

# Fact Sheet

**Location:** Central Nebraska

**Population:** Loup County - 664; Taylor city limits - 180

**Nearest airport:** Sargent Municipal Airport, located 9 miles south of Taylor and 1 mile east of Sargent. It accommodates small engine and twin engine aircraft welcoming commerce, tourism, and visitors into the region.

**Nearest Metropolitan airport:** Grand Island Central Nebraska Regional Airport, located about 92 miles southeast of Taylor. Grand Island CNRA is served by American Airlines and Allegiant.

**Climate:** Loup County enjoys four distinct seasons. It's location in the upper midwest assures that some precipitation will occur over the course of the year in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail depending on the season. Loup County on average experiences 165 days annually when the nights fall below freezing and 23 days when the daytime temperature is over 90 degrees.

**Elevation:** 2,333 feet

**Brief History:** Loup County was settled in 1874 and organized in the spring of 1883. Taylor was situated as the county seat later in the year of 1883. The county was settled by homesteaders and the population continued to grow particularly following the Kinkaid Act of 1904. The town of Taylor was staked off a farm belonging to and adjoining the homestead of Joseph Rusho. The town was named after pioneer settler, Ed Taylor. Businesses began to open and the town began to thrive. Many businesses, including the historic Pavillion Hotel, were built on the expectancy that the railroad would connect to Taylor and pass through. Disappointment was hard-felt when the railroad stopped at Burwell. Over the years the smaller settlements, communities, and towns in Loup County began to dwindle away so today the only town still viable is Taylor. The town now consists of one bank, the courthouse, Region 26, a Post Office, a restaurant and bar, one motel, and a few small locally owned businesses. Loup County's geography offers a variety of soils for farming and ranching creating an agricultural based economy. In recent years AgriTourism has grown in the county and now plays a part in Loup County's economy shaping Loup County as a destination to discover.

**Time Zone:** Central Time Zone

**Water:** North Loup River, 1/4 mile north of Taylor and Calamus River, 12 miles north of Taylor. The Calamus Reservoir lies along the eastern border of Loup County, about 15 miles northeast of Taylor. The North Loup River is a spring-fed, sand bottomed river that runs through a basin that covers nearly 1/5 of Nebraska. It is split off the Loup River which is a tributary of the Platte River. The Calamus River is 1.2 miles and

runs into the Calamus Lake which is a 5, 124 acre lake surrounded by 4,958 acres of gently rolling Sandhills. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest lake in Nebraska and is a favorite for boaters, campers, and tourists alike. 3.5 miles of other streams also meander through the area.

**Lodging:** Loup County has seven different locations that offer lodging accommodations.

**Camping:** Loup County has six different locations that offer camping accommodations.

**Lodging Tax:** 4%

**Sales Tax:** 5 1/2%

### **Unique Loup County Attractions:**

#### **Taylor 'Villagers'**

The Taylor 'Villagers' are life-size wooden people that were created by a local artist to draw people's attention to the community of Taylor. The wooden figures are painted black and white and are replicas of the Victorian era. Some of the figures are local historic people and others are just a symbol of times past. There are currently over 120 'Villagers' located throughout Taylor and Loup County.

#### **Nebraska Sandhills**

Loup County is an excellent first step in the exploration of the Sandhills of Nebraska. As one of the last vestiges of the great American plains, it's hard not to be awestruck by the sheer magnitude of the Sandhills and its unspoiled natural condition. Covering 19,300 square miles in north central Nebraska, The Sandhills Ecoregion includes the largest dune system in the western hemisphere and one of the largest grass-established dune regions in the world. The high water table in this semiarid region allows for many lakes, marshes, and wetlands to dot the landscape.

#### **Taylor Junipers**

The 'Taylor' Juniper is a native Nebraska *Juniperus virginiana* discovered by Allen Wilke of Columbus, NE. Wilke discovered the tree while on horseback helping family friends work cattle near Taylor. Wilke took a few cuttings from the tree and grafted them into rootstock in his nursery in Columbus. These juniper trees are now sold around the country to landscaping centers and can be seen across Nebraska and other states. The 'Taylor' Juniper is actually an Eastern red cedar that grows into a narrow upright tree approximately 25' tall and 3' wide. It is refined and elegant and needs no trimming to remain columnar and dense. The foliage is deep green in the summer and dull bronze-green in the winter. It is naturally disease-resistant and is tolerable of varying soil types.

### **Loup County Veterans Memorial**

The Loup County Veterans Memorial was built in 2013 to honor the Loup County Veterans who have served our country. The memorial is dedicated to all veterans who have served our country and fought to bring us the freedom we have today. Loup County is proud of its veterans and to fly the American flag. Behind the Loup County Veterans Memorial is the first Congregational Church of Taylor, a landmark in it's own right. The building, no longer in use as a church, holds many local artifacts that tell their own story that one day local historians hope will be displayed.

### **Signature Events:**

#### ***Loup County 'Worlds' Fair -***

*[loupcountyworldsfair.org](http://loupcountyworldsfair.org)*

The Loup County Worlds Fair is held the second week-end in August. The small village of Taylor swells in size and becomes the hub of activity for the 5 day event. Exhibits, family activities, BBQ's, a parade, and more all add up to lots of fun for young and old alike. Come and see why Taylor triples it's population during the 'World's Fair'!

#### ***Rodeo Champions of America -***

A pageant organized in September each year for aspiring young ladies with dreams of becoming Rodeo Royalty. Rodeo Royalty are ambassadors for the sport of Rodeo in and out of the arena. This non-profit organization offers young ladies a chance to learn and compete in different areas that highlight their talents and dedication to the rodeo way of life. Sponsors, applicants, and admirers are always welcome to watch the pageant!

#### ***Annual Pumpkin Carving -***

*[calendaroutdoornebraska.gov](http://calendaroutdoornebraska.gov)*

The Annual Pumpkin Carving is held each year at Homestead Knolls Campground at the Calamus Reservoir. The annual event is hosted by the Nebraska Game & Parks and is usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week-end in October. Bring your tent or camper and check out the fun and enjoy carving your own pumpkin!

#### ***Breakfast with Santa -***

Join Santa Claus the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of December for breakfast served by the Lazy D Restaurant Elves and Mrs. Claus. Children have a chance to tell Santa Claus their Christmas wishes and can have their picture taken in a Christmas setting with Santa Claus. Afternoon children's activities take place at the Loup County Community Center followed by hot apple cider and hay wagon rides at dusk.

For additional information about Taylor and Loup County, visit [www.taylorne.com](http://www.taylorne.com) or contact Darcia Kovarik 402.760.1063 or [info@taylorne.com](mailto:info@taylorne.com).