this same state | 5 Other (please specify): _____ |
| 3 Other locations in other states | |

Q22. Had you ever been to your current community before moving here? Circle the number of your answer.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Yes (Go on to Q23) | 2 No (Skip to Q24) |
|----------------------|--------------------|

Q23. If yes, which of the following describe your contact with this community before you moved here? Circle the number of all that apply.

- 1 Lived here previously
- 2 Vacationed in community or traveled through during vacation
- 3 Visited family that lived here
- 4 Visited community during work-related travel
- 5 Visited friends that lived here
- 6 Attended college here
- 7 Traveled here for job interview or location visit
- 8 Other: _____

YOUR CURRENT COMMUNITY

Q24. At your current location, where is your residence located? Circle the number of your response and write the name of the community in the appropriate blank.

- 1 Inside the city limits of the city/town of _____
- 2 In a rural area on a farm or ranch. The nearest city/town is _____
- 3 In a rural area but not on a farm or ranch. The nearest city/town is _____
- 4 Other (please specify): _____

Q25. Listed below are several pairs of contrasting views regarding your community. For each pair please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with. Circle the appropriate number on the line between each pair of items. 1 indicates your community is most like the item on the left, 4 is neutral and 7 indicates your community is most like the item on the right.

My community is . . .

Unfriendly	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5	.....	6	.....	7	Friendly
Distrusting	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5	.....	6	.....	7	Trusting
Hostile	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	4	.....	5	.....	6	.....	7	Supportive

Q26. How likely is it that you will be living in your current community five years from now? Circle the number of your answer.

Definitely not	Probably not	Don't know	Probably will	Definitely will
1	2	3	4	5

Q27. In your opinion, how long is a person a "newcomer" when they move to this community? Circle the number of your answer.

1 Less than 1 year	3 4 - 9 years
2 1 - 3 years	4 10 years or more

Q28. In thinking about your current community, how helpful did you find the following efforts in helping you adapt to your new community?

	Not Offered	Not at All Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Very Helpful
a. Welcome information	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
b. New resident welcome activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
c. Local news media	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
d. Information on community web sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3
e. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3

Q29. In thinking of your current community, how would you rate the following community and life factors now that you are living here? Circle a number for each.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Suitable housing and neighborhoods	1	2	3	4
b. Affordable housing	1	2	3	4
c. Feeling of "belonging" in the community	1	2	3	4
d. State taxes	1	2	3	4
e. Property and other local taxes	1	2	3	4
f. Clean environment	1	2	3	4
g. Job security	1	2	3	4
h. Available job opportunities	1	2	3	4
i. Leadership opportunities	1	2	3	4
j. Opportunities to join local organizations	1	2	3	4
k. Safety of community	1	2	3	4
l. Senior living/services	1	2	3	4
m. Police protection	1	2	3	4
n. Fire protection	1	2	3	4
o. Health care services	1	2	3	4
p. School system	1	2	3	4
q. Living near family and relatives	1	2	3	4
r. Living near friends and acquaintances	1	2	3	4
s. Educational opportunities	1	2	3	4
t. Entertainment	1	2	3	4
u. Retail shopping	1	2	3	4
v. Internet services	1	2	3	4
w. Cellular phone services	1	2	3	4
x. Standard of living	1	2	3	4
y. Environment for children	1	2	3	4
z. Local government	1	2	3	4
aa. Natural, scenic or recreational amenities	1	2	3	4
bb. Community appearance	1	2	3	4
cc. Community vision	1	2	3	4
dd. Household income	1	2	3	4
ee. Open-minded attitude of community	1	2	3	4
ff. Other: _____	1	2	3	4

DEMOGRAPHICS

For the final section of the survey we would like to ask you some questions about you and your household. Your answers are completely confidential.

Q30. What is your age? _____ years

Q31. What is your gender? *Circle the number of your answer.*

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

Q32. What is your highest level of formal education? *Circle the number of your answer.*

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Less than 9 th grade | 4 Some college, no degree |
| 2 9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma) | 5 Associate (two-year) degree |
| 3 High school diploma (or equivalency) | 6 Bachelors (four-year) degree |
| | 7 Graduate or professional degree |

Q33. What was your approximate household income from all sources, before income taxes, for 2008? For those who are self-employed, please report your NET income after business expenses. *Circle the number of your answer.*

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Less than \$10,000 | 5 \$40,000 - \$49,999 |
| 2 \$10,000 - \$19,999 | 6 \$50,000 - \$59,999 |
| 3 \$20,000 - \$29,999 | 7 \$60,000 - \$74,999 |
| 4 \$30,000 - \$39,999 | 8 \$75,000 or more |

Q34. How many children and adults live in your home?

_____ number of adults in home

_____ number of children in home

Q35. Which racial or ethnic group do you most closely identify yourself with? *Circle the number of your answer.*

- 1 White
- 2 Black/African American
- 3 American Indian/Alaska Native
- 4 Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- 5 Asian or Pacific Islander
- 6 Other _____

Q36. Were you or your spouse/partner employed either on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis (including self-employment) at any time during 2008? *Circle the number of your answer.*

	Yourself ▼	Your spouse/partner (if applicable) ▼
Yes	1	1
No	2	2

If neither you nor your spouse/partner were employed, please skip to Q39. Otherwise, please answer each of the next two questions for yourself and your spouse or partner, if you have one.

	Yourself ▼	Your spouse/partner (if applicable) ▼
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Q37. How far do you or your spouse or partner normally travel, one way, to your regular job? *Circle a number if applicable or write the number of miles traveled in the blank.*

Job location varies	1	1
I work at home	2	2
I travel to work, one way	_____ miles	_____ miles
Not applicable	4	4

Q38. Listed below are several broad categories of occupations. Please circle the description that best describes your and your spouse/partner's (if applicable) primary occupation. Please circle only one number for each person.

	Yourself ▼	Your spouse/partner (if applicable) ▼
Management, business and financial operations	1	1
Professional and related occupations	2	2
Healthcare support	3	3
Protective services	4	4
Food and beverage preparation and serving	5	5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	6	6
Personal care and services	7	7
Sales and related	8	8
Office and administrative support	9	9
Construction and extraction	10	10
Installation, maintenance and repair	11	11
Production	12	12
Transportation and materials moving	13	13
Agriculture	14	14
Education	15	15
Other (please specify): _____	16	16

Q39. Do you have anything else you would like to share about your move? You can continue any comments on the back page if more space is needed.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your help in this effort is greatly appreciated. If you could give any additional advice to community and state leaders for improving the quality of life for people who have recently moved here, please feel free to note them below.

Thank you!

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