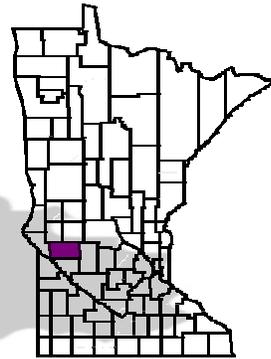




# SWIFT County



## Draft Comprehensive Plan

July 2007



Prepared by the  
Upper Minnesota Valley  
Regional Development Commission  
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# Swift County Comprehensive Plan

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## OVERVIEW

The **Swift County Comprehensive Plan** prepared by the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission was adopted after a twelve month planning process. Spearheaded by the County Board, a task force was established to guide the planning process and provide insight into the content of the plan. Work began in June 2006.

The Plan establishes vision statements for the County for the next 20 years intended to guide official controls, policies and decisions made by the County within this timeframe. It establishes a work plan that addresses the comprehensive relationship between key economic, environmental and social issues and sets strategies to meet this vision. The Plan recognizes and builds upon past and existing planning efforts throughout the County and is based on local citizen input.

The six major planning areas addressed in the plan are: *agriculture, housing, business/economic development; transportation, natural resources, and county services*. For each planning area a vision, goals, and strategies were developed to provide a policy framework for local officials and residents. The Plan will guide future growth and development in a manner that responds to the needs of the County, ensures long-term sustainability and is realistic in its assumptions and outcomes. To this end the Plan attempts to minimize land use conflicts while maintaining environmental quality and economic viability by protecting critical resources and balancing the preservation of viable agricultural land uses with non-farm rural residential and other development types.

Questions or comments about the Swift County Comprehensive Plan can be directed to the Swift County Environmental Services Office by calling (320) 843-2356.



Government – Agriculture – Industry  
Working Together

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

**Richard Hanson, Benson**  
County Commissioner

**Gary Hendrickx, Appleton**  
County Commissioner

**Scott Collins, County Staff**  
Environmental Services

**James Dehne, Holloway**  
Moyer Township

**Bruce Felt, Kerkhoven**  
Hayes Township

**Loren Harste, Appleton**  
Planning Commission

**Deb Hilleren, Benson**  
Planning Commission

**Warren Rau, Appleton**  
Hegbert Township

**DeWayne Rudningen,**  
Kerkhoven Township

**Allen Saunders, Benson**  
Torning Township

**Mark Weimerskirch, Kerkhoven**  
Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor

## PURPOSE

**Comprehensive planning can be defined in a phrase: deciding where you want to go and how to get there.** Comprehensive planning is as much a process to engage the public in local decisions as it is to create a document for guiding development. The planning process is fundamentally a way for people with different perspectives to articulate the sort of community they would like to live in and leave behind to the next generation. Planning can also help create a stable, predictable, fair set of policies and ground rules within which development, entrepreneurship and the freedom of the marketplace can flourish. It is purposeful planning to with the intent to make places better.

Comprehensive planning addresses three basic questions:

1. **What is the state of the community today?** What are the current social, economic and environmental conditions and trends?
2. **What would people like the community to be in the future?** What characteristics and features of the community do residents want preserved and built on? What would they like changed? What is the community's picture of itself in the future?
3. **How will the community get there?** What goals, policies and strategies will lead to this vision?

Legislatively, Minnesota has recognized the importance of local planning by passing laws that enable communities to develop plans and exercise various growth management authorities for protecting the general welfare of the public. Comprehensive planning is effectively managing change to prosper over the long term.

*Minnesota State Statute defines comprehensive planning for counties as:*

*“Policies, statements, goals and interrelated plans for public and private land and water use, transportation and community facilities, including recommendations for plan execution documented in texts, ordinances and maps which constitute the guide for future development.”*

*Minnesota State Statute, Section 394.22(9)*

## WHY PLAN?

Comprehensive plans not only reflect the vision and goals of a community but also embody:

**A thoughtful approach to issues considering all sides and interconnections.** Almost every decision has economic, environmental and social implications. Few decisions are made that do not cross over planning areas.

**Coordination among neighboring jurisdictions and levels of government on topics of mutual concern.** Regional issues such as traffic congestion, affordable housing, air pollution and labor shortages don't respect political boundaries and can benefit from joint problem solving.

**A long-term perspective that accounts for the future impacts and costs of today's decisions.** Local policies should make sense for citizens, businesses and the environment, in both the short and long term.

### TOP TEN REASONS TO DO COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

1. Creates the opportunity for residents to guide their community's future.
2. Helps a community identify issues, stay ahead of trends and accommodate change.
3. Offers a process for joint problem-solving and leveraging scarce resources among neighboring jurisdictions.
4. Protects and makes the most of public investments.
5. Helps ensure that growth makes the community better, not just bigger.
6. Fosters a sustainable economic development.
7. Helps a community maintain its resource base and other "natural capital".
8. Provides legal justification for the community's land use decisions and ordinances.
9. Protects property rights and property values.
10. Provides an opportunity to consider future impacts of today's decisions.

Planning can help communities:

#### **Manage Population Growth**

To maintain vibrant, thriving economies and neighborhoods rather than higher property taxes, traffic congestion, school overcrowding, environmental degradation and loss of valued natural resources.

#### **Manage Population Decline**

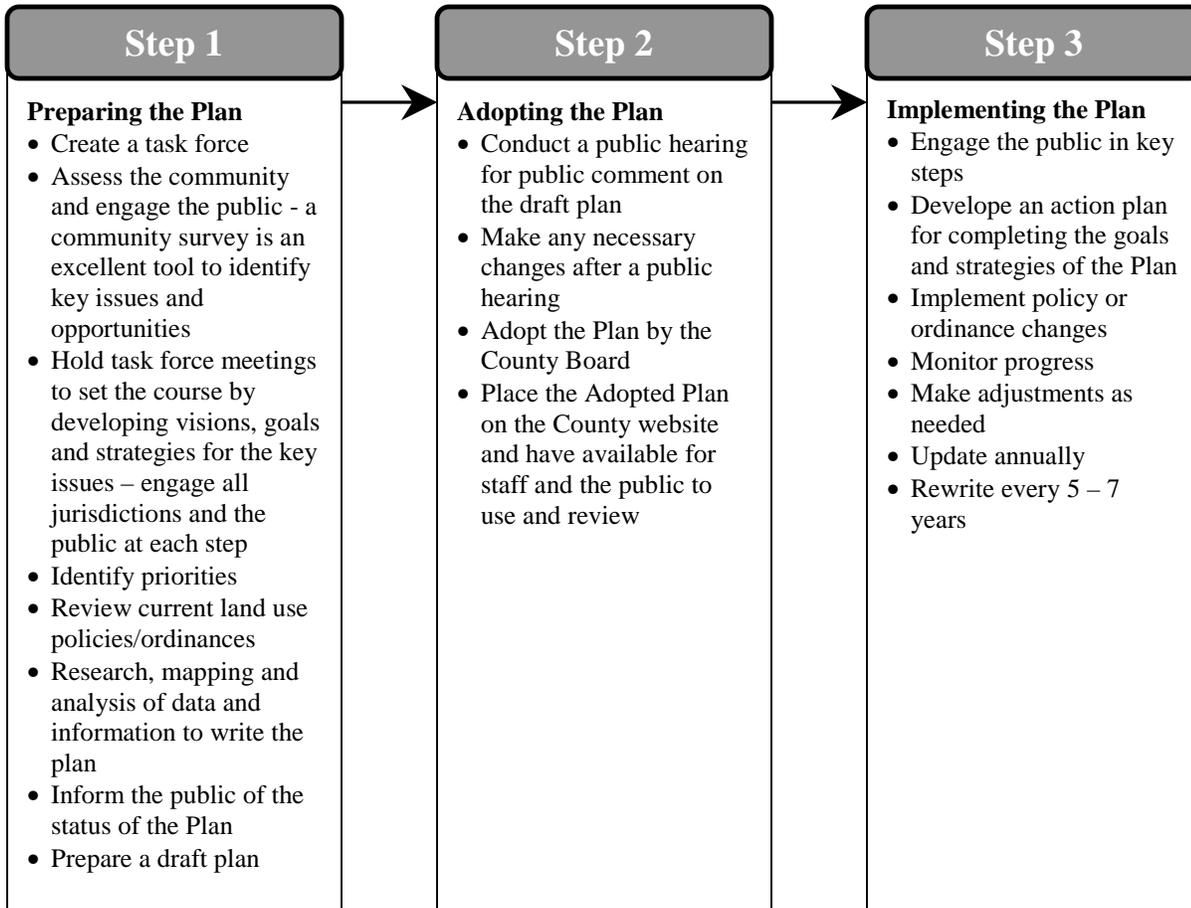
To face the challenges of maintaining a viable local economy, funding schools and other services, reinvesting in aging infrastructure and meeting the needs of residents.

#### **Manage Staying the Same**

To maintain the current quality of life in lieu of further population growth or loss either by choice or fate.

## PLANNING PROCESS

Proper planning is a **3-Step Process**. Each step is equally important to the planning process for *successful planning* and is an *on-going process*.



Source: The above data (pages 1-4) is adapted from *Under Construction: Tools and Techniques for Local Planning (June 2002)*, prepared by Minnesota Planning

Swift County contracted the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) to facilitate the planning process from development through the adoption of the plan. Task force members included representatives from the Swift County Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, county staff, and township officials. A special task force meeting for cities was held for city input into the planning process. Urban growth areas were identified by each city along with land use in and around their communities. It was the role of the task force to serve as a working group to assist in the preparation of the plan and review progress. A survey was sent to every township homestead and a 20 percent random sample of the homestead properties in the cities located in the County. In total 2,000 surveys were distributed and the return rate was 44 percent. Five task force meetings were held as working sessions in the development of the plan. A public review period was held where the Plan was available in different locations and formats. During this time three public meetings were held throughout the County. A public hearing was held prior to adopting the Plan in conjunction with a planning commission meeting. A recommendation from the planning commission was brought forward to the County Commissioners for adoption.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

One of the most powerful ways to ensure broad and on-going support for a comprehensive plan is to involve many different people and interests in the planning process. The Swift County Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission and Comprehensive Plan Task Force recognized the importance of public participation in the planning process in a way beyond the public notice and hearings required by law. As a result, the following public participation tools were used in developing this plan:

- Comprehensive Plan Task Force – Members of the public representing various interests were included on the task force. Meetings were open to the public.
- Press and media releases – Information was provided to all county newspapers and radio stations regarding progress on the comprehensive plan.
- Survey – A survey was the primary public participation tool used in this planning process for “issue identification”. The survey process and results are explained in detail in Chapter Four.
- Public review of the draft plan – Prior to holding the required public hearing, a draft plan was made available in various public locations in the county for public review and to collect comments on the final draft.
- Public meetings – Three public meetings in Appleton, Benson and Kerkhoven were held to engage the public by providing opportunity for comment and review on the draft plan.
- Swift County’s website – The County’s website was used to provide access to the comprehensive plan survey and the public review period of the draft comprehensive plan.
- Public hearing – As required by law, a public hearing was held to take comment on the draft plan.

***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”***  
***--Margaret Mead***

## COUNTY VISIONS

The purpose of a vision statement is to articulate aspirations for the future that incorporate values and addresses issues. A vision statement reflects a “best possible scenario” based on an understanding of the current reality and attempting to anticipate future change.

*“In 20 years Swift County envisions the following for agriculture, business/economic development, housing, transportation, natural resources and county services.*

**Agriculture** - *Swift County envisions a sustainable balance between being a leading agricultural county and managing natural and human resources for long-term benefit. Crop and livestock production will be maintained or increased by taking advantage of improvements in management practices, science and technology. Enhancing the agriculture economy through value-added agriculture and renewable energy opportunities will be a component of Swift County agriculture moving forward*

**Business/Economic Development** - *Swift County recognizes that to be economically competitive, retain youth, sustain population and maintain a workforce, the County must encourage business development and expansion with a focus on high paying jobs. Agriculture will remain a key industry for the County with renewable and value-added development continuing to be emerging industries that Swift County remains a leader.*

**Housing** - *Swift County envisions for the future a housing stock that meets the needs of its population, accommodates growth and is safe, healthy and environmentally sound. The housing stock should support affordability, choice and quality for individuals of all life cycles and economic status.*

**Transportation** - *Swift County recognizes that the transportation system is critical to the economic vitality and quality of life for residents of the County. A diverse transportation system/road network that is safe, functional and environmentally sound to move people and goods is imperative.*

**Natural Resources/Parks/Recreation** - *Swift County recognizes the full potential of the scenic, natural, historic and recreational resources available in the County and their contributions to quality of life and the economy. The County will work toward maintaining a balance between protecting, preserving and enhancing the County’s valuable natural resources and environment while retaining the County’s rural character and encouraging new economic opportunities.*

**County Services** - *Swift County seeks to enhance the quality of life for its citizens and future residents by providing quality, accessible facilities and affordable services that support economic prosperity, good stewardship of resources and a cooperative spirit.”*

## PLAN CONTENT

**OVERVIEW** – A brief summary or overview of the plan.

**CHAPTER ONE: County Profile** - Chapter One profiles Swift County including their location, a brief history, demographic trends and other social-economic information. It also identifies current land uses within the County and provides an inventory and analysis of the six planning areas addressed in the Plan – housing, agriculture, business/economic development, transportation, natural resources/parks/recreation and county services.

**CHAPTER TWO: City Profiles** - Chapter Two provides a community profile for each of the eight incorporated cities located in Swift County. There are three main features to each community profile: a brief description of the community; demographic data; and a current zoning map (when available) or aerial photo of the community to identify both current and future land uses.

**CHAPTER THREE: Township Profiles** - Chapter Three provides a profile for each of the 21 Swift County townships. There are three main features to each township profile: a brief description of the township; demographic data; and a current zoning map (when available) or aerial photo of the township to identify both current and future land uses.

**CHAPTER FOUR: Issue Identification** - Chapter Four identifies current and emerging planning issues that impact Swift County and are critical to residents. The issues are classified and identified by six planning areas: housing; transportation; business/ economic development; agriculture; natural resources/parks/recreation; and county services. The results of the comprehensive plan survey and the three community meetings held are tabulated in this chapter.

**CHAPTER FIVE: Strategic Action Plan** - Chapter Five establishes Swift County’s overall vision statements for each of the planning areas. Individual vision statements, goals, objectives and priority strategies were written for each of the six planning areas. Collectively it serves as a work plan and should be used to help make decisions on a day-to-day basis.

**CHAPTER SIX: Implementation** - Chapter Six establishes priority projects. These priority projects are derived from the goals, objectives and strategies established in Chapter Five and help to establish a starting point for the work plan. In addition, the chapter explains how the comprehensive plan should be reviewed and updated in the future.

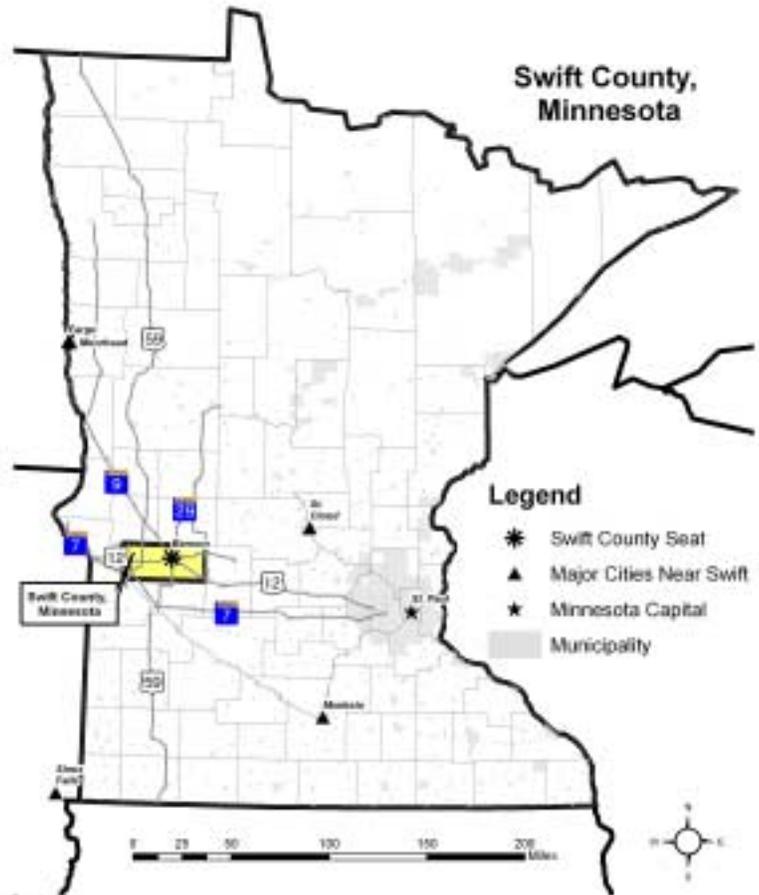
## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

1. Examine the four agricultural zoning districts found in the County's zoning ordinance and definitions of prime agriculture land and marginal land to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and update the zoning maps.
2. Develop land use controls around seasonal cabins/hunting cabins.
3. Adopt a permanent wind turbine ordinance.
4. Review shoreland district regulations to consider lot sizes, cluster designs, and definitions.
5. Review Swift County's 1993 Gravel Mining Reclamation Plan and adopt a new gravel-mining ordinance that includes clearly stated reclamation requirements.
6. Review non-farm dwelling policy of the County.
7. Develop a comprehensive, multi-year capital improvement program.
8. Work in partnership on a strategic marketing campaign for the County.
9. Review and take under consideration renewable energy and value added agriculture opportunities for the County.

## CHAPTER ONE: County Profile

### LOCATION

Swift County is located in rural west central Minnesota with a population of 11,956. Rectangular in shape, the County has a total area of 752 square miles or 481,280 acres – 744 miles are land and nine are water. There are 16.1 persons per square mile. It has eight major cites and 21 townships. Benson is the county seat and the largest community. Neighboring counties are Kandiyohi County to the east, Big Stone County to the west, Stevens and Pope Counties to the north and Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties to the south. Swift County is part of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (Region 6W) planning and economic development district. The major trunk highways that run through the county are U.S. Highways 59 and 12 and Minnesota State Highways 7, 9, 29 and 119. Swift County is in Minnesota’s Senate District 20, House Districts 20A and 20B and Congressional District 7 (see map in Appendix).



### Miles from Swift County (Benson) to Major Cites

Destination	Minneapolis	Fargo/Moorhead	St. Cloud	Mankato	Sioux Falls, SD
Distance	125 miles	133 miles	94 miles	145 miles	207 miles
Travel Time	2 hrs, 15 min	2 hrs, 36 min	1 hr, 30 min	2 hrs, 45 min	3 hrs, 30 min

Source: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

**UNITS OF GOVERNMENT**

**Swift County**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Townships</b>
Appleton	Appleton
Benson*	Benson
Clontarf	Camp Lake
Danvers	Cashel
DeGraff	Clontarf
Holloway	Dublin
Kerkhoven	Edison
Murdock	Fairfield
	Hayes
	Hegbert
	Kerkhoven
	Kildare
	Marysland
	Moyer
	Pillsbury
	Shible
	Six Mile Grove
	Swenoda
	Tara
	Torning
	West Bank

\*Denotes County Seat

**HISTORICAL TIMELINE**

Swift County was organized on February 18, 1870 and was named in honor of Henry Swift, Governor of Minnesota in 1863. Three citizens, C.E. Foster, A.W. Lathrop and Iver Knudson, were selected to serve on the first board of commissioners. The County was divided into three commissioner districts.

By 1878, the number of legal voters in the County had increased to such an extent (800 votes having been cast in the last election) that the commissioners decided on December 2, 1878, to re-district the County to provide two additional members on the board. Division was made according to the number of votes cast.

From 1875 and on, much of the time of the Board was devoted to the consideration of road petitions. One of the newspaper editors made the statement in 1885 that “the road question is of greater importance to citizens of Swift County than the question of who shall be President.”

In the spring of 1876, the Legislature authorized the construction of a courthouse in Benson. On March 26, 1897, the commissioners voted to advertise for bids to construct a new courthouse as

the old one proved to be too small to meet the growing needs of the County. Over the years, the courthouse has been renovated several times. It was declared a national historic site in 1976.

In 1880 the citizens of the County could view with pride the achievements of their fellow settlers during the first decade of settlement for a substantial framework had been constructed to provide a civilization for the coming generations. When we consider that from a total of approximately 600 people in the County in 1870, the population had increased to 7,472 the stream of immigration must have been very strong despite the hard times. In 1900, the population had reached 13,503.

To the pioneers who first viewed this region in the 1860's, it must have presented to the naked eye a vast, flat, monotonous stretch of land, unbroken even by trees. Except for some timber to be found along the streams and in small groves on the borders of the lakes, there was nothing to stop the plow from being put to use as soon as the settler arrived in the spring or summer. Agriculture has been and still is the main industry in Swift County.

<b>Historical Timeline</b>	
1854	A group of Swedish immigrants settled in what later became Section 1 of Hayes township building the <b>first two homes in Swift County</b> . In 1862 Native Americans attacked them killing 13 settlers and forcing the families to move away.
1865-1869	<b>Settlers began to move back</b> to the area including Ole Homme in Section 4 of Kerkhoven Township; Lars Christianson arrived in Six Mile Grove Township and has the honor of having the first child born in Swift County that lived to maturity; Addison Phelps in Appleton Township was the first of many Civil War veterans that settled in the area; and many others primarily of Scandinavian and German descent moved to Hayes, Benson, Shible, Fairfield, and Moyer Townships.
1870	The <b>St. Paul and Pacific Railroad</b> was completed from St. Paul to Benson creating work crew sites about eight miles apart all along the track including the <b>trade centers of Kerkhoven, DeGraff, Benson and Randall (today's Clontarf)</b> . On February 18, 1870 <b>Swift County was organized</b> by act of legislature and named after Henry Adoniram Swift, governor of Minnesota in 1863 with Benson as the county seat. The <b>first commissioners</b> were C. E. Foster, A. W. Lathrop and Iver Knutson. The County was divided into three townships – Fairfield on the west end, Benson in the center, and Camp Lake on the east end. A petition for a school, District #6, in the village of Benson was granted on March 9.
1871	A Mr. Clark began construction of a <b>mill on the Pomme de Terre River</b> in Section 14 of Appleton Township, which began operating a year later. On January 3 <b>petition for rural school District #1 was granted</b> in Kerkhoven Township. Rural District 99 in Marysland Township was the last to be formed.
1873	The county commissioners granted the <b>first road improvements</b> in the County.
1874	<b>A public library association was formed in Appleton.</b>

1876	The legislature authorized the <b>construction of a courthouse</b> for \$3,000. <b>The Catholic Bureau of Colonization</b> was formed which included Swift County. Bishop Ireland of St. Paul established ten colonies in Minnesota from the poverty-stricken centers of the east on the 117,000 acres he had gained control of from the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad. <b>DeGraff was the first colony</b> . The <b>Benson Times newspaper</b> began publication. Swarms of grasshoppers came out of the west destroying most of the crops. The <b>first Swift County Fair</b> was held in Benson on October 7.
1878	S. S. Murdock was convinced that there was room for a <b>trading center (Murdock)</b> between Kerkhoven and DeGraff. The railroad opposed this plan and did not build a depot until a year later seeing the growth in Murdock.
1879	<b>Hastings &amp; Dakota Railroad line</b> was completed from Montevideo, through Appleton, to Ortonville. At the same time a <b>stage</b> for passengers and mail traveled twice weekly between Appleton and Benson.
1880	<b>A disastrous fire in Benson</b> wiped out an entire business block on Atlantic Avenue. The <b>population</b> of the County had grown from 600 in the 1870s to 7,472.
1881	<b>The villages of Appleton, Kerkhoven, Murdock, and DeGraff were incorporated.</b>
1882	The first students arrived at the <b>St. Paul Diocese Industrial School</b> for boys in Clontarf.
1886	The railroad line between Benson and Appleton connecting to Watertown, SD was surveyed. <b>The Great Northern line</b> was completed in 1887 and two more trading centers began – Danvers and Holloway (first named Norton but renamed later by the railroad). The <b>first parochial school</b> was established by Shible Lutheran Church.
1890	Commissioners voted to build a <b>new county jail</b> . H. P. McConnell and Co. of Benson made the brick.
1897	Bids for a <b>new courthouse</b> were taken. Benson brick was used for all inside work.
1898	On June 11 the <b>new larger courthouse was dedicated</b> with an estimated 5,000 in attendance. The <b>Industrial School of Clontarf closed</b> .
1900	<b>Danvers was incorporated</b> as a village but did not separate from Marysland Township until 1906.
1903	<b>Holloway was incorporated</b> as a city.
1904	<b>Clontarf was incorporated</b> as a city. The <b>Swift County Fair moved</b> its location to Appleton sponsored by the Appleton Driving Park Association formed in 1885 to promote agricultural and livestock interest later renamed the Swift County Fair Association in 1905.
1908	<b>Benson was incorporated</b> as a city.
1911	The <b>first state highway aid</b> came to the County. Under new state legislation Kerkhoven was the <b>first consolidated school district</b> in Minnesota.
1912	The <b>Agricultural Extension Service</b> had its beginning in Swift County. Dr. S. J. Froshaug had the <b>first Swift County Hospital</b> constructed at a cost of \$15,000 in Benson.
1913	<b>Carnegie Library</b> was built in Benson.
1914	<b>Normal training</b> for rural schoolteachers began in Benson.
1915	<b>Major improvements to the McKinley Public School</b> of Kerkhoven took place – indoor bathrooms, electric lights and a bubbler fountain.
1920	The <b>new Holloway brick school</b> was completed for grades 1-12. A separate teacher-training department in Appleton was organized and terminated in 1935.
1927	<b>Appleton began busing</b> its high school students. The first bus was a 1925 Greyhound Bus.
1929	The <b>Swift County Historical Society</b> was organized.
1931	Benson held its <b>first “Kid Day”</b> celebration.

1934	The <b>first 4-H building</b> was constructed at the fairgrounds.
1937	<b>Elmer A. Benson</b> of Appleton became governor of Minnesota.
1939	<b>Rural electrification</b> became a reality with the joining of Stevens, Big Stone, and Swift Electric Co-op (Agralite-REA).
1940	Benson Power Plant superintendent closed a switch in the plant energizing lines to the Benson substation. The lights were on in “ <b>Agralite country</b> ”.
1950	The <b>Swift County Soil and Water Conservation District</b> began.
1952	The 20-bed <b>Appleton Municipal Hospital</b> was completed and dedicated on June 29.
1957	<b>Tyler Manufacturing Company</b> began making F2 pull type fertilizer spreaders.
1961	<b>Holloway School District</b> consolidated with Appleton. The <b>flourmill in Appleton</b> closed.
1966	<b>West Central Minnesota Educational Television Company</b> , KWCM, Channel 10, of Appleton became an operational station.
1967	<b>Natural gas</b> became available in Appleton and Benson. <b>Park View Manor</b> , a housing development for senior citizens, was constructed in Benson. <b>The Swift Falls Dam</b> was completed.
1970	<b>Benson School consolidated with Clontarf and Danvers.</b>
1975	The <b>Appleton Civic Center</b> was built to house the library, police department, city offices and regional offices with public meeting rooms.
1976	The courthouse was declared a <b>national historic site.</b>
1978	The <b>Dome Pipe Line</b> was constructed through the County and a terminal built just west of Benson. <b>Murdock consolidated with Kerkhoven-Sunburg.</b>
1979	The <b>Kerkhoven Civic Center</b> was built and dedicated on June 2.
1980	<b>Swift County Historical Society</b> moved to its present site on Highway 12 west in Benson.
1983	The grain elevators at Holloway, Appleton, and Danvers merged to become <b>Western Consolidated Cooperative (West-Con)</b> with the main office in Holloway.
1984	Construction on the <b>Swift County Law Enforcement Center</b> began that would adjoin the courthouse.
1990	Appleton School District consolidated with four Lac qui Parle County districts to form <b>Lac qui Parle Valley</b> with a high school facility nine miles south of Appleton.
1992	<b>Prairie Correctional Facility</b> , a medium security prison with 354 cells, was completed in Appleton.
1993	A <b>new public library in Benson</b> was built. The Carnegie Library was demolished in 1994.
1996	The <b>Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company (CVEC)</b> was completed in Benson.
2001	West-Con added on a 36,000 ton capacity <b>dry fertilizer plant in Holloway.</b> Swift Coop Oil of Benson and United Farmers Elevator voted in favor to merge their businesses. The Coop became <b>Glacial Plains Cooperative</b> consisting of elevators at Murdock, Kerkhoven, Benson, Milan and Sunburg; Swift Coop at Benson; Swift Coop store in Appleton; and DeGraff’s Feed and Birdseed.
2003	West-Con constructed a <b>4.3 million bushel corn storage</b> building in Holloway. The first “ <b>Shakers</b> ” <b>vodka</b> , a 100 percent wheat product from grain was produced at CVEC ethanol plant in Benson.
2003	The County opened the <b>Appleton Area Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park.</b>
2005	Work began on the <b>Fibromin Plant</b> at Benson. It will be the first power plant in the United States fueled primarily by turkey litter.

*Source: Marlys Gallagher, Swift County Historical Society Director from the historical society’s archives (founded in November of 1929).*



**Appleton 1914**



**Benson 1882**



**Clontarf Industrial School 1894-1898**



**Danvers 1892**



**DeGraff 1908**



**Holloway 1910**



**Kerkhoven 1910**

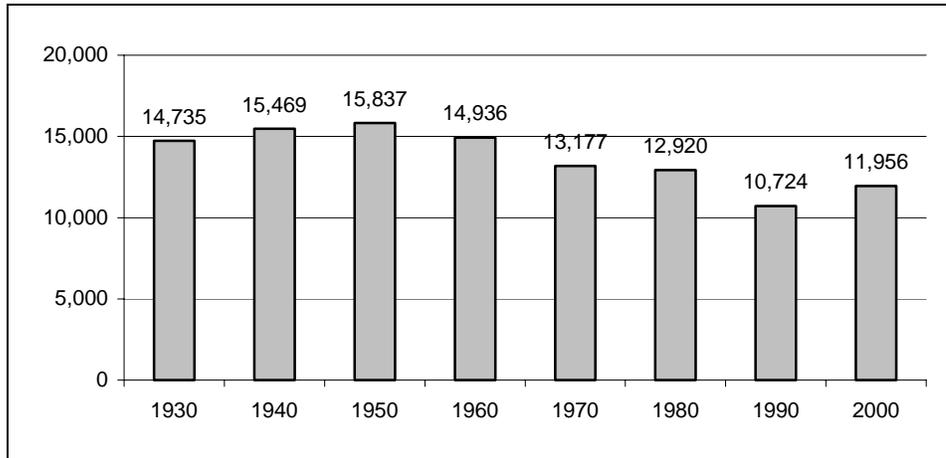


**Murdock 1920**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Population**

**Population Data for  
Swift County from 1930 – 2000**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota Population Change from 1970 – 2000**

County	1970	1980	1990	2000	30-Year Change	Percent Change
Big Stone	7,941	7,716	6,285	5,820	-2,121	-26.7%
Chippewa	15,109	14,941	13,228	13,088	-2,021	-13.4%
Kandiyohi	30,548	36,763	38,761	41,203	10,655	34.9%
Lac qui Parle	11,164	10,592	8,924	8,067	-3,097	-27.7%
Pope	11,107	11,657	10,745	10,053	-1,054	-9.5%
Stevens	11,218	11,322	10,634	11,236	18	0.2%
<b>Swift</b>	<b>13,177</b>	<b>12,920</b>	<b>10,724</b>	<b>11,956</b>	<b>-1,221</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>
Seven County Area	102,234	107,891	101,291	103,423	1,189	1.2%
State of Minnesota	3.8 Million	4.1 Million	4.4 Million	4.9 Million	1.1 Million	29.0%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**A NOTE ON POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

A population projection is “an attempt at providing a view of what the future **could** look like”. Projections are only an **estimate**. Therefore, projections should be viewed with caution. The population projections were created by the Minnesota State Demographic Center and are based on historical averages.

**It is important to note that Swift County’s population projections are estimated to increase over the next 30 years. There was an 11.5% increase in population between 1990 and 2000, a change of 1,232 residents. The Prairie Correctional Facility was built in 1991 and the inmate population of 1100 is included in the 2000 census but not part of the 1990 census. Since projections are based on historical population, estimates will be skewed. All projections are estimates made by the Minnesota State Demographic Center using this historical data.**

**Population Projections for Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota from 2000 – 2030**

County	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	30-Year Change	Percent Change
Big Stone	5,820	5,495	5,530	5,490	5,480	5,480	5,490	-330	-5.7%
Chippewa	13,088	12,781	13,000	13,130	13,330	13,520	13,650	562	4.3%
Kandiyohi	41,203	41,487	43,670	44,880	45,980	46,910	47,680	6,477	15.7%
Lac qui Parle	8,067	7,623	7,480	7,360	7,300	7,260	7,220	-847	-10.5%
Pope	11,236	11,249	11,540	11,820	12,120	12,410	12,660	1,424	12.7%
Stevens	10,053	9,816	10,090	10,100	10,120	10,140	10,190	137	1.36%
Swift	<b>11,956</b>	<b>11,429</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>12,610</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>13,160</b>	<b>13,370</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
State of Minnesota	4.9 Million	5.2 Million	5.5 Million	5.7 Million	5.9 Million	6.1 Million	6.3 Million	1.4 Million	22.0%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center – November 9, 2006

*Population Summary*

- Swift County has been experiencing a steady decline in population from 1930 to 2000, which has resulted in a 9 percent loss in population. The 2000 population of 11,956 represented 6,537 males and 5,419 females with a minority population of 1,228<sup>1</sup> (10.3% of the total population).
- Swift County’s declining population from 1970 – 2000 (-9%) was part of a trend for the region. Of the counties neighboring Swift County Kandiyohi and Pope Counties experienced growth in population. The state of Minnesota experienced a 29 percent population increase. In the region, Lac qui Parle County and Big Stone County had the largest population loss with an average of 27 percent loss during this same time period.

<sup>1</sup> The U. S. Bureau of Census defines “minority population” as total population minus non-Hispanic white.

- Swift County’s population projections suggest they will gain 11.8 percent, an additional 1,414 residents, by 2030. (It is difficult to accurately estimate the population projections for the County due to the prison population added between 1990 and 2000 census and skewing the historical averages used to make estimates. It is more likely population losses will occur rather than increase.) Projected 2030 populations for neighboring counties range from an additional 10.5 percent loss in Lac qui Parle County to a 16 percent gain in Kandiyohi County compared to a 22 percent expected gain for the state.

**Households**

**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota’s Household Change from 1980 – 2000**

County	1980	1990	2000	20-Year Change	Percent Change
Big Stone	2,873	2,463	2,377	-496	-17%
Chippewa	5,583	5,245	5,361	-222	-4%
Kandiyohi	12,871	14,298	15,936	3,065	24%
Lac qui Parle	3,885	3,505	3,316	-569	-15%
Pope	4,241	4,135	4,513	272	6%
Stevens	3,881	3,823	3,751	-130	-3%
Swift	<b>4,694</b>	<b>4,268</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>-341</b>	<b>-7%</b>
State of Minnesota	1,445,222	1,647,853	1,895,127	449,905	31%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census) – 2003

**Swift County Household Projections from 2000 – 2025**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	30-Year Change	Percent Change
<b>Total Households</b>	4,353	4,293	4,760	5,000	5,270	5,520	5,730	1,377	32%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center – 2006

Note: County projected numbers rounded to nearest 10.

**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota's  
Persons Per Household Change from 1980 – 2000**

County	1980	1990	2000	20 year Change	Percent Change
Yellow Medicine	2.68	2.48	2.42	-0.26	-10%
<b>Big Stone</b>	2.59	2.43	2.38	-0.21	-8%
<b>Chippewa</b>	2.63	2.48	2.39	-0.24	-9%
<b>Kandiyohi</b>	2.76	2.64	2.53	-0.23	-8%
<b>Lac qui Parle</b>	2.66	2.48	2.37	-0.29	-11%
<b>Pope</b>	2.69	2.54	2.42	-0.27	-10%
<b>Stevens</b>	2.73	2.57	2.43	-0.3	-11%
<b>Swift</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>State of Minnesota</b>	2.74	2.58	2.52	-0.22	-8%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Swift County Household Characteristics in 2000**

Household Composite	Households	
	Data	Percent
<b>One Person Households:</b>		
Male Householder	531	12.2%
Female Householder	812	18.7%
<b>Two or More Person Households:</b>		
Family Households		
Married Couple Family	2,479	56.9%
Other Family		
Male Householder, No Wife Present	137	3.1%
Female Householder, No Husband Present	266	6.1%
Non-Family Households		
Male Householder	92	2.1%
Female Householder	36	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Households Summary**

- The number of households in Swift County has decreased since 1980 by seven percent, a loss of 341 households, while the state’s number increased by 31 percent.
- The projected number of households in Swift County by 2025 will increase by 1,167 households or 27 percent.
- The average number of people in each household in Swift County decreased by 12 percent over the past 20 years. This is a statewide trend in Minnesota.
- In Swift County 57 percent of the households are married couples with families; 19 percent are single females; 12 percent are single males; nine percent are single parent families; and three percent other.

**Age and Gender**

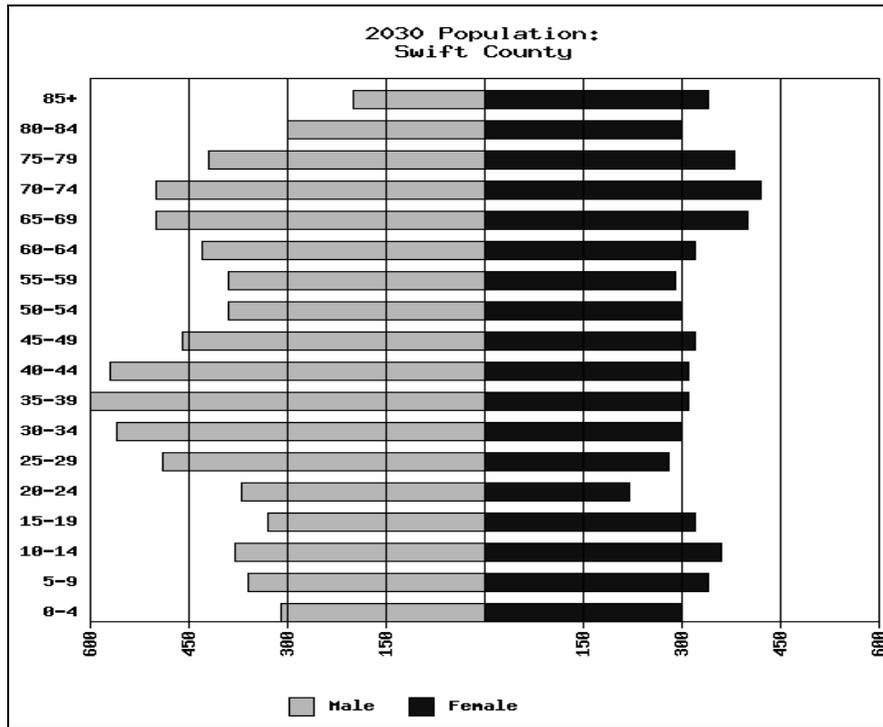
**Swift County Population Projections  
by Age Group from 2000 – 2030**

Age Group	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	30-Year Change	Percent Change
0-4	642	610	650	660	650	630	610	-32	-5.0%
5-9	757	700	670	700	720	710	700	-57	-7.5%
10-14	784	790	730	700	730	740	740	-44	-5.6%
15-19	816	690	690	640	610	630	650	-166	-20.3%
20-24	626	670	630	630	580	570	590	-36	-5.8%
25-29	694	810	870	830	830	770	770	76	11.0%
30-34	822	800	900	950	920	910	860	38	4.6%
35-39	983	830	810	890	950	920	910	-73	-7.4%
40-44	1,035	950	810	780	860	910	880	-155	-15.0%
45-49	834	900	820	680	660	720	780	-54	-6.5%
50-54	712	800	860	800	660	630	690	-22	-3.1%
55-59	526	750	850	920	850	700	680	154	29.3%
60-64	510	560	790	890	970	900	750	240	47.1%
65-69	467	500	550	770	880	960	900	433	92.7%
70-74	464	440	470	520	730	840	920	456	98.3%
75-79	508	430	400	440	490	690	800	292	57.5%
80-84	391	420	360	340	380	430	600	209	53.5%
85+	385	410	450	440	440	480	540	155	40.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,956</b>	<b>12,060</b>	<b>12,310</b>	<b>12,580</b>	<b>12,910</b>	<b>13,140</b>	<b>13,370</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

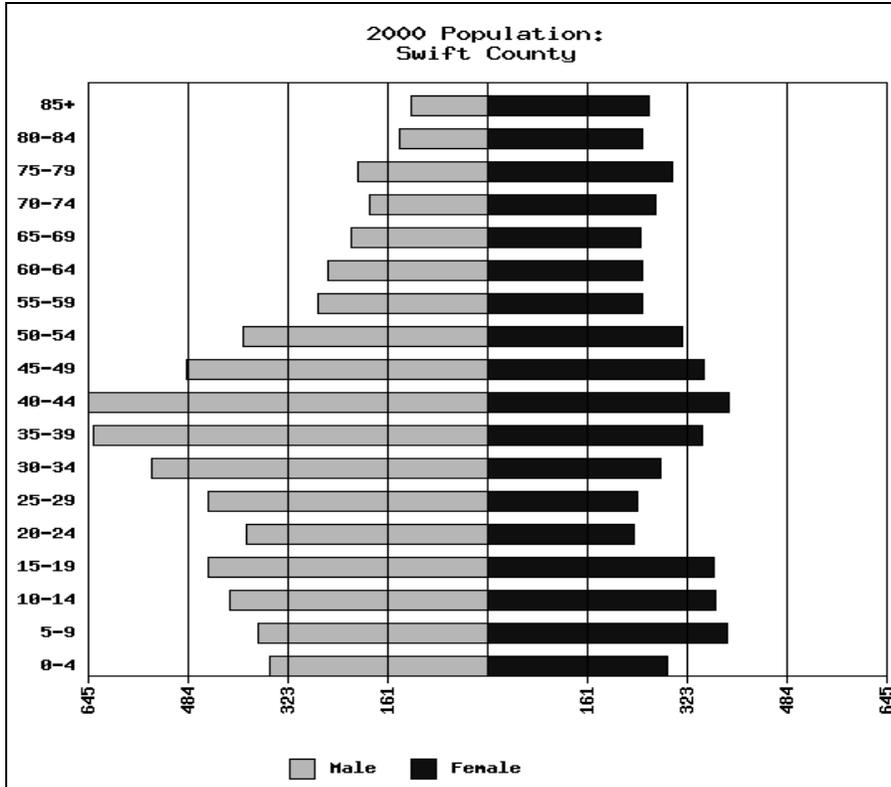
Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center – 2006

Note: County projected numbers rounded to nearest 10.

**Swift County Population Comparison of 2000 and 2030 by Gender**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Swift County Population by Age Group Comparison from 1970 – 2000**

	<b>Under 19</b>	<b>Ages 20 – 24</b>	<b>Ages 25 – 44</b>	<b>Ages 45 – 64</b>	<b>Ages 65+</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
<b>1970 Population</b>	5,113	582	2,365	3,110	2,007	13,177
<b>1970 Percent</b>	33.8%	4.4%	18%	23.6%	15.2%	100.0%
<b>1980 Population</b>	4,254	917	2,772	2,713	2,264	12,920
<b>1980 Percent</b>	32.9%	7.1%	21.5%	21.0%	17.5%	100.0%
<b>1990 Population</b>	3,070	417	2,767	2,093	2,377	10,724
<b>1990 Percent</b>	28.6%	3.9%	25.8%	19.5%	22.2%	100.0%
<b>2000 Population</b>	2,987	633	3,517	2,578	2,241	11,956
<b>2000 Percent</b>	25.0%	5.3%	29.4%	21.6%	18.7%	100.0%

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)*

**Swift County and Minnesota Median Age of Population from 1970 – 2000**

	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>30-Year Change</b>
<b>Swift County</b>	33.1	32.8	38	39.3	6.2
<b>State of Minnesota</b>	26.8	29.2	32.4	35.4	8.6

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)*

**Age and Gender Summary**

- Over the last 30 years Swift County’s 65+ population grew from 13.3 percent of the total population to 18.7 percent, a 5.4 percent change.
- It is projected that the 60+ population in Swift County will be the fastest growing segment of the population by 2030. The 65-69 and 70-74 age groups are expected to increase by at least 95.5 percent by 2030 in Swift County.
- The segments of the population estimated to see the most significant decrease in population by 2030 in Swift County include the 15-19 age group (-20.3%) and the 40-44 year olds (-15%).
- Swift County’s median age has increased by 6.2 years over the last 30 years from 33.1 in 1970 to 39.3 in 2000.
- Swift County’s median age in 2000 of 39.3 years was almost 4 years older than the state’s median age of 35.4 years.

**Race and Ancestry**

**Swift County 2000 Population by Race**

Race	All Persons		Under 18		18 & Over	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	10,840	90.70%	2,615	95%	8,225	89.4%
Black or African American	322	2.7%	9	0.3%	313	3.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	60	0.5%	14	0.5%	46	0.5%
Asian	171	1.4%	23	0.8%	148	1.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	182	1.5%	2	0.1%	180	2%
Other Race	167	1.4%	60	2.2%	107	1.2%
Two or More Races	214	1.8%	31	1.1%	183	2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>11,956</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,202</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>2000 Total Minority</b>						
Total Population Minus White Alone non-Hispanic	1,228	10.3	192	7	1,036	11.3

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

Race	All Persons		Under 18		18 & Over	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino: White	112	35%	53	44.2%	59	29.5%
Hispanic or Latino: Black or African American	3	0.9%	0	0%	3	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino: American Indian and Alaska Native	1	0.3%	1	0.8%	0	0%
Hispanic or Latino: Asian	4	1.3%	0	0%	4	2%
Hispanic or Latino: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3	0.9%	0	0%	3	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino: Other Race	164	51.2%	58	48.3%	106	53%
Hispanic or Latino: Two or More Races	33	10.3%	8	6.7	25	12.5%
<b>Hispanic or Latino: Total Population</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Swift County Ancestry (Single or Multiple)**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
German	5,011	32.47%
Norwegian	3,992	25.86%
Irish <sup>1</sup>	1,137	7.37%
Other groups	1,079	6.99%
Swedish	1,062	6.88%
English	552	3.58%
French (except Basque) <sup>1</sup>	504	3.27%
Polish	409	2.65%
Dutch	291	1.89%
United States or American	256	1.66%
Danish	239	1.55%
Italian	109	0.71%
Scotch-Irish	107	0.69%
Scottish	90	0.58%
Czech <sup>1</sup>	76	0.49%
Belgian	70	0.45%
Swiss	68	0.44%
French Canadian <sup>1</sup>	65	0.42%
Scandinavian	45	0.29%
Finnish	42	0.27%
European	41	0.27%
Portuguese	33	0.21%
Sub-Saharan African	32	0.21%
African	32	0.21%
Russian	19	0.12%
Hungarian	18	0.12%
Austrian	15	0.10%
Icelander	9	0.06%
Canadian	8	0.05%
Czechoslovakian	8	0.05%
Turkish	8	0.05%
British	7	0.05%
Northern European	7	0.05%
Luxemburger	5	0.03%
West Indian (excluding Hispanic groups)	5	0.03%
Dutch West Indian	5	0.03%
Lithuanian	3	0.02%
Ukrainian	3	0.02%
Croatian	2	0.01%
Romanian	2	0.01%
Slovak	2	0.01%
Welsh	2	0.01%
Yugoslavian	2	0.01%
<b>Total specified ancestries tallied:</b>	<b>15,435</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Total Population	11,956	

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census 2000*

<sup>1</sup> The data represent a combination of two ancestries shown separately in Summary File 3. Czech includes Czechoslovakian. French includes Alsatian. French Canadian includes Acadian/Cajun. Irish includes Celtic.

**Swift County Population by Race Comparison from 1990 – 2000**

	1990 Percent	2000 Percent	10- Year Change in Percent
<b>Swift – White</b>	99.06%	90.7%	-8.36%
<b>Swift – Minority</b>	0.94%	9.3%	8.36%
<b>Minnesota – White</b>	94.41%	89.4%	-5.01%
<b>Minnesota – Minority</b>	5.59%	10.6%	5.01%

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)*

***Race and Ancestry Summary***

- Swift County’s population was 90.7 percent white in 2000 compared to the state at 89.4 percent. Minnesota’s white population decreased five percent from 1990 to 2000 while Swift County decreased eight percent.
- Swift’s County’s minority population was 1,228 persons, or 10.3 percent of the total population, in 2000.
- The American Indian/Alaskan Native population was 60 persons or five percent of the total 2000 minority population in Swift County.
- Swift County’s ancestry is primarily German (32.47%) followed by Norwegian (25.86%) then Irish (7.37%) and other (6.99%).

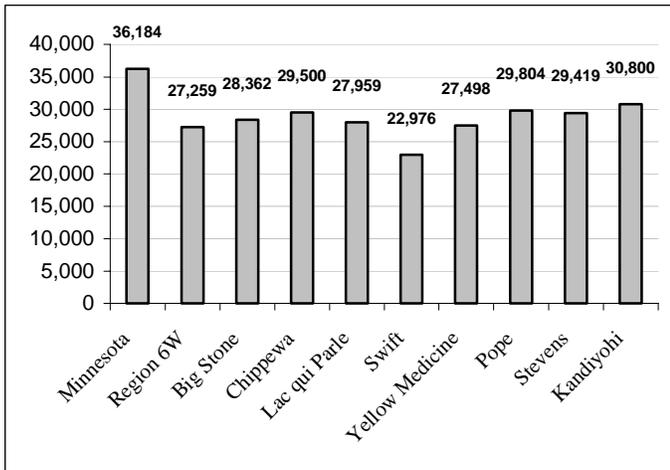
**Income**

**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota  
Median Income Comparison**

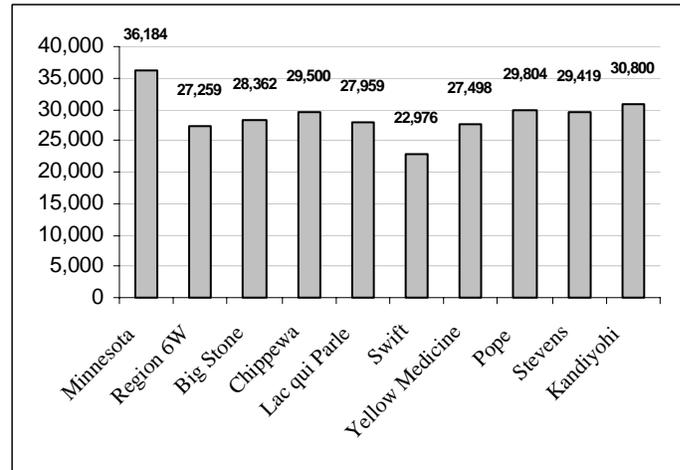
Estimated Personal Income <sup>2</sup>	2005 Median Income
Minnesota	\$36,184
Region 6W	\$27,259
Big Stone	\$28,362
Chippewa	\$29,500
Lac qui Parle	\$27,959
Swift	\$22,976
Yellow Medicine	\$27,498
Pope	\$29,804
Stevens	\$29,419
Kandiyohi	\$30,800

Household Income <sup>3</sup>	2000 Median Income
Minnesota	\$39,777
Region 6W	\$33,628
Big Stone	\$30,721
Chippewa	\$35,582
Lac qui Parle	\$32,626
Swift	\$34,820
Yellow Medicine	\$34,393
Pope	\$35,633
Stevens	\$37,267
Kandiyohi	\$39,772

**2005 Estimated Personal Income**



**2000 Household Income**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

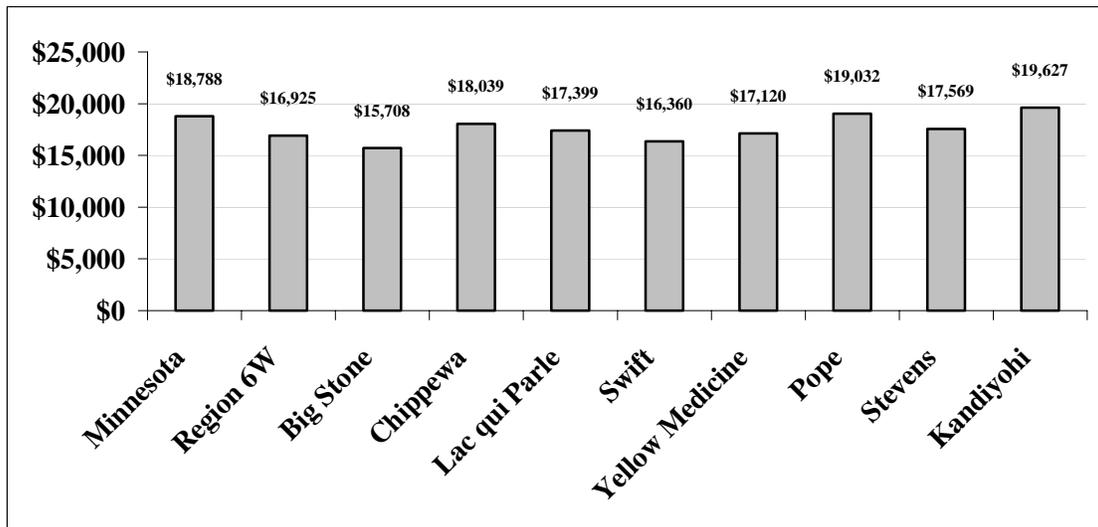
Note: Region 6W median household income is an average median income of the five counties in the Region (Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine)

<sup>2</sup> Personal Income is the Average Income per Person

<sup>3</sup> Household Income is the Average Income per Household

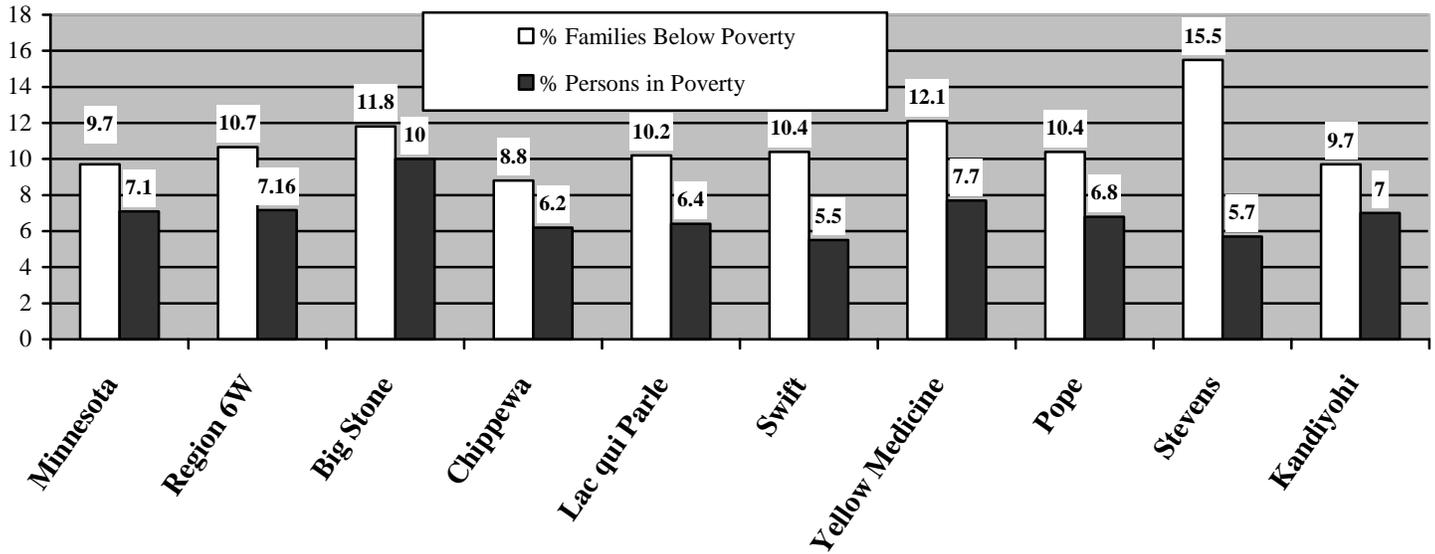
**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota  
Per Capita Income in 1999**

	<b>1999 Per Capita Income</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$18,788
<b>Region 6W</b>	\$16,925
<b>Big Stone</b>	\$15,708
<b>Chippewa</b>	\$18,039
<b>Lac qui Parle</b>	\$17,399
<b>Swift</b>	\$16,360
<b>Yellow Medicine</b>	\$17,120
<b>Pope</b>	\$19,032
<b>Stevens</b>	\$17,569
<b>Kandiyohi</b>	\$19,627



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota  
Below Poverty in 2000**

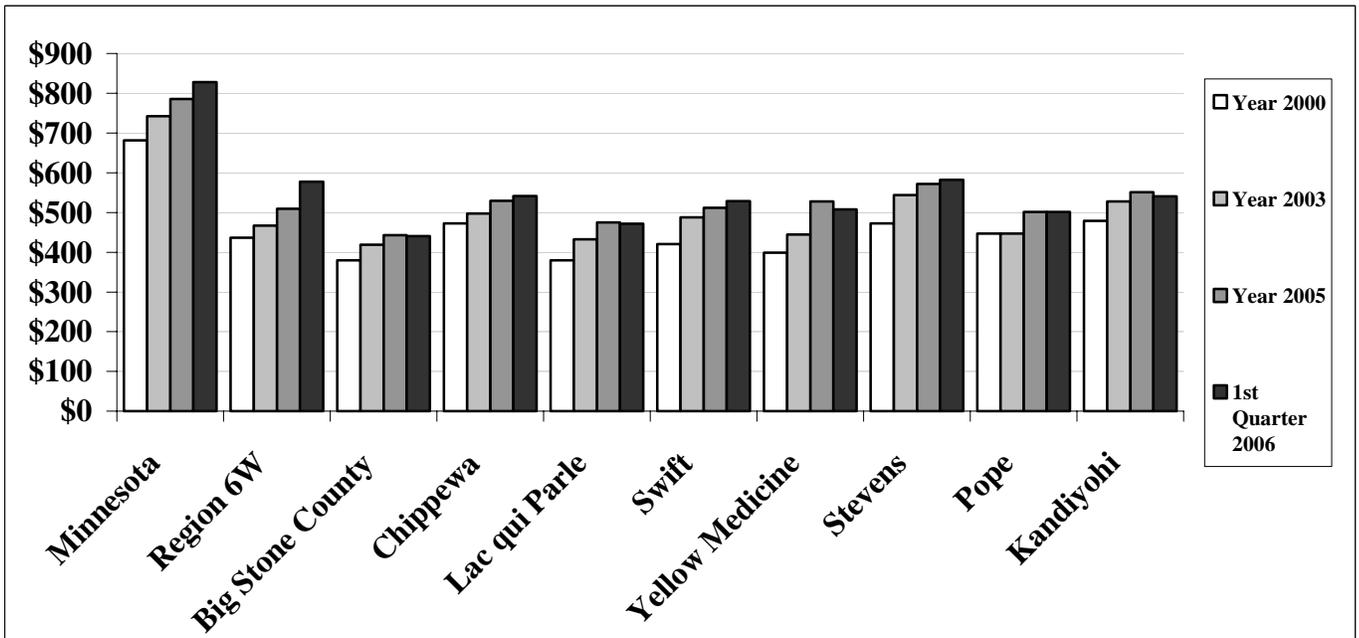


	Families Below Poverty	% Families Below Poverty	Persons Below Poverty	% Persons in Poverty
<b>Minnesota</b>	150,024	9.7%	242,674	7.1%
<b>Region 6W</b>	2,086	10.66%	4,450	7.16%
<b>Big Stone</b>	285	11.8%	681	10%
<b>Chippewa</b>	473	8.8%	1,103	6.2%
<b>Lac qui Parle</b>	337	10.2%	668	6.4%
<b>Swift</b>	453	10.4%	873	5.5%
<b>Yellow Medicine</b>	538	12.1%	1,125	7.7%
<b>Pope</b>	471	10.4%	962	6.8%
<b>Stevens</b>	582	15.5%	1,249	5.7%
<b>Kandiyohi</b>	1,552	9.7%	3,696	7%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Swift County, Area Counties and Minnesota  
Average Weekly Wage Comparison from 2000 and 2006**

	Year 2000	Year 2003	Year 2005	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2006
Minnesota	\$681	\$742	\$785	\$828
Region 6W	\$437	\$467	\$510	\$578
Big Stone	\$380	\$419	\$443	\$441
Chippewa	\$473	\$498	\$530	\$542
Lac qui Parle	\$380	\$433	\$475	\$472
Swift	\$421	\$488	\$512	\$529
Yellow Medicine	\$399	\$445	\$528	\$508
Pope	\$473	\$544	\$572	\$583
Stevens	\$447	\$447	\$502	\$502
Kandiyohi	\$479	\$528	\$551	\$541



Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development – Quarterly Census Employment and Wages Program November 2006)

**Income Summary**

- Swift County’s 2000 median household income was 12.5 percent less than the median household income for Minnesota. Swift County’s estimated median personal income for 2005 was \$13,000 less (34.5%) than the estimated median income was for Minnesota.
- Swift County’s per capita income in 1999 was similar to Region 6W. It was 13 percent less than Minnesota’s per capita income.
- In 2000, 10.4 percent of Swift County families were below poverty. This is slightly lower than Region 6W at 10.7 percent. Kandiyohi County families below poverty rate is at 9.7 percent and Minnesota is at 9.7 percent.
- The average weekly wage in Swift County showed a steady increase between 2000 to 2006. There was a 20 percent change of \$421 to \$529 during the last same time period. Minnesota’s average weekly wage stayed about 36 percent higher than Swift County’s during the last six years.

**Education**

**Swift, Area Counties and Minnesota  
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over in 2000**

	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade or Less	High School Degree or Greater	High School Graduate	Some College	College Degree or Greater	Associates	Bachelor	Masters	Professionals or Doctorate
<b>Minnesota</b>	12%	87.9%	28.8%	24%	35.1%	7.7%	19.1%	5.4%	2.9%
<b>Region 6W</b>	19%	80.9%	37%	23%	20.8%	7%	10%	2.3%	1%
<b>Big Stone</b>	21%	79.1%	40.2%	20.6%	18.3%	6.9%	8.5%	1.6%	1.3%
<b>Chippewa</b>	18%	81.5%	37.6%	23.8%	20.1%	6.5%	10.1%	2.8%	0.7%
<b>Lac qui Parle</b>	19%	80.7%	38%	22.6%	20.4%	7.6%	9.6%	2.3%	0.9%
<b>Swift</b>	20%	80.3%	35.1%	23.2%	22%	8%	11.5%	1.8%	0.7%
<b>Yellow Medicine</b>	18%	82.1%	35.4%	25%	21.8%	7.4%	10.4%	2.7%	1.3%
<b>Pope</b>	18%	82.3%	33.5%	25%	23.8%	9.1%	10.7%	2.2%	1.8%
<b>Stevens</b>	16%	84.5%	34%	21.3%	29.1%	8%	14.6%	2.9%	3.2%
<b>Kandiyohi</b>	17%	83.4%	31.1%	25%	27.8%	9.5%	13.1%	3.3%	1.9%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Education Summary**

- In 2000, 20 percent of Swift County’s 25 years and older population had less than a high school diploma as the highest level of education compared to Minnesota at 12 percent, Kandiyohi County at 17 percent and Region 6W at 19 percent of their populations.

- The percent of Swift County’s population in 2000 having completed only high school as the highest level of education was 35 percent while the state was at 29 percent, Kandiyohi County at 31 percent and Region 6W at 37 percent.
- Persons with some post-secondary training in Swift County in 2000 was 23 percent of the population compared to 24 percent for Minnesota, 23 percent for Region 6W and 25 percent for Kandiyohi County.
- In Swift County 80 percent of the population had a high school diploma or more in 2000, which was lower than Minnesota at 88 percent and the slightly lower than Region 6W and Kandiyohi County.
- In 2000, 22 percent of Swift County’s populaion had college degrees or higher compared to Minnesota at 35 percent, Region 6W at 20.8 percent and Stevens County at 29 percent.

**Housing**

**Housing Unit Change for Swift County Cities  
From 1970 – 2000**

City	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change 1970 to 2000	Percent Change
Appleton	759	845	813	860	101	13.3%
Benson	1,353	1,573	1,484	1,566	213	15.7%
Clontarf	59	74	77	65	6	10.2%
Danvers	42	53	45	47	5	11.9%
DeGraff	69	71	67	67	-2	-2.9%
Holloway	58	73	63	59	1	1.7%
Kerkhoven	220	310	315	336	116	52.7%
Murdock	124	140	132	150	26	21%
<b>City Totals</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>3,139</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>17.4%</b>

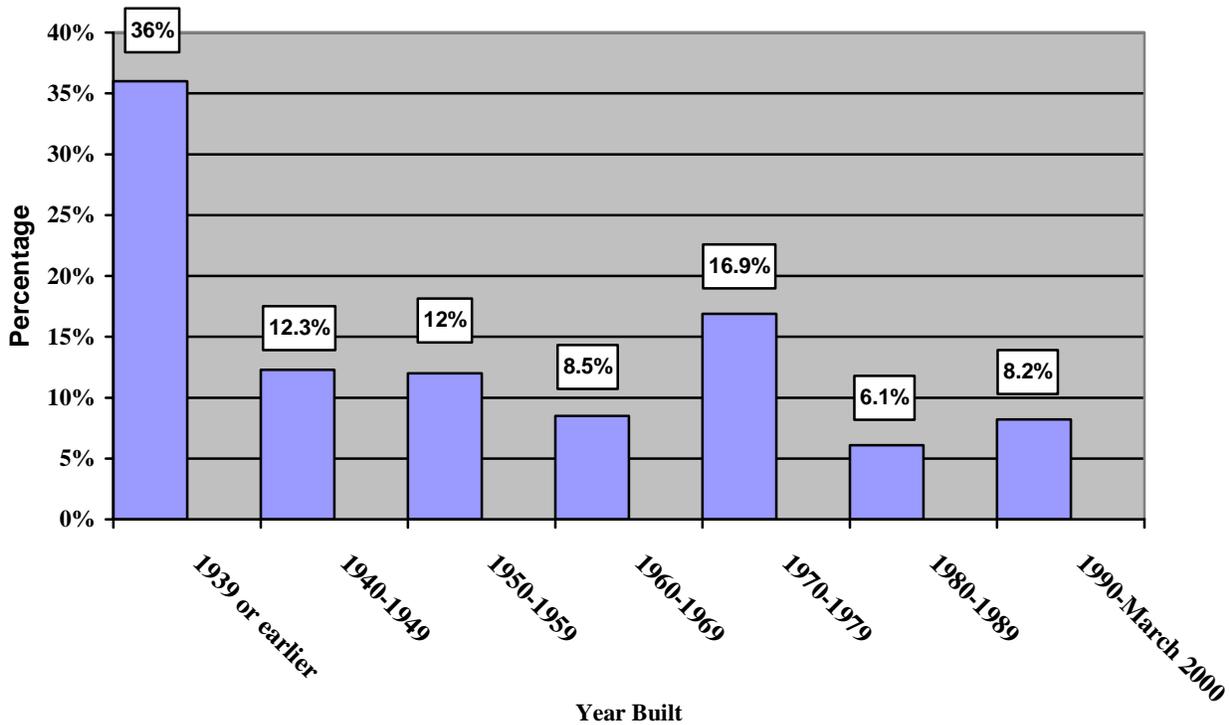
Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Housing Unit Change for Swift County Townships  
from 1970 to 2000**

<b>Township</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Change 1970 to 2000</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Appleton	102	111	99	102	-	-
Benson	107	125	133	128	21	19.6%
Cashel	90	83	70	61	-29	-32.2%
Camp Lake	129	143	134	113	-16	-12.4%
Clontarf	34	44	43	35	1	2.9%
Dublin	87	77	80	80	-7	-8%
Edison	86	85	65	61	-25	-29.1%
Fairfield	83	80	67	63	-20	-24.1%
Hayes	98	110	94	93	-5	-5.1%
Hegbert	81	76	62	56	-25	-30.9%
Kerkhoven	135	134	129	118	-17	-12.6%
Kildare	75	76	71	71	-4	-5.3%
Marysland	82	71	62	48	-34	-41.5%
Moyer	71	66	54	53	-18	-25.4%
Pillsbury	101	105	105	106	5	5%
Shible	88	82	69	67	-21	-23.9%
Six Mile Grove	76	85	73	66	-10	-13.2%
Swenoda	96	96	82	58	-38	-39.6%
Tara	71	68	55	48	-23	-32.4%
Torning	225	215	180	177	-48	-21.3%
West Bank	116	111	92	85	-31	-26.7%
<b>Township Totals</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>2,43</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>-344</b>	<b>-16.9%</b>

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Swift County Housing Construction by Decade**



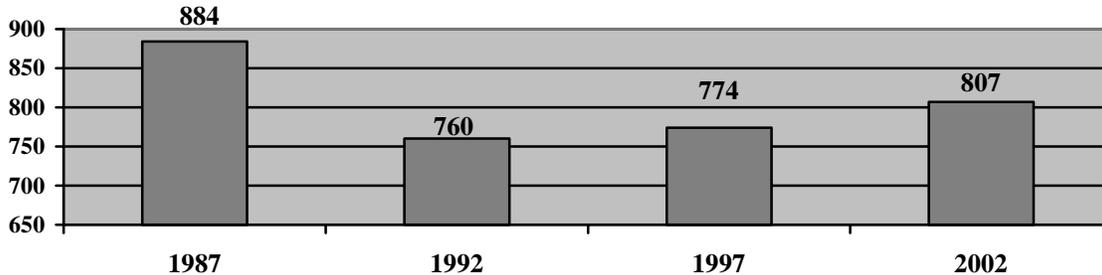
Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Housing Summary**

- The total number of housing units in Swift County increased by 122 (an increase of 466 in cities and decrease of 344 in townships) or 2.6 percent from 1970 to 2000.
- An overall increase of 17.4 percent in the number of housing units was experienced in the cities of Swift County but an overall decrease of 16.9 percent in the number of housing units was experienced in the County’s townships.
- DeGraff was the only city that saw a decrease (-2 or 2.9%) from 1970 to 2000 and Kerkhoven experienced the largest growth in total housing units (116 or 52.7%) from 1970 to 2000.
- Marysland Township experienced the largest decrease in housing units (-34 or 41.5 %) and Benson Township experienced the largest increase in housing units (21 or 19.6%) from 1970 to 2000. Of the 21 townships, only three experienced an increase in housing units.
- The largest percent of homes (36%) in the County were constructed before 1939. The 1980s saw only 6.1 percent construction but the 1990s saw an increase of 8.2 percent.

**Agriculture**

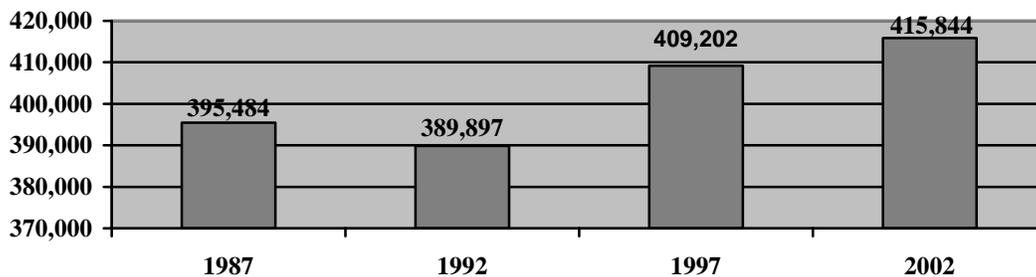
**Total Number of Swift County Farms in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



*Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture*

**NOTE:** Definition of a Farm. For the purpose of the Census of Agriculture, a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. The \$1,000 value is not adjusted for inflation. For the 1997 and 2002 census, operations receiving \$1,000 or more in Federal government payments were counted as farms, even if they had no sales and otherwise lacked the potential to have \$1,000 or more in sales. If a place does not have \$1,000 in sales, a “point system” assigns dollar values for acres of various crops and head of various livestock species to estimate a normal level of sales. Point farms are farms with fewer than \$1,000 in sales during 2002 but have points worth at least \$1,000. Point farms tend to be very small. Some, however, may normally have large sales, but experience low sales in a particular year due to bad weather, disease, changes in marketing strategies, or other factors. The census of agriculture uses the point system to help identify farms meeting the current definition. For 2002, a farm that had \$500 point value and \$500 in government payments is considered a farm. This would not have been true for the 1997 census. For farms with production contracts, the value of the commodities produced is used, not the amount of the fees they receive.

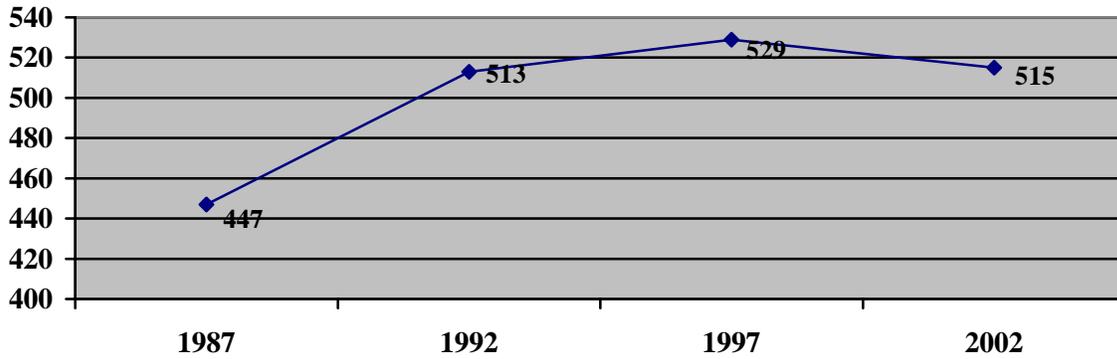
**Swift County Acres of Land in Farms in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



*Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture*

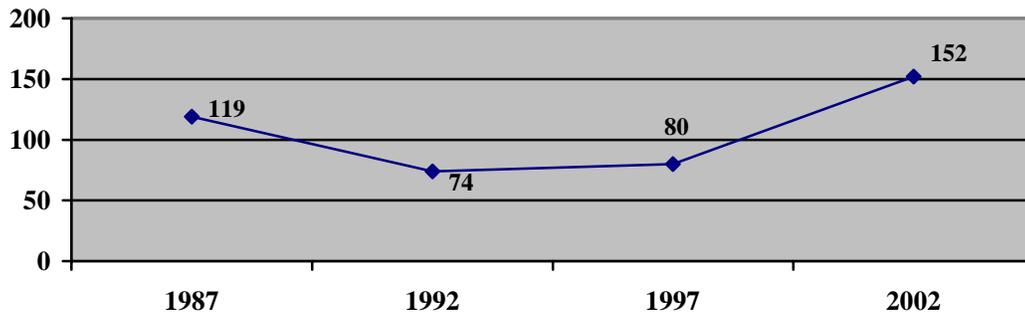
**NOTE:** Definition of Land in Farms. The acreage designated as “land in farms” consists primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. It also includes woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator’s total operation. Large acreages of woodland or wasteland held for nonagricultural purposes were deleted from individual reports during the edit process. Land in farms includes acres in the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs. Land in farms is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land used rent-free was reported as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, was included as “land in farms” provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the exclusive use of a grazing association was reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock was included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or non-Native Americans was reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. In many instances, an entire American Indian reservation was reported as one farm.

**Average Size of Swift County Farms by Acres in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



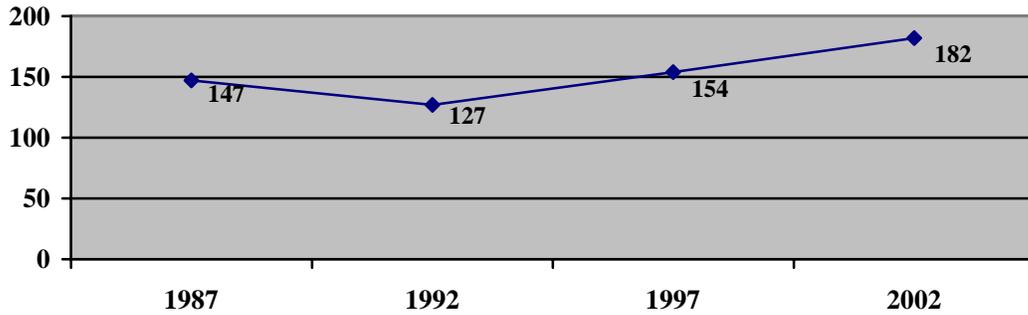
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Swift County Farms 1– 49 Acres in Size in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



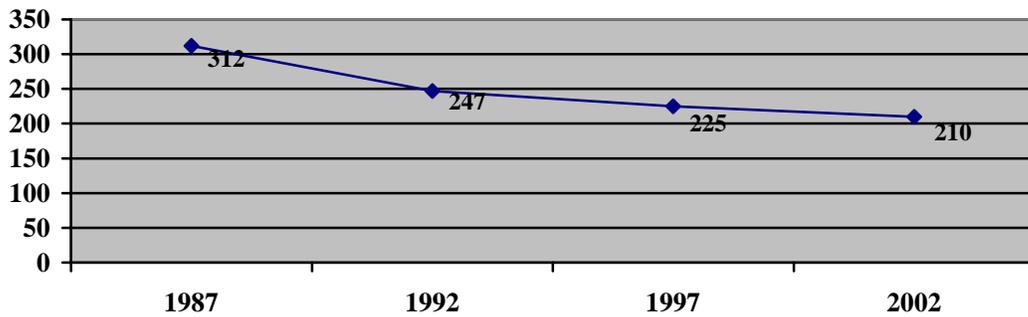
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Swift County Farms 50 – 179 Acres in Size in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



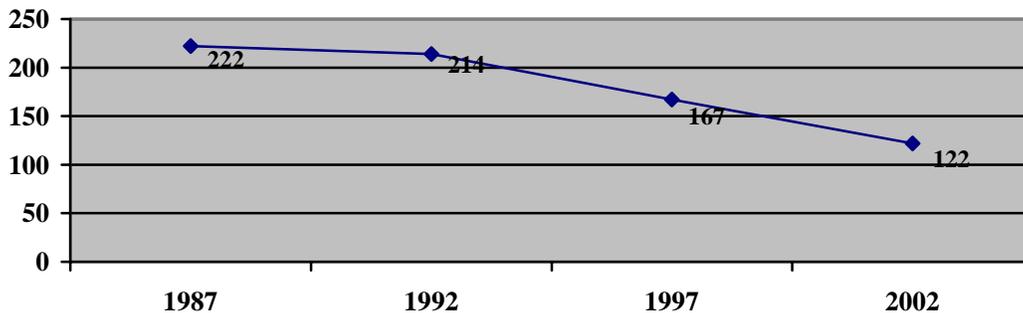
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Swift County Farms 180 – 499 Acres in Size in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



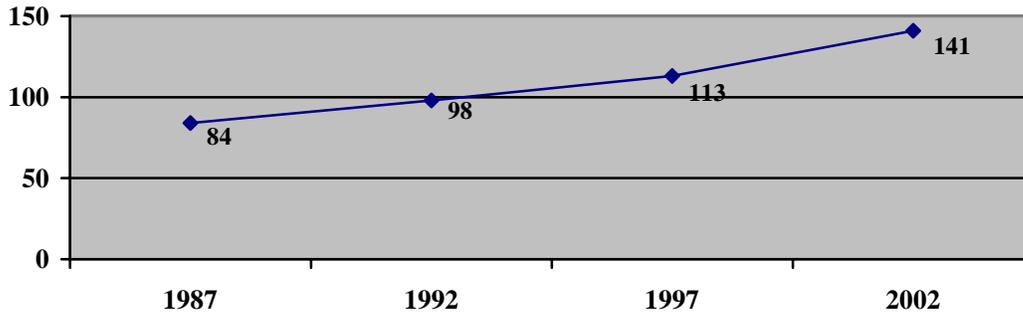
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Swift County Farms 500 – 999 Acres in Size in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



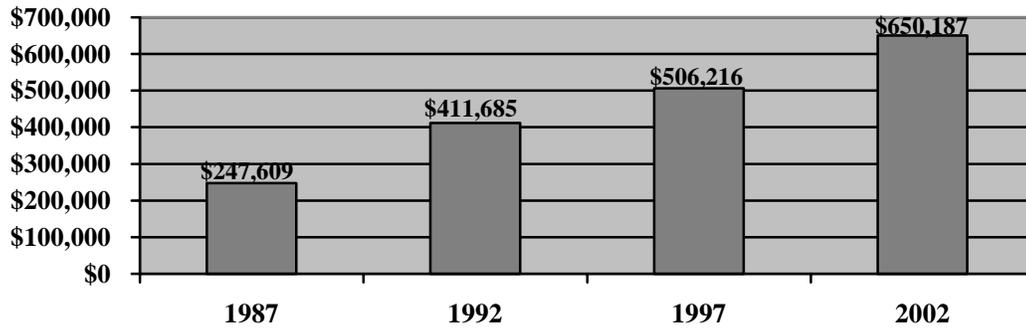
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Swift County Farms 1,000 Acres or More in Size in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



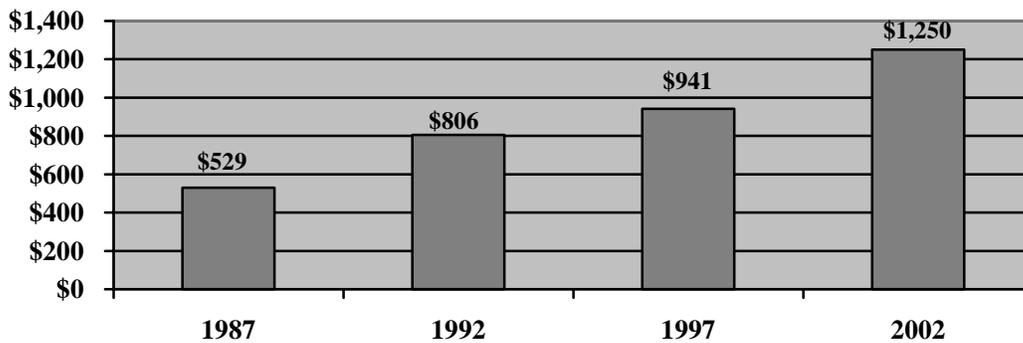
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Estimated Market Value of Farm Land and Buildings (Average per Farm) in Swift County in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



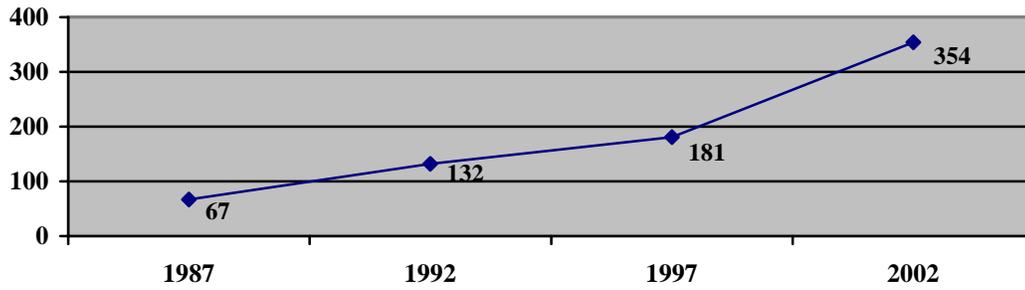
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

**Estimated Market Value of Farm Land and Buildings (Average per Acre) in Swift County in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



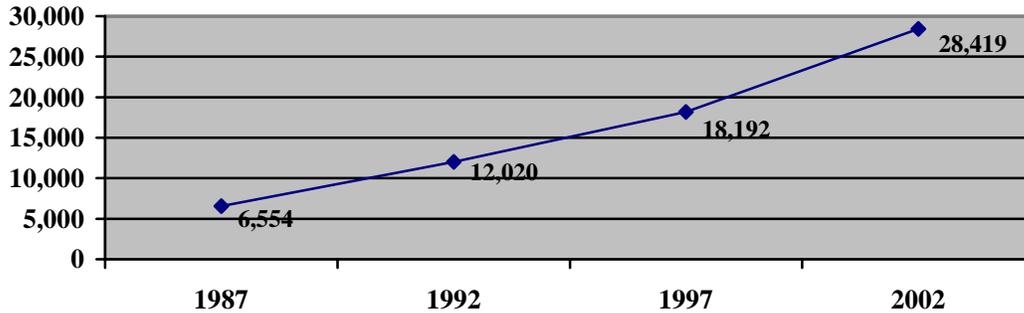
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture (data based on a sample of farms)

### Swift County Farms with Land Enrolled in Conservation or Wetland Reserve Programs



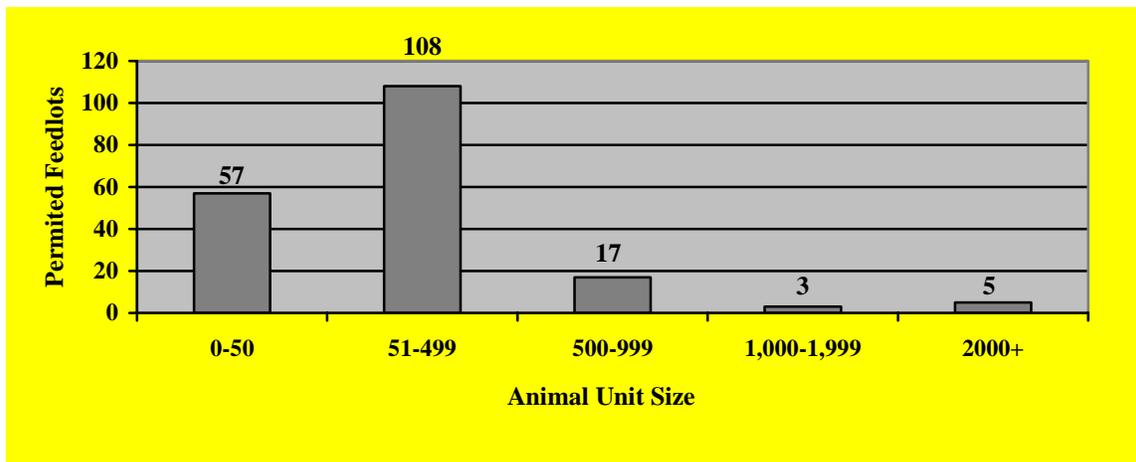
Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

### Acres of Swift County Land Enrolled in Conservation or Wetland Reserve Programs



Source: United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistic Service – U.S. Census of Agriculture

### Total Number of Permitted Feedlots in Swift County by Animal Unit Size



Source: Swift County Planning and Zoning Office – September 2006.

Note: Feedlots of 500 animal units or more require a conditional use permit.

### ***Agriculture Summary***

- In Swift County from 1987 to 2002 the number of farms decreased by 8.7 percent.
- The number of acres of land in farms in Swift County increased from 1987 to 2002 by 5.1 percent.
- The average size of farms by acres has increased from 447 acres to 515 acres from 1987 to 2002 or 15.2 percent.
- Farms over 1,000 acres experienced the largest increase from 1987 to 2002 (67.9%) – an increase of 57 farms. Farms between 500-599 acres experienced the largest decrease (45%) – a loss of 100 farms.
- The average estimated market value of farm land and buildings per farm increased by 162.6 percent from 1987 to 2002.
- The average estimated market value of farm land and buildings per acre increased from \$529 to \$1,250 or 136.3 percent from 1987 to 2002.
- The number of farms enrolled in conservation or wetland reserve programs from 1987 to 2002 increased from 67 to 354 or 428.4 percent.
- The number of acres enrolled in conservation or wetland reserve programs from 1987 to 2002 increased by 333.6 percent.
- Feedlots of 51-499 animal unit size make up the majority (56.8%) of the permitted feedlots in Swift County. Only 4.2 percent or eight feedlots are over 1,000 animal unit in size.

***For additional Swift County agriculture statistics see <http://www.nass.usda.gov>***

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Land Use and Cover**

**Swift County Land Uses and Cover**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Urban and Rural Development	7,452	1.6%
Cultivated Land	402,313	83.6%
Hay/Pasture/Grassland	41,963	8.8%
Brushland	1,568	.3%
Forested	12,975	2.7%
Water	5,760	1.1%
Bog/Marsh/Fen	8,113	1.7%
Mining	322	.1%
Unknown	814	.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>481,280</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Source: Minnesota 1990 Census of the Land*

## Surface Water in Swift County

Minnesota DNR Lake Number	LAKE NAME	ACRES	Minnesota DNR Lake Number	LAKE NAME	ACRES
76024300	Unnamed	1510.080	76013200	Unnamed	50.020
76021100	Unnamed (Danvers WMA)	1239.420	76016200	Unnamed	42.910
76008600	Hassel	647.370	76015900	Small Henry	41.110
76014600	Oliver	532.080	76016300	Reu Marsh	34.710
76024500	Unnamed	449.010	76010700	Malachy	32.720
76016900	North Drywood	399.280	76011600	Unnamed	31.300
76014601	Oliver (east portion)	358.270	76015700	Unnamed	30.670
76014100	Shible	341.230	76016600	Unnamed	29.770
76016000	Large Henry	254.770	76016800	Unnamed	29.050
76007200	Camp	230.400	76016400	Unnamed	28.670
76014900	South Drywood	227.370	76014700	Unnamed	26.860
76005700	Hollerberg	221.880	76010300	Hoffs Slough	26.840
76008800	Moore	211.580	76015600	Unnamed	26.820
76003300	Monson	207.990	76007100	Unnamed	26.550
76006600	Unnamed	201.680	76011700	Unnamed	25.570
76003200	West Sunburg	186.360	76001500	Unnamed	25.400
76014602	Oliver (west portion)	173.810	76013600	Unnamed	24.640
76022900	Unnamed	164.740	76016100	Unnamed	23.510
76025400	Unnamed	150.960	76013900	Unnamed	19.180
76021100	Unnamed (Danvers WMA)	141.260	76012800	Unnamed	18.550
76014800	Griffin	139.100	76001900	Unnamed	18.020
76014700	Unnamed	137.730	76008400	Unnamed	17.360
76003700	Unnamed	132.740	76004300	Unnamed	16.770
76003400	Frank	131.970	76007000	Unnamed	16.500
76014000	Hart	125.430	76006300	Unnamed	13.520
76009400	Johnson	108.200	76004700	Unnamed	12.320
76003700	Unnamed	96.260	76003600	Unnamed	11.600
76001000	Unnamed	87.150	76013700	Unnamed	11.260
76010800	Lynch	79.650	76027600	Unnamed	10.280
76013400	Unnamed	79.020	76003900	Unnamed	10.020
76005100	Unnamed	73.950	76002200	Unnamed	9.850
76003100	School	73.590	76027800	Unnamed	9.660
76004400	Unnamed	71.390	76002300	Unnamed	8.240
76013300	Unnamed	68.760	76018800	Unnamed	8.230
76025400	Unnamed	62.030	76011200	Unnamed	8.070
76001100	Unnamed	59.600	76008700	Unnamed	7.480
76012900	Appleton Mill Pond	58.610	76005000	Unnamed	7.250
76023500	Unnamed	57.120	76009000	Unnamed	7.060
76013000	Spring	56.810	76009500	Unnamed	6.710
76009200	Frovold	55.980	76002900	Unnamed	6.700
76023200	Unnamed	53.870	76012500	Unnamed	6.400

Source: Minnesota DNR

### Swift County Floodplains by City and Township

<b>City</b>	<b>100 Yr (Acres)</b>	<b>500 Yr (Acres)</b>
Appleton City	96.1	23.3
Benson City	489.5	156.0
Clontarf City	63.3	0.0
Danvers City	0.0	0.0
DeGraff City	21.3	0.0
Holloway City	69.8	0.0
Kerkhoven City	14.9	0.0
Murdock City	0.0	0.0
<b>Township</b>		
Appleton Township	2,911.6	37.1
Benson Township	2,668.2	209.8
Camp Lake Township	3,277.7	0.0
Cashel Township	1,879.0	0.0
Clontarf Township	1,725.0	278.1
Dublin Township	58.5	0.0
Edison Township	661.1	0.0
Fairfield Township	1,241.0	0.0
Hayes Township	32.4	0.0
Hegbert Township	48.8	0.0
Kerkhoven Township	1,340.6	0.0
Kildare Township	210.5	0.0
Marysland Township	0.0	0.0
Moyer Township	1,013.3	0.0
Pillsbury Township	2,398.3	0.0
Shible Township	19.4	0.0
Six Mile Grove Township	496.7	6.3
Swenoda Township	1,177.1	0.0
Tara Township	0.0	0.0
Torning Township	359.8	30.7
West Bank Township	1,992.3	0.7
<b>Swift County Total Floodplain Acres</b>	<b>24,266.2</b>	<b>742.0</b>
<b>Percent of Total County Acres</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>&lt;.1%</b>

*Source: FEMA Firm Data*

## **Soil Resources**

**Buse-Barnes Association:** Deep, hilly and rolling, somewhat excessively drained and well drained, medium-textured soils that formed in glacial till.

Six percent of Swift County – located mostly in the northeastern and northwestern parts.

**Barnes-Buse-Svea Association:** Deep, dominantly rolling, somewhat excessively drained to moderately well drained, medium textured soils that formed in glacial till.

Seven percent of Swift County – located mostly in the northeastern part.

**Tara-Barnes-Hamerly Association:** Deep, nearly level to gently rolling. Moderately well drained and well drained, medium textured soils that formed in glacial till.

Twenty-two percent of Swift County – located in the northwest, and smaller areas in the eastern and northeastern parts.

**Vallers-Winger-Hamerly Association:** Deep, nearly level to gently undulating, poorly drained to moderately well drained, moderately fine textured and medium textured soils that formed in glacial till.

Ten percent of Swift County – located mainly in Pillsbury, Dublin, Fairfield, and Tara Townships.

**Calvin-Perella-Bearden Association:** Deep, level and nearly level, very poorly drained to moderately well drained, moderately fine textured and medium textured lacustrine soils.

Eighteen percent of Swift County – located mainly in the south-central, and east-central parts.

**Marysland-Arveson Association:** Level, poorly drained, medium textured soils that are dominantly moderately deep to sand and gravel.

Ten percent of Swift County – located mostly in the southwest-central part.

**Hegne-Colvin-Perella Association:** Deep, level, poorly drained and very poorly drained, dominantly fine textured and moderately fine textured lacustrine soils.

Four percent of Swift County – located mostly in the south-central part.

**Arveson-Marysland-Hecla Association:** Level, poorly drained, medium textured soils that are shallow and moderately deep to sand and gravel; and deep, nearly level, moderately well drained, coarse textured soils.

Nine percent of Swift County – located in its north central part

**Maddock-Shible Association:** Deep, nearly level to gently sloping, well-drained, coarse textured and moderately coarse textured soils.

Five percent of Swift County – adjacent to the Pomme de Terre River, and several other waterways.

**Edison-Clontarf-Hantho Association:** Deep, nearly level to sloping, well drained, coarse textured and moderately coarse textured soils.

One percent of Swift County – mainly found in the southwestern part of the County, southeast of the city of Appleton.

**Renshaw-Fordville-Sioux Association:** Deep, nearly level to sloping dominantly excessively drained to well drained, medium textured and moderately coarse textured soils that are shallow and moderately deep to sand and gravel.

Six percent of Swift County – located mainly north of Appleton and along the Pomme de Terre River

**Shakopee-Fulda-Nutley Association:** Level, poorly drained, fine-textured soils that are moderately deep to sand; and deep, nearly level, poorly drained to moderately well drained, fine textured soils.

Two percent of Swift County – located in West Bank Township

*Data Source: USDA – NRCS Soils*

**Conservation Programs**

**Conservation Program Areas**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
CRP	31,384	7.83%
CREP	6,073	1.52%
RIM	1,563	0.39%
WRP	520	0.13%
<b>Total Acres in Conservation Programs</b>	<b>39,540</b>	<b>9.87%</b>
<b>Total Cropland Acres</b>	<b>400,611</b>	<b>-</b>

*Source: Conservation Land Summary, Prepared by the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources 8-29-06*

In addition to the above conservation program acres there is a total of 15 Wildlife Management Areas that totals 10,293 acres in Swift County. There are 30 Federal Waterfowl Production Areas in Swift County with a total of 7,609 Acres (*Data Source: MN DNR and Morris Wetland Management District*).

**Parks**

- **Monson Lake State Park**  
 Monson Lake State Park offers fishing, birdwatchers, hiking and a 187 acre park with a diverse landscape of wetlands and hardwood forests. The park includes a quiet campground and wooded picnic area. Paddle the lake and take a short portage that leads from Monson Lake to west Sunburg Lake. Access is off State Highway 9, just west of Sunburg, via County Road 95.
- **Swift County ATV Park**  
 The park is one of two in the state for avid ATV and motor-cross bikers and is located two miles northeast of Appleton on Highway 59. The park offers a 110-acre ATV park containing 5-6 miles of groomed trails for ATV riders, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles. Also includes picnic area, parking, motorcycle practice.
- **Swift Falls Park**  
 The park is located on the east branch of the Chippewa River and offers recreational opportunities within 32 acres of wooded parkland.

**Trails**

- **Snowmobile Trails**

The County has two snowmobile trails – Northern Lights Trail (north of Benson and to the west along Highway 12) and Ridge Runner Snowmobile Trail (east of Appleton and to the west to Big Stone County). The Monson Lake State Park has designated trails for snowmobile or cross-country skiing as well.

- **Bike and Pedestrian Trails**

County bike and pedestrian trails are becoming popular and there are several potential projects being discussed for the County. Two potential projects include a bike trail connecting Appleton and Milan and one near the county park at Swift Falls. Currently the cities of Benson and Appleton have bike/pedestrian trails within their city limits.

**Trails in Swift County**

TRAIL NAME	COUNTY	LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	SURFACE	USE
Ridgerunners Snowmobile Trail	Big Stone, Chippewa, Swift	Routes throughout the counties	140 miles	Snow	Snowmobile
Northern Lights Snowmobile Trail	Swift, Stevens, Pope	Routes throughout the counties	66 miles	Snow	Snowmobile
table and page breaks Monson Lake State Park	Swift	State Park	1 mile	Natural	Hiking, Snowmobile, and Cross-country
Pomme de Terre River/Canoe Route	Swift	Swift County	Unknown	Water	Canoeing
Appleton/Milan Trail (Phase I)	Swift	Within the city of Appleton	2.5 miles	Paved	Walk, Bike, Inline Skating
City of Benson	Swift	Within the city		Paved	Walk, Bike, Inline Skating
Swift County ATV	Swift	East of Appleton on Hwy. 59		Dirt	ATV or Motor-cross Bike

Source: UMRDC Trail Planning Guide (2002)

**City Recreational Facilities in Swift County**

City	Parks	Golf	Pool	Tennis Courts	Ball Fields	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playgrounds	Outdoor Volleyball	Camping	Cross-country Skiing	Ice Skating	Trails	Museum
<b>Appleton</b>	2	9 hole	X	X	X	X	2	X	X		Outdoor	X	
<b>Benson</b>	3	18 hole Mini	X Indoor & Out	X	X	X	2		2	X	Indoor	X	X County Museum
<b>Clontarf</b>													
<b>Danvers</b>	X			X	X		X						
<b>DeGraff</b>													
<b>Holloway</b>	X				X			X					
<b>Kerkhoven</b>	2	9-hole	X w/ Indoor spa		X	X	X	X	X Monson State Park	X Monson State Park			X
<b>Murdock</b>					X	X	X						X Murdock House

Source: Prairie Waters Visitors Guide and DEED Community Profiles. Benson also has racquetball courts, bowling and movie theatre.

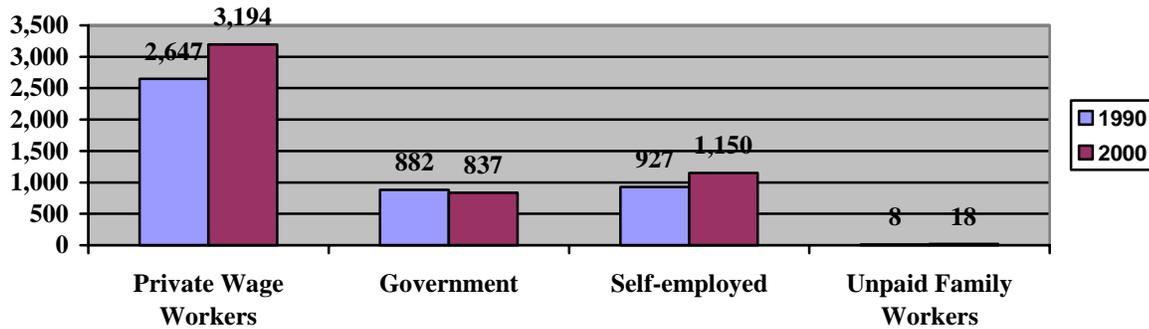
**Natural Resources Summary**

- Nearly 80.7 percent of the County is classified as cultivated land.
- There is over 24,000 acres of Swift County in the 100-year floodplains, and only 742 acres of Swift County in the 500-year floodplain.
- There are 12 different major soil associations in Swift County, with the largest being the Tara - Barnes - Hamerly Association at 22 percent.
- There is a total of 39,500 acres enrolled in some sort of conservation program in Swift County. This is a total of 9.87 percent of the total cropland in the County.

**SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

**Workforce and Employment**

**Swift County Employment Sectors for Employed Persons Over 16 Years  
1990 and 2000**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration, Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis, Land Management Information Center, Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Swift County Occupation by Business and Industry Type Comparison  
in 1990 and 2000**

Occupation	1990		2000		1990-2000 Change	
	Number Employed	%	Number Employed	%	Number	%
Farming/Forestry/Fishing/Mining	845	18.9	618	11.9	-227	-26.9
Construction	199	4.5	301	5.8	102	51.3
Manufacturing/Production	568	12.7	879	16.9	311	54.8
Transportation	138	3.1	273	5.3	135	97.8
Information	99	2.2	98	1.9	-1	-1.0
Wholesale/Retail Trade	974	21.8	886	17.1	-88	-9.0
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate/Rental	145	3.2	222	4.3	77	53.1
Educational and Health	847	19.0	971	18.7	124	14.6
Professional Occupations	151	3.4	196	3.8	45	29.8
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation/Food Services	83	1.9	219	4.2	136	163.9
Public Administration	134	3.0	320	6.2	186	138.8
Other	281	6.3	216	4.2	-65	-23.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,199</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration, Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis, Land Management Information Center, Datanet (U.S. Census)*

### Swift County Labor Force Projections from 2000 - 2030

Labor Force Type	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2000 - 2030 Percent Change
Total Labor Force	5,438	5,740	6,010	6,140	6,190	6,140	6,160	13.3%
Male Labor Force	2,907	3,070	3,190	3,290	3,290	3,290	3,290	13.2%
Female Labor Force	2,531	2,680	2,820	2,850	2,900	2,860	2,870	13.4%
Age 16-24	757	750	730	710	670	680	710	-6.2%
Age 25-44	2,434	2,330	2,330	2,380	2,470	2,440	2,380	-2.2%
Age 45-64	1,868	2,260	2,500	2,470	2,320	2,180	2,170	16.2%
Age 65 plus	379	400	450	580	730	850	900	137.5%

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration, Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis, Land Management Information Center, Datanet (U.S. Census)*

### Swift County Major Employers

Employer	Product/Service	Number of Employees
Prairie Correctional Facility	Correctional Institute	350
CNH	Farm Machinery & Equipment Mfg.	265
Benson Public Schools	Elementary & Secondary Education	180
Appleton Area Health Services	Health Care	148
Redball LLC	Farm Machinery & Equipment Mfg.	115
Swift County	Government Services	109
KMS School District #775	Education	108
Swift County Benson Hospital	Health Care	98
Meadow Lane Healthcare Center	Nursing Care Facility	83
Future Products Inc.	Cut & Sew Apparel Mfg.	82
Custom Roto Mold	Plastic Product Mfg.	49
Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company	Ethanol Mfg.	48
Chamberlain Oil Company	Petroleum Products	35
Dooley's Petroleum	Petroleum Products	23

*Source: Minnesota DEED MNPRO Community Profiles for Swift County Communities*

**1997 and 2002 Swift County Farm Operator Characteristics**

<b>Number of Operators 2002</b>		<b>Number of Farms</b>	
1 operator		593	
2 operators		176	
3 operators		20	
4 operators		14	
5 or more operators		4	
<b>Total Number of Operators in 2002</b>		<b>1,083</b>	
<b>Number of Women Operators 2002</b>		<b>Number of Farms</b>	
1 operator		190	
2 operators		8	
3 operators		--	
4 operators		--	
5 or more operators		--	
<b>Total Number of Women Operators in 2002</b>		<b>206</b>	
<b>Sex of Operator</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	
Male	2002	744	
	1997	749	
Female	2002	63	
	1997	25	
<b>Primary Occupation of Operator</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	
Farming	2002	599	
	1997	527	
Other	2002	208	
	1997	247	
<b>Place of Residence</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	
On Farm	2002	580	
	1997	534	
Not on Farm	2002	227	
	1997	157	
<b>Days worked off Farm</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Operators</b>	
None	2002	418	
	1997	338	
1-49	2002	66	
	1997	70	
50-99	2002	33	
	1997	42	
100-199	2002	60	
	1997	N/A	
200 or more	2002	230	
	1997	169	

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA (U.S. Census 1997 and 2002)

**Counties Private Sector Workers Are Employed**

County	2003		2002	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Swift County	1,582	51.4%	1,693	51.9%
Kandiyohi County	533	17.3%	495	15.2%
Hennepin County	349	11.3%	376	11.5%
Chippewa County	138	4.5%	166	5.1%
Stevens County	101	3.3%	114	3.5%
All other locations	374	12.2%	390	11.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,264</b>	<b>100%</b>

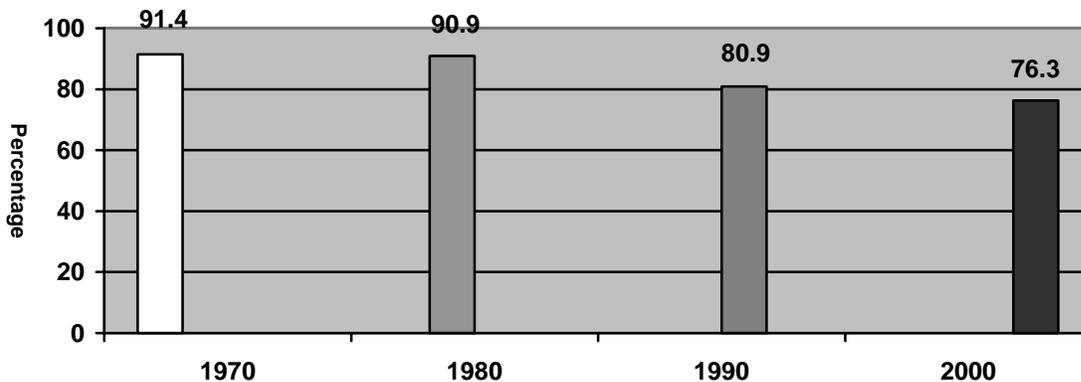
Source: <http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html>

**Cities Private Sector Workers Are Employed**

City/Town	2003		2002	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Benson	933	30.3%	875	26.8%
Unincorporated Areas	514	16.7%	672	20.6%
Willmar	436	14.2%	393	12.0%
Bloomington	243	7.9%	254	7.8%
Appleton	210	6.8%	210	6.4%
All other locations	741	24.1%	860	26.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,264</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: <http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html>

**Percent of Swift County Workers Employed in Swift County in 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration, Demographic Center U.S Census)

**Place of Work for Swift County Residents in 2000**

	Workers 16+	Work in MN	Work in Swift County	Work in Other MN Counties	Work out of State
Swift County	5,160	5,112	3,937	1,175	48

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Journey to Work and Place of Work Data, 2000 County-to-County Worker Flow Files*

**Swift County Commuting Patterns in 2000**

County Residents Commute to for Work	Number	Percent of Workers
Swift	3,937	76.4%
Big Stone	22	.4%
Chippewa	204	4.0%
Kandiyohi	646	12.5%
Lac qui Parle	61	1.2%
Pope	38	.7%
Stevens	121	2.3%
Other	131	2.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,160</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Journey to Work and Place of Work Data, 2000 County-to-County Worker Flow Files*

**Workforce and Employment Summary**

- From 1990 to 2000 there was a 24 percent increase in the self-employed workers and a 20.7 percent increase in private wage employment in Swift County. Government employment decreased by five percent during the same time period.
- The occupation/industry with the largest number of employees in Swift County in 1990 was wholesale/retail at 974 employees or 21.8 percent. In 2000 the education and health industry was the largest at 971 employees or 18.7 percent.
- In Swift County the total number employed in 1990 was 4,904 compared to 5,208 in 2000.
- The largest employers in Swift County are Prairie Correctional Facility (350), CNH (265) and Benson Public Schools (180).
- The labor force in Swift County by 2030 is projected to increase by 13.3 percent. The 65+ year labor force is expected to increase by 137.5 percent.

- The 206 women farm operators in 2002 represented 19 percent of the total 1,083 farm operators in Swift County. The number of farms operated by males decreased by five from 1997 to 2002 while the number of farms operated by females increased by 38.
- Fewer farm operators worked 1-199 days off the farm in 2002 than in 1997. More didn't work any days off the farm in 2002 (418) compared to 1997 (338) or over 200 days off the farm in 2002 (230) compared to 1997 (169).
- In 2002, 51.9 percent of Swift County's private sector workers worked in Swift County and 15.9 percent in neighboring Kandiyohi County. In 2003 Benson employed the largest percent (30.3%) of Swift County's private sector workers. This was a 3.5 percent increase over 2002. Unincorporated areas rank number two.
- The percent of workers employed in Swift County that work in Swift County has continued to decrease since 1970 when it was 91.4 percent to the 76.3 percent in 2000.
- Of the total 5,160 people who work in Swift County 76.4 percent commute within the County for work. A large percent (12.5%) commute to Kandiyohi County or to Chippewa County (4%).

**Market Value**

**Swift County Estimated Market Value by Tax Classification  
in 2006**

CLASSIFICATION	VALUE	PERCENTAGE
Agricultural	\$924,271,200	72.9
Commercial/Industrial	\$76,651,400	6.0
Residential	\$223,512,100	17.6
Apartments	\$8,407,000	.7
Utilities	\$34,685,500	2.7
Others	\$291,200	<.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,267,818,400</b>	<b>100%</b>

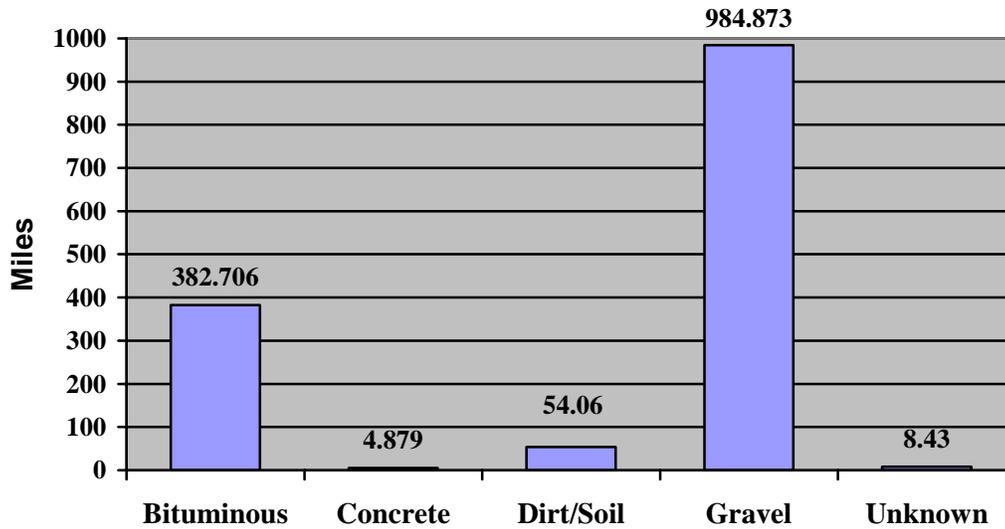
Source: Swift County Assessor Office 2006

***Market Value Summary***

- Agriculture in 2006 comprised the largest percentage of the total market value for Swift County at 72.9 percent.

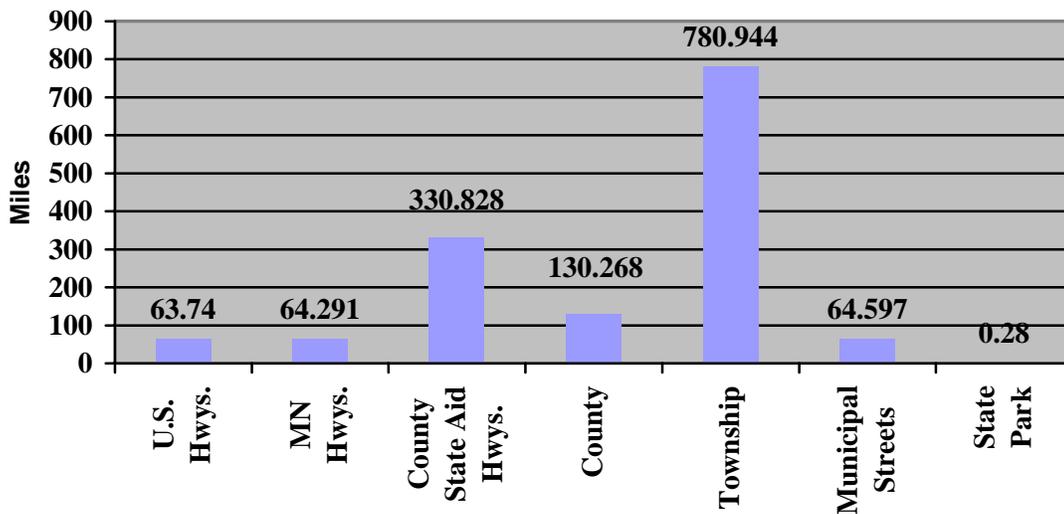
**Transportation**

**Miles of Road by Type in Swift County**



Source: MnDOT, Official Transportation Information System (TIS), June 20, 2006. Total number of miles is 1,434.948.

**Road Ownership by Miles in Swift County**



Source: MnDOT, Official Transportation Information System(TIS), June 20, 2006. Total number of miles is 1,858.577.

The functional classification of a roadway defines the roadway’s role in moving traffic. These classifications are:

- **Principal Arterial.** Serve statewide and interstate corridor movements having trip lengths and travel density characteristics indicative of statewide or interstate travel. Also serve all urbanized areas and a large majority of the small-urban areas with over 25,000 population.
- **Minor Arterial.** Link cities, larger towns and other traffic generators, such as major resort areas. They are consistent with population density and are spaced so that all developed areas of the state are within a reasonable distance of an arterial highway.
- **Major Collector.** These routes provide service to the larger towns not served by higher systems and other traffic generation of equivalent intra-county importance such as consolidated schools and county parks; link these places with nearby large towns or cities or with arterials; and serve important intra-county travel corridors.
- **Minor Collector.** At intervals consistent with population density, these routes collect traffic from local roads and bring all developed areas within a reasonable distance to a collector road and provide service to the remaining small communities.
- **Local.** Serve as access roads from Minor Collectors but also serve as access to Collectors and Arterials. These are roads not classified as Arterial or Collectors and include some county roads and most township roadways.

<b>Functional Classification System Breakdown (Rural)</b>		
<u>Road Type</u>	<u>Suggested</u>	<u>Swift County</u>
Principal Arterial	2-4%	9%
Minor and Principal Arterials	6-12%	6%
Major and Minor Collectors	20-25%	24%
Local Roads	65-75%	61%

*Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation Office of Transportation Data & Analysis 2005*

**Railroad, Airport and Transit Service in Swift County Cities**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>RAILROAD</b>	<b>AIRPORTS</b>	<b>TRANSIT</b>
<b>Appleton</b>	Twin Cities and Western Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	Yes - Paved 3,500 ft. long by 75 ft. wide runway and a turf runway 2,725 ft. long and 157 ft. wide (closed in winter)	Prairie Five RIDES – City and Regional System
<b>Benson</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	Yes -Paved 4,000 ft. long by 75 ft. wide runway; fueling is available	Benson Heartland Express and Prairie Five RIDES Regional System
<b>Clontarf</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	No	Prairie Five RIDES Regional System
<b>Danvers</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	No	Prairie Five RIDES Regional System
<b>DeGraff</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	No	Prairie Five RIDES Regional System
<b>Holloway</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	No	Prairie Five RIDES Regional System
<b>Kerkhoven</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	No	Prairie Five RIDES Regional System
<b>Murdock</b>	Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	Yes –A turf 3,415 ft. long by 150 ft. wide runway (closed in winter)	Prairie Five RIDES Regional System

*Prairie Five RIDES Regional System includes volunteer driver program.  
Source: 2005 Region 6W Transportation Data Report*

**Transportation Summary**

- About 72 percent of the roads in Swift County are gravel or dirt/soil type roads.
- Of the 1,858.6 miles of roads in Swift County, 42 percent are township owned and maintained.
- The County owns and maintains 461.096 miles of roads between county owned and county/state aid roads.
- Every city in Swift County is served by rail.
- The County has three airports that are all municipally owned and operated. All are unattended and do not support commercial service.

- The primary transit provider is Prairie Five RIDES, a regional system that includes a volunteer driver component in addition to regional and city system buses. A 48-hour notice is preferred to guarantee service.
- Appleton and Benson are the only cities in the County with city transit systems that are dial-a-ride bus service from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Benson has some weekend service Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- A County transportation map is provided in the Appendix.

### **Energy/Utility Services**

Agralite Electric Cooperative and Otter Tail Power Company provide electric service in the County. The city of Benson is the only city that has a municipal utilities service. The major transmission lines in the County include a 230 kilovolt (kv) line running north and south to the west of Benson; two 115 kv lines one running north and south near Clontarf, through Benson and cutting into Kerkhoven and the other coming into Appleton from the west; and a 69 kv line just to the north of Benson going east to Camp Lake Township where it goes north. It is these transmission lines that move large quantities of electricity. Power companies like Agralite and Otter Tail Power purchase capacity on these lines.

There are two pipelines within the County – Dome Pipeline Corporation and Alliance Pipeline both located near the city of Benson. The pipelines run a total of 52 miles in the County. Dome Pipeline moves seven different products. Alliance is a natural gas pipeline. Currently industry within the County does not directly tap the pipelines. This could be an issue the County could pursue in the future.

As wind power becomes more popular, this could be another potential source of energy for Swift County. Wind velocity in the County is suitable for wind energy production. Currently there are three wind turbines in the County two near Murdock and another east of Kerkhoven, which are all residential turbines. The current electrical grid can support small residential turbines but not commercial turbines. Larger transmission lines would be needed to accommodate commercial turbines (see the Energy Map).

Fibrominn is the first poultry litter fueled power plant in the US, developed by Fibrominn LLC in partnership with the City of Benson. The plant will generate 55MW of electricity from around 700,000 tons per year of turkey litter in combination with agricultural biomass. The plant is connected to a new 115 kv power line that will run approximately a quarter of a mile to a major substation owned by Great River Energy. The plant is designed to use “grey” water from the Benson Municipal water treatment facility to meet some of its cooling water requirement. Propane or natural gas will be used as its start-up fuel.

The Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company (CVEC) is a 45 million gallon-per-year ethanol producer located in Benson, Minnesota. CVEC’s 975 cooperative-owners live predominately within a 50-mile radius of the plant site. Corn is used to produce the ethanol. Glacial Grain

Spirits manufactures industrial-grade ethyl alcohol for use in the food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical and other industries. Our production facility is adjacent to the Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company to produce Shakers Vodka.

Biodiesel fuel is another renewable energy option that many are seeing as a feasible option because of its ability to be produced from renewable, domestic sources and for its significantly reduced emissions compared with traditional petroleum blends. It can be used in diesel engines on its own or blended with petroleum without any major modifications to the vehicle. Soybean oil has been the most commonly used ingredient in biodiesel and biodiesel blends. Swift County ranks 15 in the production of soybeans and corn in the state.

Of the eight cities in Swift County all have community wastewater systems. Rural households in the County have individual septic systems. The County is not served by a rural water system.

**Communities Served by Public Water,  
Storm Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Systems**

Community	Storm Sewer	Sanitary Sewer	Public Water
Appleton	X	X	X
Holloway	X	X	X
Danvers	X	X	
Benson	X	X	X
Clontarf		X	
DeGraff			X
Kerkhoven	X	X	X
Murdock	X	X	X

*Source: Swift County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2006*

***Energy/Utility Services Summary***

- Danvers and Clontarf are the only cities in the County without public water systems.
- DeGraff is the only city without a wastewater system.
- The County has a variety of energy sources at their disposal to capitalize on in the future.
- Transmission capacity is a huge issue for the County and the region for growth and the addition of renewable energy sources.
- Growth and expansion around the renewable energy industries has huge potential for the County's economy.

## COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

### **Administrator**

It is the responsibility of the County Administrator to assure that all County board policies are implemented and to coordinate overall operations of the County. The County Administrator works with the Management Team comprised of the department heads.

The Administration Department is responsible for managing the budget, assisting the board to ensure the effectiveness of all County services and providing board agendas and minutes.

The Administrator's major responsibility is to coordinate long-term planning and programs. County needs and requirements are analyzed and researched in order to develop recommendations for board consideration. The Administrator serves as a mediation and communication link between the board and County offices, departments, agencies, cities and townships.

### **Assessor**

The Assessor oversees the valuation and classification of all real estate property in Swift County. The Assessor's Office must meet all standards established by Minnesota Statutes and the Minnesota Department of Revenue. These standards provide an equitable and efficient system of property appraisal for tax purposes. The Assessor's Office also appraises and classifies certain personal property for ad valorem property taxes. Other duties include:

- Locating and determining which properties are subject to taxation.
- Determining the use of each property and assigning a classification based upon use.
- Determine which properties qualify for homestead application.
- Determine estimated market value of each property by analyzing and reflecting market transactions.
- Annual notification of the taxpayer of the classification and market value of their property.
- Provide useful public information to realtors, appraisers and other interested parties.

The Assessor does not determine taxes. Taxes are determined by the budget decisions of the city, township and the county. Some property is also subject to a state property tax. Excess value referendums voted within jurisdictions and special assessments such as ditch maintenance, sewer, streets, curbing, etc. will also affect your taxes. The State Legislature can have a dramatic effect on your taxes by determining or changing the class rate percentages.

Each taxpayer is notified of their valuation through an assessment notice mailed each year. This notice states the properties estimated market and taxable value as of January 2 of the previous and current year. It also states the classification of the property (residential, commercial/industrial, agricultural, etc.). The assessment notice also provides information regarding the appeal process. The information on this notice will be used to calculate the real estate taxes payable in the following year.

### **Attorney**

The people of Swift County elect the County Attorney for a 4-year term. The primary responsibility for the County Attorney is to prosecute all major crimes for the State that occurs in the County. This office also prosecutes lesser crimes in the County that occur outside of the city limits within the County.

The County Attorney's office also deals with the many civil matters involving the County, as well as advising County officials and department heads on legal matters such as land acquisition, employment issues, liability claims, county ordinances, contract negotiations, and appeals.

This office is involved in other matters such as child protection and child welfare cases, civil commitment of persons who are mentally ill or chemically dependent, collection of child support, establishment of child paternity, seeking reimbursement for County TANF/MFIP expenses, and prosecution of welfare fraud.

Currently, the Swift County Attorney's office is considered to be part-time, thus allowing the County Attorney to handle private cases as well.

### **Auditor**

Services and responsibilities of the Auditor fall into one of two categories, services to the general public and services to other county entities.

Services to the general public include:

- Transfer of deeds
- Game and fishing licenses
- Managing delinquent tax parcels
- Plat books
- Maintaining special assessment records
- Maintaining voter registration records
- Election administration
- Licensing of auctioneers, transient merchants, and liquor establishments

Services to other County entities include:

- Payroll preparation and administration
- Processing accounts payable and receivable
- Preparation of tax statements
- Tax settlements to other local units of government

### **County Rural Development Finance Authority**

The County RDA mission is to provide opportunities for economic and community development in Swift County. Located in the courthouse it serves all the communities of Swift County. Established in 1989 as Greater Rural Opportunities Working (GROW) it became the County RDA in 2004. Funding to support one full-time staff and operations comes from a tax levy. Services include:

- Technical assistance for new and expanding businesses in the County
- Two revolving loan funds
- There are TAX FREE ZONES for qualifying businesses to grow with the ultimate incentive through the JOBZ Program.
- Active in renewable energy development

### **Emergency Manager**

Emergency Management is the process of preparing for, mitigating, responding to and recovering from an emergency.

Emergency Management is a dynamic process. Planning, though critical, is not the only component. Training, conducting drills, testing equipment and coordinating activities with the community are other important functions.

The Emergency Manager is charged with coordinating the emergency preparedness and homeland security efforts of the County. In addition to planning and educating, assistance is provided to local jurisdictions and County agencies before, during and after disaster strikes. The County Emergency Manager works closely with county, local and state law enforcement, and cooperatively with neighboring jurisdictions to enhance homeland security and better prepare for and respond to incidents ranging from tornadoes to terrorism.

It involves working with all aspects of public safety, from the federal level to working with individual citizens, to ensure the most comprehensive and coordinated approach to public protection and safety. The division works with many agencies and jurisdictions to coordinate information, training and equipment needed for protecting the County. In the dire event that action must take place, staff will work with these agencies and jurisdictions to meet the problem quickly, mitigate its effect, inform the public and reduce the chances that such an event can happen again.

### **Environmental Services**

The Swift County Environmental Services office provides three essential services for Swift County residents: Solid Waste; Planning and Zoning; and Water Planning activities.

The Environmental Office provides solid waste services including:

- Recycling
- Composting
  
- Landfill

- Household and hazardous waste

The Planning and Zoning area duties include:

- Enforcement of the zoning ordinance and issuance of zoning permits
- Feedlot ordinance compliance
- Septic system inspections and permit issuance
- Dealing with the administrative end of conditional use
- Variance and rezoning and amending applications and procedures

The Water Plan is funded through both State and County monies and various water and environment related issues and projects are dealt with in the Plan. Environmental Services administer the actual Water Plan and are responsible for budget preparation and disbursements.

### **Extension Service and 4-H**

The University of Minnesota Extension Service is a product of the United States Department of Agriculture Federal Cooperative Extension Service. Since 1909, Extension has helped Minnesotans create a more prosperous, productive and healthy state.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service is committed to delivering high quality, relevant educational programs and information to Minnesota citizens and communities and is the major educational outreach arm of the University of Minnesota in every region and county of the state. Its mission is to connect community needs and University resources. A connection is made between Minnesota trends and University of Minnesota expertise in the following three areas:

- **Community development and vitality** by enhancing Minnesota’s economic, social, civic and technological capacity through research and education outreach from the University.
- **Land, food and environment** uses research, education, and outreach of the University to promote sustainable use of agriculture and natural resources to meet the needs of today and future generations.
- **Youth development and family living** shapes a sustainable future with the vitality of youth, strengths of families, wisdom of seniors, and the research education and outreach of the University.

Extension faculty and staff reach Minnesota residents each year through a variety of educational and applied research programs. Swift County residents have access to Extension staff throughout the entire state and are aligned with regional programming from the Regional Extension Office in Morris in the delivery of services. Extension is committed to delivering high-quality, relevant educational programs and information to Minnesota citizens and communities.

One of the strongest programs of Extension is 4-H. This program is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Its motto is to “make the best better”. Its mission is to engage youth, in partnership with adults, in quality learning opportunities that enable them to shape and reach their full potential as active citizens in

a global community. This mission is achieved by offering out-of-school educational programs that stimulate youth to learn in subject areas they are interested in; engage youth in addressing community and youth-related issues; and encourage youth to reach their full potential in an ever-changing, diverse world. Our programs deliver quality, research-based content that nurtures positive partnerships between youth and caring adults in safe learning environments.

4-H helps kids see their potential through:

- Learning by doing
- Practicing leadership
- Projects on gardening, animals, photography and much more
- Positive out-of-school time
- Science & arts enrichment
- Service to communities

Swift County has a full-time 4-H coordinator on staff in the County office dedicated to working with the youth of Swift County.

### **Highway**

The Highway Department has two main areas of responsibility, those related to engineering and project management services and those related to highway maintenance services. The Department currently has 24 employees responsible for 462 miles of roadways and 98 bridges.

Some specific duties within the department include the following:

- Planning, designing, constructing, and inspecting all road and bridge projects.
- Preparation of a five-year plan outlining proposed road and bridge projects.
- Acquisition of necessary permanent and temporary easements.
- Administration of \$2,000,000 annual County State Aid accounts.
- Annual safety inspections of 55 township, 40 County, and three city bridges.
- Providing County road maintenance, including ice and snow removal, on 224 miles of bituminous roads and 238 miles of gravel roads.
- Maintenance of county road ditches for weed control and hydraulic conveyance.
- Repairing and maintaining County vehicles and related equipment.
- Repair and replacement for highway signage.
- Issuance of permits for wide loads, farm entrances and private work in County right of way.

### **Housing Redevelopment Authority**

The Swift County HRA Board and its staff are committed to maintaining and improving the housing stock for the residents of Swift County. Programs and services include:

- 83 low-income Section 8 vouchers
- Administration of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) programs:  
Deferred Rehab Program

Rental Rehab Program

Community Fix-up Program (houses in Swift County built prior to 1978 for deferred maintenance items, wells and septic)

Fix-up Loans

- Package loans/grants for low-income families
- Low interest closing cost loans
- Administer TIF districts
- Own and operate 34 market rate townhouses in Appleton, Murdock and Benson built with Essential Function Bonds
- Maintenance of a small Emergency Loan Program, residual monies from the Appleton Small Cities loan program and Community Rehab money.

### **Human Services**

Swift County Human Services is the County's public welfare and local social service agency. Established in 1937, the department has 27 employees. The department has two main components: financial services and social services. For some services there is no charge, but most are based on a person's income and assets.

The financial services unit provides services that are most often associated with "public welfare:"

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Medical Assistance (MA)
- General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC)
- Food Support Programs
- Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)
- General Assistance (GA)

Additionally, within this unit, the department provides child support services to about 340 cases. The majority of funding for these services comes from state and federal sources.

The social services unit provides services in six cluster areas through a variety of programs to meet a variety of needs:

- Children's Services
- Mental Health
- Child Care
- Developmental Disabilities
- Chemical Dependency
- Adult Services

The services primarily involve completing assessments or investigations, developing individual case plans, case management, and contracting for services from an array of service providers. The majority of funding for these services comes from the County levy.

The administration unit of the department provides the fiscal and financial management, personnel administration and other administrative functions.

### **Parks and Drainage**

Specific duties involved with parks, drainage and wetlands include the following:

- Maintenance of two County parks
- Inspection of all County ditch and tiling projects
- Inspection, repair, and replacement of 280 miles of County ditches and 500 miles of County tile lines
- Spraying and removing noxious weeds in County ditches
- Coordinating all wetland activities including provisions of the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act

### **Recorder**

In Swift County, the records date back to the 1870's. The first Register of Deeds in Swift County took office in 1871, which is also the year county government began in Swift County. The County Recorder is the custodian of all records of the County pertaining to property titles, real estate transfers and all vital statistic records of births, marriages and deaths within the County. Records include various forms of deeds, mortgages, liens, satisfactions and other various documents presented for recording purposes. The Recorder also handles applications for passports and notary filings.

All records are open to the public and are used by abstractors, attorneys, title companies, realtors, lending institutions, surveyors, homeowners, and the general public. Many people search their "roots" tracing family histories at the Recorder's Office.

The Recorder's Office also operates under the Race Notice Law. This literally means that a person who wins the race with his legal documents establishes his or her interest first. Laws enacted by the Minnesota State Legislature govern the Recorder's Office. New laws are enacted each legislative session affecting the Recorder's Office.

In Minnesota, the County Recorder also assumes responsibility as Registrar of Titles under the Torrens, or Registered System. The Registrar is an arm of the District Court and under the Court's control at all times. The Registrar must examine documents presented, determine that they meet the legal requirements for transfer, and issue Certificates of Title, which actually convey the land to the purchaser. The Registrar of Torrens acts much the same as an attorney does in abstract land. The Judge of District Court may appoint a competent attorney to be an Examiner of Titles and then that person becomes the legal advisor to the Registrar of Titles.

### **Swift County Sheriff**

A full range of law enforcement services are provided by the Sheriff Department in Swift County. These services include:

- Patrol-based services, including traffic law enforcement; general calls for service; investigate motor vehicle accidents.
- Enforce boating regulations throughout the County and investigate drownings.
- Provide crime prevention and education services to the general public.
- Provide investigative services and preparation for prosecution by the County Attorney for felony-level crimes including death investigations, juvenile issues, drug investigations, and welfare fraud.
- Responsible for Civil Process, orders of the Court, and all arrest warrants issued by the Court.
- Investigate child protection cases jointly with Swift County Human Services.
- Responsible for telecommunications including 911 emergency calls and dispatching all emergency and non-emergency law enforcement, fire and EMS services within Swift County.
- Responsible for court security.
- Responsible for the transportation of committed patients and prisoners.
- Responsible for the administration and operation of the County jail.
- Provide assistance to other law enforcement agencies in the County.
- Support the efforts of the County Emergency Manager.
- Provide law enforcement services under contract to the city of Kerkhoven.

There are police departments in Appleton and Benson.

### **Swift County Treasurer**

The Treasurer is one of five County officials that are elected at large by the voters of Swift County every four years. Among the specific duties of the Treasurer are the following:

- Mails out over 8,000 tax statements to taxpayers every year.
- Maintains and updates taxpayer addresses and escrow files.
- Collects and distributes over \$8,000,000 in taxes from real estate mobile homes and personal property.
- Invests money according to County cash flow needs.
- Handles all deposits of funds, disbursements of payments and reconciliation of bank accounts and banking functions.
- Processes legal documents relating to property transfers through the collection of Deed and Mortgage Registry taxes.
- Mails out over 8,000 "Truth in Taxation" notices annually.

In Swift County, the Treasurer also has responsibility for the management and registration of most vital statistics. This includes birth, death, and marriage records of the present as well as the past. The earliest records available for public review are dated 1870. Genealogy and land tax records assistance is available during normal working hours. Passport applications and marriage license applications are also processed in the Treasurer's office. Motor vehicle related data is maintained at the Deputy Registrar's Office.

## **Swift County Youth Programs**

The Swift County Youth Program is an educational and preventative program designed to assist youth and families. The mission of the Swift County Youth Programs is to work as a united coalition to stimulate interest and actively work on the development and awareness through programs, projects and activities, which will empower families and community to provide a nurturing environment for families. Programs are intended to provide youth support and understanding; opportunities to achieve their potential and foster lifetime interests; a safe, healthy and non-violent environment for activities. The program provides parents support; a positive and healthy atmosphere encouraging participation; and opportunities for involvement in their child's activities. Another goal is to educate the public on youth issues and engage the community in youth programs and activities at the local level.

### **Summer Programs:**

#### **Big/Little Buddy Program**

In this program, a youth is matched with an older (usually high school age) student. The Big Buddy acts as a positive role model and influence.

#### **One of a Kind Kid Camp**

In this program we offer four day camps. One camp is for grades K-3 in Appleton, Benson and Kerkhoven and the other is for grades 4-6 and is on a three-year rotation schedule at Lac qui Parle State Park, Monson State Park and Swift Falls Park. Hiking, fishing, games, crafts and singing songs are part of the activities.

### **School Year Programs:**

#### **After School Club/Kids in Action**

This program offers a safe and fun environment for students after school. There are three sites: Appleton, Benson and Murdock that meet twice a month.

#### **Parent's Night Out**

This is a four-session program in which parents in Benson meet to learn more effective parenting skills, learn to cook low cost and nutritious meals and to build friendships.

#### **Community Drug Awareness Program**

Groups are coordinated to focus on drug education and prevention for families and youth in our communities. There are three groups – Appleton, Benson and Kerkhoven/Murdock/Sunburg. If interested in becoming a member, contact Swift County Youth Programs.

## **Veterans Services**

The mission of Veterans Services is to improve conditions for Swift County veterans and their families. It provides services to veterans who have served at least 180 consecutive days in the armed forces and have an honorable discharge or are a widow of a deceased veteran. There are a variety of specific services including:

- Assisting veterans, widows, or other dependents of veterans, in filing for compensation, pension claims and other benefits eligible to veterans.

- Assisting persons in applying for medical benefits and services through the Veteran's Administration or Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Assisting in transportation of patients to Veteran's Administration Medical Center facilities for treatment.
- Assisting those who are already receiving pension or compensation with any problems that may arise.
- Assisting in applying for medals never received or records and/or discharges that may have been lost.

The Veteran's Service office maintains regular business office hours in Benson. In addition, a representative is at the Appleton Civic Center each Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and at the Kerkhoven Civic Center on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Referrals to the Veteran's Service office may be by self-referral, walk in, or by appointment.

*Source: County department descriptions on Swift County website [www.swiftcounty.com](http://www.swiftcounty.com)*

## CHAPTER TWO: City Profiles

### PROFILE FEATURES

This chapter profiles each incorporated city located in Swift County. The purpose of the city profile is to provide a snapshot of demographic and development trends in Swift County's eight municipalities. This information can be used by county, city and township officials to help avoid potential land use conflicts and to identify needs for new or improved services in and around municipalities.

There are three main features to each city profile. The first feature of each city profile includes information about land use controls and key infrastructure. City website information and photos of the community are also included.

The second feature of each profile provides key demographic information for the city. Historical data is from the U.S. Census via the Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet - [www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb](http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb) and estimates and projections (see note below on projections) are from the Minnesota State Demographic Center - [www.demography.state.mn.us](http://www.demography.state.mn.us).

The third major feature of each profile is a future land use map. During the planning process, each city was provided a 2003 aerial photo of their community. Each city was then asked to identify on the map any potential urban growth areas (areas where they anticipate growing or annexing in the next 20 years). Cities were also asked to identify any land they foresee possibly detaching in the future.

**Note on Population Projections** – The population projections in this chapter have extrapolated population figures going out to 2030. These population extrapolations are based on simple mathematical formulas. They are based on county populations published by the Minnesota State Demographic Center in October 2002. The numbers do not reflect any special knowledge about individual communities such as zoning regulations, land available for development, current development projects, one-time events or any of the myriad other factors that can and do affect future population. The extrapolations are not a substitute for projections based on such detailed local knowledge and development plans. Users should be aware that projections can be highly inaccurate and that projections for small areas or rapidly changing areas are especially problematic. Projections farther into the future are likely to be less accurate than those done over the short term.

*Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004)*

**CITY POPULATION AND HOUSING TRENDS**

**Population and Housing Profile for All Swift County Cities from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	6,896	7,271	6,343	7,835	1,492	23.52
Land Area (sq. mile)	9.40	10.37	10.30	10.72	0.42	4.10
Density (persons per sq. mile)	733.62	701.16	615.83	730.72	114.89	18.66
Housing Units	2,684	3,139	2,996	3,152	156	5.21
Households	--	2,945	2,733	2,838	105	3.84
Persons Per Household	--	2.41	2.24	2.22	-0.02	-0.95
Persons in Group Quarters	--	179	212	1,529	1,317	621.23

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Population and Housing Estimates for All Swift County Cities from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	7,835	7,814	7,558	7,818	7,740	7,566	-269	-3.43
Households	2,838	2,847	2,846	2,840	2,816	2,819	-19	-0.67
Persons Per Household	2.22	2.22	2.21	2.20	2.19	2.18	-0.04	-1.80
Persons in Group Quarters	1,529	1,503	1,280	1,579	1,568	1,407	-122	-7.98

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center for years 2001 - 2005

## CITY PROFILES

### City of Appleton Profile

#### *General Information*

- Website: [www.appletonmn.com](http://www.appletonmn.com)
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: Yes
- Public water system: Yes
- Public wastewater system: Yes

#### *Population and Housing Information*

##### **City of Appleton Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	1,789	1,842	1,552	2,871	1,319	84.99
Land Area (sq. mile)	1.30	1.81	1.73	1.99	0.26	15.07
Density (persons per sq. mile)	1,376.15	1,017.68	897.11	1,442.24	545.13	60.77
Housing Units	759	845	813	860	47	5.78
Households	--	783	714	729	15	2.10
Persons Per Household	--	2.26	2.06	2.02	-0.04	-1.75
Persons in Group Quarters	--	72	84	1,402	1,318	1,569.05

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Appleton Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	2,871	2,843	2,586	2,877	2,849	2,680	-191	-6.65
Households	729	726	715	708	697	696	-33	-4.53
Persons Per Household	2.02	2.02	2.01	2.00	1.99	1.99	-0.03	-1.49
Persons in Group Quarters	1,402	1,380	1,147	1,460	1,458	1,294	-108	-7.70

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Appleton Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	2,871	2,940	3,255	3,567	3,733	3,880	4,007	+1,136

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030

NOTE: Appleton’s population grew significantly from 1990 to 2000. As shown in the table on the previous page, most of this growth was attributed to an increase of people living in “group quarters”. Group quarters people include prison inmates. Prairie Correctional Facility was constructed in Appleton during the 1990s. Inmates at Prairie Correctional Facility were counted in the 2000 U.S. Census as residents of Appleton and Swift County. Since population change from 1990 to 2000 was one of the factors used to develop Appleton’s population projections, the city’s projections became skewed as a result of the addition of inmates at Prairie Correctional Facility during the 1990s.



Insert future land use map – 11x17

**City of Benson Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: [www.bensonmn.org](http://www.bensonmn.org)
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: Yes
- Building code: Yes
- Public water system: Yes
- Public wastewater system: Yes

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of Benson Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	3,484	3,656	3,235	3,376	141	4.36
Land Area (sq. mile)	1.70	2.45	2.51	2.48	-0.03	-1.14
Density (persons per sq. mile)	2,049.41	1,492.24	1,288.84	1,360.48	71.64	5.56
Housing Units	1,353	1,573	1,484	1,566	82	5.53
Households	--	1,498	1,382	1,451	69	4.99
Persons Per Household	--	2.38	2.26	2.24	-0.02	-0.94
Persons in Group Quarters	--	90	110	125	15	13.64

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Benson Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	3,376	3,386	3,391	3,375	3,347	3,346	-30	-0.89
Households	1,451	1,461	1,471	1,477	1,472	1,474	23	1.59
Persons Per Household	2.24	2.23	2.22	2.21	2.20	2.19	-0.05	-2.23
Persons in Group Quarters	125	121	131	117	108	111	-14	-11.20

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Benson Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	3,391	3,484	3,501	3,546	3,644	3,733	3,796	+405

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



Insert future land use map-11x17

**City of Clontarf Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: No
- Zoning ordinance: No
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: No
- Public water system: No
- Public wastewater system: Yes

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of Clontarf Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	147	196	172	173	1	0.58
Land Area (sq. mile)	2.30	2.19	2.05	2.05	0.00	0.21
Density (persons per sq. mile)	63.91	89.50	83.90	84.22	0.31	0.37
Housing Units	59	74	77	65	-12	-15.58
Households	--	68	66	62	-4	-6.06
Persons Per Household	--	2.88	2.61	2.76	0.15	5.91
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	2	2	

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Clontarf Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	173	170	166	164	159	158	-15	-8.67
Households	62	61	60	59	57	57	-5	-8.06
Persons Per Household	2.76	2.75	2.73	2.75	2.75	2.73	-0.03	-1.09
Persons in Group Quarters	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Clontarf Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	173	167	165	163	163	164	164	-9

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



Insert future land use map-11x17

**City of Danvers Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: No
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: No
- Public water system: No
- Public wastewater system: Yes

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of Danvers Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	136	152	98	108	10	10.20
Land Area (sq. mile)	0.50	0.54	0.52	0.70	0.18	35.39
Density (persons per sq. mile)	272.00	281.48	188.46	153.40	-35.06	-18.60
Housing Units	42	53	45	47	2	4.44
Households	--	49	38	43	5	13.16
Persons Per Household	--	3.10	2.58	2.51	-0.07	-2.67
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Danvers Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

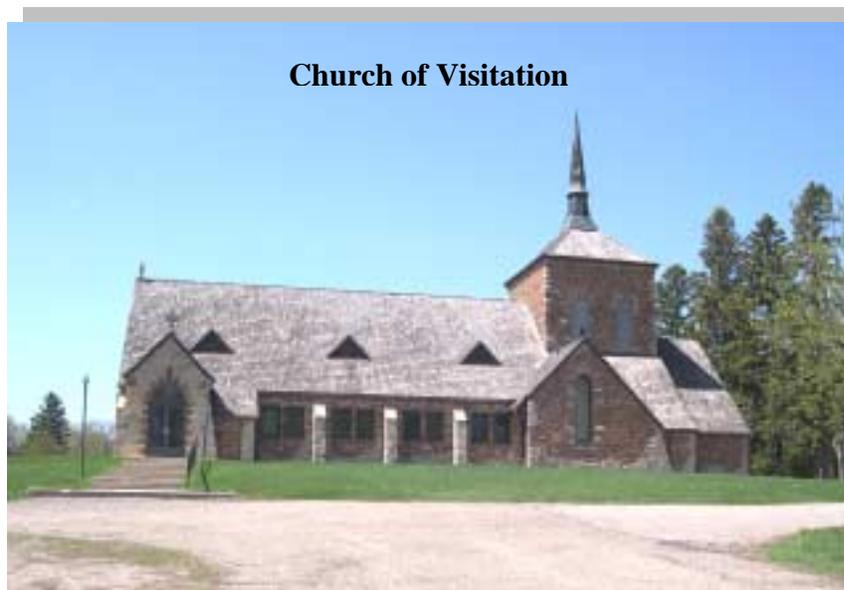
	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	108	107	105	102	98	97	-11	-10.19
Households	43	43	42	41	39	39	-4	-9.30
Persons Per Household	2.51	2.49	2.50	2.49	2.51	2.48	-0.03	-1.20
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Danvers Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	108	109	110	113	116	119	121	+13

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



**Church of Visitation**

Insert future land use map-11x17

**City of DeGraff Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: No
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: No
- Public water system: Yes
- Public wastewater system: No

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of DeGraff Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	195	179	149	133	-16	-10.74
Land Area (sq. mile)	0.80	0.83	0.81	0.81	-0.00	-0.37
Density (persons per sq. mile)	243.75	215.66	183.95	164.80	-19.15	-10.41
Housing Units	69	71	67	67	0	0.00
Households	--	64	60	60	0	0.00
Persons Per Household	--	2.80	2.48	2.22	-0.26	-10.60
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of DeGraff Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	133	129	141	144	139	137	4	3.01
Households	60	59	62	63	61	61	1	1.67
Persons Per Household	2.22	2.19	2.27	2.29	2.27	2.24	0.02	0.90
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of DeGraff Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	133	141	139	137	136	136	136	+3

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



Insert future land use map-11x17

**City of Holloway Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: No
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: No
- Public water system: Yes
- Public wastewater system: Yes

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of Holloway Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	146	142	123	112	-11	-8.94
Land Area (sq. mile)	1.90	1.24	1.38	1.38	0.00	0.05
Density (persons per sq. mile)	76.84	114.52	89.13	81.12	-8.01	-8.99
Housing Units	58	73	63	59	-4	-6.35
Households	--	61	56	54	-2	-3.57
Persons Per Household	--	2.33	2.20	2.07	-0.13	-5.76
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Holloway Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	112	111	108	108	108	107	-5	-4.46
Households	54	54	53	53	53	53	-1	-1.85
Persons Per Household	2.07	2.06	2.04	2.04	2.03	2.01	-0.06	-2.90
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Holloway Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	112	107	104	100	99	98	96	-16

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



**Western Consolidated Cooperative**

Insert map

**City of Kerkhoven Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: No
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: No
- Public water system: Yes
- Public wastewater system: Yes

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of Kerkhoven Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	641	761	732	759	27	3.69
Land Area (sq. mile)	0.30	0.75	0.74	0.74	0.00	0.22
Density (persons per sq. mile)	2,136.67	1,014.67	989.19	1,023.47	34.28	3.47
Housing Units	220	310	315	338	23	7.30
Households	--	294	299	313	14	4.68
Persons Per Household	--	2.53	2.39	2.42	0.03	1.34
Persons in Group Quarters	--	17	18	0	-18	-100.00

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Kerkhoven Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	759	764	754	749	745	743	-16	-2.11
Households	313	316	314	313	312	312	-1	-0.32
Persons Per Household	2.42	2.42	2.40	2.39	2.38	2.38	-0.04	-1.65
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Kerkhoven Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	759	772	773	779	797	813	827	+68

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



Insert future land use map-11x17

**City of Murdock Profile**

***General Information***

- Website: No
- Zoning ordinance: Yes
- Subdivision ordinance: No
- Building code: No
- Public water system: Yes
- Public wastewater system: Yes

***Population and Housing Information***

**City of Murdock Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	358	343	282	303	21	7.45
Land Area (sq. mile)	0.60	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.47
Density (persons per sq. mile)	596.67	612.50	503.57	538.52	34.95	6.94
Housing Units	124	140	132	150	18	13.64
Households	--	128	118	126	8	6.78
Persons Per Household	--	2.68	2.39	2.40	0.01	0.43
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**City of Murdock Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

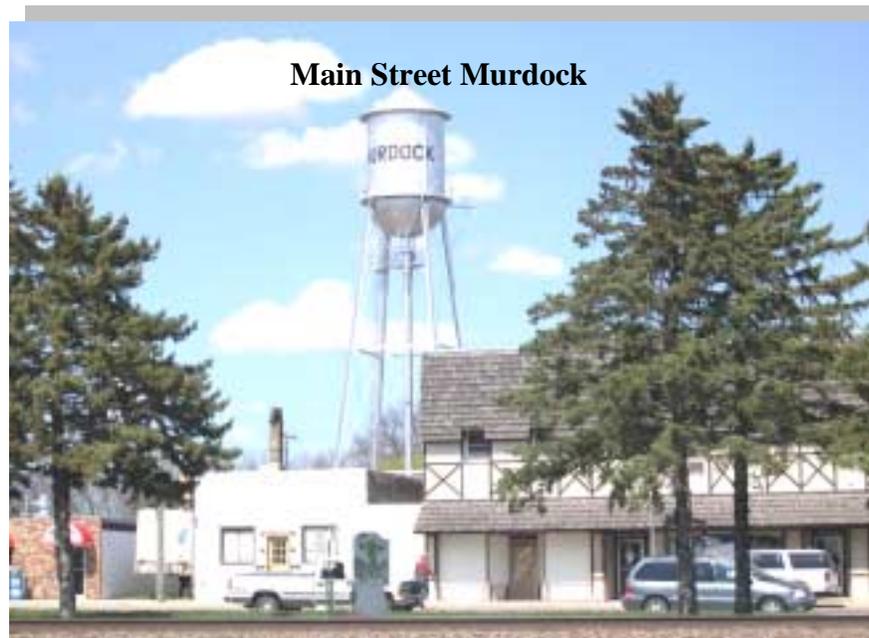
	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	303	304	307	299	295	298	-5	-1.65
Households	126	127	129	126	125	127	1	0.79
Persons Per Household	2.40	2.39	2.38	2.37	2.36	2.34	-0.06	-2.50
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**City of Murdock Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000 Census	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	303	318	324	334	343	351	358	+55

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030



Insert future land use map-11x17

## CHAPTER THREE: Township Profiles

### PROFILE FEATURES

This chapter profiles each township located in Swift County. As with the city profiles, the purpose of the township profile is to provide a snapshot of demographic and development trends in Swift County's 21 townships. It can assist elected officials in avoiding land use conflicts and identify service needs within the townships.

Included in the profiles is a land use map for each township. The land use maps came from a statewide map called "*Minnesota Land Use and Cover: 1990s Census of the Land*". The map was produced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources using data from seven separate land use and cover inventories to create a consistent statewide inventory. The dates of the data sets for the map range from 1987–1996. Although the map has not been updated, the general land use patterns and cover remains much the same, especially in rural areas. The data for the township land use map is divided into the following categories:

**Urban and rural development:** Residential, commercial, industrial, cultural and recreational developments and related developments such as power plants, power lines, pipelines, airports, waste treatment facilities, golf courses, farmsteads and feedlots. Associated structures include garages, sheds and landscaped areas.

**Cultivated land:** Areas under intensive cropping or rotation, including fallow fields and fields seeded for forage or cover crops that exhibit linear or other patterns associated with current tillage.

**Hay/pasture/grassland:** Areas covered by grasslands and herbaceous plants. These may contain up to one-third shrub and tree cover. Some areas may be used as pastures and mowed or grazed. Included are fields that show evidence of past tillage but now appear to be abandoned and grown over with native vegetation or planted with a cover crop.

**Brushland:** Areas with a combination of grass, shrubs, and trees in which deciduous or coniferous tree cover comprises from one- to two-thirds of the area, or shrub cover comprises more than one-third of the area. These areas are often found adjacent to hay/pasture/grassland or forested areas and vary greatly in shape and extent.

**Forested:** Areas where two-thirds or more of the total canopy cover is composed of predominantly woody deciduous and coniferous species and areas of regenerated or young forest where commercial timber has been completely or partially removed by logging, other management activities or natural events. This includes woodlots, shelterbelts and plantations.

**Water:** Permanent bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, reservoirs, stock ponds and open water areas where photo evidence indicates that the areas are covered by water the majority of the time

**Bog/marsh/fen:** Grassy, wet areas with standing or slowly moving water. Vegetation consists of grass and sedge sods, and common hydrophilic vegetation such as cattail and rushes. These areas include wetlands with lowland coniferous forest and peat-covered or peat-filled depressions with a high water table; areas are often interspersed with channels or pools of open water.

**Mining:** Area stripped of topsoil revealing exposed substrate such as sand or gravel, including gravel quarries, mine-tailings, barrow pits and rock quarries. Included are areas that lack appreciable soil development or vegetation cover such as rock outcrops, sand dunes or beaches.

Each township land use map also include roads and feedlot locations. The feedlot data came from the Swift County Environmental Services Office for permitted feedlots in the County. Feedlot locations can change and numbers can increase or decrease over time. Feedlot locations were included, however, to show a general distribution of these land uses in each township in an effort to assist with the location of non-compatible land uses and planning and zoning activities in the future.

**TOWNSHIP POPULATION AND HOUSING TRENDS**

**Population and Housing Profile for All Swift County Townships from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	6,281	5,649	4,381	4,121	-260	-5.93
Land Area (sq. mile)	724.30	737.18	733.27	732.81	-0.46	-0.06
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.67	7.66	5.97	5.62	-0.35	-5.88
Housing Units	2,033	2,043	1,799	1,669	-130	-7.23
Households	--	1,749	1,535	1,515	-20	-1.30
Persons Per Household	--	3.23	2.85	2.71	-0.14	-4.90
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	9	9	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Population and Housing Estimates for All Swift County Townships from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	4,121	4,072	3,998	3,880	3,859	3,863	-258	-6.26
Households	1,515	1,507	1,489	1,459	1,460	1,474	-41	-2.71
Persons Per Household	2.71	2.70	2.68	2.65	2.64	2.61	-0.10	-3.69
Persons in Group Quarters	9	9	9	9	9	9		

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center for years 2001 - 2005

**TOWNSHIP PROFILES**

**Appleton Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Appleton Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	268	298	233	232	-1	-0.43
Land Area (sq. mile)	31.30	31.84	31.09	30.82	-0.27	-0.87
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.56	9.36	7.49	7.53	0.03	0.44
Housing Units	102	111	99	102	3	3.03
Households	--	97	88	92	4	4.55
Persons Per Household	--	3.07	2.65	2.52	-0.13	-4.82
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Appleton Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	232	231	222	214	213	216	-16	-6.90
Households	92	92	89	86	86	88	-4	-4.35
Persons Per Household	2.52	2.51	2.49	2.49	2.47	2.45	-0.07	-2.78
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Appleton Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	232	223	220	216	216	216	216	-16

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030

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**Benson Township**

***Population and Housing Profile***

**Benson Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	332	362	334	367	33	9.88
Land Area (sq. mile)	34.70	34.88	34.31	34.30	-0.01	-0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	9.57	10.38	9.73	10.70	0.96	9.90
Housing Units	107	125	133	128	-5	-3.76
Households	--	114	111	121	10	9.01
Persons Per Household	--	3.18	3.01	2.96	-0.05	-1.63
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	9	9	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Benson Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	367	369	368	357	356	360	-7	-1.91
Households	121	122	121	119	119	121	0	0.00
Persons Per Household	2.96	2.95	2.97	2.92	2.91	2.90	-0.06	-2.03
Persons in Group Quarters	9	9	9	9	9	9	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Benson Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	367	382	390	403	415	425	434	+67

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030

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**Camp Lake Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Camp Lake Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	343	326	254	222	-32	-12.60
Land Area (sq. mile)	36.20	35.91	35.41	35.41	0.00	0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	9.48	9.08	7.17	6.27	-0.90	-12.60
Housing Units	129	143	134	113	-21	-15.67
Households	--	112	95	94	-1	-1.05
Persons Per Household	--	2.91	2.67	2.36	-0.31	-11.73
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Camp Lake Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	222	217	212	204	201	202	-20	-9.01
Households	94	93	92	90	90	92	-2	-2.13
Persons Per Household	2.36	2.33	2.30	2.27	2.23	2.19	-0.17	-7.20
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Camp Lake Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	222	209	199	192	188	184	180	-42

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 - 2030

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**Cashel Township**

**Population and Housing Profile**

**Cashel Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	336	239	161	143	-18	-11.18
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.70	35.66	35.93	35.93	0.00	0.00
Density (persons per sq. mile)	9.41	6.70	4.48	3.98	-0.50	-11.18
Housing Units	90	83	70	61	-9	-12.86
Households	--	77	59	54	-5	-8.47
Persons Per Household	--	3.10	2.73	2.65	-0.08	-2.89
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Cashel Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	143	140	144	140	143	145	2	1.40
Households	54	53	55	54	55	56	2	3.70
Persons Per Household	2.65	2.64	2.62	2.59	2.60	2.58	-0.07	-2.64
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Cashel Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	143	143	139	135	134	132	131	-12

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Clontarf Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Clontarf Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	128	144	107	80	-27	-25.23
Land Area (sq. mile)	33.40	33.77	33.80	33.80	-0.00	-0.00
Density (persons per sq. mile)	3.83	4.26	3.17	2.37	-0.80	-25.23
Housing Units	34	44	43	35	-8	-18.60
Households	--	41	38	32	-6	-15.79
Persons Per Household	--	3.51	2.82	2.50	-0.32	-11.21
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Clontarf Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	80	79	81	85	85	86	6	7.50
Households	32	32	33	35	35	36	4	12.50
Persons Per Household	2.50	2.47	2.45	2.43	2.42	2.38	-0.12	-4.80
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Clontarf Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	80	79	73	70	68	65	63	-17

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Dublin Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Dublin Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	286	230	166	156	-10	-6.02
Land Area (sq. mile)	34.80	35.07	34.94	34.94	-0.00	-0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.22	6.56	4.75	4.47	-0.29	-6.02
Housing Units	87	77	60	60	0	0.00
Households	--	64	58	58	0	0.00
Persons Per Household	--	3.59	2.86	2.69	-0.17	-6.01
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Dublin Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	156	155	151	147	145	147	-9	-5.77
Households	58	58	57	56	56	57	-1	-1.72
Persons Per Household	2.69	2.67	2.65	2.62	2.58	2.57	-0.12	-4.46
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Dublin Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	156	151	147	143	142	141	140	-16

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Edison Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Edison Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	275	225	168	131	-37	-22.02
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.50	35.34	35.69	35.69	0.00	0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	7.75	6.37	4.71	3.67	-1.04	-22.03
Housing Units	86	85	65	61	-4	-6.15
Households	--	69	59	55	-4	-6.78
Persons Per Household	--	3.26	2.85	2.38	-0.47	-16.42
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Edison Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	131	131	125	122	120	120	-11	-8.40
Households	55	56	54	54	54	55	0	0.00
Persons Per Household	2.38	2.34	2.31	2.26	2.22	2.18	-0.20	-8.40
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Edison Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	131	121	113	107	103	99	96	-35

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

Insert map here 8.5x11

**Fairfield Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Fairfield Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	281	232	185	169	-16	-8.65
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.70	35.52	35.91	35.90	-0.01	-0.02
Density (persons per sq. mile)	7.87	6.53	5.15	4.71	-0.44	-8.63
Housing Units	83	80	67	63	-4	-5.97
Households	--	70	62	57	-5	-8.06
Persons Per Household	--	3.31	2.98	2.96	-0.02	-0.80
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Fairfield Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	169	171	168	163	161	163	-6	-3.55
Households	57	58	57	56	55	56	-1	-1.75
Persons Per Household	2.96	2.95	2.95	2.91	2.92	2.91	-0.05	-1.69
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Fairfield Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	169	167	163	159	158	157	155	-14

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

Insert map here 8.5x11

**Hayes Township**

***Population and Housing Profile***

**Hayes Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	291	290	234	221	-13	-5.56
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.70	35.84	34.87	34.87	0.00	0.00
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.15	8.09	6.71	6.34	-0.37	-5.56
Housing Units	98	110	94	93	-1	-1.06
Households	--	89	84	85	1	1.19
Persons Per Household	--	3.26	2.79	2.60	-0.19	-6.67
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Hayes Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	221	222	223	216	215	215	-6	-2.71
Households	85	86	87	85	85	86	1	1.18
Persons Per Household	2.60	2.58	2.56	2.54	2.52	2.50	-0.10	-3.85
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Hayes Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	221	224	221	217	217	217	217	-4

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

Insert map here 8.5x11

**Hegbert Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Hegbert Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	238	189	160	118	-42	-26.25
Land Area (sq. mile)	33.30	34.08	33.32	33.31	-0.01	-0.02
Density (persons per sq. mile)	7.15	5.55	4.80	3.54	-1.26	-26.24
Housing Units	81	76	62	56	-6	-9.68
Households	--	63	53	45	-8	-15.09
Persons Per Household	--	3.00	3.02	2.62	-0.40	-13.21
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Hegbert Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	118	121	115	113	113	109	-9	-7.63
Households	45	47	45	45	46	45	0	0.00
Persons Per Household	2.62	2.57	2.56	2.51	2.45	2.42	-0.20	-7.63
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Hegbert Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	118	111	103	97	93	89	86	-32

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

Insert map here 8.5x11

**Kerkhoven Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Kerkhoven Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	357	341	289	286	-3	-1.04
Land Area (sq. mile)	36.30	35.74	35.47	35.46	-0.01	-0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	9.83	9.54	8.15	8.06	-0.08	-1.02
Housing Units	135	134	129	118	-11	-8.53
Households	--	112	104	109	5	4.81
Persons Per Household	--	3.04	2.78	2.62	-0.16	-5.72
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Kerkhoven Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	286	282	280	275	273	273	-13	-4.55
Households	109	108	108	107	107	108	-1	-0.92
Persons Per Household	2.62	2.61	2.59	2.57	2.55	2.52	-0.10	-3.82
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Kerkhoven Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	286	282	279	275	276	277	278	-8

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Kildare Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Kildare Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	282	230	187	192	5	2.67
Land Area (sq. mile)	33.50	35.13	34.81	34.81	0.00	0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.42	6.55	5.37	5.52	0.14	2.67
Housing Units	75	76	71	71	0	0.00
Households	--	69	67	68	1	1.49
Persons Per Household	--	3.33	2.79	2.82	0.03	1.04
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Kildare Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	192	191	184	185	183	185	-7	-3.65
Households	68	68	66	67	66	67	-1	-1.47
Persons Per Household	2.82	2.81	2.79	2.76	2.77	2.76	-0.06	-2.13
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Kildare Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	192	186	184	182	183	185	186	-6

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Marysland Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Marysland Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	286	219	124	102	-22	-17.74
Land Area (sq. mile)	34.00	35.71	35.47	35.28	-0.19	-0.53
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.41	6.13	3.50	2.89	-0.60	-17.30
Housing Units	82	71	62	48	-14	-22.58
Households	--	62	49	43	-6	-12.24
Persons Per Household	--	3.53	2.53	2.37	-0.16	-6.35
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**Marysland Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	102	101	101	96	97	96	-6	-5.88
Households	43	43	43	41	42	42	-1	-2.33
Persons Per Household	2.37	2.35	2.35	2.34	2.30	2.28	-0.09	-3.80
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

*Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005*

**Marysland Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	102	99	94	90	88	86	84	-18

*Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030*

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**Moyer Township**

***Population and Housing Profile***

**Moyer Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	230	200	160	125	-35	-21.88
Land Area (sq. mile)	28.40	34.98	34.78	34.78	0.00	0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.10	5.72	4.60	3.59	-1.01	-21.88
Housing Units	71	66	54	53	-1	-1.85
Households	--	55	48	46	-2	-4.17
Persons Per Household	--	3.64	3.33	2.72	-0.61	-18.40
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Moyer Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	125	120	117	111	111	108	-17	-13.60
Households	46	45	44	43	44	44	-2	-4.35
Persons Per Household	2.72	2.67	2.66	2.58	2.52	2.45	-0.27	-9.93
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Moyer Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	125	113	105	100	96	92	88	-37

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Pillsbury Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Pillsbury Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	337	336	301	306	5	1.66
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.60	34.97	34.83	34.82	-0.01	-0.02
Density (persons per sq. mile)	9.47	9.61	8.64	8.79	0.15	1.68
Housing Units	101	105	105	106	1	0.95
Households	--	93	99	101	2	2.02
Persons Per Household	--	3.61	3.04	3.03	-0.01	-0.34
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Pillsbury Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	306	305	296	285	285	289	-17	-5.56
Households	101	101	99	95	95	97	-4	-3.96
Persons Per Household	3.03	3.02	2.99	3.00	3.00	2.97	-0.06	-1.98
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Pillsbury Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	306	300	296	293	295	297	299	-7

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Shible Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Shible Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	249	216	159	115	-44	-27.67
Land Area (sq. mile)	34.40	35.96	34.94	34.94	0.00	0.00
Density (persons per sq. mile)	7.24	6.01	4.55	3.29	-1.26	-27.68
Housing Units	88	82	69	67	-2	-2.90
Households	--	64	59	54	-5	-8.47
Persons Per Household	--	3.38	2.69	2.13	-0.56	-20.96
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

*Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)*

**Shible Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	115	110	105	94	99	101	-14	-12.17
Households	54	53	51	47	50	51	-3	-5.56
Persons Per Household	2.13	2.08	2.06	2.00	1.98	1.98	-0.15	-7.04
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

*Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005*

**Shible Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	115	100	92	86	81	77	74	-41

*Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030*

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**Six Mile Grove Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Six Mile Grove Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	252	252	180	171	-9	-5.00
Land Area (sq. mile)	36.30	35.94	35.90	35.92	0.02	0.06
Density (persons per sq. mile)	6.94	7.01	5.01	4.76	-0.25	-5.05
Housing Units	76	85	73	66	-7	-9.59
Households	--	74	66	63	-3	-4.55
Persons Per Household	--	3.41	2.73	2.71	-0.02	-0.63
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Six Mile Grove Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	171	170	167	165	163	154	-17	-9.94
Households	63	63	62	61	60	57	-6	-9.52
Persons Per Household	2.71	2.70	2.69	2.70	2.71	2.70	-0.01	-0.37
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Six Mile Grove Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	171	167	164	160	159	159	158	-13

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Swenoda Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Swenoda Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	300	231	175	159	-16	-9.14
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.60	35.46	35.78	35.78	-0.00	-0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	8.43	6.51	4.89	4.44	-0.45	-9.13
Housing Units	96	96	82	58	-24	-29.27
Households	--	77	63	53	-10	-15.87
Persons Per Household	--	3.00	2.78	3.00	0.22	8.00
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Swenoda Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	159	156	166	150	148	145	-14	-8.81
Households	53	52	57	52	51	50	-3	-5.66
Persons Per Household	3.00	3.00	2.91	2.88	2.90	2.90	-0.10	-3.33
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Swenoda Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	159	167	164	161	161	161	161	+2

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Tara Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Tara Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	229	181	143	121	-22	-15.38
Land Area (sq. mile)	35.20	36.19	35.83	35.83	0.00	0.00
Density (persons per sq. mile)	6.51	5.00	3.99	3.38	-0.61	-15.39
Housing Units	71	68	55	48	-7	-12.73
Households	--	59	44	42	-2	-4.55
Persons Per Household	--	3.07	3.25	2.88	-0.37	-11.38
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Tara Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	121	117	111	112	112	113	-8	-6.61
Households	42	41	39	40	41	42	0	0.00
Persons Per Household	2.88	2.85	2.85	2.80	2.73	2.69	-0.19	-6.60
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Tara Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	121	108	101	97	94	91	88	-33

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**Torning Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**Torning Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	652	634	479	505	26	5.43
Land Area (sq. mile)	34.90	34.04	34.02	34.02	-0.00	-0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	18.68	18.63	14.08	14.85	0.77	5.44
Housing Units	225	215	180	177	-3	-1.67
Households	--	198	164	169	5	3.05
Persons Per Household	--	3.20	2.92	2.99	0.07	2.37
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Torning Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	505	495	477	471	463	464	-41	-8.12
Households	169	166	161	160	158	159	-10	-5.92
Persons Per Household	2.99	2.98	2.96	2.94	2.93	2.91	-0.08	-2.68
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**Torning Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	490	490	492	497	511	523	533	+43

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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**West Bank Township**

*Population and Housing Profile*

**West Bank Township Population and Housing Profile from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
					Actual	Percent
Population	329	274	182	200	18	9.89
Land Area (sq. mile)	33.80	35.15	36.17	36.17	-0.00	-0.01
Density (persons per sq. mile)	9.73	7.80	5.03	5.53	0.50	9.90
Housing Units	116	111	92	85	-7	-7.61
Households	--	90	65	74	9	13.85
Persons Per Household	--	3.04	2.80	2.70	-0.10	-3.57
Persons in Group Quarters	--	0	0	0	0	--

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration's Datanet (U.S. Census)

**West Bank Township Population and Housing Estimates from 2000 – 2005**

	2000	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2000-2005 Change	
							Actual	Percent
Population	200	189	185	175	173	172	-28	-14.00
Households	74	70	69	66	65	65	-9	-12.16
Persons Per Household	2.70	2.70	2.68	2.65	2.66	2.64	-0.06	-2.22
Persons in Group Quarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

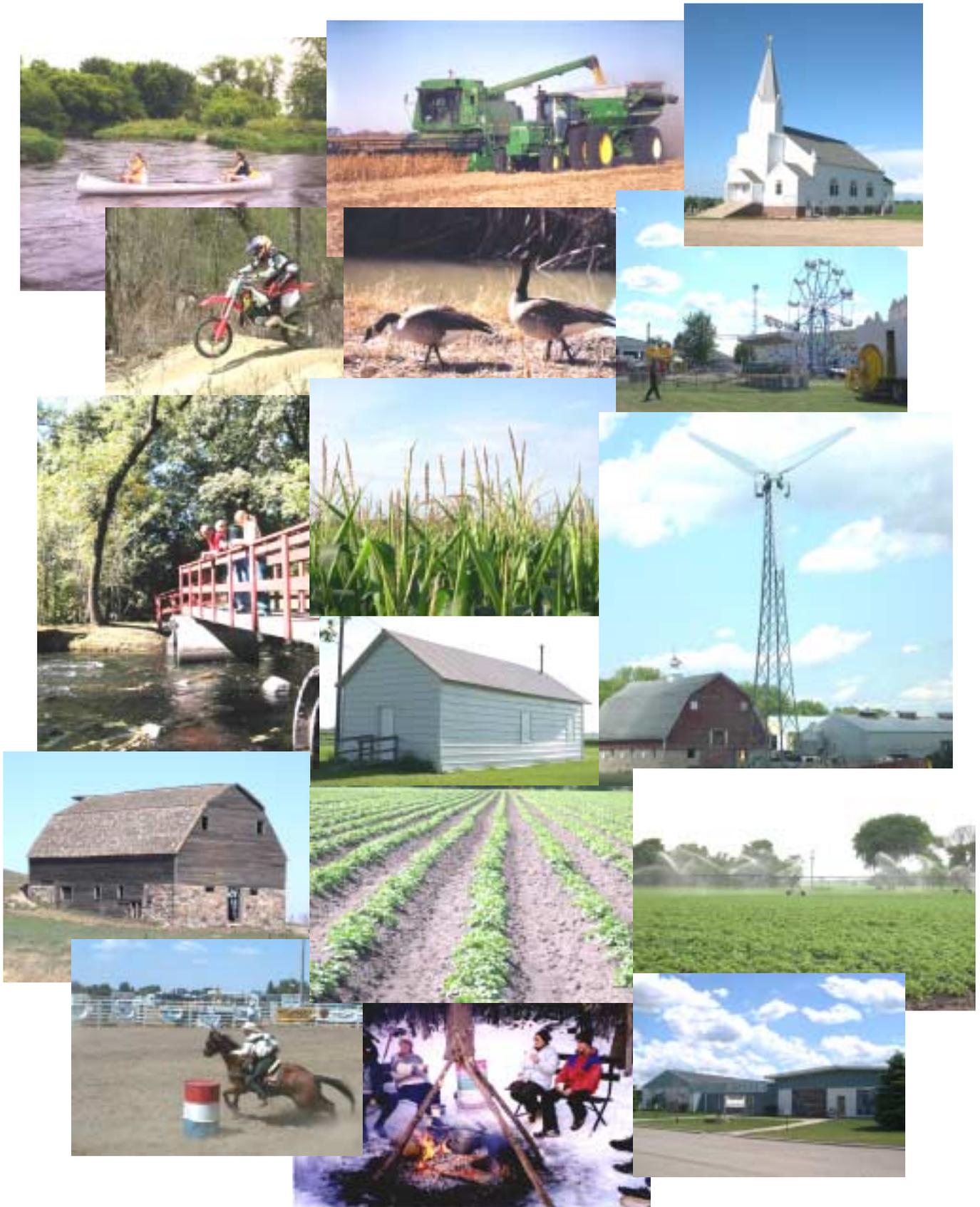
Sources: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center - years 2001 – 2005

**West Bank Township Population Projections from 2000 – 2030**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change from 2000
Population	200	189	188	188	192	195	197	-3

Source: U.S. Census – year 2000; Minnesota State Demographic Center (July 1, 2004) - years 2000 – 2030

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## **CHAPTER FOUR: Public Participation**

Public participation instills a sense of ownership in a plan and ensures residents that their concerns and priorities will be addressed. The public brings a variety of perspectives to the planning process and can provide a sense of the resident's values.

The primary public participation tool used in the planning process was a survey. The following explains who was surveyed, how the survey was developed and the results that were gathered.

### **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

#### **Survey Sample**

Based on 2005 estimates from the Minnesota State Demographer's Office, Swift County's population is 11,429 people and there are 4,239 households. It was far too labor intensive and cost prohibitive to try to survey every person and household in the County. As a result, the task force decided to limit the survey distribution to 2,000 Swift County households (47% of the total estimated households in the county in 2005). As a comparison, when the U.S. Census Bureau collected sample information from households for Census 2000, about one in every six (17%) households nationwide received a long form survey. The task force felt surveying 2,000 households would provide very statistically reliable results.

To come up with a survey sample of 2,000 households, the task force first decided to only send a survey to homestead households in the county. Homesteaded households are more likely to be occupied by long time residents of the County who would be most familiar with county trends and issues. Homestead households for the survey were determined using county tax records obtained from the county auditor's office.

Since this plan is largely a tool for the County to use in conjunction with its land use controls and regulations, the task force felt it was important to survey as many households as possible that were located in the areas regulated by the County's land use controls. As a result, all of the homestead households (1,396) located in the 21 Swift County townships were sent a survey. The remaining 604 surveys were then sent to a random sample of the 1,969 homestead households located in Swift County cities.

#### **Survey Distribution**

To help encourage a higher return rate, the survey was mailed to the 2,000 homesteaded households in the survey sample along with a self-addressed stamped envelope for the household to return the survey. The survey was mailed July 10, 2006 with a cover letter requesting the survey be returned by July 20. Press releases announcing the mailing of the survey were provided to all newspapers and the radio stations in the county prior to the surveys being mailed. In order to give all households an opportunity to complete a survey, the survey was also made available on the County's website and at the county auditor's office.

## **Survey Questions**

During its first meeting, the task force identified key issues in Swift County related to the following planning areas:

- Agriculture
- Housing
- Economic development
- Transportation
- Natural resources/parks/recreation
- County services
- General land use

These key planning areas form the core of the county's comprehensive plan. After identifying key issues related to these planning areas the task force came up with questions for the survey related to the issues identified for each of these planning areas.

The questions either asked for respondents to fill in a blank or select an answer from a list of choices. Survey questions allowed respondents to also fill in their own answer for a question when applicable.

The survey instrument that was used is on the following pages.

**Swift County Comprehensive Plan Survey**  
 Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Please complete only one survey per household.

**Return by July 20th**  
 Your individual survey answers will be kept completely confidential!

**GENERAL**

- Which city or township do you reside in?  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township: \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people in your house are between the ages of: 0 - 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 - 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
 25 - 44 \_\_\_\_\_ 45 - 64 \_\_\_\_\_ 65 and over \_\_\_\_\_
- How many in your house are part of the "Baby Boom Generation" (born between 1946 and 1964)? \_\_\_\_\_
- How long have you lived in Swift County?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (Years)
- How many people in your household (excluding children in school/college) have completed as their highest level of education the following:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Less than a high school graduate  
 \_\_\_\_\_ High school graduate or GED  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Some technical or vocational training  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Some college  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate degree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Bachelor degree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate degree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Doctoral degree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you currently have internet service in your home?  
 Yes  No

**EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- How many people in your household (excluding children and students) are:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Employed full-time  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Employed part-time  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Homemaker  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Retired  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Unemployed
- Does anyone in your household work at a second job in addition to their primary occupation?  
 Yes  No  
 If yes, what is the primary reason for having the second job? (Check one)  
 College expenses  Health insurance  
 Low wages with primary job  
 Single income household  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people in your household work:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Within 2 miles of your home  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 - 10 miles from your home  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 - 20 miles from your home  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 - 30 miles from your home  
 \_\_\_\_\_ More than 30 miles from your home
- What do you believe are the most common obstacles individuals encounter when seeking employment in Swift County? (Check no more than three choices.)  
 Lack of employment opportunities in general  
 Lack of jobs matching education level  
 Lack of jobs matching experience  
 Lack of professional jobs  
 Poor health benefits offered with jobs  
 Poor retirement benefits offered with jobs  
 Travel long distance for adequate work/pay  
 Wages are low for profession/occupation  
 Wages are not adequate for cost-of-living  
 Wages do not match education/experience  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 There are no employment obstacles

- Which types of business or industry would you most like to see more of in Swift County? (Check no more than three choices)  
 Agriculture  
 Commercial services  
 Government/public sector  
 Health/medical  
 High technology  
 Manufacturing  
 Renewable energy/value-added agriculture  
 Retail businesses  
 Tourism businesses  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Identify the most important roles you think the County should play in business and economic development? (Check no more than three choices.)  
 Assist with new business start-up  
 Assist existing businesses with expansion/growth  
 Build relationships between businesses and government  
 Develop favorable land use regulations for business development  
 Educate the public on economic and business issues  
 Incentives (such as tax breaks) to businesses and industries  
 Technical assistance for businesses  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not sure  
 None of the above

**HOUSING**

- Approximately how old is your home? \_\_\_\_\_ (Years old)  
 14. Swift County has a need for more:  
 Single-family housing  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Townhomes/condominiums  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Apartments  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion

- Senior housing  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Group homes  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Assisted living facilities  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Subsidized/income based public housing  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Housing rehabilitation assistance programs  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion

- Which type of new housing is most needed in Swift County? (Check one)  
 Apartments  
 Senior housing  
 Single-family housing  
 Townhomes/condominiums  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSPORTATION**

- How would you rate the following transportation services and infrastructure provided by Swift County? (N.O. = No opinion)  
 County gravel road maintenance  Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.  
 County paved road maintenance  Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.  
 County snow plowing service  Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.  
 County bridge maintenance  Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.  
 Overall condition of County maintained roads and bridges  Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.
- Swift County has a need for more:  
 Transportation services for seniors  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Bus service within Swift County  Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion

**AGRICULTURE**

18. Choose what best describes your source of total household income. (Check one choice.)

100% of income from agriculture production

75-99% of income from agriculture production

50-74% of income from agriculture production

25-49% of income from agriculture production

Less than 25% of income from agriculture production

No income comes from agriculture production

19. If 50% or more of your household income is generated by agricultural production activities, check all those activities that apply.

Raise hay/grain/vegetables (crop farming)

Raise livestock

Organic/alternative farming practices

20. If you plan to stop farming within the next ten years, what do you plan to do with your farmland after you stop farming? (Check all that apply.)

Rent out some or all of the land for farming

Sell some or all of the land for farming

Sell all or some of the land for recreational use

Transfer some or all of the land to non-agricultural uses (CRP, CREP, RIM, other development, etc.)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Not sure

I plan to farm more than 10 years

I do not farm

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

21. Please select the most important environmental and natural resource issues in Swift County. (Check no more than three choices.)

Animal feedlot runoff  Drainage

Farmland loss  Fertilizer/pesticide runoff

Flooding  Gravel mining

Groundwater quality  Septic issues

Soil erosion  Surface water quality

Wildlife habitat loss

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

22. Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them?

**Floodplains**

Additional protection needed

No additional protection needed

Not sure/No opinion

**Lakeshores**

Additional protection needed

No additional protection needed

Not sure/No opinion

**River shorelines**

Additional protection needed

No additional protection needed

Not sure/No opinion

**Wetlands**

Additional protection needed

No additional protection needed

Not sure/No opinion

**Wooded areas**

Additional protection needed

No additional protection needed

Not sure/No opinion

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

Additional protection needed

No additional protection needed

Not sure/No opinion

23. Do you feel the water ditching system in Swift County is adequate?

Yes  No  Somewhat  No Opinion

**GENERAL LAND USE**

24. Of the following types of development which would you like to see occur more, less, about the same as now or not at all in Swift County:

**Animal livestock operations**

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

**Housing development in rural/unincorporated areas**

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

**Parks (County owned)**

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

**Recreational trails**

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

**Wind farms with multiple wind turbines**

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

**Wind turbines for individual use**

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

More  Less  Same as now

Not at all  No Opinion

25. Should land use policies and regulations steer new housing development away from agricultural activities/areas and toward urban areas/cities?

Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion

**COUNTY SERVICES**

26. Should Swift County provide more County services and information (such as tax and property information, mapping services, county applications and forms, etc.) over the Internet?

Yes  No  Maybe  No Opinion

27. How would you rate the following as they relate to Swift County? (N.O. = No opinion)

Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.

Swift County Government addressing the needs and concerns of its residents

Excellent  Good  Average  Poor  N.O.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

28. Would you like to see Swift County's population:

Grow a lot  Grow a little bit

Stay the same as it is now  Decline

No Opinion

29. Which of the following issues are the most important to Swift County's future. (Check no more than three choices.)

Attract/develop high paying jobs

Attract/develop new business and industry

Develop/maintain agricultural friendly land use policies

Grow in population

Manage the location of new development

Market the County's assets

Preserve its history

Protect the natural environment

Provide/enhance recreational opportunities

Quality healthcare services in the County

Quality telecommunication and Internet services

Quality transportation system

Retain a rural character

Retain or bring back our youth to live here

Variety of housing types for all ages/incomes

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

30. Which of the following are the most important reasons you choose to live in Swift County? (Check no more than three choices.)

Close to family members

Cost of housing

Employment opportunities

Geographic location

Outdoor activities

Quality of life

Rural character

Safe atmosphere

Schools

Social opportunities

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating in this survey!  
Your input is very valuable to the County's planning process. Please return this survey in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope by JULY 20th.

## **SURVEY RETURN RATES**

As previously stated, 2,000 surveys were mailed to all homesteaded households located in Swift County townships and to a random sample of homesteaded households located in cities. Of the 2,000 mailed surveys, 70 percent (1,396) went to township households while 30 percent (604) went to city households. To determine the sample of city households surveyed, 30 percent of each city's homesteaded households were randomly selected from a list of all homestead households in that community.

The following page provides a table listing each city and township in Swift County and the number of surveys sent to homestead households in each entity, the number of surveys returned and the return rate. The first question on the survey asked respondents to identify which township or city they lived in. The responses to this question allowed for a return rate to be determined for each city and township. As the table shows, 48 percent of city households returned a survey while 43 percent of township households returned a survey. Only one survey was returned from someone who obtained the survey from the county's website. Another 12 surveys did not contain enough information to be tabulated. **Overall, 44 percent of the survey sample returned usable surveys.** This is an excellent return rate that should provide statistically reliable results.

**Comprehensive Plan Survey Distribution Totals and Return Rates**

<b>Cities</b>	<b># Surveys Sent Out</b>	<b># Surveys Returned</b>	<b>Return Rate</b>
Appleton	135	89	66%
Benson	310	126	41%
Clontarf	16	8	50%
Danvers	13	8	62%
DeGraff	16	5	31%
Holloway	14	7	50%
Kerkhoven	71	32	45%
Murdock	29	12	41%
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL CITIES</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Townships</b>			
Appleton Township	90	46	51%
Benson Township	111	47	42%
Camp Lake Township	87	40	46%
Cashel Township	66	20	30%
Clontarf Township	48	12	25%
Dublin Township	51	25	49%
Edison Township	55	29	53%
Fairfield Township	54	20	37%
Hayes Township	91	20	22%
Hegbert Township	50	19	38%
Kerkhoven Township	89	45	51%
Kildare Township	52	28	54%
Marysland Township	45	19	42%
Moyer Township	47	15	32%
Pillsbury Township	81	37	46%
Shible Township	40	29	73%
Six Mile Township	63	26	41%
Swenoda Township	51	22	43%
Tara Township	30	18	60%
Torning Township	130	64	49%
West Bank Township	65	18	28%
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL TOWNSHIPS</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>44%</b>

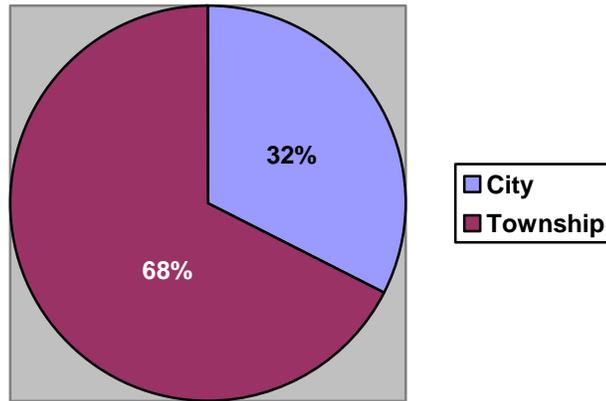
## SURVEY RESULTS

The survey results were tabulated using a statistics software program called SPSS. The following provides the results of each question included in the survey.

### General Questions

#### 1. Which city or township do you reside in?

##### Response Comparison by City and Township Households

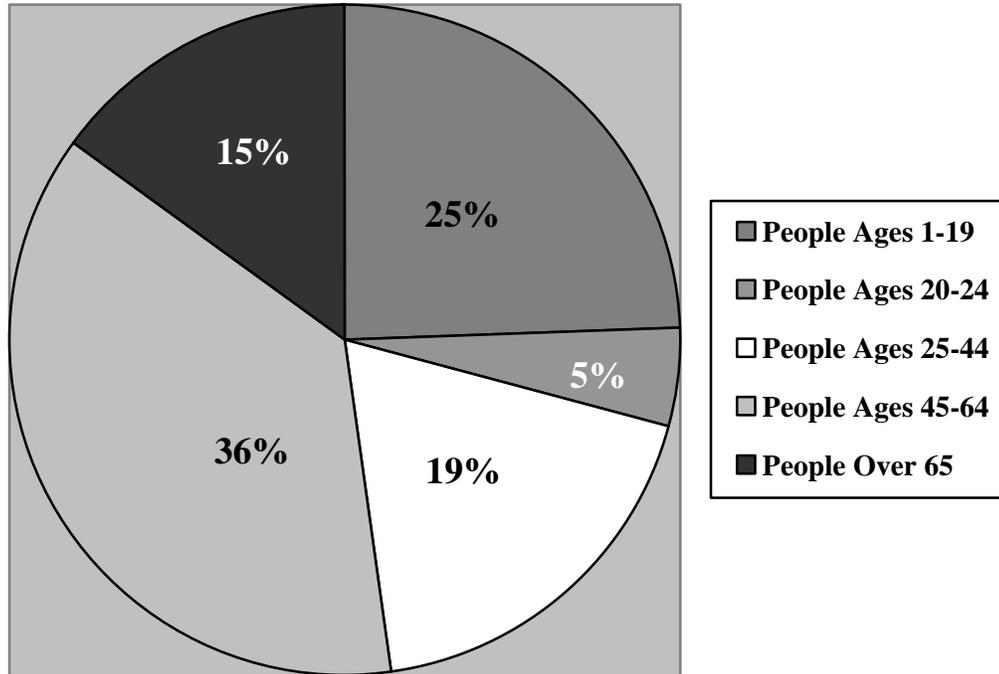


	Frequency	Percentage
City	287	32%
Township	599	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Summary:** Since all homesteaded households in townships were surveyed compared to 30 percent of the homesteaded households in cities, many more surveys were returned from township households.

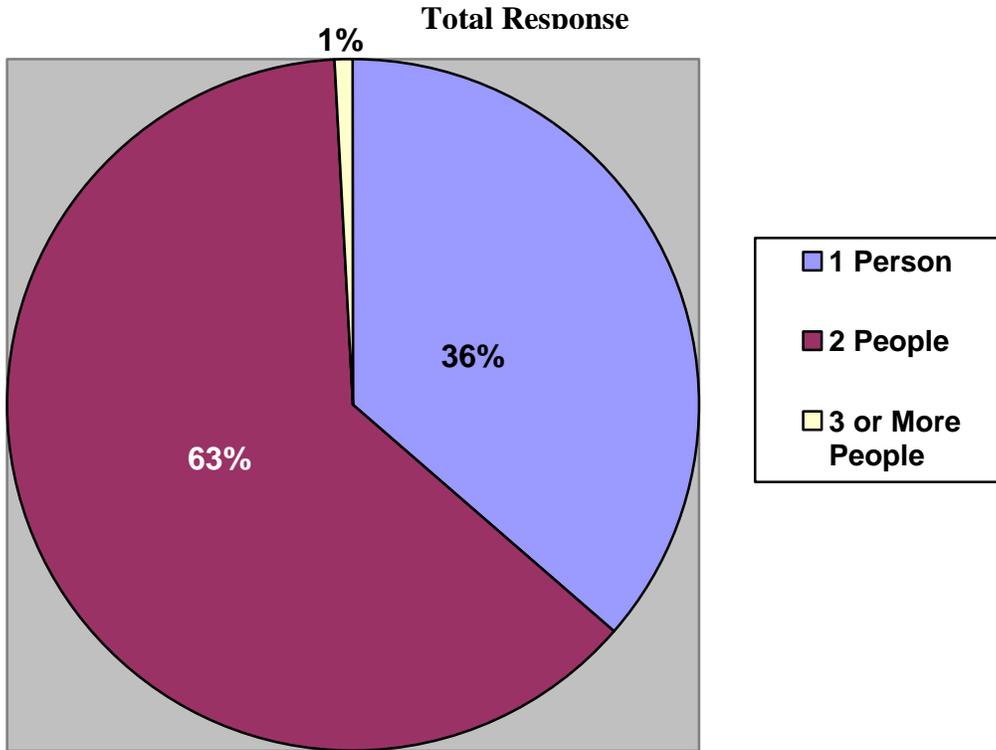
2. How many people in your house are between the ages of:  
0 - 19\_\_\_\_ 20 - 24\_\_\_\_ 25 - 44\_\_\_\_ 45 - 64\_\_\_\_ 65 and over\_\_\_\_

Total Response



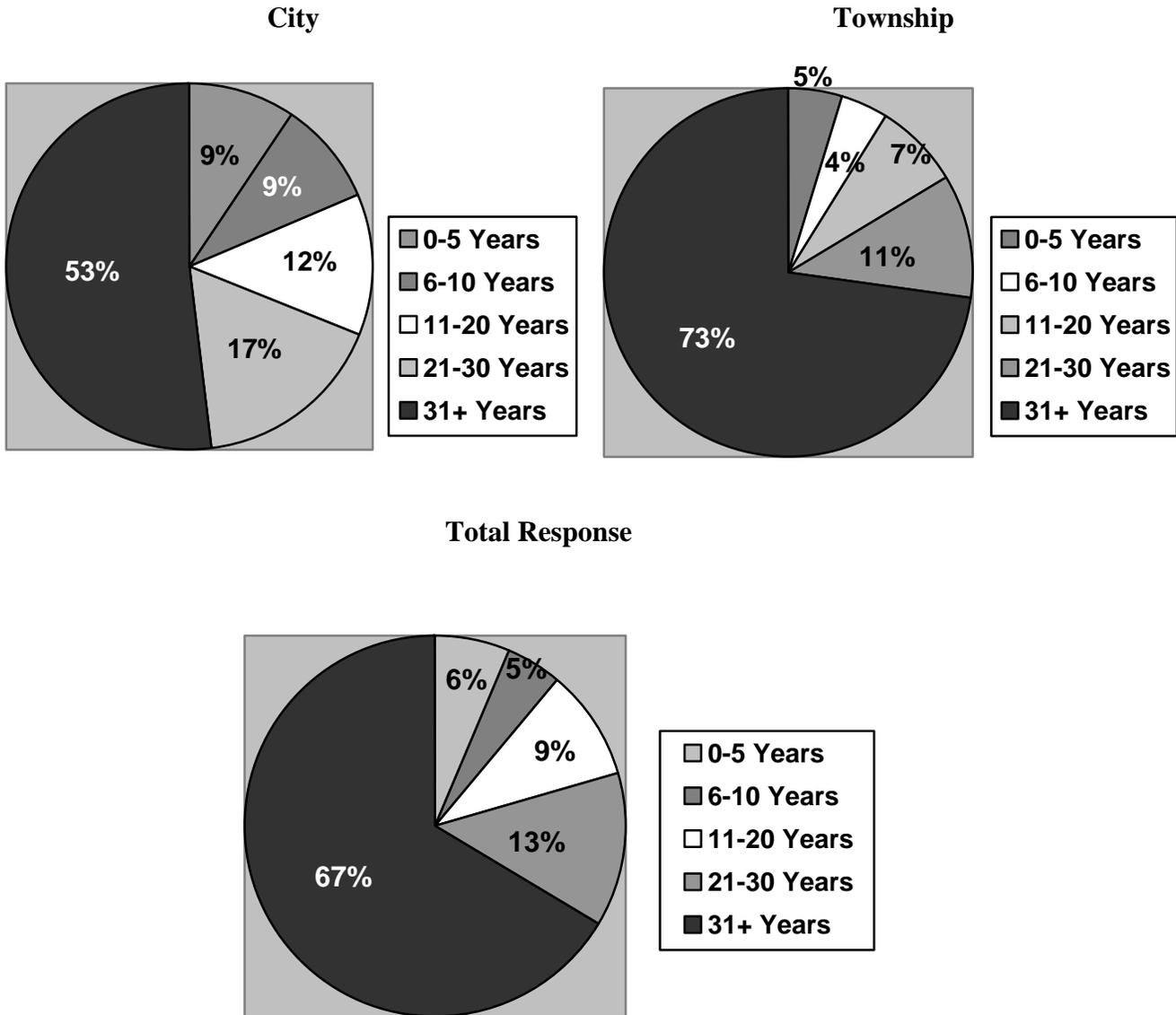
**Summary:** One-quarter of the total people living in households that returned surveys were 1 – 19 years of age. Finding ways to keep this age group living in Swift County or to return after attending college is a key issue that affects the future of the schools and economy in Swift County.

3. How many in your house are part of the “Baby Boom Generation” (born between 1946 and 1964)? \_\_\_\_\_



**Summary:** Fifty percent (447 households) of the returned surveys indicated they have at least one person in their household that was born during the “Baby Boom Generation”. Nearly two-thirds of those households (64%) have two or more people in the household that are part of this generation. As the “Boomers” grow older and retire, a need for additional services and a change in the county’s workforce will likely occur.

4. How long have you lived in Swift County? \_\_\_\_\_ (Years)

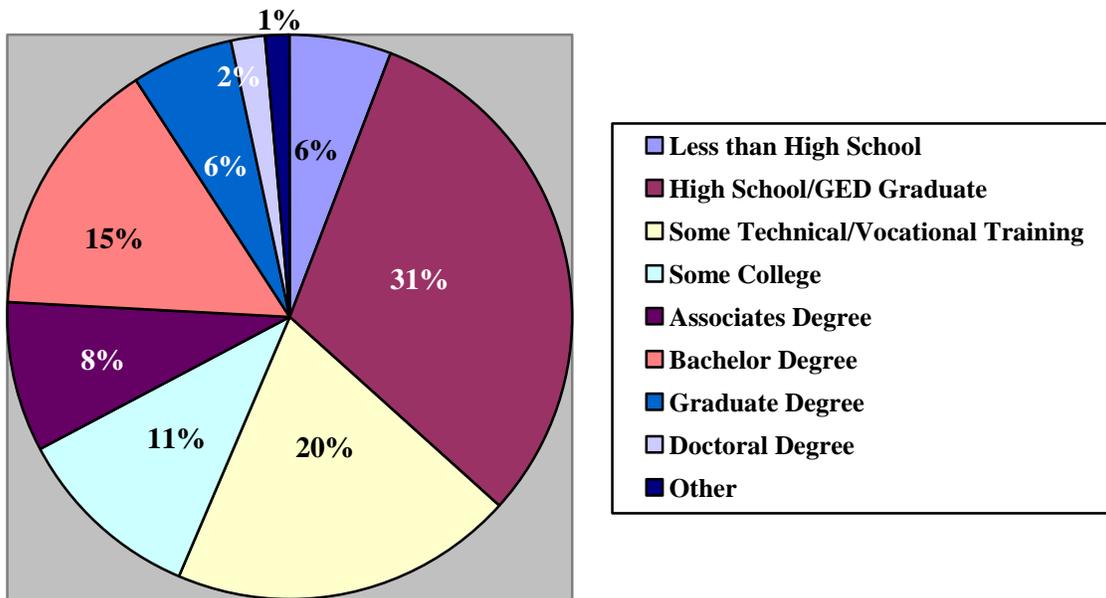


**Summary:** Over one-half (53%) of city households and nearly three-fourths (73%) of the township households said they have lived in Swift County for more than 30 years.

**5. How many people in your household (excluding children in school/college) have completed as their highest level of education the following:**

- \_\_\_ Less than a high school graduate
- \_\_\_ High school graduate or GED
- \_\_\_ Some technical or vocational training
- \_\_\_ Some college
- \_\_\_ Associate degree
- \_\_\_ Bachelor degree
- \_\_\_ Graduate degree
- \_\_\_ Doctoral degree
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

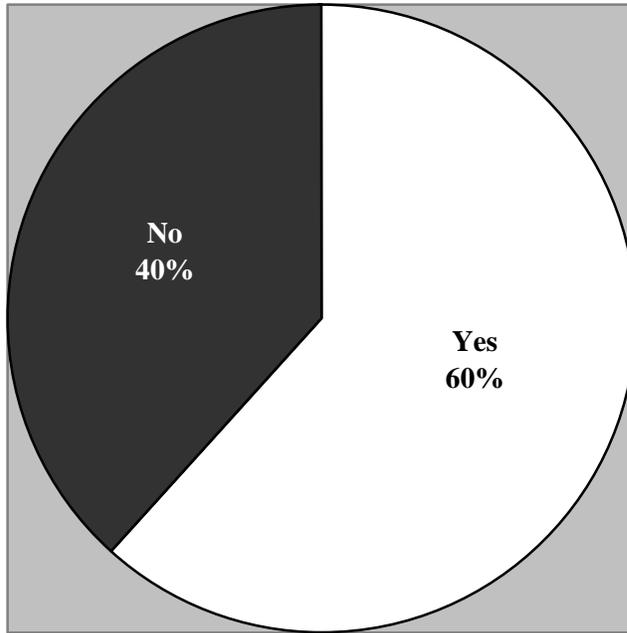
**Total Response**



**Summary:** Nearly one-third (31%) of the people (excluding children in school/college) living in the households responding have attained a degree past their high school education.

6. **Do you currently have Internet service in your home?**  
 Yes                       No

**Total Response**



**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

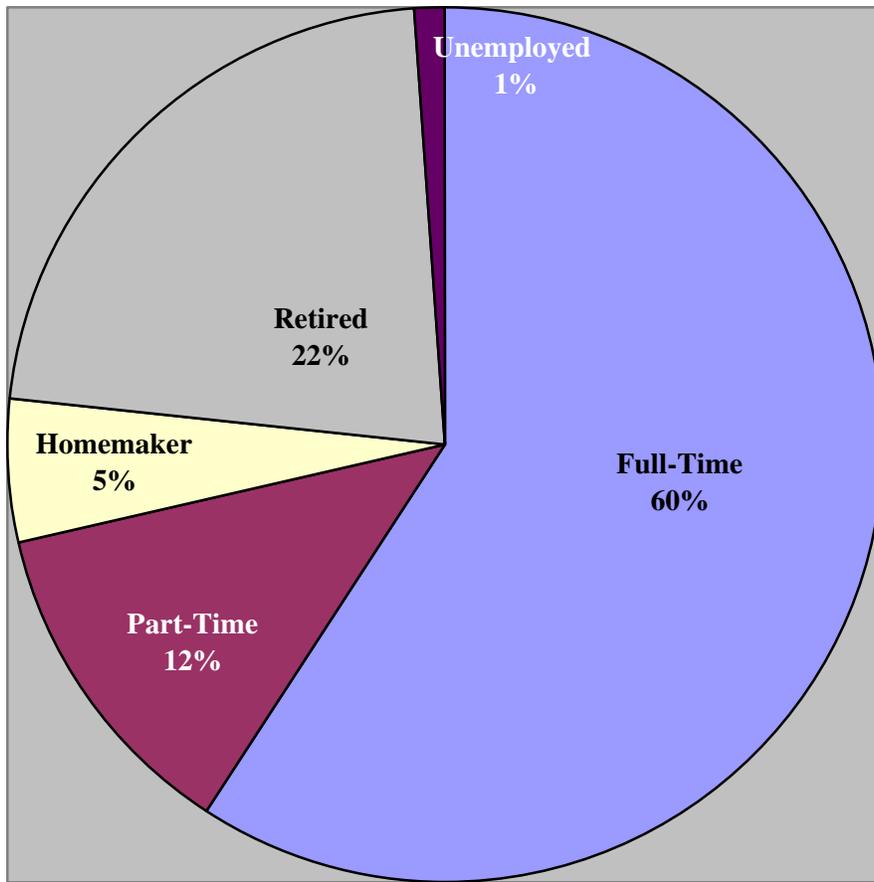
	Do you currently have Internet service in your home?		<b>Total</b>
	Yes, have Internet service	No, don't have Internet service	
Which city or township do you reside in?			
City	162	114	276
Township	356	234	590
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>866</b>

**Summary:** Sixty percent of the city and township households responding to this question said they have Internet Service in their home.

**Employment Questions**

7. How many people in your household (excluding children and students) are:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Employed full-time
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Employed part-time
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Homemaker
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Retired
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Unemployed

**Total Response**



**Summary:** Of the total individuals responding to this question, 60 percent are employed full time and another 12 percent are employed part time.

8. Does anyone in your household work at a second job in addition to their primary occupation?

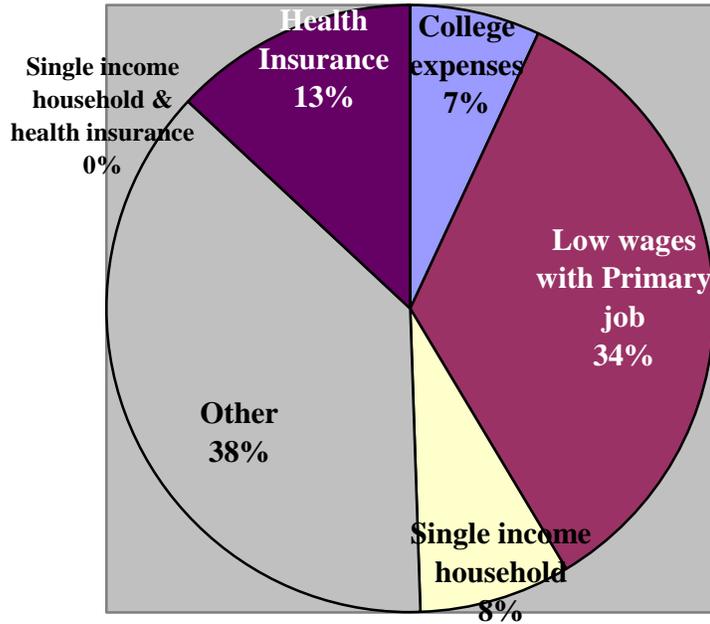
- Yes  No

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

		Does anyone in your household work at a 2nd job in addition to his or her primary occupation?		Total
		Yes, a 2nd job	No 2nd job	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	62 (22%)	220 (78%)	282 (100%)
	Township	133 (23%)	456 (77%)	589 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		195 (22%)	676 (78%)	871 (100%)

**If yes, what is the primary reason for having the second job? (Check one)**

- College expenses       Health insurance       Low wages with primary job  
 Single income household       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

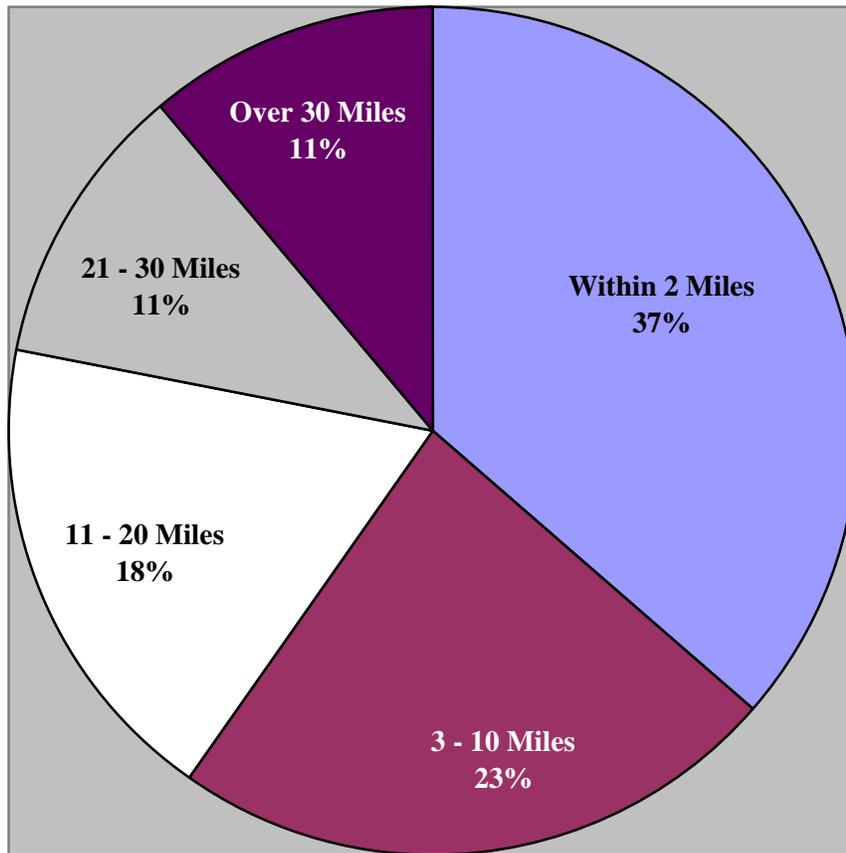


**Summary:** Of the city and township respondents to this question 78 percent said they did not have a second job. The top three primary reasons for having the a second job were low wages with primary job, other reasons and health insurance.

9. **How many people in your household work:**

- \_\_\_ Within 2 miles of your home
- \_\_\_ 3 - 10 miles from your home
- \_\_\_ 11 - 20 miles from your home
- \_\_\_ 21 - 30 miles from your home
- \_\_\_ More than 30 miles from your home

**Total Response**



**Summary:** *Thirty-seven percent of the total responding to this question work within two miles of their home and another 23 percent work within ten miles of their home.*

**10. What do you believe are the most common obstacles individuals encounter when seeking employment in Swift County? (Check no more than three choices.)**

- Lack of employment opportunities in general
- Lack of jobs matching education level
- Lack of jobs matching experience
- Lack of professional jobs
- Poor health benefits offered with jobs
- Poor retirement benefits offered with jobs
- Travel long distance for adequate work/pay
- Wages are low for profession/occupation
- Wages are not adequate for cost-of-living
- Wages do not match education/experience
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- There are no employment obstacles

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

Answer	City Households	Township Households	Total Responses	Percent Response
Lack of employment opportunities in general	139	244	383	18%
Lack of jobs matching education level	73	108	181	9%
Lack of jobs matching experience	34	62	96	5%
Lack of professional jobs	47	75	122	6%
Poor health benefits offered with jobs	85	157	242	12%
Poor retirement benefits offered with jobs	38	82	120	6%
Travel long distance for adequate work/pay	49	109	158	8%
Wages are low for profession/occupation	63	138	201	10%
Wages are not adequate for cost-of-living	118	260	378	18%
Wages do not match education/experience	44	63	107	5%
Other	13	28	41	2%
There are no employment obstacles	18	37	55	3%
	<b>Total</b>		2,084	100%

**Summary:** *The two reasons that respondents see as the number one and two common obstacles in seeking employment in Swift County are lack of employment opportunities and wages are low for profession/occupation. Another 12 percent said poor health benefits offered with job as the number three common obstacles.*

**Business/Economic Development Questions**

11. Which types of business or industry would you **most** like to see more of in Swift County? (Check no more than **three** choices)

- Agriculture
- Commercial services
- Government/public sector
- Health/medical
- High technology
- Manufacturing
- Renewable energy/value-added agriculture
- Retail businesses
- Tourism businesses
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

Answer	City Households	Township Households	Total Responses	Percent Response
Commercial services	56	65	121	6%
Government/public sector	18	41	59	3%
Health/medical	57	113	170	8%
High technology	83	119	202	10%
Manufacturing	136	259	395	19%
Renewable energy/value-added agriculture	102	244	346	17%
Retail businesses	154	265	419	20%
Tourism businesses	33	52	85	4%
Other	12	25	37	2%
	<b>Total</b>		2,089	100%

**Summary:** Of the total responding to this question respondents would most like to see more retail business (20%), manufacturing (19%) and renewable energy/value added agriculture (17%) businesses/industry in Swift County.

**12. Identify the most important roles you think the County should play in business and economic development? (Check no more than three choices.)**

- Assist with new business start-up
- Assist existing businesses with retention/growth
- Build relationships between businesses and government
- Develop favorable land use regulations for business development
- Educate the public on economic and business issues
- Incentives (such as tax breaks) to businesses and industries
- Technical assistance for businesses
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Not sure
- None of the above

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

Answer	City Households	Township Households	Total Responses	Percent Response
Assist existing businesses with retention/growth	132	234	366	20%
Build relationships between businesses and government	41	84	125	7%
Develop favorable land use regulations for business development	55	124	179	10%
Educate the public on economic and business issues	66	130	196	11%
Incentives (such as tax breaks) to businesses and industries	97	165	262	14%
Technical assistance for businesses	37	55	92	5%
Other	13	24	37	2%
Not sure	29	74	103	6%
None of the above	8	20	28	2%
	<b>Total</b>		1,823	100%

**Summary:** Respondents to this question felt the County’s role in business and economic development includes assisting in retention/growth of existing business (20%), providing incentives to businesses/industry (14%) and educating the public on economic and business issues (11%).



**14. Swift County has a need for more:**

- Single-family housing  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Townhomes/condominiums  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Apartments  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Senior housing  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Group homes  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Assisted living facilities  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Subsidized/income-based public housing  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Housing rehabilitation assistance programs  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes    No    Maybe    No Opinion

**Total Response**

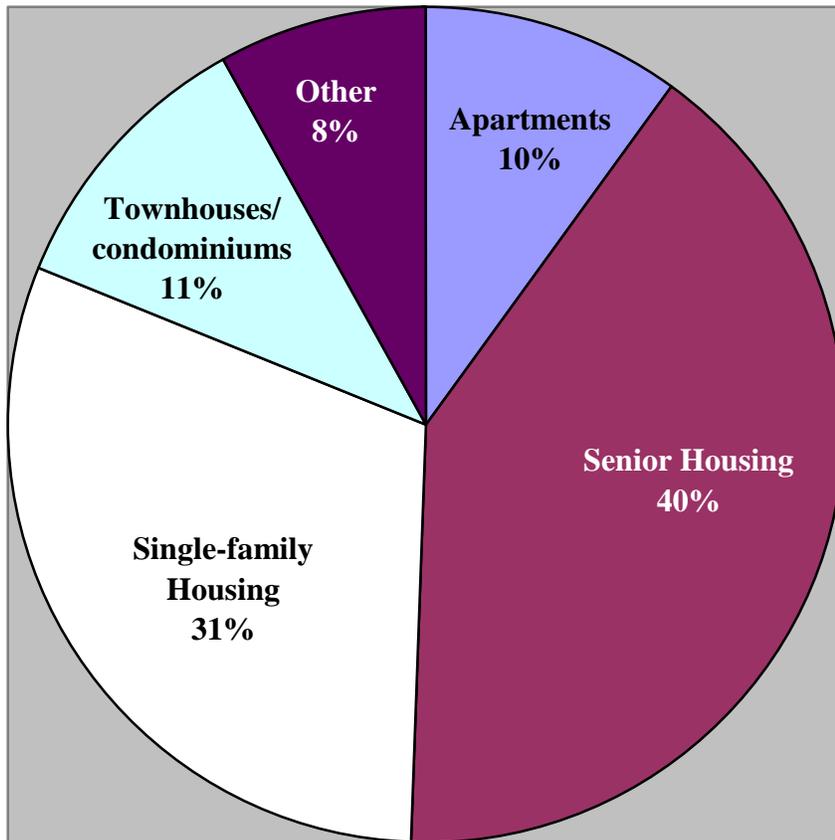
Answer	Yes	No	Maybe	No Opinion
Single-family housing	229 (29%)	113 (14%)	175 (22%)	271 (35%)
Townhomes/condominiums	144 (19%)	178 (23%)	194 (25%)	258 (33%)
Apartments	150 (19%)	158 (20%)	208 (27%)	262 (34%)
Senior housing	328 (42%)	93 (12%)	220 (28%)	146 (18%)
Group homes	104 (14%)	165 (23%)	213 (29%)	251 (34%)
Assisted living facilities	333 (43%)	70 (9%)	227 (29%)	148 (19%)
Subsidized/income-based public housing	180 (24%)	222 (29%)	174 (23%)	187 (24%)
Housing rehabilitation assistance programs	196 (27%)	113 (16%)	193 (27%)	221 (30%)
Other	22 (23%)	7 (7%)	5 (5%)	64 (65%)

**Summary:** The three most frequent “yes” responses were a need for more assisted living facilities, senior housing and single-family housing.

15. Which type of new housing is most needed in Swift County? (Check one)

- Apartments
- Senior housing
- Single-family housing
- Townhouses/condominiums
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Response



**Summary:** Households responded that senior housing options are the most needed new type of housing in Swift County. This response likely correlates to the high number of retired people and Baby Boomers identified in the survey.

**Transportation Questions**

**16. How would you rate the following transportation services and infrastructure provided by Swift County? (N.O. = No opinion)**

- County gravel road maintenance  
Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.
- County paved road maintenance  
Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.
- County snow plowing service  
Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.
- County bridge maintenance  
Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.
- Overall condition of County maintained roads and bridges  
Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.

**Total Response**

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
County gravel road maintenance	50 (6%)	382 (45%)	277 (32 %)	95 (11%)	55 (6%)
County paved road maintenance	52 ( 6%)	416 (49%)	306 (36%)	64 (8%)	20 (2%)
County snow plowing service	89 (10%)	435 (51%)	243 (28%)	61 (7%)	31 (4%)
County bridge maintenance	64 (8%)	459 (54%)	230 (27%)	15 (2%)	84 (10%)
Overall condition of County maintained roads and bridges	46 (5%)	431 (50%)	321 (38%)	34 (4%)	24 (3%)

**Summary:** Half of the respondents would rate the condition of county maintained roads and bridges as good and another five percent feel they are excellent.

**17. Swift County has a need for more:**

Transportation services for seniors

Yes                       No                       Maybe                       No Opinion

Bus service within Swift County

Yes                       No                       Maybe                       No Opinion

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes                       No                       Maybe                       No Opinion

**Total Response**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
Transportation services for seniors	250 (30%)	99 (12%)	291 ( 35%)	182 (22%)
Bus service within Swift County	259 (32%)	113 (14%)	281 ( 34%)	170 (21%)
Other	31 (37%)	2 (2%)	3 (4%)	49 (58%)

**Summary:** Respondents felt there is a need or may be a need for more transportation services for seniors and bus service within the County.

**Agriculture Questions**

18. Choose what best describes your source of **total household** income (*Check one choice*).

- 100% of income from agriculture production
- 75-99% of income from agriculture production
- 50-74% of income from agriculture production
- 25-49% of income from agriculture production
- Less than 25% of income from agriculture production
- No income comes from agriculture production

**Total Response**

<b>Choice of Answers</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
100% of income from agriculture production	73	8.4
75-99% of income from agriculture production	88	10.1
50-74% of income from agriculture production	97	11.2
25-49% of income from agriculture production	77	8.9
Less than 25% of income from agriculture production	124	14.3
No income comes from agriculture production	409	47.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>100.0</b>

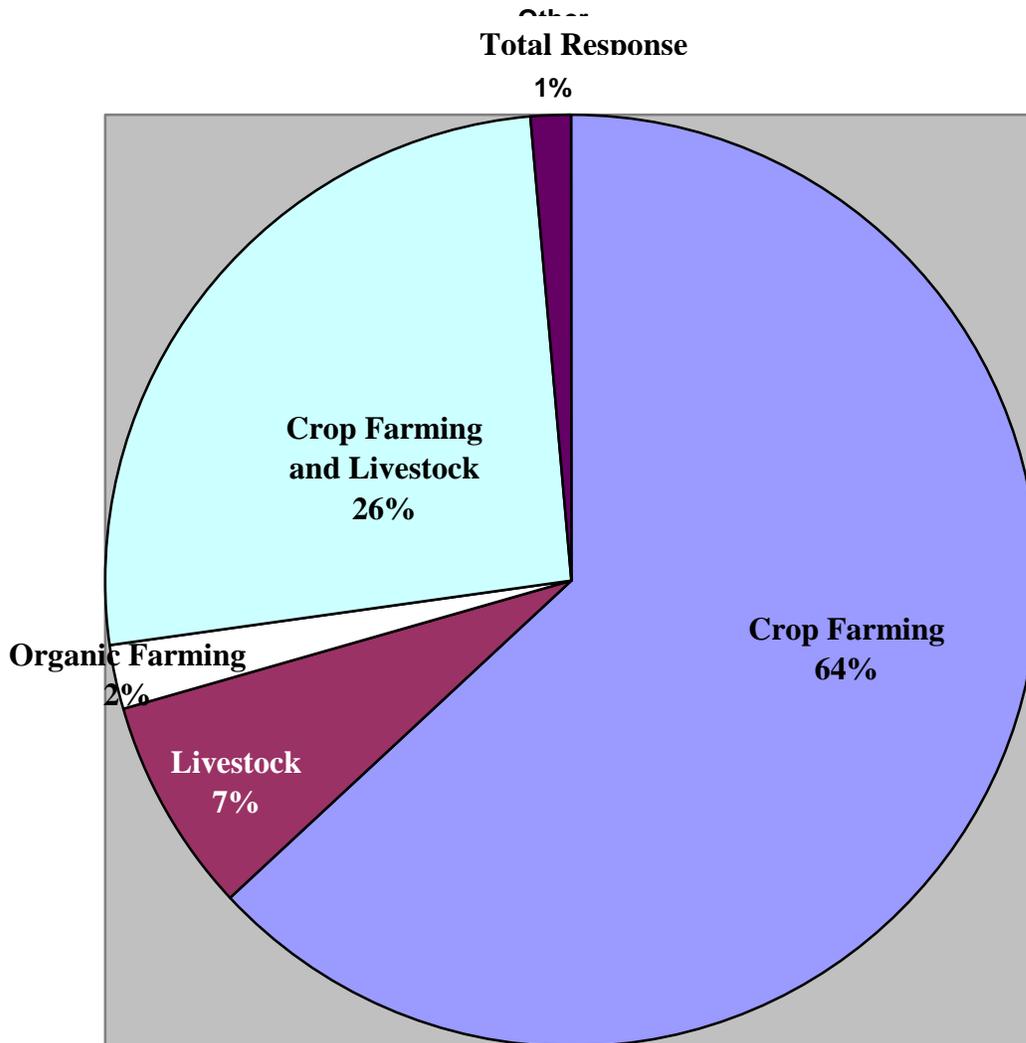
**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

	Choose what best describes your source of TOTAL household income. (Check 1)						<b>Total</b>
	100% of income from agriculture production	75-99% of income from agriculture production	50-74% of income from agriculture production	25-49% of income from agriculture production	Less than 25% of income from agriculture production	No income comes from agriculture production	
Which city or township do you reside in? <b>City</b>	8 (3%)	11 (4%)	8 (3%)	14 (5%)	26 (9%)	217 (76%)	284 (100%)
<b>Township</b>	65 (11%)	77 (13%)	89 (15%)	63 (11%)	98 (17%)	192 (33%)	584 (100%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>73 (9%)</b>	<b>88 (10%)</b>	<b>97 (11%)</b>	<b>77 (9%)</b>	<b>124 (14%)</b>	<b>409 (47%)</b>	<b>868 (100%)</b>

***Summary:** Nearly one-half (47%) of the survey respondents indicated their income does not come from agriculture production and only nine percent indicated 100 percent of their income is from agriculture production.*

19. If 50% or more of your household income is generated by agricultural production activities, check all those activities that apply.

- Raise hay/grain/vegetables (crop farming)
- Raise livestock
- Organic/alternative farming practices

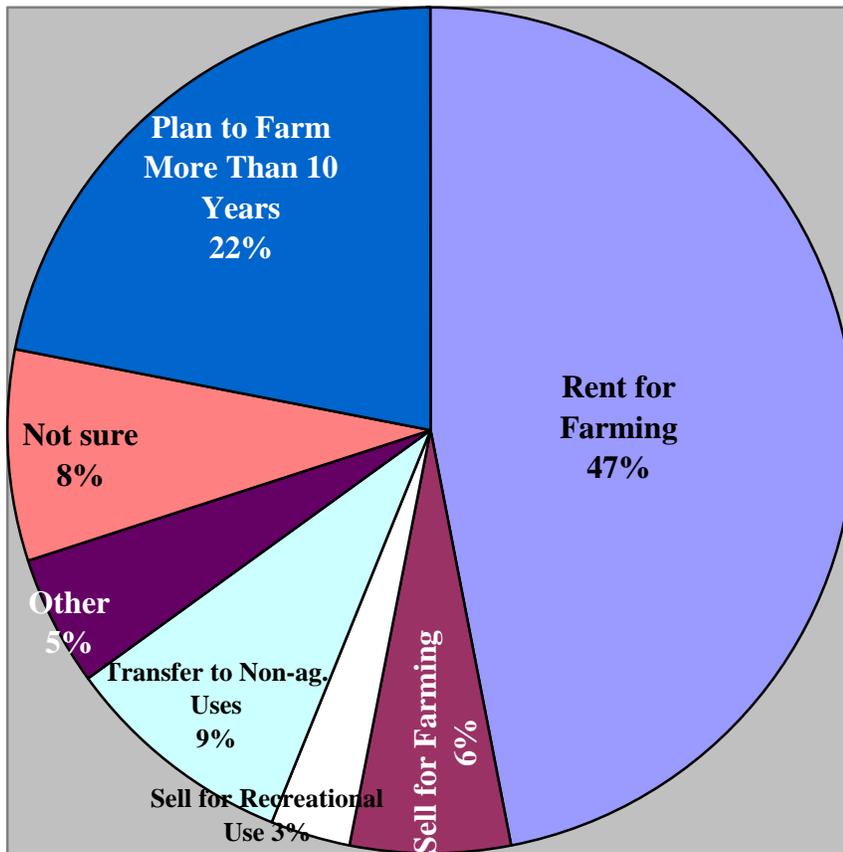


**Summary:** Sixty-four of the respondents that 50 percent of their income is from agricultural production is generated by crop activities and another 26 percent from crop and livestock activities.

20. If you plan to stop farming within the next ten years, what do you plan to do with your farmland after you stop farming? (*Check all that apply*)

- Rent out some or all of the land for farming
- Sell some or all of the land for farming
- Sell all or some of the land for recreational use
- Transfer some or all of the land to non-agricultural uses (CRP, CREP, RIM, other development, etc.)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Not sure
- I plan to farm more than ten years
- I do not farm

Total Response



**Summary:** A total of 377 households responded to this question with an answer other than “I do not farm”. Nearly one-half of these households stated they would rent out some or all of their land for farming.

**Natural Resources/Parks/Recreation Questions**

21. Please select the most important environmental and natural resource issues in Swift County. (Check no more than three choices.)

- Animal feedlot runoff
- Drainage
- Farmland loss
- Fertilizer/pesticide runoff
- Flooding
- Gravel mining
- Groundwater quality
- Septic issues
- Soil erosion
- Surface water quality
- Wildlife habitat loss
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

Answer	City Households	Township Households	Total	Percent of Total
Animal feedlot runoff	87	209	296	15%
Drainage	51	130	181	9%
Farmland loss	28	155	183	9%
Fertilizer/pesticide runoff	111	178	289	15%
Flooding	22	38	60	3%
Gravel mining	5	21	26	1%
Groundwater quality	141	239	380	19%
Septic issues	26	56	82	4%
Soil erosion	43	85	128	6%
Surface water quality	52	103	155	8%
Wildlife habitat loss	66	122	188	9%
Other	8	21	29	2%
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Summary:** Groundwater quality, animal feedlot runoff and fertilizer/pesticide runoff were the top three most important environmental and natural resource issues in Swift County for both city and township households.

**22. Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them?**

Floodplains

- Additional protection needed
- No additional protection needed
- Not sure/No opinion

Lakeshores

- Additional protection needed
- No additional protection needed
- Not sure/No opinion

River shorelines

- Additional protection needed
- No additional protection needed
- Not sure/No opinion

Wetlands

- Additional protection needed
- No additional protection needed
- Not sure/No opinion

Wooded areas

- Additional protection needed
- No additional protection needed
- Not sure/No opinion

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Additional protection needed
- No additional protection needed
- Not sure/No opinion

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households – Floodplains**

		Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them? Floodplains			<b>Total</b>
		Additional protection needed	No additional protection needed	Not sure/No opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	59 (23%)	60 (23%)	141 (54%)	260
	Township	124 (24%)	155 (29%)	247 (47%)	526
<b>Total</b>		183 (23%)	215 (28%)	388 (49%)	786

*Summary:* Nearly one-half of the households were not sure or had no opinion while less than one-quarter of the households thought additional protection from development was needed in floodplain areas.

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households – Lakeshores**

		Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them? Lakeshores			<b>Total</b>
		Additional protection needed	No additional protection needed	Not sure/No opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	96 (38%)	53 (21%)	104 (41%)	253
	Township	165 (31%)	140 (27%)	222 (42%)	527
<b>Total</b>		261 (33%)	193 (25%)	326 (42%)	780

*Summary:* One-third of the households thought lakeshores needed additional protection from development.

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
River Shoreline**

		Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them? River shorelines			<b>Total</b>
		Additional protection needed	No additional protection needed	Not sure/No opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	129 (50%)	44 (17%)	85 (33%)	258
	Township	216 (41%)	122 (23%)	191 (36%)	529
<b>Total</b>		345 (44%)	166 (21%)	276 (35%)	787

*Summary:* River shoreline received the most “additional protection needed” responses for any of the environmentally sensitive areas provided in survey question #22.

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Wetlands**

		Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them? Wetlands			<b>Total</b>
		Additional protection needed	No additional protection needed	Not sure/No opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	111 (43%)	65 (25%)	84 (32%)	260
	Township	160 (30%)	238 (45%)	134 (25%)	532
<b>Total</b>		271 (34%)	303 (38%)	218 (28%)	792

*Summary:* City household highest response was for additional wetland protection while township households responded that no additional protection was needed for wetlands.

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Wooded Areas**

		Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them? Wooded areas			<b>Total</b>
		Additional protection needed	No additional protection needed	Not sure/No opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	102 (40%)	68 (27%)	85 (33%)	255
	Township	170 (32%)	206 (39%)	150 (29%)	526
	<b>Total</b>	272 (35%)	274 (35%)	235 (30%)	781

**Summary:** Just over one-third of the total households (35%) indicated they would like to see additional protection for wooded areas while the same percentage of total households said no additional protection for wooded areas was needed.

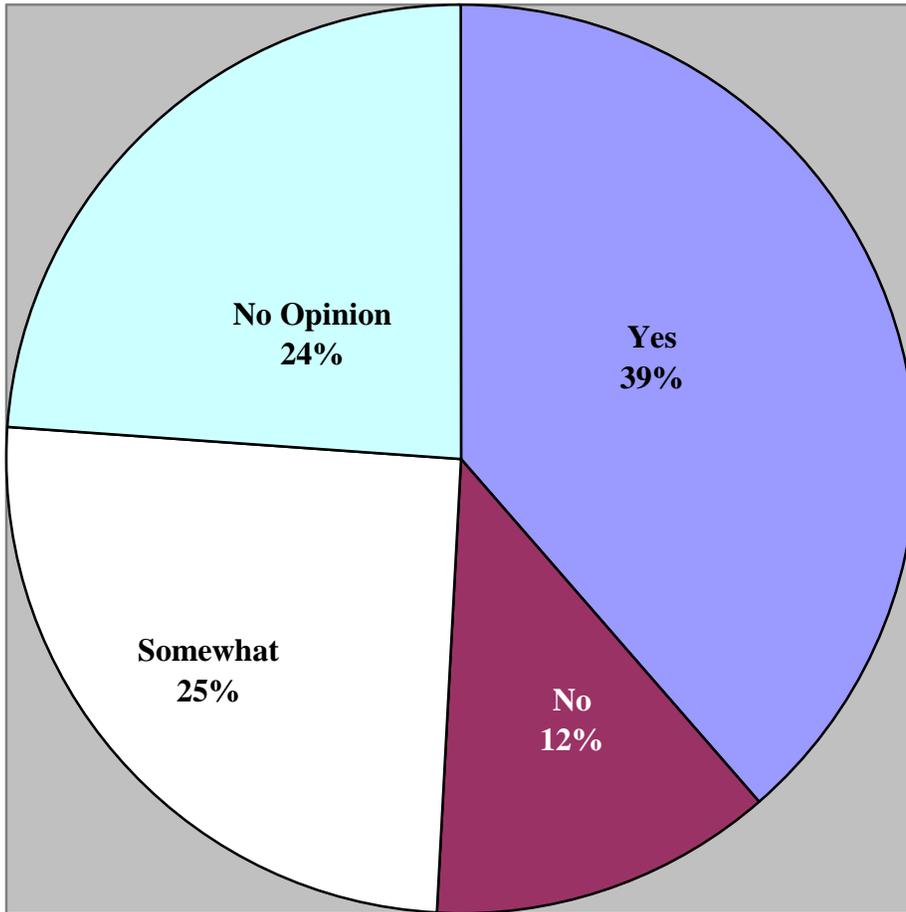
**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Other**

		Which of the following sensitive environmental areas do you support being protected by additional regulations that would limit development occurring within them? Other			<b>Total</b>
		Additional protection needed	No additional protection needed	Not sure/No opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	12 (25%)	6 (12%)	31 (63%)	49
	Township	24 (37%)	9 (14%)	32 (49%)	65
	<b>Total</b>	36 (31%)	15 (13%)	63 (55%)	114

**Summary:** There were only 36 “Other” responses for environmentally sensitive areas that need additional protection.

23. **Do you feel the water ditching system in Swift County is adequate?**  
 Yes       No       Somewhat       No Opinion

**Total Response**



**Summary:** *Thirty-nine percent of the households responding felt the ditching system was adequate in Swift County.*

**24. Of the following types of development which would you like to see occur more, less, about the same as now or not at all in Swift County:**

- Animal livestock operations
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion
- Housing development in rural/unincorporated areas
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion
- Parks (County owned)
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion
- Recreational trails
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion
- Wind farms with multiple wind turbines
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion
- Wind turbines for individual use
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - More                       Less                       Same as now
  - Not at all                       No Opinion

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Animal Livestock Operations**

	Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less, about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Animal livestock operations					<b>Total</b>	
	More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion		
Which city or township do you reside in?							
	City	53 (20%)	44 (16%)	109 (40%)	12 (4%)	55 (20%)	273 (100%)
	Township	187 (33%)	86 (15%)	194 (34%)	26 (5%)	74 (13%)	567 (100%)
	<b>Total</b>	240 (29%)	130 (15%)	303 (36%)	38 (5%)	129 (15%)	840 (100%)

**Summary:** The highest response for both city and township households was for animal livestock operation development to stay the same as it is now. Twenty-nine percent of the total responses wanted to see more livestock development with most of those responses coming from township households.

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Housing Development in Rural/Unincorporated Areas**

		Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less, about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Housing development in rural/unincorporated areas					Total
		More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	91 (33%)	28 (10%)	75 (27%)	10 (4%)	72 (26%)	276 (100%)
	Township	165 (29%)	68 (12%)	178 (32%)	43 (8%)	108 (19%)	562 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		256 (31%)	96 (11%)	253 (30%)	53 (6%)	180 (22%)	838 (100%)

*Summary: One-third of city households wanted to see more housing development in rural areas. Nearly one-third (32%) of township households wanted rural housing development to stay the same while just less than one-third (29%) wanted to see more rural housing development occur.*

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Parks (County Owned)**

		Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less, about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Parks (County owned)					Total
		More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	76 (28%)	11 (4%)	159 (58%)	4 (1%)	24 (9%)	274 (100%)
	Township	154 (27%)	18 (3%)	331 (58%)	9 (1%)	61 (11%)	573 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		230 (27%)	29 (3%)	490 (58%)	13 (2%)	85 (10%)	847 (100%)

*Summary: Over one-half (58%) of both city and township households wanted the amount of county parks to stay the same while over one-quarter (27%) of the total responses wanted to see more county parks.*

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Recreational Trails**

		Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Recreational trails					<b>Total</b>
		More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	111 (40%)	15 (5%)	112 (40%)	10 (4%)	29 (11%)	277 (100%)
	Township	205 (36%)	41 (7%)	240 (42%)	23 (4%)	60 (11%)	569 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		316 (37%)	56 (6%)	352 (42%)	33 (4%)	89 (11%)	846 (100%)

*Summary: Forty-two percent of the households wanted recreational trails to stay the same in Swift County. The development of more recreational trails in the county was the second most frequent response (37%).*

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Wind Farms with Multiple Wind Turbines**

		Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Wind farms with multiple wind turbines					<b>Total</b>
		More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	193 (70%)	1 (1%)	20 (7%)	8 (3%)	53 (19%)	275 (100%)
	Township	438 (78%)	3 (1%)	29 (5%)	13 (2%)	82 (15%)	565 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		631 (75%)	4 (1%)	49 (6%)	21 (3%)	135 (16%)	840 (100%)

*Summary: Three-fourths of the total responses answered they would like to see more wind farm development with multiple wind turbines.*

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Wind Farms for Individual Use**

		Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Wind turbines for individual use					<b>Total</b>
		More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	173 (64%)	0 (0%)	22 (8%)	8 (3%)	68 (25%)	271 (100%)
	Township	426 (76%)	1 (<1%)	30 (6%)	8 (1%)	97 (17%)	562 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		599 (72%)	1 (<1%)	52 (6%)	16 (2%)	165 (20%)	833 (100%)

*Summary: Nearly three-fourths of the total household responses would like to see more wind turbines for individual use.*

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households –  
Other**

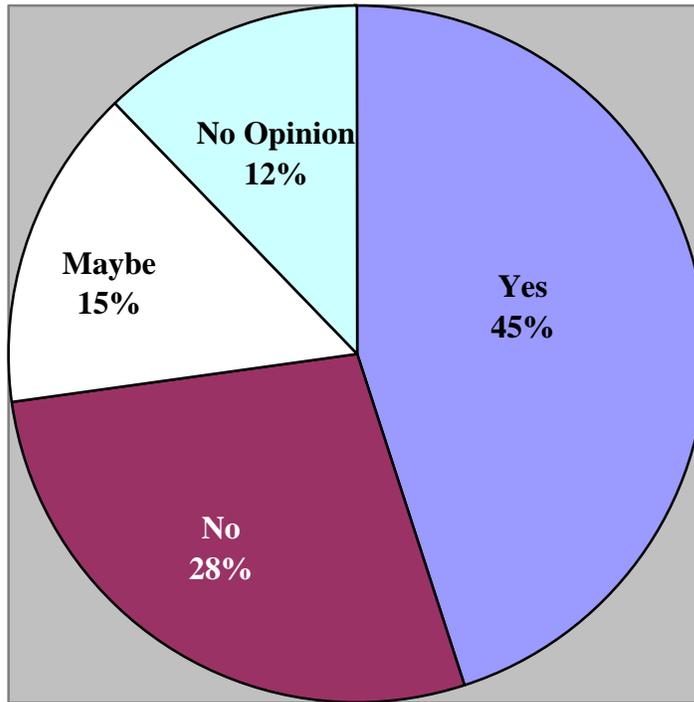
		Of the following types of development, which would you like to see occur more, less about the same as now or not at all in Swift County? Other					<b>Total</b>
		More	Less	Same as now	Not at all	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	12 (39%)	2 (6%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)	15 (49%)	31 (100%)
	Township	17 (38%)	2 (5%)	3 (7%)	1 (2%)	21 (48%)	44 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		29 (39%)	4 (5%)	5 (7%)	1 (1%)	36 (48%)	75 (100%)

*Summary: There were only 75 responses to this question.*

**25. Should land use policies and regulations steer new housing development away from agricultural activities/areas and toward urban areas/cities?**

Yes     No     Maybe     No Opinion

**Total Response**



**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

		Should land use policies & regulations steer new housing development away from agricultural activities/areas & toward urban areas/cities?				Total
		Yes	No	Maybe	No Opinion	
Which city or township do you reside in?	City	105 (39%)	79 (30%)	41 (15%)	44 (16%)	269 (100%)
	Township	270 (48%)	153 (27%)	82 (15%)	57 (10%)	564 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		<b>375 (45%)</b>	<b>232 (28%)</b>	<b>123 (15%)</b>	<b>101 (12%)</b>	<b>833 (100%)</b>

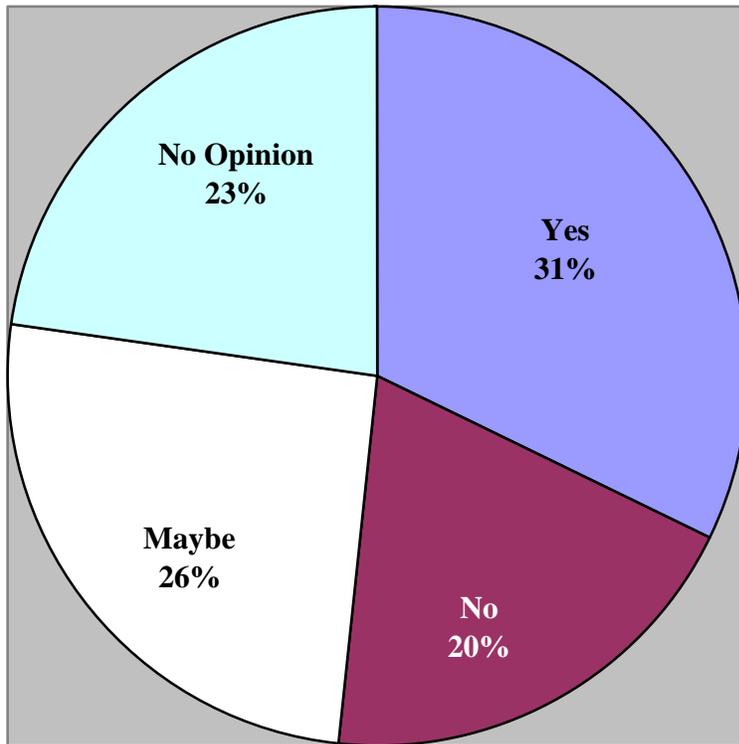
**Summary:** Forty-five percent of the total households responding to this question said land use policies and regulations should steer new housing development away from agricultural activities/areas and toward urban areas/cities.

**County Services Questions**

26. **Should Swift County provide more County services and information (such as tax and property information, mapping services, county applications and forms, etc.) over the Internet?**

- Yes       No       Maybe       No Opinion

**Total Response**



**Summary:** *One third of respondents to this question felt the County should provide more County services and information over the Internet.*

**27. How would you rate the following as they relate to Swift County? (N.O. = No opinion)**

Public safety/county law enforcement

Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.

Swift County Government addressing the needs and concerns of its residents

Excellent Good Average Poor N.O.

**Total Response**

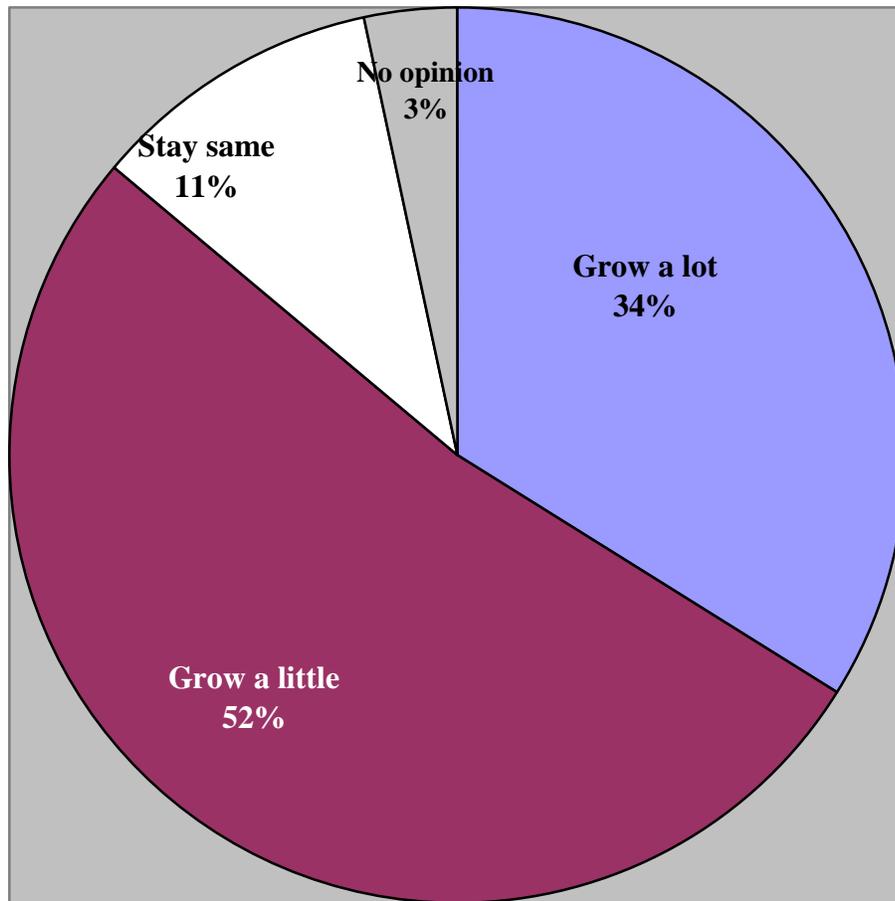
	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
Public safety/County law enforcement	78 (9%)	456 (53%)	259 (30%)	50 (6%)	19 (2%)
Government addressing the needs & concerns of its residents	26 (3%)	360 (42%)	348 (41%)	82 (10%)	36 (4%)

***Summary:** The majority of the respondents to this question rate public safety/law enforcement good (53%) or excellent (9%). Forty-two percent feel the County is doing a good job of addressing the needs/concerns of residents and another 41 percent felt the County does an average job.*

28. **Would you like to see Swift County's population:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Grow a lot
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grow a little bit
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stay the same as it is now
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decline
- \_\_\_\_\_ No opinion

**Total Response**



**Summary:** The overwhelming majority of the respondents (86%) want to see growth in Swift County.

**29. Which of the following issues are the most important to Swift County’s future (Check no more than three choices).**

- Attract/develop high paying jobs
- Attract/develop new business and industry
- Develop/maintain agricultural friendly land use policies
- Grow in population
- Manage the location of new development
- Market the County’s assets
- Preserve its history
- Protect the natural environment
- Provide/enhance recreational opportunities
- Quality healthcare services in the County
- Quality telecommunication and Internet services
- Quality transportation system
- Retain a rural character
- Retain or bring back our youth to live here
- Variety of housing types for all ages/incomes
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

Answer	City Households	Township Households	Total	Percent of Total
Attract/develop high paying jobs	120	223	343	14%
Attract/develop new business and industry	176	292	468	18%
Develop/maintain ag. friendly land use policies	39	191	230	9%
Grow in population	63	91	154	6%
Manage the location of new development	22	33	55	2%
Market the County’s assets	25	27	52	2%
Preserve its history	18	57	75	3%
Protect the natural environment	77	141	218	9%
Provide/enhance recreational opportunities	27	33	60	2%
Quality healthcare services in the County	58	133	191	8%
Quality telecommunication & Internet services	21	55	76	3%
Quality transportation system	14	36	50	2%
Retain a rural character	37	94	131	5%
Retain or bring back our youth to live here	103	224	327	13%
Variety of housing types for all ages/incomes	41	40	81	3%
Other	12	8	20	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,531</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Summary:** *Attract/develop high paying jobs, attract/develop new business/industry and retain or bring back our youth to live here were the top three responses to this question for both city and township households.*

**30. Which of the following are the most important reasons you choose to live in Swift County? (Check no more than three choices.)**

- Close to family members
- Cost of housing
- Employment opportunities
- Geographic location
- Outdoor activities
- Quality of life
- Rural character
- Safe atmosphere
- Schools
- Social opportunities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Response Comparison by City and Township Households**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>City Households</b>	<b>Township Households</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Close to family	144	324	468	21%
Cost of housing	55	58	113	5%
Employment opportunities	62	81	143	6%
Geographic location	25	80	105	5%
Outdoor activities	40	78	118	6%
Quality of life	141	309	450	20%
Rural character	82	255	337	15%
Safe atmosphere	99	175	274	12%
Schools	37	68	105	5%
Social opportunities	6	5	11	<1%
Other	21	60	81	4%
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Summary:** *Living close to family and the quality of life were the top two responses to this question for both cities and townships however, the number three response for cities was a safe atmosphere and for townships it was rural character.*

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Three public community meetings were held throughout the County for public input and review in Appleton, Benson and Kerkhoven. An entire month was used for public comment. The draft Plan was available in a variety of venues for easy accessibility for the public. The following procedure was followed:

- The draft Plan was placed on the Swift County website and the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) website for easy access and downloading for the entire month.
- Hard copies of the draft Plan were placed in every public library in the County – a total of three (Appleton, Benson, and Kerkhoven) for the entire month.
- Hard copies of the draft Plan were available at the County Auditor, Environmental Services and the UMVRDC offices for the entire month.
- A press release was issued to encourage public review and comment of the draft Plan by using the websites; where hard copies could be found throughout the County; the date, time and place of all three public meetings; and the option of sending written comment. The deadline and where to send written comment was outlined in the press release. The meetings were scheduled on three consecutive Wednesdays in July at different times, places and locations in an attempt to provide choice and flexibility for the public.
- The public could provide written comment by sending it to Environmental Services.
- Notable comment and changes would be brought forward for consideration to the Planning Commission at the public hearing.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: Strategic Action Plan**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The key element to a comprehensive plan is being able to address the current and emerging issues of the County identified in the public participation process of the Plan. Issues and concerns are what will largely dictate what Swift County will do and how they plan for the future. Several tools were used to identify current and emerging issues for the County and provide opportunity for public input. They included:

- Review of other adopted County plans and official controls currently in place
- Input from members of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force
- Input from city and township officials in the County
- Input from three public meetings held in different locations around the County
- Public input from the comprehensive plan community survey
- Public review period of the draft comprehensive plan
- Public hearing to consider the draft comprehensive plan

Throughout the planning process the key topic areas of housing, agriculture, business/economic development, transportation, natural resources/parks/recreation and county services were identified as the priority planning areas. Once identified, each priority area was evaluated, researched and reviewed to collect ideas and determine direction for the future. The data gathered from the above tools was used to create an action plan that sets direction for the County in their current and future decision-making. It was the responsibility of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force to assist in the development of the vision statements, goals, objectives and priority objectives for this Plan. The Plan is not meant to set policy but rather to set policy direction.

#### **Planning Areas:**

- 1. Housing**
- 2. Agriculture**
- 3. Business/economic development**
- 4. Transportation**
- 5. Natural resources/parks/recreation**
- 6. County services**

Identifying key planning objectives and recommending planning activities does not guarantee that the County will exclusively pursue the activities in the Plan. Rather, these planning objectives provide recommendations for action that the County can use as guidelines only. Each objective will need to be evaluated before implementation to determine whether it continues to fit the County's overall vision and remains an issue. If not, the Plan is designed to be flexible.

The first step in developing the strategic action plan was to develop overall vision statements for each of the six priority planning areas. The purpose of the vision statements is to articulate the hope for the future based on current reality and anticipated future changes. Swift County's vision statements represent what people envision in 20 years for the County. The vision statements may include aspects that already exist in the County that are highly valued, as well as aspects that are either new or can be improved on by the County. It is the *internal hope* for the future. Goals are then set to reach the visions and objectives to meet the goals.

## RELATIONSHIP OF PLANNING AREAS

The plan has identified six distinct planning areas that by no means operate independently. The relationship between these planning areas is very real and must be taken into consideration when looking ahead and determining strategy direction. How do the issues around each planning area affect the other areas? Can you move forward without adversely affecting one or more planning areas? Where is the balance? Is there a common vision? Is there orderly growth? Following are brief descriptions of how each planning area is impacted by the other planning areas and identifies their inter-relationships and inter-connective ness.

**Transportation:** Transportation helps to bring a community together. A well-designed and maintained transportation system meets the needs of moving both people and goods along with providing recreational opportunities. It plays a huge part in the image and economic welfare of a community and in determining future land use. High traffic areas present safety concerns and high maintenance. Easy access is critical for maximum use. Transportation influences where people choose to live and businesses locate. Historically businesses have put great weight in locating on or near highways, rail and air transportation systems. Recreational transportation lies often along or within parks or other environmentally protected areas. Local commodities need to be exported outside the community connecting globally with other systems. A community's transportation system must allow for safe and efficient movement of agricultural products to market. The land surrounding these areas may be prime agricultural land and/or environmentally sensitive land. Decisions on which land use is more important will need to be made.

**Housing:** Available, affordable housing for all life stages is a key component to healthy and thriving communities. The struggle to preserve demolish, rehabilitate or build new is always at the forefront in the housing arena. Future land use, economic growth and community services are all strongly tied to housing. The amount and location of housing directly affects the pressures on infrastructure such as roads, water and wastewater systems. Aesthetically good housing is built around natural resources and recreational opportunities. Use of land for housing may be in direct competition to agriculture or natural resources and the environment. For example some of the best agricultural land has many of the same characteristics as prime land for housing development. Finding a balance is very difficult. Housing expansion into agricultural areas may also cost a county more in services than it collects in tax revenues. A county often must consider how to protect its agricultural areas from land use conflicts with housing expansion.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture provides the economic base in Swift County as the largest property tax generator and is the County's primary industry. Changes in farming have reduced the number of people in farming and have increased farm sizes. However, alternative farming practices may encourage more small farming operations to exist. Many of the existing community businesses and industries serve the agricultural economy. Agriculture is an export business and depends on the transportation system to move goods within and outside the County. Agriculture can provide edge habitat, food for many wildlife species and environmental buffers. Finding a harmonious co-existence between the County's key industry and these other land use preferences is the goal. The County's rural character is part of their history and their appeal - it is what the County is about. While agriculture provides opportunities for business and industrial development it can

create smells, noise and substantial activity and use of large machinery that residential and recreational areas may want to distance themselves from.

**Natural Resources/Parks/Recreation:** Natural resources/parks/recreation contribute to the quality of life in a community. A well-designed and maintained system provides leisure opportunities for residents of all ages and contributes to the overall image of the community. These investments play a role in the County's ability to maintain and attract existing and future residents, businesses and industry. Supporting a system that maintains a healthy balance between open spaces and land needed for housing, business or infrastructure becomes the challenge. Accessibility and safety is a high priority issue surrounding the placement and development of these areas and should be responsive to the needs of the community or neighborhood they are placed in. Neighborhood resources and parks should fit the neighborhood residents. Community resources serve all age groups and should offer a wide variety of active and passive activities. Parks and recreation areas need infrastructure – water, sewer and roads. Many times these areas edge agricultural land that can adversely affect the natural environment if production is not carefully managed. Balance and relationships of the various planning elements are critical to successful planning, development and growth. Many natural resources are not renewable and conservation is critical. Environmental reviews and preservation may be an approach to regulation and protection. In addition natural resources/parks/recreation play an important role in the County's economy.

**Business/Economic Development:** A local economy is more than just the sum of the community's businesses. It is a sum of the business network. Economic health is affected by the quality of our natural environment; the local culture; the safety and quality of our community services; efficiency and accessibility of our transportation network; depth of our infrastructure; and the communities amenities. Agriculture is a key part of the county's economy. Finding ways to encourage renewable energy ventures such as wind farms and value-added agriculture activities such as ethanol are important economic development strategies. While attracting new economic development is beneficial, maintaining the existing businesses and industry is equally important – both must be financially healthy. New business or industry should be compatible with current and future land use plans and positively impact communities. Economic development has a direct relationship to the other planning elements as well. Decisions about community services and housing all influence local economic conditions. For example, prevailing wages and the current economy drives the type of new housing development in a community.

**County Services:** County services include water, sewer, electricity, telecommunications, roads, law enforcement and fire protection, public buildings and other public amenities. Large investments are made in these services. Policies are set on how to provide these services. They all contribute to the quality of life and affect the ability to attract and maintain residents, businesses and industries. They not only meet the needs of the residents, but many times they also provide valuable revenue and are key to the economy. Services and facilities are driven by the demographics. Services need to respond to the needs of each population segment. Providing infrastructure, services and facilities should be done in anticipation of changing demographics rather than a reaction to them. In other words, communities need to be proactive rather than reactive in their planning initiatives. Technology and telecommunications infrastructure may be necessary to support certain businesses or industries in a community. Public amenities have a

direct link to public image. Economic development or growth and other land use impact the type and location of infrastructure, services and facilities. For example, if an industrial park has been developed and financed as such, it makes sense that is where industrial growth should occur rather than taking land out of use from another planning area such as agriculture.

Making a decision in one planning area almost always will affect another planning area. Decisions are not made in a vacuum. It is important to the County that all planning areas are considered when making policy decisions. Finding a balance and harmony amongst all the planning areas is ultimately the goal to preserve or enhance resources and investments. The role of being good stewards of public dollars and resources cannot and should not be taken lightly.

## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN ELEMENTS

The strategic action plan outlines *visions, goals, objectives and priority objectives* for the six planning areas and becomes the work plan. The task force established the work plan as a framework for action. The action plan is organized by the six planning areas defined earlier in the chapter and is based on public input provided in the comprehensive planning process. Chapter Four of the Plan outlines the public input collected through the above tools. Specifically, public input was solicited through:

- A community survey
- Public participation on the task force
- Public meetings

Public input not only identifies current and emerging critical issues, it also engages the community in the process so there is a better understanding of policy direction and decisions set by the County in their day-to-day activities. Public involvement assures success in the implementation of the Plan. The Plan should be flexible enough to accommodate uncertainty and unexpected change. The Plan is designed to address the issues identified during the public participation process.

The action plan will continue to change and evolve over time and as planning activities occur. Priorities may change as well. The Plan should be updated as outlined in Chapter Six. Beginning action strategies have been classified for purposes of this Plan as a priority objective from all the objectives in the Plan and triggers immediate action. Several factors will have to be considered in determining the feasibility of the strategy. Inclusion in the Plan does not guarantee it will become a reality. Potential opportunities that are not included in the Plan may be taken under consideration if it proves to be beneficial to the County. These planning guidelines are not all-inclusive and constant. It is important to re-evaluate and assess periodically to ensure the

### DEFINITIONS

**Vision statements** are internal hopes or what you dream for the future. It is a picture that captures values and concerns/issues.

**Goals** are broad general statements to be accomplished or attained in the future. They are the destination or the target to reach and are tied to the vision statements.

**Objectives** are action-oriented and operational. They tell specific things you will be accomplishing in order to reach the goal. Objectives include an action verb. They are the **guidelines** for specific action.

**Priority objectives** are the activities the County will focus on immediately or in the short-term.

strategies reflect change and the most effective plan of action for the County to pursue. The checklist on page 5.6 can be an excellent tool in re-evaluating and assessing the status of the action plan.

<b>Re-evaluation/assessment Checklist</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Is the planning activity responsive to the County’s vision, goals, objectives and strategies?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Is it likely to be cost effective and easy to keep within the budget?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>How will it affect other organizations, departments, individuals and the County as a whole?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Is it likely to impose troubling short- and long-term economic, environmental or social costs?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>How long would it take to carry out the activity and would this fit within the County’s timetable and financial parameters?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does the County have the organizational resources and personnel to carry out the activity? If not, can it get assistance elsewhere?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>What are the possible savings from choosing one option over the other?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>What, if any, regulatory or other policy changes would the activity require?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>What would the cost of not doing anything be?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Would the activity make economic sense, given the short- and long-term environmental, economic and social costs and benefits?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Would it add jobs and improve the economic stability of the County?</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Would it improve the quality of life of the County?</b></li></ul>

## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

### **Agriculture Vision Statement**

Swift County envisions a sustainable balance between being a leading agricultural county and managing natural and human resources for long-term benefit. Crop and livestock production will be maintained or increased by taking advantage of improvements in management practices, science and technology. Enhancing the agriculture economy through value-added agriculture and renewable energy opportunities will be a component of Swift County agriculture moving forward.

### **Goal # 1: Maintain a strong agricultural base in the county that is economically and environmentally sustained and enhanced.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Adopt land use controls that discourages development that results in the significant loss of farmland and encourage where they can be annexed into city limits.
2. Promote the use of agricultural best management practices that are sensitive to agricultural production and the preservation of natural resources (i.e. conservation cropping systems, conservation tillage, nutrient management, pest management, terraces, waste management systems, proper ditch maintenance, water and sediment basins).
3. Consider the County's non-farm dwelling policy as to size, location and water and sewer requirements under conditional use permits for updating or revision.

### **Goal #2: Minimize the conflicts between farming operations and rural residential or urban development.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Promote the use of odor management technologies by feedlots.
2. Promote compatible land use patterns in cooperation with affected cities and townships on shared boundaries issues.
3. Coordinate new or expanded livestock operations with the regulations of the Swift County feedlot ordinance.
4. Protect active farming operations from the encroachment of conflicting residential land uses through the use of land use planning and zoning regulations and districts considering density and definitions.

**Goal #3: Assist agriculture operations to be economically viable.**

**Objectives:**

1. Recognize and support agriculture as a valuable industry that diversifies the County's economy.
2. Support conservation and natural resource management programs provided by the Swift County Soil and Water Conservation District.
3. Support educational and public informational services provided by the University of Minnesota Extension Service.
4. Support marketing, exporting and consumption of the County's agricultural products.
5. Encourage the growth and development of renewable energy and value-added agriculture in the County through economic development services and land use policies.

**Goal #4: Sustain an agricultural land use pattern in harmony with low-density rural housing.**

**Objectives:**

1. Continue to support a "Right-to-Farm" condition as part of the conditional use process that acknowledges and accepts aspects of farm operations in rural areas.
2. Sustain most of the County as a low-density, rural and generally agricultural environment.
3. Encourage residential, commercial and industrial growth in an orderly and compact fashion around the established urban areas and rural service centers so that new developments can be efficiently served by public infrastructure and reduce pressure on the character and quality of the County's rural areas.
4. Require pollution controls standards for feedlots consistent with State requirements.
5. Review agricultural zoning districts and the County's zoning ordinance to clarify prime and marginal agricultural land.

***Agriculture Priority Objectives:***

1. Examine the four agricultural zoning districts found in the County's zoning ordinance and definitions of prime agriculture land and marginal land to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and update the zoning maps.
2. Review non-farm dwelling policy of the County.

**Business/Economic Development Vision Statement**

Swift County recognizes that to be economically competitive, retain youth, sustain population and maintain a workforce, the County must encourage business development and expansion with a focus on high paying jobs. Agriculture will remain a key industry for the County with renewable and value-added development continuing to be emerging industries in which Swift County remains a leader.

**Goal #1: Encourage the retention and expansion of existing business and industry throughout the County.**

**Objectives:**

1. Assist existing businesses and industry in the County with expansion.
2. Encourage economic strategies that have been historically successful for the County while identifying new and emerging economic opportunities.
3. Work with educational institutions to provide opportunities for training and funding of a workforce that County businesses can draw from.
4. Recognize that agriculture is the key industry in the County and take efforts to promote the retention and expansion of agricultural industries.
5. Ensure there is adequate infrastructure and services available for retention, expansion and attraction of businesses/industry within the County.
6. Encourage development of new business or industry.
7. Add points of access to natural gas pipelines to increase availability to existing and new businesses.

**Goal #2: Promote and market the County aggressively as a great place to live, work and visit.**

**Objectives:**

1. Invest in a county-wide strategic marketing campaign that profiles the County positively and uses County “Champions” who are passionate about Swift County and can act as spokespersons utilizing the latest technology in marketing.
2. Utilize financing tools and incentives such as tax increment financing, abatement, revolving loan funds and state or federal programs whenever appropriate and feasible.
3. Work with the existing business/industrial community to meet this goal.
4. Continue financial support of the RDA services to assist businesses and industry in expansion, retention and attraction to the County.
5. Coordinate land use, planning and marketing efforts with cities and townships for urban growth areas, appropriate infrastructure and protection of the environment and to attract businesses/industry.
6. Actively pursue economic opportunities with high wage jobs and implement programs that will slow the out-migration of the youth in the County.
7. Promote high quality medical facilities, schools, recreational assets and other services and infrastructure that improve the quality of life and protect natural resources in the County.

8. Access the County's continued support and involvement with Prairie Waters Regional CVB as a valuable tourism tool to promote the County and its resources.

**Goal #3: Pursue renewable energy alternatives and value-added development opportunities as a key component to the County's overall economy.**

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage both the expansion of existing renewable energy, value-added business and the development of emerging technology.
2. Promote and encourage local markets and steps that add value locally to the agricultural industry.
3. Promote waste and recyclables as valuable resources and return them to a productive use.
4. Consider the findings and glean important findings of the Blue Ribbon Commission.
5. Continue to enhance Swift County's identity as a leader in renewable energy and value-added development.
6. Encourage the use of renewable energy products.

***Business/Economic Development Priority Objectives:***

1. Work in partnership on a strategic marketing campaign for the County.
2. Review and take under consideration renewable energy and value added agriculture opportunities for the County.

### **County Services Vision Statement**

Swift County seeks to enhance the quality of life for its citizens and future residents by providing quality, accessible facilities and affordable services that support economic prosperity, good stewardship of resources and a cooperative spirit.

#### **Goal #1: Ensure that County services are affordable, reliable and of high quality to meet the needs of residents while keeping within the financial restraints of the County.**

##### **Objectives:**

1. Maintain a comprehensive, multi-year capital improvement program that identifies public investments, funding sources and schedules that can be used as the basis for an annual capital budget.
2. Continue to refine the organization of County government functions in response to identified needs, opportunities for quality improvements and changing job responsibilities/roles.
3. Seek opportunities for partners or coordinated efforts in the delivery of services by sharing facilities and purchasing of equipment if it improves efficiencies and maintains high-quality customer service.
4. Encourage public participation and input to meet the growing needs of residents.
5. Continue to provide County services that preserve the County's quality of life and are accessible to all residents (i.e., law enforcement, emergency management, veterans services and family services).
6. Invest in children and youth as future assets and resources of the County (i.e., good education, health services, youth activities, family support options, early intervention and intergenerational activities).
7. Be legislatively proactive with cities and townships to ensure funding levels and programs are sensitive to the rural areas to identify opportunities of coordination and cost sharing wherever possible.
8. Develop more Internet based services for County residents and staff to access (i.e. countywide broad band access).
9. Consider maintenance versus replacement of public investments for cost comparisons.
10. Encourage and support County staff by providing ongoing training, up-to-date technology and equipment to improve efficiency, timeliness and service delivery.

##### **County Services Priority Objectives:**

1. Develop a comprehensive, multi-year capital improvement program.
2. Create a technology improvement plan.
3. Create a legislative committee of interested citizens and elected officials.

### **Housing Vision Statement**

Swift County envisions for the future a housing stock that meets the needs of its population, accommodates growth and is safe, healthy and environmentally sound. The housing stock should support affordability, choice and quality for individuals of all life cycles and economic status.

**Goal #1: Maintain land use controls that provide suitable locations and densities for residential development that are in harmony with agriculture activities and natural resources.**

**Objectives:**

1. Review and monitor shoreland land use practices to prevent adverse environmental impacts to these areas (i.e., development standards, design techniques, lot size, common open spaces, consideration of conservation cluster subdivisions and building permit requirements).
2. Encourage orderly and efficient housing development within city limits versus increased opportunities for rural development.
3. Identify “Planned Urban Growth Areas” for housing development within the County in cooperation with cities and townships (i.e., detachments and annexations).
4. Existing public infrastructure and services should be used to guide residential development to ensure housing development efforts are cost effective.
5. Review and amend housing regulations including setbacks and lot size requirements in the County Zoning Ordinance.
6. In conformance with this Comprehensive Plan in consultation with the County’s municipalities and townships, review and amend current urban expansion district regulations and areas.
7. Define seasonal cabins/hunting shacks and address in the County zoning ordinance.
8. Review floodplain ordinances and update zoning maps to reflect new floodplain areas.

**Goal #2: To support and encourage quality, affordable housing for all stages of life and socioeconomic backgrounds that provide residents a safe, appealing living environment.**

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage the development of housing that reflects the characteristics of the population of the County.
2. Provide flexibility and support to the private sector in building housing for all life cycles and incomes.
3. Encourage the development of housing options for seniors.
4. Consider having a countywide housing study and needs assessment.
5. Support housing development for the low-moderate income households through private or public funding and partnerships and encourage the use of financial assistance programs for homebuyers and rental building owners.
6. Maintain and support the Swift County HRA to coordinate and assist the efforts of the cities, townships, and County in developing and maintaining an adequate housing.
7. Pursue public and private partnerships at the state, federal and local levels of funding mechanisms for provision of new and rehabilitated housing projects to help meet the housing needs.
8. Encourage the development of housing as an economic development component for business retention and expansion throughout the County.

**Goal #3: Encourage preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing stock, if feasible.**

**Objectives:**

1. Improving and maintaining existing housing should be of utmost importance.
2. The County should actively pursue housing preservation and rehabilitation programs and funding sources.
3. Encourage preservation of housing with historic characteristics.

***Housing Priority Objectives:***

1. Review shoreland district regulations to consider lot sizes, cluster designs, and definitions.
2. Conduct a countywide housing study.
3. Establish a Historic Preservation Committee.
4. Develop land use controls around seasonal cabins/hunting shacks.

**Natural Resources/Parks/Recreation Vision Statement**

Swift County recognizes the full potential of the scenic, natural, historic and recreational resources available in the County and their contributions to quality of life and the economy. The County will work toward maintaining a balance between protecting, preserving and enhancing the County's valuable natural resources and environment while retaining the County's rural character and encouraging new economic opportunities.

**Goal #1: Work together with the appropriate partners to encourage a balanced and harmonious relationship between the County's natural resources/parks/recreation and other socioeconomic factors.**

**Objectives:**

1. Identify and inventory the County's natural resources for their preservation and protection.
2. The County should encourage countywide conservation programs and seek funds that protect and preserve natural resources, sensitive environments and ecosystems.
3. A public education program and public input should be on-going when developing land use plans, new ordinances and regulations.
4. Enhance and maintain current County-owned recreational infrastructure as valuable assets to residents and visitors.
5. Work to protect and enhance the natural environment and surrounding landscape while preserving land and other socioeconomic factors crucial to the County economy.
6. Consider point and non-point pollution sources be identified and abated if funding is available.
7. Consider participation in the Minnesota DNR Aggregate Resource Mapping Program.
8. Update and maintain a countywide geographical information system (GIS) database for land use decisions.

**Goal #2: Develop and enforce reasonable regulations/standards/ordinances that protect and preserve the County's natural resources/parks/recreation.**

**Objectives:**

1. Develop closure requirements and reclamation plans of gravel pits/mining and logging activities that are enforced to minimize the impact on the environment and to return the area back to an original or environmentally sound state.
2. Monitor, regulate and enforce septic system installation, maintenance and design.
3. Regularly review and update County plans that potentially have a direct or indirect impact on the natural resources of the County as needed with reasonable standards that help protect natural resources and the environment (i.e., water plan, solid waste plan, flood ordinance, feedlot ordinance, and shoreland ordinance).

5. Develop a permanent wind turbine ordinance that allows for wind power development to occur in harmony with other land uses and with limited impact to the environment and landscape.
6. Identify wind energy access points to electric transmission lines.

**Goal #3: Promote the use of best practices or conservation measures that are environmentally sound and responsible to protect and preserve the County's natural resources/parks/recreation.**

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage construction sites to have temporary and permanent erosion control measures.
2. Take efforts to preserve wooded areas and corridors.
3. Encourage planting living windbreaks and buffer strips.
4. Minimize the disturbance of fragile ecosystems in the County.
5. Encourage the public and private sector to be energy efficient by using more renewable energy resources.
6. Promote best practices or conservation measures that protect the County's natural resources (i.e., conservation measures that decrease run-off and erosion and protect water quality).
7. Maintain and enhance areas that promote natural habitat, vegetation growth and wetlands.

***Natural Resources/Parks/Recreation Priority Objectives:***

1. Review Swift County's 1993 Gravel Mining Reclamation Plan and adopt a new gravel-mining ordinance that includes clearly stated reclamation requirements.
2. Review the shoreland ordinance.
3. Adopt a permanent wind turbine ordinance.

**Transportation Vision Statement**

Swift County recognizes that the transportation system is critical to the economic vitality and quality of life for residents of the County. A diverse transportation system/road network that is safe, functional and environmentally sound to move people and goods is imperative.

**Goal #1: Support a transportation system that encompasses all modes of transportation.**

**Objectives:**

1. Support a transportation system that focuses on the County's economic and social needs.
2. Be legislatively active to assure adequate funding of transportation needs at the federal and state level.
3. Continue commitment to affordable transit service within the County.
4. Work with the railroad companies, local jurisdictions and MnDOT to ensure a safe rail service that supports agriculture and economic development.
5. Review jointly with the City of Benson and Six Mile Grove Township land use restrictions and zoning surrounding the Benson Airport to increase the industrial park surrounding the airport.

**Goal #2: Maintain a transportation system that moves people and goods safely and efficiently.**

**Objectives:**

1. Ensure that safety is not compromised and is the County's highest priority.
2. Support programs and projects that reduce damage to road infrastructure within the County caused by heavy loads (i.e., increase number of 10-ton miles).
3. Conduct an on-going inventory of the County's transportation system and services using GIS technology to assess needed improvements, traffic controls, signage, enforcement and/or public education. (i.e., traffic volumes, traffic patterns, development pressures or growth, accident data, usage, gaps, need).
4. Maintain and enforce road restrictions as required or needed within the County.
5. Promote the use of structural snow fences and the planting of living snow fences as low-cost solutions to snow drifting on County roads.
6. Invest in new technology for efficient road planning and management.

**Goal #3: Utilize transportation funds in the most effective and efficient manner to address transportation needs.**

**Objectives:**

1. Work cooperatively and collaboratively with partners on services and planning efforts to create a seamless delivery model, funding for investments in the transportation system, cost efficiencies and eliminate duplication throughout the County (i.e., cities, townships, region, MnDOT, systems, service providers and businesses).
2. Maintain a multi-year transportation improvement plan that completes an inventory and identifies priority projects within the County.

3. Coordinate the transportation system with economic growth and employment throughout the County.
4. Expand transit services to better serve residents increase ridership and ensure complete coverage of the County.

***Transportation Priority Objectives:***

1. Create a legislative committee to advocate legislatively for transportation dollars to the County.
2. Maintain a multi-year transportation plan for the County including a capital improvement plan, priority projects, monitoring of the system and transit system inventory.

## **CHAPTER SIX: Implementation**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In some ways this step, implementation is the most difficult part of preparing a comprehensive plan. The real challenge comes in translating the plan's vision, goals, and objectives into day-to-day operations and actions of the county – the point of planning. The comprehensive plan is an official planning and policy document for the county and without proper implementation the plan will have little impact in the county. It is comprehensive in nature for a reason because everything is interconnected. The plan establishes a framework for guiding decisions and development in the areas of land use, community development, transportation, housing, community facilities, natural resources, parks, trails and historic resources. The plan will be implemented through regulatory controls; public investments and management; communication; and incentives the county puts in place.

Successful planning is threefold in nature - creating the plan, adopting the plan and implementing the plan. The alternative is a plan sitting unused on the shelf collecting dust. A good comprehensive plan is a living document.

### **ADOPTION**

A public hearing on the comprehensive plan for public input must be held prior to adoption. Minnesota Statutes, sections 394.23, 394.26, 462.355 and 473.864 address the procedures for adopting a county comprehensive plan. Publishing the draft plan for review is important to the process so the public can access the plan. Posting the plan on the Internet may be a solution to broad dissemination.

### **TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The plan is designed to be a 20-year planning tool. Progress towards meeting the visions, goals, and objectives will likely occur in increments or phases rather than all at once. The county does not have the time or financial resources to address all of the goals in the short-term. As a result, the county should determine the timing of its implementation activities in phases. Implementation steps can be divided into:

- **Ongoing activities** that are already happening and will continue throughout the implementation and review processes.
- **Immediate activities** that begin with the adoption of the plan and are typically completed, or significant progress has been made, within the first year.
- **Short-term activities** that start within three years of the plan's adoption.
- **Mid-term activities** that begin three to ten years after the plan's adoption.
- **Long-term activities** that look ten years out and beyond.

- **Priority objectives** are considered ongoing, immediate and short-term activities that should be given precedence. Priority objectives are where implementation of the plan begins.

*Source: Information for parts of this section was obtained from “Under Construction – Tools and Techniques for Local Planning” Minnesota Planning – June 2002*

## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

There are a number of activities in the plan. To effectively address all of the issues, goals, and objectives identified in this plan, the following priority list was established by the Swift County Task Force to help focus the County’s implementation efforts. The priorities become the County’s initial work agenda. This list then is examined often and updated as projects and activities are completed or as new issues, goals, and objectives are developed. *It should be noted that although these projects and activities are listed as priorities, they will only be completed as the County’s staff time and financial resources will allow.*

1. Examine the four agricultural zoning districts found in the County’s zoning ordinance and definitions of prime agriculture land and marginal land to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and update the zoning maps.
2. Develop land use controls around seasonal cabins/hunting cabins.
3. Adopt a permanent wind turbine ordinance.
4. Review shoreland district regulations to consider lot sizes, cluster designs, and definitions.
5. Review Swift County’s 1993 Gravel Mining Reclamation Plan and adopt a new gravel-mining ordinance that includes clearly stated reclamation requirements.
6. Review non-farm dwelling policy of the County.
7. Develop a comprehensive, multi-year capital improvement program.
8. Work in partnership on a strategic marketing campaign for the County.
9. Review and take under consideration renewable energy and value added agriculture opportunities for the County.

## **PROCESS**

Good planning is never stagnant and is an on-going process that will actively guide the physical and development growth and decisions of a county over the long-term. Regularly reviewing the plan to evaluate the success of implementation and ensure it is up-to-date is critical. In order to effectively implement a plan and achieve the identified goals and objectives, the comprehensive

plan must be periodically reviewed. The following provides some steps that could be used by the county to successfully implement the plan:

- **Form a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee**  
The committee should meet at least twice a year, more often if needed, to review the plan. An existing group or a newly formed committee could function in this capacity depending upon the wishes of the county board. A county staff person should be designated as the lead person for implementation. County officials, staff and appointed individuals could serve on this committee. This committee should be established immediately after adoption of the plan and be the “keepers of the vision” by having the responsibility of monitoring implementation of the plan and informing the county board of the plan’s progress.
- **Incorporate Update Reports**  
Ensure regular updates of the plan that tie directly to the budget and are part of the county’s order of business or agendas.
- **Create an Annual Work Plan**  
The comprehensive plan review committee should annually (more often if needed) assess the comprehensive plan’s visions, goals, and objectives along with other emerging issues in the county to *develop a list of ongoing, immediate, short-term, mid-term and long-term activities* (see the “Time Frame for Implementation” section in this chapter). From this list, identify a *list of priority projects and activities*. Update this list of priority projects as activities occur. One way to go about identifying these activities is to determine what **has** been done, what **has not** been done, what **has changed** since the plan was written and what should be **added** to the plan. Use the six major planning areas identified in the plan – *housing, agriculture, business/economic development, transportation, natural resources/parks/recreation and county services* – to help categorize activities.
- **Assignment of Responsibilities**  
Implementation activities should also include the party responsible for completing the activity, whether its county staff, the planning commission, another organization contracting with to complete activities or a private consultant.
- **Public Education**  
Ongoing public education is an important component to successful implementation. Creative ways of communicating the plan’s overall goals, policies and recommendations to the public as well as the importance of planning should be sought out. This may include copies for review at the county courthouse, city halls, public libraries, county website and other easily accessible locations for the public to view. Planning efforts should foster a healthy dialogue amongst local jurisdictions and the public around planned growth, management and land use issues. The plan was created upon a strong foundation of citizen involvement and citizen involvement should continue for future amendments and revisions. The plan affects everyone in the county and everyone should have an opportunity to affect the plan.

When creating an annual work plan, other things to consider include:

- **Special Task Forces/Committees**  
Certain issues and activities may be controversial or technical and require extra time and attention before the activity is completed. Creating special task forces or committees to address these issues and activities may prove beneficial, efficient and cost-effective. The county may also choose to involve the public, other units of government, state and federal agencies, regional organizations and other key stakeholders in this process. Be inclusive. Include technical assistant professionals for their expertise and experience when needed. The county should work jointly with the cities and townships in the county as well as surrounding counties and communities to avoid duplication and find cost-effective solutions.
- **Identify and Maintain Inventories**  
Annually take inventory of what is available in the entire county and in the communities and counties that are your neighbors and evaluate how they could impact the strategy or activity you need to address. Be inclusive and detailed in the data you collect. Each year this task will get easier. Maintain a future land use map that reflects anticipated growth and land use change in the county as well. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) capabilities can be a real asset here in creating a visual reference that can be layered to get the “bigger picture”. It can assist in making future land use decisions, determine the need for changes or upgrades, and facilitate cooperative efforts between potential partners.
- **Alternatives**  
Consider all your options – be creative, ask the experts, look at what others have done, don’t “reinvent the wheel”, learn from others successes and failures and plan for the future. Make use of the current and projected demographics and census data. Consider the population’s diverse needs (young, old, disabled, different ethnicity, incomes) remembering it is impossible to be everything to all. Coordinate your efforts and use other adopted plans and ordinances as reference points. Try to be comprehensive in your approach but realize that it is impossible to plan for everything. Be flexible.
- **Financial Implications**  
Determine what the activity will cost. Then determine how it can be paid for. Consider the current budget(s); cost sharing or joint ventures; user or dedication fees; funding programs; grants or loans; bonding referendums; donations or fund raising; public and private partners; taxes; and capital improvement.

## **AMENDMENTS AND UPDATES**

Changes or amendments to the plan should be submitted to the county planning commission and will be made where appropriate. Proposed changes to the plan should seek active public participation and input and will require a public hearing. After a public hearing is held a recommendation by the planning commission is brought forward to the county board, which then will make the final decision.

As the plan is implemented, the community will want to revisit, clarify or change these statements to reflect changing conditions and concerns over time. The plan is designed as a 20-year planning document. This **does not** mean the plan should be updated every 20 years. The county should regularly review this plan to make sure it remains up-to-date with changes, needs and issues in the county. The following are examples of when a comprehensive plan should be updated or amended:

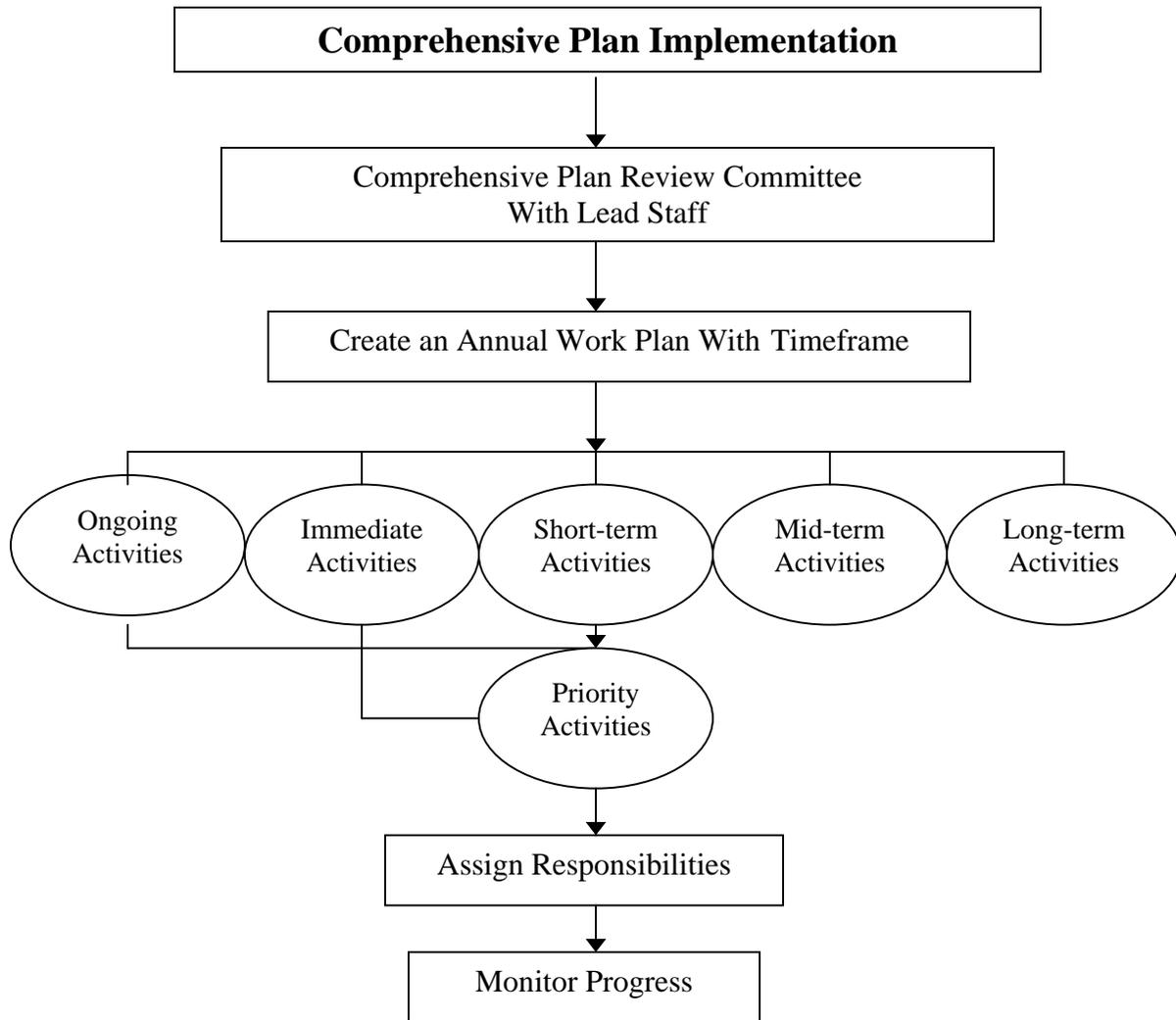
- After completion of several implementation activities.
- After significant physical, economic, technological, infrastructure or demographic changes occur or are projected to occur.
- When changes in priorities, trends, issues and needs happen.
- When regulatory changes by the state or federal government occur.
- After a census is completed and the new demographic data is available.
- Prior to adopting or amending any regulatory control that is **not** in harmony with the plan. State Statute 394.23 specifies that when a county adopts a comprehensive plan by ordinance, the plan “*must be the basis for official controls...*”. State Statute 394.21 defines official controls as “*legislatively defined and enacted policies, standards, precise detailed maps, and other criteria, all of which control the physical development of a municipality or a county or any part thereof or any detail thereof, and are the means of translating into ordinances all or any part of the general objectives of the comprehensive plan. Such official controls may include but are not limited to ordinances establishing zoning, subdivision controls, site plan rules, sanitary codes, building codes, housing codes, and official maps*”.

A good benchmark for doing a complete review and update of a comprehensive plan is every five to seven years. A plan that is reviewed and updated periodically will not become outdated and is much easier to implement. A major revision of a comprehensive plan should include citizen participation.

Minnesota State Statutes 375.51 explains the process for updating or amending a county comprehensive plan. A public hearing is required before the enactment of any ordinance adopting or amending a comprehensive plan. Notice of the hearing must be published in the official county newspaper not less than ten days before the hearing.

In conclusion, the county should continue to work cooperatively with local jurisdictions, adjacent communities and the state on issues of mutual concern and implementation of the plan. Only by working together can we see the plan come to life.

***“Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.”***



***Things to Consider...***

