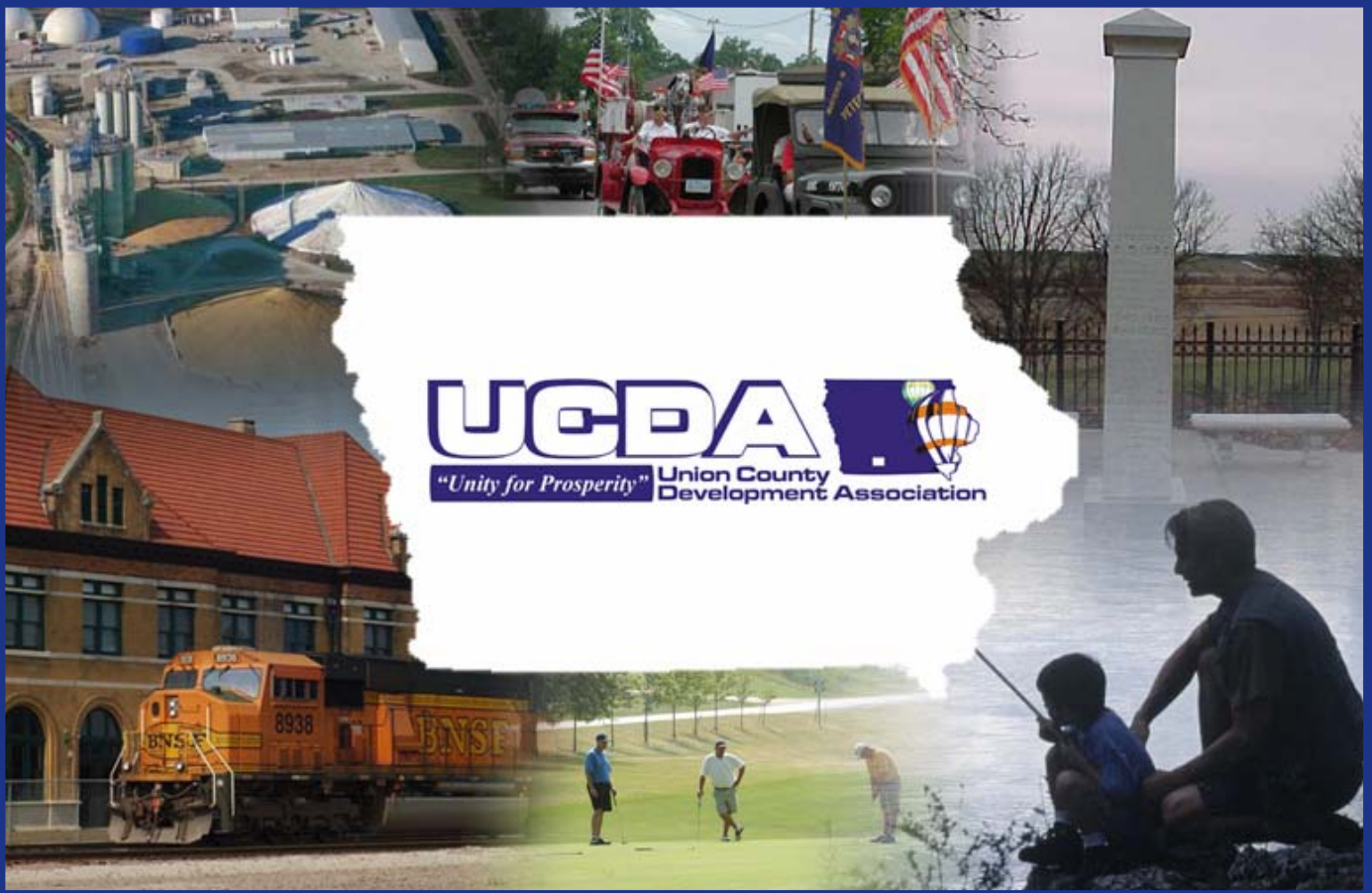


Union County, Iowa Community Quick Reference Afton ♦ Creston ♦ Lorimor



UCDA 
"Unity for Prosperity" Union County
Development Association

Union County Development Association
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Creston, IA 50801
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Location

Union County, Iowa is located 70 miles southwest of Des Moines, the State Capitol of Iowa. Creston - The county seat is 35 minutes from Interstates 35 & 80 which intersect the center of Iowa. Air connections to all major markets are within two hours from Union County to Des Moines, Omaha or Kansas City. BNSF Railway provides the primary rail service. Known as "Iowa's High Lakes Country" Union County is a haven for outdoor enthusiast. There are five lakes within 10 minutes of Creston. The community of Afton is the "Gateway" to Three-Mile Lake.

Population Characteristics

Population Trends (2000-2007)

	2007 est.	2004 est.	2002 est.	2000
City of Afton	897	887	910	915
City of Creston	7,492	7,389	7,462	7,597
City of Lorimor	422	419	426	427
Union County	12,146	11,974	12,148	12,309

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Race/Ethnicity (2005 est.)	Percentage
White.....	98.8%
Black.....	0.3%
Amer. Indian, Alaska Native.....	0.1%
Asian.....	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.....	0.0%
2 or more races.....	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin.....	1.1%
White persons, not Hispanic.....	97.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - QuickFacts

Gender (2000)	Number	Percentage
Male.....	5,900	47.9%
Female.....	6,409	52.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American FactFinder

Age Structure (2000)	Number	Percentage
0-14 years.....	2,324	18.8%
15-19 years.....	969	7.9%
20-24 years.....	650	5.3%
25-34 years.....	1,307	10.6%
35-54 years.....	3,551	28.8%
55-64 years.....	1,211	9.8%
65 years and over.....	2,287	18.6%

Median Age (years).....40.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American FactFinder

Education

(US Census) **Year: 2000**

Population 25 years and over.....	5,089
Less than 9th grade.....	232
9th to 12th grade, no diploma.....	440
High school graduate (incl. equiv.).....	2,164
Some college, no degree.....	1,128
Associate degree.....	371
Bachelor's degree.....	572
Graduate or professional degree.....	182
Percent high school grad or higher.....	86.8
Percent bachelor's degree or higher.....	14.8

School District: Creston Community School District

Type	Teachers	Enrollment	Grade
Early Childhood Ctr.	13	63	Pre-K
Elementary	46	506	1-5
Middle/Jr. High	31	303	6-8
High School	40	508	9-12
St. Malachy (Catholic School)	13	145	Pre-8
Mayflower Heritage (Christian School)	6	40	K-6

School District: East Union Community School District

Type	Teachers	Enrollment	Grade
Successful Beginnings	2	15	Pre
Elementary	18	195	K-5
Middle/Jr. High	5	102	6-8
High School	16	161	9-12

Dependant Care:

I Think I Can Child Care Center, Creative Beginnings, Trinity Lutheran Church Pre-School, Discovery Kids Pre-School

Community College and Trade/Technical Schools:
Southwestern Community College

Four-year College or University: Graceland University
2+2 program, Buena Vista University 2+2 program.

Remarks: Southwestern Community College provides job training programs for area employers. The college is also host to a Small Business Development Center.



Local Employers

Firm Name	Employment
American Concrete	25
Product/Service	Concrete products
BNSF Railway Company	80
Product/Service	Rail Transportation
Bunn-O-Matic	N/A
Product/Service	Manufacturer of coffee makers
Creston Community School District	175
Product/Service	K-12 Education
Creston Publishing Company	25
Product/Service	newspaper, job printing
Creston Bean Processing, LLC	20
Product/Service	Specialty soybean processor
DeBruce Grain	50
Product/Service	Feed and grain operation
Fansteel/Wellman Dynamics	425
Product/Service	Sand castings Foundry
Farley's & Sathers Candy Co., Inc	325
Product/Service	Sugar confectionary candy
Farmers Cooperative Company	91
Product/Service	Feed and grain operation
Gits Manufacturing	135
Product/Service	Auto lubrication devices
Green Valley Chemical Company	43
Product/Service	Anhydrous ammonia/dry ice
Greater Regional Medical Center	283
Product/Service	Medical/Health provider
Iowa Tool & Manufacturing, Inc	5
Product/Service	Metal fabrication
Precision Optical Group	80
Product/Service	Manufacturer of optical lenses
Southwest Distributing Company	25
Product/Service	Wholesale beverage distribution
Southwestern Community College	220
Product/Service	Post-secondary education
Vanmark Equipment	35
Product/Service	Food equipment manufacturer

Labor Market Characteristics

IWD Laborshed Summary forUnion County
Annual Average for.....2006

Place of Residence

Resident Labor Force.....6,490
Resident Unemployed.....260
Percent Unemployed.....4.1%
Resident total employment.....6,220

Place of Work

Nonagricultural wage and salary workers:6,010
Goods Producing.....1,550
Service Producing.....4,460
Government.....1,330

IWD Labor Survey (Labor Force Available):

Union County Region

Age Range	% of Respondents	Potential Total in Laborshed
18-24	8.9%	390
25-34	22.2%	972
35-44	28.9%	1,266
45-54	28.9%	1,266
55-64	11.1%	486
Total	100%	4,380

Hourly Wage Rates

Occupation/Job Title	Entry	Average
Administrative Assistant	\$ 7.87	\$10.77
Office Manager	14.01	9.02
Production Supervisor	14.35	20.33
Technician	10.68	16.12
Clerk, General Office	8.12	11.19
Sales Person	6.28	8.34
Production Laborer	9.81	13.22
General Machinist	10.01	15.08
Maintenance Mechanic	11.38	13.50
Machine Operator	10.01	15.08
Assembler, Production	8.41	10.32
Fabricator- Assembler	10.60	13.10
Welder	9.78	12.02
Industrial Truck Operator	10.20	11.89



Commercial/Industrial Services

Number of Machine Shops	3
Minutes to nearest if none in the community.....	0
Number of tool die shops.....	0
Minutes to nearest if none in the community.....	35
Number of electric motor repair shops	2
Minutes to nearest if none in the community.....	0
Daily Newspaper.....Creston New Advertiser	
Weekly Newspaper.....Afton Star Enterprise	
Seating capacity of the largest banquet room.....	300
Is the city serviced by cable TV	Yes
Number of motels/hotels.....	4
Total Rooms available.....	200
Number of financial Institutions.....	5
Number affiliated with a bank chain.....	1
Chamber of Commerce.....	Yes
Manager is full time.....	Yes
Is community CEPP certified.....	Yes

Remarks: Full-time Executive Director of Union County Development Association, Full-time Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Local office for Workforce Development of Iowa

Industrial Sites

Site Type	Acres	Community
Industrial	16.70	Creston
Industrial	15.19	Creston
Commercial/Retail	3.25	Creston
Commercial/Retail	2.93	Creston
Commercial/Retail	2.70	Creston
Commercial/Retail	1.20	Creston

Additional site information is available upon request.

Available Buildings

Building Type	Square Feet	Community
Commercial/Retail	65,930	Creston
Commercial/Retail	35,799	Creston
Industrial	19,640	Lorimor
Commercial/Retail	16,590	Creston
Warehouse/Distribution	14,880	Creston
Commercial/Office	12,000	Creston
Commercial	5,234	Creston
Commercial/Office	4,560	Creston
Office	3,600	Creston
Warehouse/Industrial	1,500	Creston
Retail	1,225	Creston

Additional Building information available upon request

Access to Markets

City	Miles	Days By	
		Railroad	Motor Freight
Atlanta	743	3	3
Chicago	402	2	1
Denver	594	2	1
Des Moines	70	1	1
Kansas City	149	2	1
Los Angeles	1652	5	2
Milwaukee	435	3	2
Minneapolis	322	2	1
New Orleans	817	3	2
New York	1194	5	3
Omaha	98	1	1
St Louis	259	2	1

Air Service

Time in minutes to nearest public airport.....	10
Type of runway.....	concrete
Length of runway.....	5000 feet
Unicom radio.....	Yes
Instrument landing system.....	No
VOR	No
Non-directional beacon.....	Yes
Time in minutes to nearest commercial air service.....	45
Nearest commercial airport:.....	Des Moines International
Airlines serving point: American, Northwest, TWA, United, USAir, Mesaba, Skyway, United Express, USAir Express, COMAIR, and AccessAir.	

Motor Carrier

Number US highways serving county.....	1
Number of Iowa Highways serving county.....	2
Time in minutes to nearest interstate change.....	30
Interstate number	I-80 & I-35
Number motor freight carriers.....	20
Number of local terminals	1
Number of Intra-state carriers.....	5
Number of Inter-state carriers	15

Rail Service

Community served by railroad.....	Yes
Frequency of switching service.....	Daily
Piggyback ramp available locally.....	Yes
Distance in minutes to nearest piggyback service.....	1
Name of railroad: BNSF Railway	

Remarks: Within 30 minutes of two interstates, largest runway in SW Iowa, BNSF Railway switching yards, Amtrak facilities, Southern Iowa Trolley bus service.



Utilities

Electricity

Supplier.....Alliant Energy
Ownership Type.....Investor Owned
Regulated.....Yes
Peak Demand (kW).....IPL 3,017,000
General Capacity (MW).....IPL 2,945
Customers Served (Local).....4,729
Customers Served (State).....479,411
Customers Served (System).....977,125
Phone.....1-800-225-4268
Web Address.....www.alliantenergy.com

Natural Gas

Supplier.....Alliant Energy
Ownership Type.....Investor Owned
Pipeline Source.....Creston: NGPL
Gas Transportation Available.....Yes
Customers Served (Local).....3,422
Customers Served (System).....412,853
Customers Served (State).....213,643
Phone.....1-800-225-4268
Web Address.....www.alliantenergy.com

Water

Name of Supplier.....Creston Municipal Waterworks
Source of city waterArea Lakes
Cost/1000 Gal.....\$3.42
Rated Capacity (mgd).....6.0
Average Capacity (mgd).....3.5
Peak Demand (mgd).....4.5
Storage Capacity (mg).....5.0
Hardness (ppm).....140.0
Phone.....641-782-5817

Sewer

Name of Supplier.....Creston Water Pollution Control
Cost/1000 Gal.....\$5.37
Rated Capacity (mgd).....12,000,000 gpd
Average Capacity (mgd).....1,400,000 gpd
Peak Demand.....12,000,000 gpd
Connection Fee.....Yes
Phone.....641-782-2273

Telecommunications

Supplier.....Iowa Telecom
DSL.....Yes
POP Location.....Creston, IA
Fiber Optics.....Yes
Customers Served (Local).....
Customers Served (State).....
Switch Services.....Throughout Iowa
Phone.....1-877-901-4692
Web Address.....www.iowatelecom.net

Additional community utility information available upon request

Retail Trade

Number of National Chain Stores: 8
Retail Surplus or Leakage: 13% Surplus
Pull Factor: 1.38
Total Retail Sale (Millions): \$100.7
Number of Firms: 303
Sales Per Firm: \$332,633
Per Capita Sale: \$13,521
Creston ranks in the top ten in both retail sales per capita and pulling factor in Iowa.

Quality of Life

Number of local facilities and those within ½ hour drive:

1 public golf courses 4 public parks
6 public tennis courts 5 public swimming pool
Number of Country Clubs available.....5
Public Access to lake/riverYes

Activities Allowed:

Swimming.....Yes water skiing.....Yes
Fishing.....Yes motor boating.....Yes

Cultural and Information Resources:

Theatre.....Yes Historic Site.....Yes
Library.....Yes Art Gallery.....Yes
Opera.....No Symphony.....Yes
Museum.....Yes Historical Society.....Yes
Ballet.....No Arts Council.....Yes

Parks and Recreation Department.....Yes

Remarks: Excellent pheasant, quail and small game hunting.
Top rated Bass & Walleye lakes. Deer & Turkey seasons.

Events: 4th of July Celebrations, Hot Air Balloon Race,
Lighted Christmas Parade.

Attractions: Green Valley State Park, Twelve Mile Lake,
Historical Complex, Restored C.B.&R. Railroad Depot,
Three Mile Lake, Leisure Pool, McKinley Lake/Park, Frank
Phillips Visitor Center.

Total number of religious congregations in county.....19

Protestant: 18 Catholic: 1 Jewish: 0 Other: 0
Active civic/industrial improvement programs: YMCA, Arts
Center, Water and sewer improvement programs.

Health Care

Number of hospitals within one hour drive.....8
Total number of beds.....308
Time in minutes to nearest facility.....5
Time in minutes to emergency medical treatment.....5
Is air flight/EMT ambulance service available.....Yes
Number of Clinics in the community.....2
Specialty Clinics: Gen.&Fam.Pract.Surgeons, Internal Medicine
Number of medical personnel in the county:
MDs.....7 DOs.....4
Dentists.....5 DCs.....3
Other.....3

Remarks: 24 Hour EMT, Life Flight, Mental Health Center.

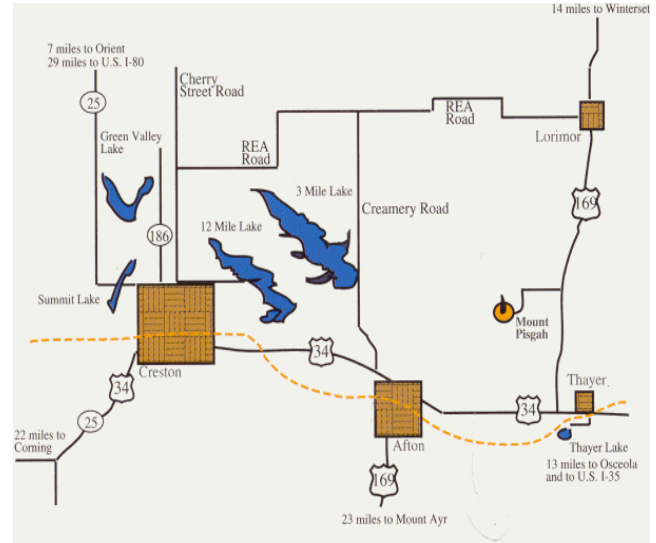


Tax Structure

(2006-2007)	Afton	Creston	Lorimor
City Millage per \$1,000	12.61725	11.67716	12.56934
County Millage per \$1,000	8.95537	8.95537	8.95537
School Millage per \$1,000	14.83286	15.49636	14.83286
Hospital Millage per \$1,000	3.29538	3.29538	3.29538
Total Millage per \$1,000	41.11367	40.83708	41.06576
Total Assessed Value of Property (County Total - \$549,798,954)	\$21,462,315	\$281,001,500	\$6,553,575

Web Links of Interest

Creston Chamber of Commerce - www.crestoniowachamber.com
 City of Creston - www.creston-iowa.com
 City of Afton - www.aftoniowa.com
 City of Lorimor - www.lorimor.org
 Union County Tourism - www.unioncountytourism.com
 Union County Courthouse - www.unioncountyiowa.com
 Union County Fair - www.unioncountyfair.us
 McKinley Lake & Park - www.mckinleylakepark.org
 Southern Prairie YMCA - www.southernprairieymca.com
 Greater Regional Medical Center - www.greaterregional.org
 Southwestern Community College - www.swcciowa.edu
 Green Valley AEA14 - www.aea14.k12.ia.us
 Creston Community Schools - www.creston.k12.ia.us
 East Union Community Schools - www.east-union.k12.ia.us
 St. Malachy School - www.stmalachy.pvt.k12.ia.us



Community Services

Motels/Hotels.....	4
Number of rooms.....	200
Restaurants:.....	25
Capacity of largest banquet room.....	275
Number of Banks.....	5
Assets.....	\$451,000,000
Credit Unions.....	1
Assets.....	\$1,309,000
Local Newspapers	
Daily.....	1
Weekly.....	1
Local Radio Stations.....	1
Cable TV System.....	Yes
Public Bus Transportation.....	Yes
Fire Insurance Rating:	
City of Afton.....	7
City of Creston.....	6
City of Lorimor.....	9
Union County.....	10

Our Organization

The Union County Development Association is a nonprofit economic development agency whose primary role is to market the Union County area and is committed to assisting the local economic development efforts with member communities in the county, helping local entrepreneurs, existing businesses and attracting new business and industry.

For More Information

Union County Development Association

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