

CHAPTER TWO: Land Uses and Services

CURRENT LAND USE REGULATIONS

The **Yellow Medicine County Land and Related Resources Management Ordinance** (originally adopted on October 25, 1979 and as amended through September 22, 1998) contains the land use regulations for the County. The following provides a summary of the major sections in that Ordinance. The comprehensive planning process looked at these land use regulations to determine if they meet the current and future needs of the County. Chapters Six and Seven address some of these land use regulations that were identified in the planning process as needing further evaluation or changes. **Changes that occur to the County's land use regulations and official controls should be summarized and attached to this Plan. When this Plan is updated, those changes should be incorporated where appropriate.**

Flood Plain Management Ordinance Summary

The flood hazard areas of Yellow Medicine County are subject to periodic inundation which results in potential loss of life, loss of property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures or flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.

This Ordinance is based upon a reasonable method of analyzing flood hazards which are consistent with the standards established by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

This Ordinance applies to all lands within the jurisdiction of Yellow Medicine County shown on the Official Zoning Map and/or the attachments thereto as being located within the boundaries of the floodway, flood fringe or general flood plain districts.

The Official Zoning Map together with the Flood Insurance Study for Yellow Medicine County prepared by the Federal Insurance Administration dated November 15, 1978, and the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map and Flood Insurance Rate Map dated November 15, 1978 are adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this Ordinance.

Shoreland Management Ordinance Summary

The use of any shoreland of public waters; the size and shape of lots; the use, size, type and location of structures on lots; the installation and maintenance of water supply and waste treatment systems; the grading and filling of any shoreland area; the cutting of shoreland vegetation; and the subdivision of land shall be in full compliance with the terms of this Ordinance and other applicable regulations.

Sewered and Unsewered Lakes – All lots for dwellings shall consist of a minimum of three acres.

Structure and On-site Sewage System Setbacks (in feet) from Ordinary High Water Level

<u>Classes of Public Waters</u>	<u>Structures</u>		<u>Sewage Treatment System</u>
	<u>Unsewered</u>	<u>Sewered</u>	
Natural Environment	150	150	150
Rivers and Streams:			
Agriculture and Tributary	100	50	75

The following additional structure setbacks apply, regardless of the classification of the water body:

Additional Structure Setbacks

<u>Setback from:</u>	<u>Setback (in feet)</u>
(1) top of bluff	30
(2) top of steep slope	30
(3) unplatted cemetery	50
(4) right-of-way line of federal, state, or county highway	50
(5) right-of-way line of town road, public street, or other roads or streets not classified	50

Minnesota River Management District (MR) Summary

This Minnesota River Management District is land within Yellow Medicine County that borders the Minnesota River where it is essential to control bluffland and riverland development in order to protect and preserve the outstanding scenic, recreation, natural, historical and scientific values of the river system. Within the Minnesota River Management District, the land is divided into two types of districts: 1) that portion which is designated scenic, and 2) that portion which is designated recreational in terms of future development and use. The two Districts are geographically identified below:

Scenic District

The land within the Minnesota River Management District from the Lac qui Parle County line to the U.S. Highway 212 bridge entering the city of Montevideo; and, from the Minnesota Falls Dam located near Granite Falls to the Redwood County line.

Recreational District

The land within the Minnesota River Management District from the U.S. Highway 212 bridge entering the city of Montevideo to the Minnesota Falls Dam near Granite Falls.

Urban Expansion Management District (U) Summary

These lands have been classified as either partial, perimeter or potential urban service areas. Each classification is dependent upon the location of a parcel of land in relation to an incorporated municipality and the public services that community provides to it or a neighboring parcel of land such as paved streets, sewer and/or water facilities.

Rural Preservation Management District (AG) Summary

The Rural Preservation Management District is made up of land predominantly noted for agricultural and/or natural area uses. The Rural Preservation Management District is divided into eight rural preservation areas. These areas are described below and they were identified by using the suitability analysis information in Chapter V of the Yellow Medicine County Land and Related Resources Management Plan (August 28, 1979). The definition of prime, good, marginal and nontillable farmlands was also given in Chapter V of that Plan.

Key definitions from the Yellow Medicine County Land and Related Resources Management Plan:

Prime Farmland – Land that has soil and climatic qualities to produce high yields of crops for food and fiber over a continuing period of time then managed according to the recommended scientific farming method. Soil has limitations of slope, erosion and/or wetness that can be easily overcome with normal recommended good farm management.

Good Farmland – Land that has soil and climatic qualities needed to produce high yields in crops for food and fiber under intensive management practices designed to overcome its limitations. Its limitations include steep slopes, low permeability, high erosion susceptibility, wetness and salinity.

Marginal Farmland – Land that has substantial limitations that restrict its productive capabilities even after intensive management practices have been applied. Some of the limitations include severe sloppiness, wetness, droughtiness, and fertility.

Nontillable Farmland – Soils in this category have severe limitations that normally restrict their use to activities that do not include continuous cultivation. Primary hazards are steep slopes, extreme wetness, extreme erosion susceptibility, extreme stoniness, extreme droughtiness and extreme limitations of fertility. Suitable uses for such soils include pasture, forest and wildlife habitat.

Natural Areas – Area includes deer yards, granite outcrops, native grasslands, lakes and streams, forested land, flood plains, public wildlife and recreation lands, historic sites, wetlands and trout streams.

Urban Lands – Lands which are presently devoted to concentrated residential, commercial industrial and/or public facilities uses or show significant potential for future development in these uses by virtue of geographic location, demographic growth expectations and economic growth projections.

Rural Preservation Area #1 – Lands that have prime soil characteristics and no natural areas associated with them (this designation accounts for over 60 percent of the land zoned “AG” in the County).

Rural Preservation Area #2 – Lands that have prime soil characteristics and natural areas associated with them.

Rural Preservation Area #3 – Lands that have good soil characteristics and no natural areas associated with them.

Rural Preservation Area #4 – Lands that have good soil characteristics and natural areas associated with them.

Rural Preservation Area #5 – Lands that have marginal soil characteristics and no natural areas associated with them.

Rural Preservation Area #6 – Lands that have marginal soil characteristics and natural areas associated with them.

Rural Preservation Area #7 – Lands that have nontillable soil characteristics and no natural areas associated with them.

Rural Preservation Area #8 – Lands that have nontillable soil characteristics and natural areas associated with them.

Lot Area Regulation

Non-farm dwellings shall consist of at least three acres of land per site and only one such site shall be permitted on each quarter quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$) section of land located within Rural Preservation Areas #4 through #8 or by conditional use permit in areas #1 through #4.

Farm dwellings shall consist of at least three acres of land per site.

Animal Feedlot Ordinance Summary

Feedlots where all other provisions of this Ordinance have been met shall be a permitted use when the animal units are less than 500 and no potential pollution hazard exists.

Any new animal feedlot, with 500 animal units or more, shall be on a tract of land not less than 40 acres or a tract of land with an average county market value not less than \$40,000. This does not include existing or proposed livestock buildings, structures or appurtenances.

Setback Requirements for New Feedlots:

No new feedlot shall be constructed/operated within the following setback distances.

1. 1 mile – public parks
2. 1 mile – 10 or more dwellings, subdivision or a municipality
3. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile – Urban Expansion Management District
4. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile – neighboring dwelling

5. No non-farm dwelling shall be allowed within ½ mile of an existing feedlot, unless it is to replace an existing or abandoned dwelling.
6. ½ mile – FAA approved airport
7. ½ mile – active cemeteries
¼ mile – inactive cemeteries
8. ½ mile – buildings used as a church, synagogue or place of worship with regularly scheduled services
9. New feedlots shall not be located within a Shoreland or Flood Plain Management District
10. 300 feet from all public and private drainage ditches
11. No feedlot shall exceed 2,000 animal units

Any feedlot shall have a minimum setback of two feet per animal unit or compliance with the above setbacks, whichever is greater.

No new feedlot shall be constructed closer than two feet per animal unit from the edge of the radius of a neighboring feedlot.

Animal Waste Storage Facilities:

New livestock facilities totaling 500 animal units or more, and where manure is of liquid form, shall have a minimum storage capacity of seven months and shall meet the minimum construction standards required by the MPCA.

Animal Waste Utilization and Application Setbacks:

The following manure spreading setbacks shall be adhered to:

	<u>Surface</u>	<u>Incorporated or Injected</u>
1. Watercourse, streams, rivers, lakes wetlands, drainage ditches	300'	10'
2. Municipal well	1,000'	1,000'
3. Private wells	200'	200'
4. Residential area (10 or more homes)	500'	100'
5. Neighboring dwelling	500'	100'
6. Urban Expansion Management District	500'	100'
7. 10-year Flood Plain	Prohibited	Permitted
8. Filed tile intakes	100'	10'
9. Road right-of-way spreading	Prohibited	Prohibited

It should be noted that Fortier Township administers and enforces its own feedlot ordinance. The township adopted a feedlot ordinance February 23, 2004.

General Business District (B) Summary

The General Business District provides a district that will allow retail and commercial uses in the unincorporated areas of the County at standards that will not impair the traffic carrying capabilities of abutting roads and highways.

Industry District (I) Summary

The Industry District provides a district that will allow general industry in the County and at standards that will not impair the traffic carrying capabilities of abutting roads and highways. The regulations for this district are intended to encourage industrial development that is compatible with a surrounding or abutting district.

Granite Falls Municipal Airport Zoning Ordinance Summary

The Granite Falls Municipal Airport Ordinance, created and established by joint action of the City of Granite Falls, Yellow Medicine County and Minnesota Falls Township, provides regulations for land use in and around the airport. The ordinance is administered and enforced by the City of Granite Falls. The Granite Falls Municipal Airport is located outside the City of Granite Falls in Minnesota Falls Township.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) Summary

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide the means of designing building complexes containing an internal relationship between building and building, and between building and site that cannot be accomplished through the standard one building – one lot application of the County's general land use regulations. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) District provides a procedure for the development of more than one structure upon a single tract or lot, as well as the integrated development of one or more lots as a single tract in the Urban Expansion, Shoreland Management and Minnesota River Districts. The PUD is intended for use only where the usual application of bulk and density controls: 1) would not provide adequate environmental protection; 2) would allow design standards detrimental to the natural aesthetic and physical characteristics of the site; and 3) would not provide an efficient and feasible use of the land.

Subdivision Ordinance Summary

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the subdividing of land in Yellow Medicine County lying outside the incorporated limits of cities so as to contribute to an attractive, stable and wholesome environment; provide adequate public services; and provide an integrated and safe street and highway system.

Subdivision Defined – the division or redivision of a lot, tract, or parcel of land, regardless of how it is to be used, into two or more lots either by plat or by metes and bounds description, or the division or redivision of land involving dedication of a new park, playground, street, or other public right-of-way facility; or the vacating of, realignment or any other change in existing streets, alleys, easements, recreation areas, water or other public improvements of facilities, provided; however, the following classes shall be exempt:

1. The division of land for agricultural purposes into parcels greater than five (5) acres where no new streets, roads or other right-of-way are involved.
2. The division of a lot for the purpose of attachment to contiguous lots provided no residual plat is left unattended.

**Farmland Classification of Yellow Medicine County's Zoned Land
in Acres and as a Percent of the Total County**

Farmland Classification	Total Acres	Percentage of Total Land
Prime Farmland	345,096	70.8
Good Farmland	95,103	19.5
Marginal Farmland	8,126	1.7
Non-Tillable Farmland	33,104	6.8
Other	6,249	1.2

Source: Yellow Medicine County Zoning Map (in 2005) and UMRDC GIS Service Bureau

Current Land Use Regulations Summary

- Most of the County's land is zoned in the Rural Preservation Management District (AG).
- Non-farm dwellings shall consist of at least three acres of land per site and only one such site shall be permitted on each quarter-quarter ($\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$) section of land located within Rural Preservation Areas #4 through #8, or by conditional use permit in areas #1 through #4.
- Feedlots are a permitted use when the animal units are less than 500 and no potential pollution hazard exists. Any new animal feedlot, with 500 animal units or more, must be on a tract of land not less than 40 acres or a tract of land with an average county market value not less than \$40,000. This does not include existing or proposed livestock buildings, structures or appurtenances.
- Nearly three-fourths of the County's zoned land is classified as prime farmland.
- A current County zoning map is attached at the end of this chapter.

HOUSING

Housing Units

Housing Unit Change for Yellow Medicine County Cities from 1970 - 2000

City	1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-2000 Total Change	Percent Change
Canby	846	945	886	918	72	8.5%
Clarkfield	405	475	444	429	24	5.9%
Echo	151	159	145	136	-15	-9.9%
Granite Falls*	916	1,108	1,046	958	42	4.6%
Hanley Falls	115	132	123	123	8	7.0%
Hazel Run	40	35	33	31	-9	-22.5%
Porter	83	98	99	98	15	18%
St. Leo	46	60	61	57	9	19.6%
Wood Lake	180	188	180	190	10	5.6%
City Totals	2,782	3,200	3,017	2,940	158	5.7%

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

* Yellow Medicine County Data Only.

**Housing Unit Change for Yellow Medicine County Townships
and the Upper Sioux Community from 1970 – 2000**

Township	1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-2000 Total Change	Percent Change	Zoning Permits for New Houses from 2000-2004
Burton	97	81	73	70	-27	-27.8%	2
Echo	105	95	84	78	-27	-25.7%	1
Florida	92	81	70	68	-24	-26%	2
Fortier	84	63	54	58	-26	-30.9%	5
Friendship	96	94	85	100	4	4.2%	1
Hammer	120	124	102	93	-27	-22.5%	2
Hazel Run	96	87	81	78	18	18.8%	7
Lisbon	111	101	92	84	-27	-24.3%	1
Minnesota Falls	140	150	142	157	17	12.1%	9
Norman	95	116	116	113	18	18.9%	5
Normania	104	94	81	82	-22	-21.2%	3
Omro	133	92	70	66	-67	-50.4%	1
Oshkosh	103	105	91	88	-15	-14.6%	2
Posen	103	101	90	90	-13	-12.6%	9
Sandes	80	81	77	75	-5	-6.3%	3
Sioux Agency	140	127	122	112	-28	-20%	6
Stony Run	154	212	205	204	50	32.5%	7
Swede Prairie	101	85	72	65	-36	-35.6%	1
Tyro	105	105	87	84	-21	-20%	1
Wergeland	84	86	72	74	-10	-11.9%	2
Wood Lake	107	106	100	94	-13	-12.1%	4
Township Totals	2,250	2,186	1,966	1,933	-317	-14.1%	74
Upper Sioux	N/A	N/A	N/A	31	N/A	N/A	N/A

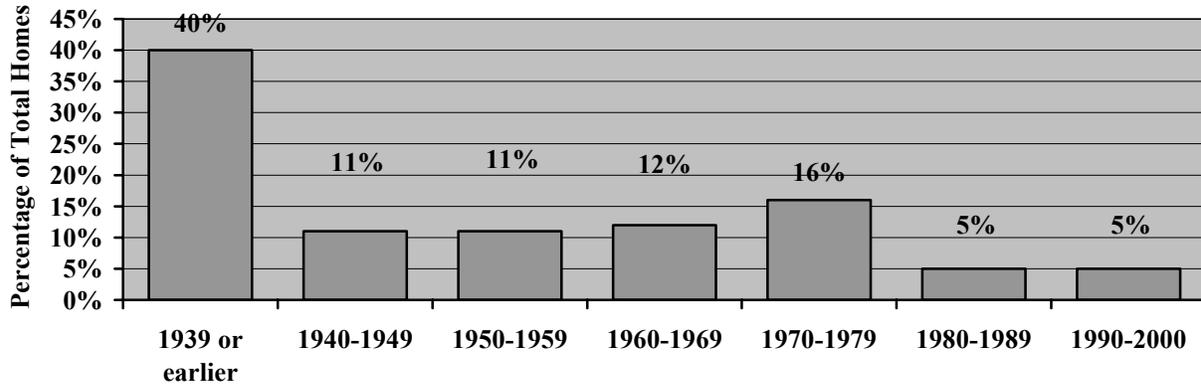
Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census). 2000 – 2004 data for zoning permits issued for new housing was obtained from the Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office.

Housing Unit Summary

- All single-family homes, mobile homes, rental units, seasonal homes and vacant dwellings are included in housing unit counts.
- The 2000 Census indicates that Yellow Medicine County has 4,873 total housing units compared to 5,032 total housing units in 1970 – a total of 159 units less (-3.2%). There was a seven percent increase in total housing units between 1970 and 1980; however, from 1980 to 2000 there was almost 10 percent decrease in total housing units.
- Cities in Yellow Medicine County experienced a 5.7 percent increase in total housing units from 1970 to 2000.
- Townships in Yellow Medicine County experienced a 14 percent decrease in total housing units from 1970 to 2000.
- The City of Canby experienced the largest growth in total housing units (72) from 1970 to 2000 while Echo experienced the largest decline in total housing units (-15) from 1970 to 2000.
- From 1970 to 2000 Stony Run Township experienced the largest growth in total housing units with the addition of 50 housing units, while Omro Township experienced the largest decline in total housing units with a loss of 67 units.
- Posen and Minnesota Falls Townships were each issued a total of nine zoning permits from 2000 to 2004 for housing, the largest in the County. Several townships have had only one permit issued by the County during this same time period.
- A map showing the number of housing units in each city and township in Yellow Medicine County is provided at the end of this chapter.

Housing Age, Occupancy, Type and Utility Service

Yellow Medicine County Housing Construction by Decade



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

**Percentage of Housing by Type and Occupancy
For Yellow Medicine County and Minnesota in 2000**

	Yellow Medicine County	Minnesota
Occupancy		
Occupied Units	79.5	74.6
Vacant Units	20.5	25.4
Occupancy Status		
Owner Occupied Units	91.1	91.7
Renter Occupied Units	8.9	8.3
Type of Unit		
Single Family Units	86.6	73
Duplex	1.3	3.8
3 or More Units	8.5	19.2
Mobile Homes	3.4	4.5
Other	.1	.3

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

Utility Service

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water provides the water supply to the cities of Echo, Hazel Run, Porter and St. Leo and to some rural homes. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water also interconnects with the City of Canby to service in emergency situations. Canby has its own well and water treatment systems as well. All other cities in Yellow Medicine County have a municipal water system from their own wells. Most rural households in the County have individual wells for a potable water source.

Eight cities in Yellow Medicine County have community wastewater systems. These cities include Canby, Clarkfield, Echo, Granite Falls, Hanley Falls, St. Leo, Wood Lake and Porter. Hazel Run has private individual septic systems. Most rural households in the County also have individual septic systems.

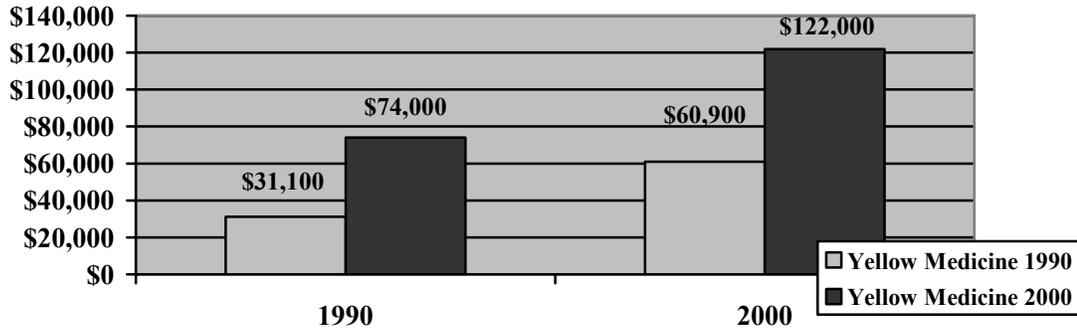
The Upper Sioux Community has both water and wastewater distribution systems that serve most of the homes and businesses. The water system includes a water tower and the wastewater system includes a treatment facility.

Housing Age, Occupancy, Type and Utility Service Summary

- Forty percent (40%) of Yellow Medicine County's homes were constructed before 1940.
- In 2000, 79.5 percent of the total housing units in Yellow Medicine County were occupied and 20.5 percent were vacant compared to 74.6 percent occupancy and 25.4 percent vacancy for the State of Minnesota.
- Of these occupied units in Yellow Medicine County 91.1 percent were owner occupied units and 8.9 percent were renter occupied – almost identical to the State of Minnesota at 91.7 percent owner occupied and 8.3 percent renter occupied.
- Single-family housing units made up 86.6 percent of the housing stock in Yellow Medicine County compared to Minnesota at 73 percent in 2000.
- The only city in Yellow Medicine County that does not have a public wastewater system is Hazel Run.
- Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water provides the water supply to the cities of Echo, Hazel Run, Porter and St. Leo (Canby is also connected in case of emergency). All other cities in Yellow Medicine County have a municipal water system from their own wells.
- All of the cities in Yellow Medicine County except Hazel Run have a community wastewater system.
- The Upper Sioux Community has both water and wastewater distribution systems that serve most of the homes and businesses on the Reservation.

Housing Values

Yellow Medicine County and Minnesota Median Housing Value Comparison in 1990 and 2000



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

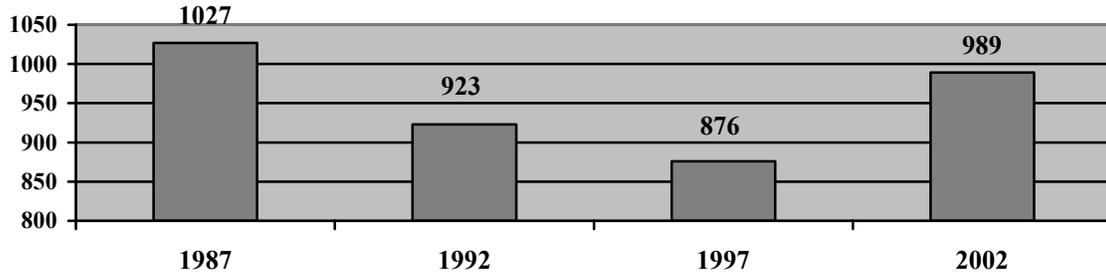
Housing Value Summary

- The median value of housing increased by 96 percent in Yellow Medicine County from 1990 to 2000. Minnesota's median housing value increased by 65 percent during the same time period.
- Median value is defined as one-half of the cases falling below the median value of the property and one-half above the median rounded to the nearest thousand.

AGRICULTURE

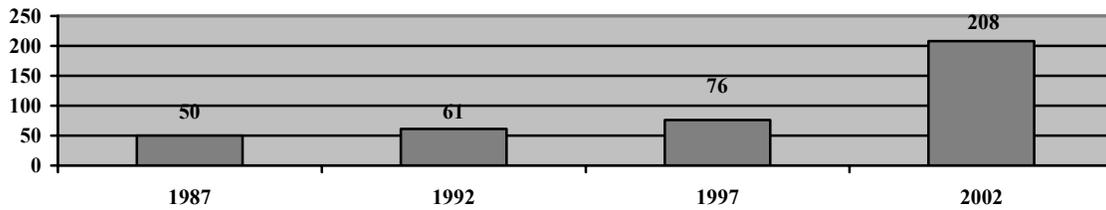
Farms

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



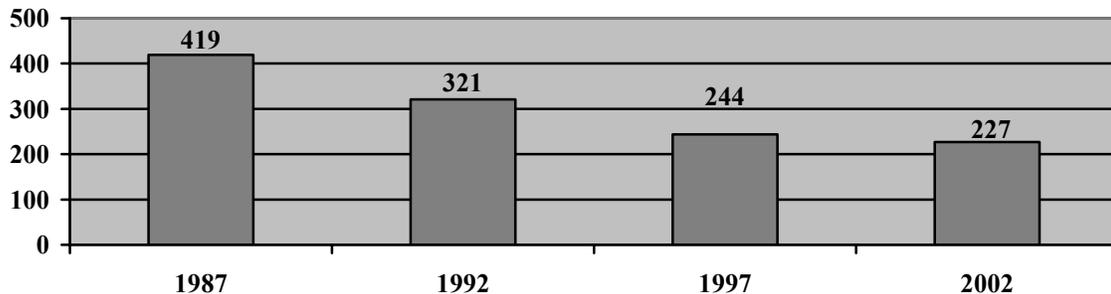
Source: USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Services 2005

**Number of Yellow Medicine County Farms 1 – 50 Acres in
1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



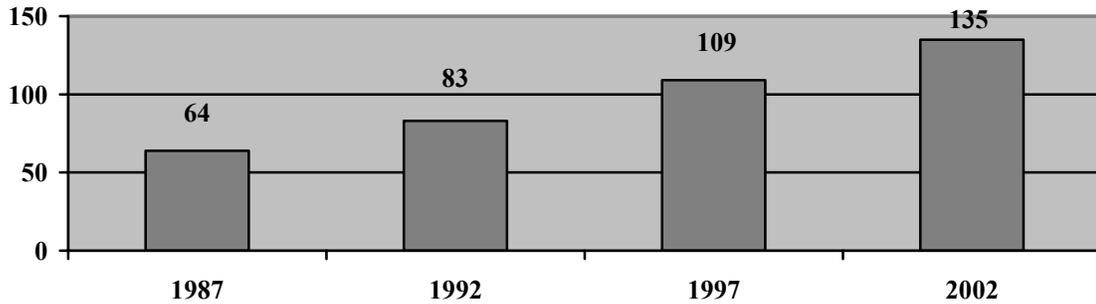
Source: USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Services 2005

**Number of Yellow Medicine Farms 180 – 499 Acres in
1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



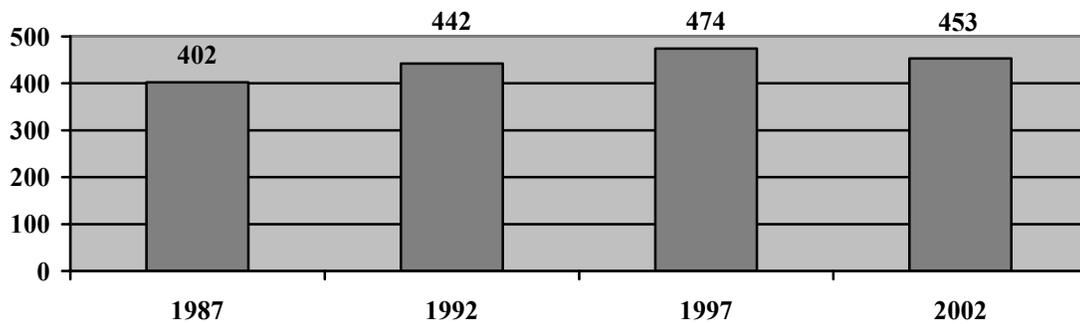
Source: USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Services 2005

**Number of Yellow Medicine County Farms over 1000 Acres in
1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



Source: USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Services 2005

**Average Yellow Medicine County Farm Size in Acres in
1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002**



Source: USDA, National Agriculture Statistic Services 2005

Farms Summary

- In Yellow Medicine County from 1987 to 2002 the number of farms decreased nearly four percent even though from 1997 to 2002 the total number of farms increased by 13 percent.
- The number of farms 1 – 50 acres in size nearly tripled (76 farms to 208 farms) from 1997 to 2002.
- The number of farms over 1000 acres grew 111 percent from 1987 to 2002.
- The average farm size in Yellow Medicine County increased 12.7 percent (402 acres to 453 acres) from 1987 to 2002.

Land Values

Yellow Medicine County and Minnesota Land Value Comparison from 1993 - 2004

Entity	1993 Price Per Acre in Dollars	2004 Price Per Acre in Dollars	% of Change
Burton Township	661	1,249	89%
Canby City	393	713	81%
Clarkfield City	1,168	1,756	50%
Echo City	1,201	1,892	58%
Echo Township	1,142	1,813	59%
Florida Township	373	701	87%
Fortier Township	392	703	79%
Friendship Township	1,003	1,537	53%
Granite Falls City	188	386	105%
Hammer Township	580	898	55%
Hanley Falls City	712	1,269	78%
Hazel Run City	904	1,539	70%
Hazel Run Township	967	1,619	67%
Lisbon Township	827	1,438	74%
Minnesota Falls Township	758	1,349	78%
Norman Township	508	886	74%
Normania Township	888	1,500	69%
Omro Township	741	1,238	67%
Oshkosh Township	694	1,162	67%
Porter City	588	978	66%
Posen Township	1,127	1,768	57%
Sandnes Township	955	1,613	69%
Sioux Agency Township	858	1,441	68%
St. Leo City	791	1,475	86%
Stony Run Township	783	1,399	79%
Swede Prairie Township	780	1,616	107%
Tyro Township	808	1,356	68%
Wergeland Township	573	979	71%
Wood Lake City	1,069	1,704	59%
Wood Lake Township	1,032	1,632	58%
Yellow Medicine County Average Value Per Acre	782.13	1,320.3	69%
State Average Value Per Acre	747.99	2,531.66	238%

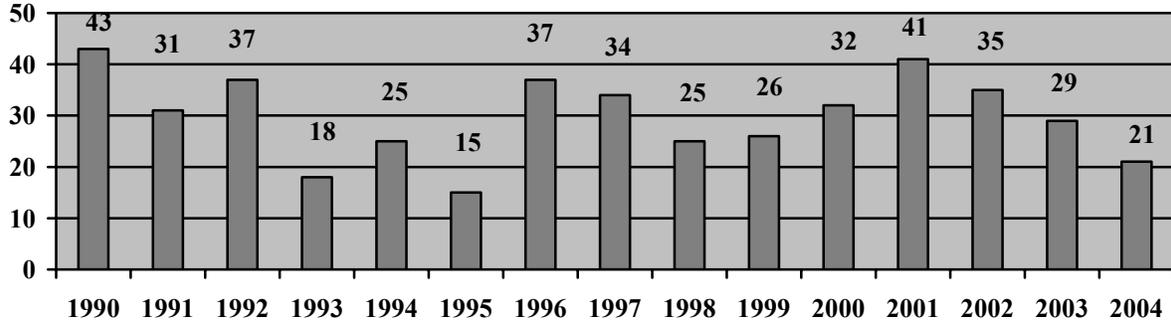
Source: Minnesota Land Economics and University of Minnesota 2005

Land Value Summary

- Yellow Medicine County land values increased nearly 69 percent from 1993 to 2004 compared to an increase of 239 percent for the state of Minnesota land values. All city and township land values increased.
- Of all the townships in Yellow Medicine County, Swede Prairie Township saw the largest increase (107%) in land value from 1993 to 2004.
- The City of Clarkfield saw the smallest increase (50%) in land value from 1993 to 2004 amongst all the cities of Yellow Medicine County.
- Land value is the estimated market value of land from the county assessor. The values used are from the previous year and are approved after the equalization hearings of the current year. Example, year 2003 estimated market values reported are from fall of 2002 and approved in spring of 2003 and serve as the basis for property taxes paid in 2004.

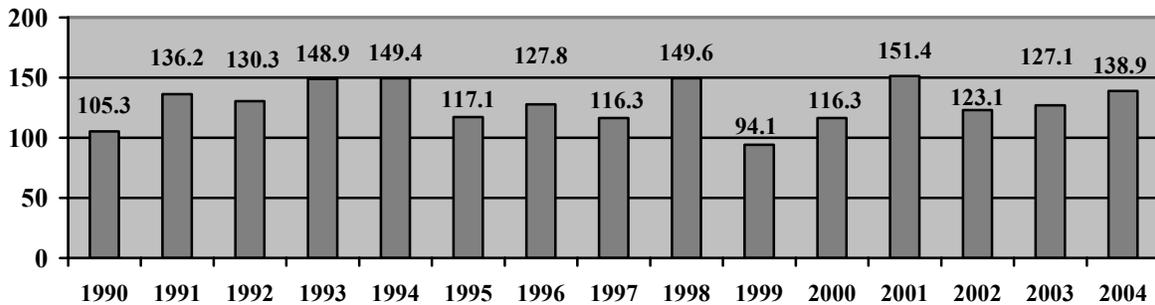
Farmland Sales

Number of Farms Sold in Yellow Medicine County from 1990 - 2004



Source: Minnesota Land Economics and University of Minnesota 2005

Average Size of Farms Sold in Yellow Medicine County from 1990 - 2004



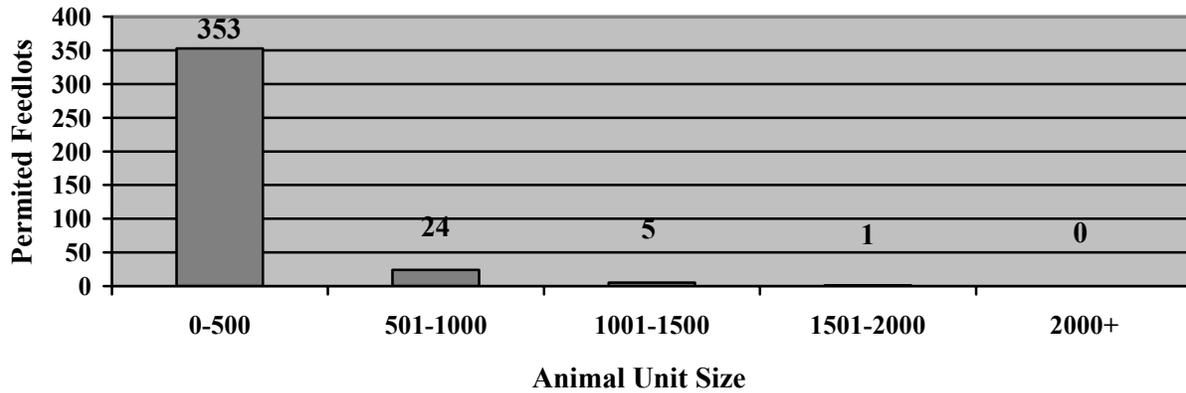
Source: Minnesota Land Economics and University of Minnesota 2005

Farmland Sales Summary

- The number of farms sold in Yellow Medicine County from 1990 to 2004 fluctuated from 15 farm sales in a year to 43 sales. The average number of farm sales in a year during this time period was 30.
- The average size of farms sold in the County from 1990 to 2004 ranged from 94.1 acres in 1999 to 151.4 acres in 2001. The average size of a farm sold during this time period was 122 acres.

Feedlots

Total Number of Permitted Feedlots in Yellow Medicine County by Animal Unit Size



Source: Yellow Medicine County Planning and Zoning Office – number of permitted feedlots was through 2005.

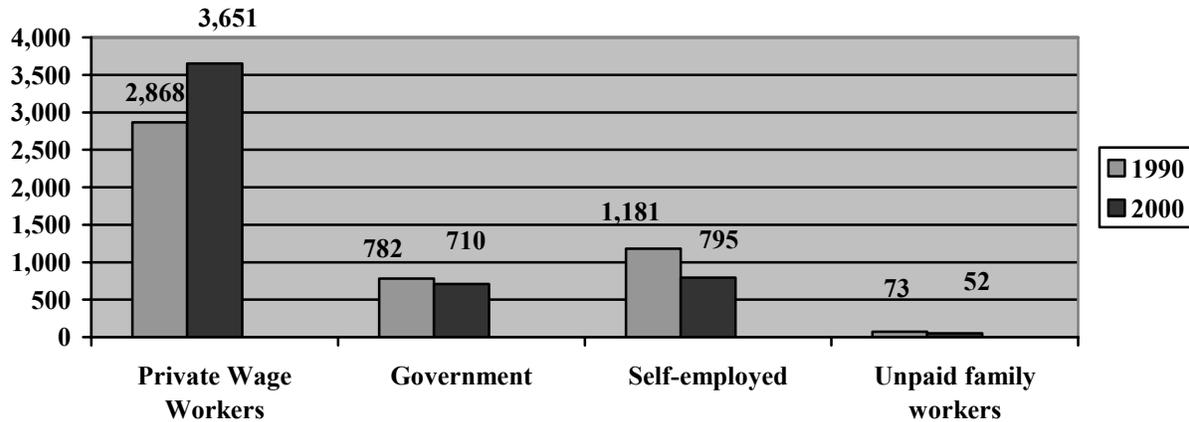
Feedlot Summary

- Through 2005, 92 percent of the permitted feedlots in the County were 500 animal units or less.
- Only one feedlot in Yellow Medicine County was larger than 1500 animal units in 2005.
- A map of the feedlots in Yellow Medicine County is provided at the end of this chapter. **Please note that the feedlot map does not include all of the feedlots in the County. Data for the map was obtained from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The map is intended to show the general distribution of the feedlots across the County.**

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employment

**Yellow Medicine County Class of Workers
Comparison in 1990 and 2000**



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

Yellow Medicine County Major Employers

Employer	Product/ Service	Employees
Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort	Gambling Industries	312
Sioux Valley Hospital - Canby Campus	Health Care Services	280
Granite Falls Hospital & Manor	Health Care Services	235
Yellow Medicine East Schools	Elementary & Secondary Schools	210
Hoffco, Inc. – Wood Lake	Manufacturing	150
REM, Inc. - Canby	Community-based Human Services	140
Canby Public School District	Elementary & Secondary Schools	140
Yellow Medicine County	Government	122
MN West Community & Technical College – Granite Falls & Canby Campuses	Post Secondary School	105
Fagen, Inc	Engineering	100
Clarkfield Care Center	Health Care	95
Project Turnabout	Counseling Services	80
SMI & Hydraulics, Porter	Manufacturing	50
Sun Source	Manufacturing	45
Blackjack Express Trucking, Wood Lake	Transportation	40

Source: Minnesota DEED Community Profiles – 2004; Phone survey with City Officials – 2005.

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

Occupation	1990		2000		# change	% change
	# Employed	%	# Employed	%		
Farming/Forestry/Fishing/Mining	937	19%	572	11%	-365	-8%
Construction	240	5%	270	5%	30	<1%
Manufacturing/Production	612	12%	690	13%	78	1%
Transportation	243	5%	396	8%	153	3%
Maintenance/Repair	185	4%	270	5%	85	1%
Retail/Sales/Support	1,064	22%	1,011	19%	-53	-3%
Business, Finance, Management	363	7%	404	8%	41	1%
Services Occupation	683	14%	721	14%	38	<1%
Educational and Health	0	0%	508	10%	508	10%
Professional Occupations	577	12%	366	7%	-211	-5%
TOTAL	4,904	100%	5,208	100%	--	--

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

Yellow Medicine County Labor Force Projections from 2000 - 2030

Labor Force Type	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2000-2030 % Change
Total Labor Force	5,519	5,630	5,630	5,580	5,450	5,350	5,280	-4.3
Male Labor Force	2,977	2,960	2,910	2,860	2,770	2,690	2,660	-10.6
Female Labor Force	2,542	2,670	2,730	2,720	2,680	2,660	2,620	3.1
Age 16-24	923	980	890	800	790	820	840	-9.0
Age 25-44	2,415	2,090	1,980	2,060	2,070	2,060	1,990	-17.6
Age 45-64	1,927	2,290	2,480	2,410	2,180	1,970	1,930	0.2
Age 65 plus	254	270	280	310	400	500	530	108.7

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center – July 1, 2004

Yellow Medicine County Farm Operator Characteristics Comparison of 1997 and 2002

Characteristics	Numbers
2002 number of all operators - Total operators (number)	1,279
2002 number of all operators - Total operators - Farms by number of operators - 1 operator	746
2002 number of all operators - Total operators - Farms by number of operators - 2 operators	215
2002 number of all operators - Total operators - Farms by number of operators - 3 operators	22
2002 number of all operators - Total operators - Farms by number of operators - 4 operators	1
2002 number of all operators - Total operators - Farms by number of operators - 5 or more operators	5
2002 number of all operators - Total operators - Total women operators (number)	218
Principal operator characteristics - Primary occupation - Farming (2002)	668
Principal operator characteristics - Primary occupation - Farming (1997)	629
Principal operator characteristics - Primary occupation - Other (2002)	321
Principal operator characteristics - Primary occupation - Other (1997)	275
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - None (2002)	426
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - None (1997)	383
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any (2002)	563
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any (1997)	439
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 1 to 49 days (2002)	74
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 1 to 49 days (1997)	90
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 50 to 99 days (2002)	44
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 50 to 99 days (1997)	44
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 100 to 199 days (2002)	86
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 100 to 199 days (1997)	(NA)
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 200 days or more (2002)	359
Principal operator characteristics - Days worked off farm 1/ - Any - 200 days or more (1997)	220

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census

Employment Summary

- From 1990 to 2000 there was a 27 percent increase in private wage employment in Yellow Medicine County. During that same time period, there was also a 33 percent decrease in self-employed residents.
- The largest employer in Yellow Medicine County in 2005 was Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort with 312 employees followed closely by Sioux Valley Hospital - Canby Campus with 280 employees and Granite Falls Hospital and Manor with 235 employees – all three employers are service providers.
- The occupation/industry employing the largest number of employees in Yellow Medicine County in both 1990 (22%) and 2000 (19%) was retail/sales.
- The total number employed in Yellow Medicine County in 1990 was 4,904 compared to 5,208 in 2000, an increase of five percent.
- The labor force in Yellow Medicine County by 2030 is projected to decline by four percent; however, the 65+-year labor force is projected to increase by nearly 109 percent during that time period.
- Women operators made up 17 percent of the total 2002 farm operators of 1,279 in Yellow Medicine County in 2002.
- Principal farm operators working any number of days off the farm increased 28 percent from 1997 to 2002.
- Of the 563 principal farm operators in Yellow Medicine County who also worked off the farm in 2002, the largest share (359 or 64%) worked 200 days or more at a place other than their farm.
- Operator is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as a person who operates a farm either doing the work or making day-to-day decisions about such things as planting, harvesting, feeding and marketing. The operator may be the owner, a member of the owner's household, a hired manager, a tenant, a renter or a sharecropper. If a person rents land to others or has land worked on shares by others, they are considered the operator only of the land, which is retained for their own operation.

Commuting Patterns

Yellow Medicine County Commuting Patterns in 2000

Residence County	Number of Commuters into Yellow Medicine County	Share of Yellow Medicine County Labor Force	Number of Commuters out of Yellow Medicine County
Yellow Medicine County	3,372	71.7%	N/A
Chippewa County	511	10.9%	440
Lac qui Parle County	173	3.7%	79
Lincoln County	150	3.2%	55
Renville County	148	3.1%	69
Lyon County	94	2.0%	827
All others	256	5.4%	323
Total	4,704	100.0%	1,793

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (US Census)

NOTE: Average travel time to work was 16.8 minutes.

Commuting Patterns Summary

- Yellow Medicine County residents represented nearly 72 percent of the county labor force in 2000.
- In 2000, Chippewa County residents represented 11 percent of Yellow Medicine County's labor force, or 511 commuters, while in comparison 440 Yellow Medicine County residents, or 10 percent of the labor force, commuted to Chippewa County.
- In 2000, 1,793 Yellow Medicine County residents commuted outside of the County for employment. Nearly one-half (46%) of these residents commuted to Lyon County.

Market Value

Yellow Medicine County Estimated Market Value of Land by Tax Classification in 2004

CLASSIFICATION	VALUE	PERCENTAGE
Agricultural	\$686,305,100	72.6%
Commercial/Industrial	32,401,800	3.4%
Residential	184,679,500	19.5%
Apartments	4,378,200	.5%
Utilities	21,644,400	2.3%
Structures on Railroad Right-of-Way	477,200	.1%
Other	14,944,600	1.6%
TOTAL	\$944,830,800	100%

Source: Yellow Medicine County Assessor Office 2005

Market Value Summary

- Agriculture in 2004 comprised the largest percentage of the total market value for Yellow Medicine County at 72.6 percent.

TRANSPORTATION

The purpose of any transportation system is to move goods and people efficiently. An efficient and balanced transportation system includes highways, railroads, mass transit and aeronautics. While the most popular and commonly used mode of transportation is the automobile, the other types of transportation play an important role in an overall transportation system.

Road Network

The current road network in Yellow Medicine County was built in response to an ever-increasing public demand. Local units of government and Mn/DOT are all responsible for assuring that the total road system operates properly and the roads owned by the different levels of government are integrated into the overall system. Yellow Medicine County is well served by an extensive roadway network that connects the County with the rest of the region and Minnesota. State, county, city and township roadways all are included in the roadway network. It is the primary means of transportation for goods and persons within the County and to points outside.

Miles of Road by Type in Yellow Medicine County

Road Type	Bituminous	Concrete	Dirt/Soil	Gravel	Unknown	Total
Miles	420.707	1.930	10.646	1,051.476	13.607	1,498.366

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

Road Ownership by Miles in Yellow Medicine County

	US Hwy.	MN Hwy.	County State Aid Hwy.	Municipal State Aid Streets	County Roads	Twtnshp. Roads	Municipal Streets	Total Miles
Yellow Medicine County	42.4	92.9	345.9	0	162.6	799.3	54.9	1,498

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

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.

Functional Classification System Breakdown (Rural)		
<u>Road Type</u>	<u>Suggested</u>	<u>Yellow Medicine County</u>
Principal Arterial	2-4%	1.6%
Minor and Principal Arterials	6-12%	6.9%
Major and Minor Collectors	20-25%	20.9%
Local Roads	65-75%	70.6%

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

Road Network Summary

- Almost 71 percent of the roads in Yellow Medicine County are gravel or dirt/soil road types.
- Of the 1,498.4 miles of roads in Yellow Medicine County, 53 percent are township owned and maintained roads.
- The County owns and maintains 508.5 miles of roads, or almost 34 percent of the total miles.
- A map of the County road and highway network by functional class is provided at the end of this chapter.

Railroads, Mass Transit and Airports

The railway lines that service the County are the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Twin Cities and Western and the Minnesota Prairie Line (a joint powers owned and operated line). Most of the goods transported by rail are agriculture based, with each line connecting to local grain elevators.

Transit systems play an important part in the lives of the County population. Seniors (60+ years) especially benefit from the network of available transit. This transit is available for people of all ages needing rides for any reason.

Yellow Medicine County has two airports located in the cities of Canby and Granite Falls that are municipally owned and operated. Depending upon future economic development activity in the region, airport facilities may require improvements. The Canby Municipal Airport supports a 4,400 foot paved runway that is 75 feet wide. The Granite Falls Municipal Airport has a 3,700 foot paved runway and is 75 feet wide. Both airports recently upgraded their facilities and services.

CITY	RAILROAD	AIRPORTS	TRANSIT
Canby	No	Yes (Paved)	Prairie Five RIDES and Canby RIDES
Clarkfield	Burlington Northern Santa Fe	No	Prairie Five RIDES
Echo	Minnesota Prairie Line	No	Prairie Five RIDES
Granite Falls	Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Twin Cities and Western	Yes (Paved)	Prairie Five RIDES and Heartland Express
Hanley Falls	Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Minnesota Prairie Line	No	Prairie Five RIDES
Hazel Run	Burlington Northern Santa Fe	No	Prairie Five RIDES
Porter	No	No	Prairie Five RIDES
St. Leo	No	No	Prairie Five RIDES
Wood Lake	Minnesota Prairie Line	No	Prairie Five RIDES
Upper Sioux Community	No	No	Prairie Five RIDES

Source: 2005 Region 6W Transportation Data Report

Railroad, Mass Transit and Airports Summary

- The western two-thirds of Yellow Medicine County is not served by rail.
- The County's airports, municipally owned and operated, do not support commercial service and are generally used for small private planes.
- Transit is primarily provided through a combination of the volunteer driver program, Prairie Five RIDES, which requires a 48-hour notice and is dependent on volunteers.
- Canby and Granite Falls have dial-a-ride bus service Monday through Friday from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION

Land Uses and Cover

Yellow Medicine County Land Uses and Cover

Description	Acreage	Percent of County
Urban and rural development	8,349	1.7
Cultivated land	424,547	86.9
Hay/pasture/grassland	32,852	6.7
Brushland	664	0.1
Forested	15,749	3.2
Water	3,921	0.8
Bog/marsh/fen	2,308	0.5
Mining	272	0.1
Total	488,662	100.0

Source: Minnesota 1990s Census of the Land obtained from the Minnesota Department of Administration Land Management and Information Center

Land Uses and Cover Summary

- Nearly 87 percent of the County is classified as cultivated land.
- A map showing Yellow Medicine County's land uses and cover is provided at the end of this chapter.

Water Resources

Surface Water in Yellow Medicine County

NAME	SIZE
Burton Lake	Unknown
Curtis Lake*	440 Acres
Del Clark Lake* √	154 Acres
Johnson Reservoir (Lake John)*√	20 Acres
Kuistid	89 Acres
Mini R6	2 Acres
R-4*	13 Acres
R-6*	17 Acres
Sylvan Lake	15 Acres
Tyson Lake*	147 Acres
Unnamed (114) – Wood Lake Township	Unknown
Unnamed (116) – Stony Run Township	Unknown
Wood Lake*	432 Acres
Lac qui Parle River	36 Miles
Minnesota River	39 Miles
Wetlands	12,581 Acres
Creeks	12,595 Miles
County Ditches	491 Miles**
* <i>Denotes Public Access Available.</i>	
√ <i>Denotes suitable for swimming.</i>	
** <i>Data from UMVRDC GIS Center</i>	

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Lake Finder

Yellow Medicine County Floodplains by City and Township

JURISDICTION	ACRES IN 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN	ACRES IN 500-YEAR FLOODPLAIN
TOWNSHIPS		
Burton	1,485	0
Echo	0	0
Florida	431	0
Fortier	273	0
Friendship	1,141	0
Hammer	3,417	0
Hazel Run	592	0
Lisbon	0	0
Minnesota Falls*	2,319	1,010
Norman	4,273	4
Normania	4,273	0
Omro	568	0
Oshkosh	2,823	0
Posen	0	0
Sandes	6,124	0
Sioux Agency	2,017	73
Stony Run	2,372	631
Swede Praire	1,419	0
Tyro	173	0
Wergeland	2,523	0
Wood Lake	414	0
CITIES		
Canby	266	14
Clarkfield	0	0
Echo	0	0
Granite Falls	292	853
Hanley Falls	1	0
Porter	15	0
St. Leo	0	0
Wood Lake	13	0
TOTAL	34,748	2,657

Source: FEMA Floodways – Minnesota DNR Data Deli, 2003

**Includes the Upper Sioux Community*

Water Resources Summary

- There is over 30,000 acres of Yellow Medicine County in the 100-year floodplain, and over 2,500 acres in the 500-year floodplain.
- Maps showing Yellow Medicine's County's surface water resources, floodplains and watersheds are provided at the end of this chapter.

Soil Resources

The following are characteristics of Yellow Medicine County's general soil associations:

Barnes-Buse-Flom

Well-drained and poorly drained, nearly level to very steep soils formed in glacial till.

Forman-Flom-Aastad

Well-drained, poorly drained, and moderately well-drained, nearly level to moderately steep soils formed in glacial till.

Ves-Canisteo-Spicer

Well-drained and poorly drained, undulating and nearly level soils formed in glacial till and lacustrine deposits.

Doland-Spicer

Well-drained and poorly drained, gently sloping and nearly level soils formed in lacustrine deposits and glacial till.

Burr-Du Page-McIntosh Variant

Poorly drained, moderately well-drained, and somewhat poorly drained, nearly level soils formed in lacustrine and alluvial deposits.

Calco-Du Page

Poorly drained and moderately well-drained, nearly level soils formed in alluvial deposits.

Arvilla-Egeland

Somewhat excessively drained and well-drained, nearly level and gently sloping soils formed in loamy material over sandy and gravelly outwash deposits.

Terril-Storden-Swanlake

Moderately well-drained and well-drained, steep and very steep soils formed in colluvium and glacial till.

Copastan-Rock Outcrop

Well-drained, undulating to steep soils formed in alluvium and colluvium over bedrock; and areas of rock outcrop.

Source: USDA and the NRCS, <http://SoilDataMart.nrcs.usda.gov>

Soil Resources Summary

- The majority of Yellow Medicine County's soil is classified as Barnes-Buse-Flom.
- A map of Yellow Medicine County's soils is provided at the end of this chapter.

Aggregate and Hard Rock Resources

Aggregate Mine Locations and Size in Yellow Medicine County Through 2005

LOCATION	ACRES
Burton Township	5.00
Friendship Township	3.00
Hammer Township	12.95
Minnesota Falls Township	4.00
Norman Township	10.00
Norman Township	8.00
Sandnes Township	5.00
Sioux Agency Township	12.00
Sioux Agency Township	8.00
Stony Run Township	4.10
Stony Run Township	5.00
Stony Run Township	2.00
Stony Run Township	10.00
Swede Prairie Township	6.00
Swede Prairie Township	4.00
Swede Prairie Township	4.00
Tyro Township	5.00
Wergeland Township	4.00
18 total parcels	112.05 total acres

Source: Information for this table was obtained from the Yellow Medicine County Assessor's Office. Each aggregate mine location is an individual parcel that is classified as "working gravel" by the County Assessor's Office. "Working gravel" is considered parcels where sand or gravel resources are extracted for commercial purposes.

Aggregate and Hard Rock Resources Summary

- As of February 2006, Yellow Medicine County had issued permits to nine mining operations. Yellow Medicine County started requiring mining operations to obtain a permit in 1979. Mines prior to this date were grandfathered in and do not need a permit.
- Yellow Medicine County also has several bedrock and granite outcrops located near and in the Minnesota River Valley. A map showing these hard rock resources is provided at the end of this chapter.

Minnesota River Wild and Scenic Designation

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Minnesota State Wild and Scenic Rivers Program was established in 1973 to protect rivers which have outstanding natural, scenic, geographic, historic, cultural and recreational values. Six rivers in Minnesota have segments that are designated as wild, scenic or recreational under the state program. Each of the designated river segments in Minnesota has a management plan that outlines the rules and goals for that waterway. These rules work together with local zoning ordinances to protect the rivers from pollution, erosion, over-development and degradation.

Wild rivers are those that exist in a free-flowing state with excellent water quality and with adjacent lands that are essentially primitive. Wild rivers should not be paralleled by conspicuous and well-traveled roads or railroads.

Scenic rivers are those rivers that exist in a free-flowing state and with adjacent lands that are largely undeveloped (i.e., adjacent lands still present an overall natural character but in places may have been developed for agricultural, residential or other land uses).

Recreational rivers are those rivers that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past and that may have adjacent lands that are considerably developed but that are still capable of being managed so as to further the purposes of this act. This means that bordering lands may have already been developed for a full range of agricultural or other land uses and may also be readily accessible by pre-existing roads or railroads.

The Minnesota River was added to Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program in 1977. The designated stretch extends from Lac qui Parle Dam to Franklin, Minnesota. The Minnesota River has two segments classified as "scenic" and "recreational."

Minnesota River Wild and Scenic Designated Areas and Classification

Designated River Segment	Classification
From the Lac qui Parle Dam to the U.S. Highway 212 bridge in the corporate limits of Montevideo	Scenic
From the U.S. Highway 212 bridge in the corporate limits of Montevideo to the Great Lakes Pipeline one-quarter mile downstream of the Minnesota Falls Dam	Recreational
From the Great Lakes Pipeline one-quarter mile downstream of the Minnesota Falls Dam to the Redwood County State Aid Highway 11 bridge	Scenic

Minnesota River Wild and Scenic Designation Summary

- The entire portion of the Minnesota River in Yellow Medicine County is designated as wild and scenic.

Conservation Program Lands

Acres of Land in Yellow Medicine County Enrolled in Conservation Programs

PROGRAM	TOTAL COUNTY ACRES	PERCENTAGE
CRP	11,272	2.31
CREP	5,453	1.12
RIM	1,889	.39

Source: Minnesota Boards of Soil and Water Resources – <http://www.bswr.state.mn.us/>

Conservation Program Lands Summary

- There is a total of 18,614 acres of land enrolled in conservations programs in Yellow Medicine County. This is 3.8 percent of the total land in the County.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Resources

Yellow Medicine County Park, Trail and Recreation Resources

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES	NAMES/LOCATION							
COUNTY/ STATE PARKS	Upper Sioux Agency State Park w/ Campground		Oraas County Park w/ Campground			Timm County Park		
TRAILS	Canby to Del Clark Lake – 2 miles		Granite Falls-Memorial Park and Highland Park Trail			Upper Sioux Agency State Park – 18 miles		
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS	Snow Drifters Trail – Montevideo to Clarkfield to Granite Falls to Hanley Falls - 103 miles				Upper Sioux Agency State Park – 14 miles			
CANOE ROUTES	MN River Trail: Wood Lake to Upper Sioux Agency State Park							
GOLF COURSES	Granite Falls 9 holes/36 par Food/beverage				Canby 9 holes/36 par Food/beverage			
CITY PARKS AND ADDITIONAL CAMPGROUNDS	Stone Hill Regional Park w/ Campground	Prairie’s Edge Casino-Granite Falls	Triangle Park-Canby	Echo	Memorial Park-Granite Falls	Hanley Falls	North Park-Clarkfield	
	All nine cities have city parks with some recreational equipment and amenities.							
CITY POOLS	Canby - outdoor		Clarkfield - outdoor			Granite Falls -indoor		
HORSE TRAILS	Upper Sioux Agency State Park – 16 miles							
STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS	65 WMA totaling 6,429 Acres <i>(Source: Minnesota DNR Data Deli)</i>							
FEDERAL WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS	4 Waterfowl Production Areas with a total of 524 Acres <i>(Source: Minnesota DNR Data Deli)</i>							
<i>NOTE: Lake information is included earlier in this chapter with the water resources section.</i>								

Source: Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission Trail Planning Guide January 2002

Parks and Recreation Summary

- In 2006 a new RV park is scheduled to open at the Upper Sioux Community.
- The County submitted a DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant in 2006 to improve the campground facilities at Timm Park.

COUNTY SERVICES/DEPARTMENTS

Source: Yellow Medicine County Website www.yellowmedicinegovoffice.com

Administration

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 county department heads.

The Administration Department is responsible for managing the county budget, assisting the county board to ensure the effectiveness of all county services and providing county 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 county board and county offices, departments, agencies, cities and townships.

Assessor

The Assessor's Office directs, plans and supervises the appraisal and recording of all property assessments in Yellow Medicine 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 valuation and classification of all real estate property in the county.

The law specifically requires that every fifth year an appraiser/local assessor will view the property and record property characteristics that would affect the market value. Such characteristics are identified as square footage, story height, age, basement finish, condition, etc. The taxable parcel is compared with actual sales that have occurred within a certain sales study period. The market value placed on it by our office should be within 90 – 105 percent of what your property should sell for if it were placed on the open market.

Each taxpayer is notified of their valuation through an assessment notice mailed each spring. 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 you 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 residents of yellow Medicine County elect the County Attorney for a four-year term. The primary responsibility of the County Attorney is to prosecute all major crimes for the State the occur in Yellow Medicine County. Some of the duties of this office are to represent the people in the following areas:

- Prosecution of all felonies that occur in Yellow Medicine County.
- Prosecution of all juvenile matters that arise in Yellow Medicine County.
- Establishment of paternities; civil commitments; child protection, child welfare and child support enforcement; and certain guardianships.
- Investigation of public assistance fraud, election law violations and certain white-collar crimes.
- Legal representation of Yellow Medicine County and its departments in land acquisition, employment issues, liability claims, county ordinances, contract negotiations, appeals, expungements and other civil matters involving Yellow Medicine County.
- Support and assistance for victims and witnesses in criminal and juvenile proceedings handled by the County Attorney's Office.

Auditor/Treasurer

Yellow Medicine residents elect the County Auditor/Treasurer every four years. The Auditor/Treasurer must fulfill a variety of duties:

- Serves as the chief accountant, the controller of funds and keeper of all financial records. Taxes are levied for county purposes and for the many sub-divisions of government, which include cities and townships. The tax system is computerized to facilitate the complexity of the levying, collection and distribution of tax dollars and credits, which is mandated by state law.
- Serves as the chief election officer for the county. Voter registration and all county, state and federal elections are administered from this office.
- Keeps all ditch accounts, maps and records.
- Serves as the tax collector for all units of government in the county and is personally responsible for all taxes and fees collected.
- Disburses the county warrants (checks).
- Mails tax statements for all real, personal, and mobile home properties in the county. Searches current tax collections for mortgage companies and grantors of unrecorded contracts for deeds.
- Sells state deed stamps.
- Invests those county funds that are temporarily surplus. There are specific state statutes governing the types of securities that may be considered for investment purposes.

Drainage

The purpose of this department is to ensure that all drainage regulations are followed. The Inspector will be responsible for the maintenance of county and judicial ditches by working with the landowners to maintain efficient systems by cleaning, repairing and brush removal. Inspections of all county ditch and tiling projects are conducted regularly. Spraying and removing of noxious weeds in county ditches are the responsibility of the Inspector. The department shall maintain ditch records, maps and provide assessment recommendations. All wetland activities are coordinated through this department.

Zoning

The Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office is responsible for the following programs:

- Planning and zoning
- Individual sewage treatment systems
- County agricultural inspector
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Feedlot Program
- Comprehensive local water plan

Planning and zoning duties consist of issuing land use permits, septic permits, conditional use permits and variances. Land use permits are reviewed for potential floodplain problems, to ensure setbacks are met and that proposed construction conforms to the requirements of the Land and Related Resource Management Ordinance.

The Zoning Office also administers individual sewage treatment systems by issuing sewer permits, inspecting newly installed sewer systems and assisting septic installers and landowners with any questions they may have.

Duties of the County Agricultural Inspector include: enforcement of the Noxious Weed Law, seed sampling and inspections, biological control programs and administering the commercial pesticide applicator exams.

Yellow Medicine County is a delegated county for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Feedlot Program. The Feedlot Officer assists producers with permitting, manure management issues, potential pollution hazards and works with the MPCA to ensure that Chapter 7020 Feedlot Rules are being followed in the county.

Yellow Medicine County's Comprehensive Local Water Plan is also administered through the Zoning Office. This includes grant applications and reporting, task force meetings, abandoned well sealing and the implementation of the local water plan.

Emergency Management

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.

Yellow Medicine County Emergency Management (YMCEM) 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. YMCEM 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.

Homeland Security 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 protection of the public safety. The division works with many agencies and jurisdictions to coordinate information, training and equipment needed for protecting the County and the nation from acts of terrorism. In the dire event that such an act is perpetrated upon us, YMCEM 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.

The YMCEM supports local and neighboring community agencies such as fire, ambulance, sheriff and police departments with coordination, logistics, communication and staging at emergency scenes.

Family Service Center

This is a list of services available through Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center. For some services there is no charge but most are based on a person's income and assets.

Services Available in All Areas

- Case management
- Individual and family counseling
- Emergency/crisis assistance
- Orders for protection
- Education/public speaking
- DHS forms available online <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/index.htm>

Adoption Services

- Adoption home studies for Minnesota waiting children
- Limited infant adoption home studies
- Adoptive placements

Child Support Services

- Locating absent parents
- Establishing parentage
- Establishing, modifying and enforcing court orders for child support, medical support and child care support
- Automatic income withholding
- Biennial cost-of-living adjustments to child support obligations
- Working with other states to enforce support when one parent does not live in Minnesota
- Check your child support case online www.childsupport.dhs.state.mn.us
- Public access to court forms

Children and Family Services

- Child protection assessments - (traditional and alternative response)
- Child welfare assessments

- Out-of-home placements
- Respite care
- Services to single and minor parents
- Mandated reporter training
- Family-based counseling
- Individualized one-to-one parenting education

Chemical Abuse/Dependency Services for Adults and Children

- Chemical use assessments
- Detoxification
- Inpatient treatment services
- Outpatient treatment services
- Extended care treatment services
- Halfway house placements
- Pre-petition screening for judicial commitments
- Consolidated funding for treatment
- Aftercare and support services
- Chemical health education

Developmental Disabilities Services for Adults and Children

- Information resource regarding programs/services
- Assessments/screenings
- Determination of eligibility
- Programs -
Mental Retardation or Related Condition (MR/RC) - (any age on MA)
Non-MR/RC - (any age, on MA or not)
- Case management/service coordination - rule 185 guidelines
- Refer for services

Financial Services

- Minnesota Family Investment Program - MFIP
- Childcare funds for self-sufficiency
- County burials
- Emergency assistance
- Food shelf
- Food support
- General Assistance
- General Assistance Medical Care (age 21 - 65)
- Medical Assistance (under age 21, over age 65, pregnant, blind or disabled)
- Medical transportation
- MinnesotaCare
- Minnesota Supplemental Aid (if disabled or over 65)
- Prescription Drug Program
- QMB/SLMB
- DWP

Child Care and Adult Foster Care Licensing

- Family child care information and provider listing
- Licensing of family child care and group family child care
- Child foster care licensing (no fees apply)
- Adult foster care licensing
- Respite care certification
- Placement services include:
 - children's foster care
 - elderly foster care
 - emergency

Mental Health Services for Adults and Children

- Diagnostic assessments
- Community support services
- Client outreach
- Child respite care
- Outpatient treatment
- Adult day treatment
- Adult respite treatment
- Halfway house placements
- Parent support groups
- Advocacy
- Pre-petition screening for judicial commitments
- Wraparound plans

Adult Services

- Information resource regarding programs/services
- Assessment/screening
- Determination of eligibility
- Programs:
 - Alternative Care (AC) - (persons over 65 not on MA)
 - Elderly Waiver (EW) - (persons over 65 on MA)
 - Community Alternative Care (CAC) - (any age on MA)
 - Community Alternative for Disabled Individuals (CADI) - (any age on MA)
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) - (any age on MA)
- Referral for services
- Investigate vulnerable adult reports
- Involvement with legal process when individual requires a Guardian/Conservator

County Highway

The mission of the County Highway Department is to provide the residents of Yellow Medicine County with a highway system that is safe, convenient and affordable. The Highway Department is responsible for maintenance and construction on all County streets and roads.

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 easements and right of way
- Administration of construction contracts and maintenance projects
- Annual safety inspections of all bridges including township and city bridges
- Providing county road maintenance including ice and snow removal
- Mowing and maintenance of county road ditches
- Weed control of ditches
- Assist townships and cities with design and maintenance projects
- Developing a bike/walking trail system in the County
- Snow fences

Recorder

The County Recorder is the custodian of all records of the County pertaining to personal property, real estate transfers and all vital statistic records. The Recorder is to accurately maintain records of Yellow Medicine County residents and landowners. Most services have a service fee. Records include various forms of deeds, mortgages, liens, satisfactions and various other documents presented for recording purposes.

The Recorder is responsible for the filing of financial statements and effective financial statements and related documents covered under the Minnesota Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and the Central Notification System (CNS) filed on any personal property. By making this public record, a purchaser is protected from buying mortgaged property. There is currently a Statewide Computer Network containing all such liens throughout the State. Anyone purchasing personal property can check for liens filed in another county.

The Recorder is responsible for the County's vital statistics including the records of births, deaths and marriages occurring in or affecting residents of Yellow Medicine County. These records are viewed regularly by genealogists, schools and hospitals. Applications for passports and notary filings are also handled by the Recorder.

All deeds, mortgages, releases and other documents are filed with the Recorder. It is important to search the records to see how title is held and for any liens when completing any real estate transaction. Certain documents require well certificates.

The Recorder is also the Abstracter. The duties of the Abstracter are to compile abstracts of title, which is a brief complete history and record of all transfers, mortgage and other documents pertaining to a particular parcel of land.

In Minnesota the County Recorder is also the Registrar of Titles under the Torrens System. The Registrar is an arm of the district court and under the court's control at all times. The Registrar must examine all documents presented, determine if legal requirements of transfer are met and issue a Certificate of Title.

Other duties of the County Recorder include keeping records of separations and discharges of Veterans of Armed Services, filing of state and federal tax liens and bankruptcy proceedings, minister's credentials, and hospital and medical assistance liens.

All records of the Yellow Medicine County Recorder (with the exception of some vital statistics) are public records and may be viewed upon request.

Sheriff Department

The Yellow Medicine County Sheriff's Office will provide quality public safety and service by responding to calls for assistance from the citizens of Yellow Medicine County. The Sheriff's Office will enforce all laws and local ordinances and apprehend the individuals who violate them.

Services and responsibilities include:

- Patrol-based services – traffic enforcement, general calls and vehicle accidents
- Enforce boating regulations and investigate drowning
- Provide crime prevention and education services to the public
- Provide investigative services and preparation for prosecution by the County Attorney for felony-level crimes including death, juvenile issues and welfare fraud
- Responsible for Civil Process – orders of the court and arrest warrants by the court
- Investigate child protection cases with Family Services
- Responsible for dispatching including 911 emergency calls, emergency and non-emergency law enforcement calls, and fire and Emergency Manager services in Yellow Medicine County
- Responsible for court security
- Transport committed patients and prisoners
- Administration and operation of the department – including the jail
- Assist other law enforcement agencies in the county
- Support the County Emergency Manager
- Provide law enforcement services under contract to some cities and the Upper Sioux Community

In addition to the Sheriff's department, there are police departments in Canby, Clarkfield, Granite Falls and Echo.

Veterans Services

The mission of the Yellow Medicine County Veterans Services is to improve conditions for Yellow Medicine County veterans and their families. The primary goal is to provide prompt, courteous and effective assistance to all Yellow Medicine County veterans and their families. Further to act as a liaison for veterans to other counties, state and federal agencies as well as increasing public awareness of the conditions and situations unique to veterans and their families.

Services and responsibilities include:

- Acquiring Medals/Records - Assistance to apply for medals never received or records and/or discharges that may have been lost is provided by Veterans Services.
- VA Mortgage Information - Veterans are eligible for VA loans for houses, condominiums and manufactured homes. Help can be provided to obtain a certificate of eligibility. Further, it is possible to obtain a second or even third VA loan as long as the previous loan has been satisfied.
- Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency - Unfortunately, alcoholism and substance abuse are a greater problem among veterans than in the general population. Professional and confidential help can be provided for veterans who need the service.
- Cemetery and Burial Benefits:
 - State Veterans Cemetery** - This cemetery is located near Camp Ripley, north of Little Falls, and is open to all members of the armed forces and veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; a spouse, un-remarried widow or widower, minor children and unmarried adult children (under certain circumstances).
 - VA Burial Allowance** - A partial reimbursement of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs can be provided. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursement is generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.
 - Burial Flag** - A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country.
 - Related Burial Benefits** - Veterans are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery if they were in the military for the required period of time and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Benefits include a gravesite, a headstone or marker, opening and closing of the grave and perpetual care. For more information visit: www.cem.va.gov.
- Vocational Rehabilitation - Veterans with 20 percent or greater service-connected disabilities may be entitled to training or retraining without cost if they should need to change professions because of their disabilities.
- Discharge Upgrading - The Board of Review is authorized to correct and upgrade most discharges based on new facts presented for consideration. There is a statute of limitations on upgrades.
- Disability Compensation - Any veterans who feels they have a disability that was caused or aggravated by their military service is entitled to open a claim at any time. Veterans who are receiving disability compensation and feel their condition has become worse, may re-open their claim at any time.
- Pension Benefits - Any wartime veteran is entitled to apply for a VA pension. However, they must prove a financial need and be within VA guidelines.
- Gulf War Illness - Benefits granted for only a specified list of conditions determined to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange, ionizing radiation or chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses. This list may be expanded in the future and all veterans are urged to make application for benefits even for conditions not on the

specified list since there is a possibility for retroactive benefits of the condition if later added to the list.

- State Subsistence/Dental/Optical - The Veterans Office can temporary provide financial assistance to veterans and their dependents during a period when veterans are disabled and not able to work at their normal occupations. Veterans must have served while on active duty, unless discharged due to disability incurred while on active duty, and discharged under honorable conditions. Benefits under this program are income-based and the maximum length of assistance is six months. This program also provides payment of monthly utilities (excluding telephone service), monthly rent or mortgage, basic dental and optical care and clothing allowance to eligible veterans and their dependents.
- State Veterans Homes - Five state veteran's homes have been established by the Minnesota Legislature to provide nursing and domiciliary care to eligible Minnesota veterans and their dependents. These homes are located in Minneapolis, Hastings, Silver Bay, Luverne and Fergus Falls. See www.mvh.state.mn.us.
- VA Hospital and Out-patient Care - Enrollment in the VA Medical system is based on income and character of service. Veterans with service-connected disabilities are guaranteed treatment.
- Membership in Veterans Organizations - Yellow Medicine County is fortunate to have several fine veterans organizations. These groups perform community and social functions and help protect the rights of all veterans.
- Character of Separation from Service
- Transportation to VA Hospital - The Veterans Service Office also provides access to medical care at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Sioux Falls and St. Cloud through its van transportation program.