

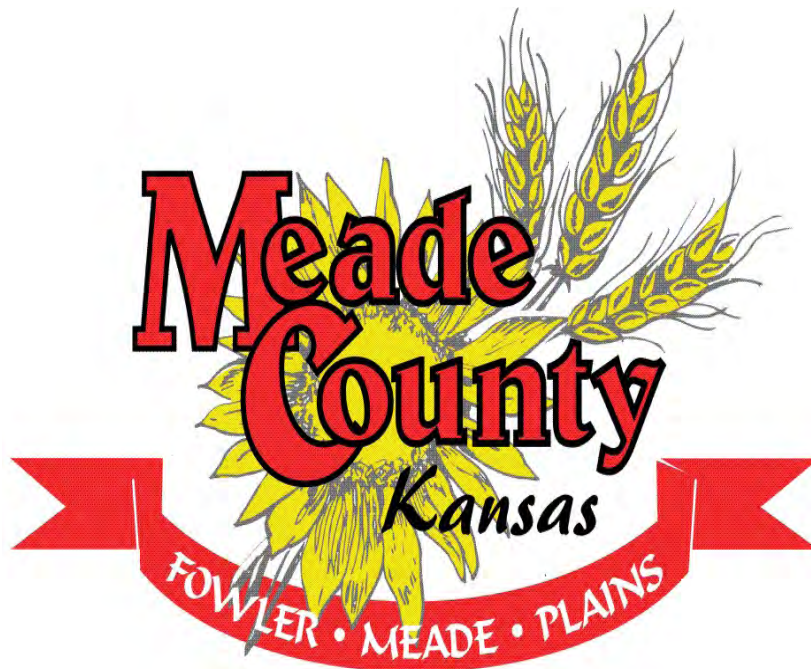
MEADE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 - 2012

Prepared by:

Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

(MCEDC)

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MEADE COUNTY
STRATEGIC PLAN
2009 - 2012

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WHY PLAN?

The Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. first produced a county wide strategic plan in 1993 and subsequently updated it in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2009. This plan outlines a common vision for the communities of Meade County (Fowler, Meade and Plains) and its rural areas that will be achieved through various goals and implementation of projects. The purpose of planning is to address the specific needs of our county, its communities, and rural areas to prepare Meade County for future changes.

The 2009 update to the Meade County Strategic Plan builds upon the foundation created by the first plan. It strives to acknowledge its communities and local businesses individually, along with the surrounding agriculture areas, by supporting goals and addressing basic needs.

Broad-based community participation in the planning process was partially achieved through a survey published in the Meade County Mercantile which was mailed to every post office box in the county. Responses to the survey from approximately thirty percent (30%) of the businesses and residents in Meade County provided an invaluable informative database of information.

Input was obtained from the County Commissioners, Mayors, City Council Members of the three (3) communities (Fowler, Meade and Plains) and the public. In addition to the above government entities, input was acquired from the three other critical sectors; Business, Education and Human Services. The Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC) has overseen the planning process.

Trends, Strengths & Challenges

Trends & Demographics

The population of Meade County had increased since 1990, moving from 4,247 persons in 1990 to 4,631 persons in 2000. The estimated population in 2008 was 4,359 persons. Estimates from the Institute for Policy & Social Research (IPSR) at the University of Kansas predict a five and six-tenths percent (5.6%) decrease in the population of Meade County to year 2030. This represents a decrease of approximately 258 persons from year 2000 to year 2030. The populations of two of the three towns had grown from 1990 through the last census in year 2000; Fowler's population remained level with 567 persons (2008 estimate was 546 persons), Meade by twenty two percent (22%) with 1,672 persons (2008 estimate was 1,538 persons) and Plains by ten percent (10%) with 1,163 persons (2008 estimate was 1,095 persons). It is estimated the population of the southwest region of the state has increased by four and two-tenths percent (4.2%) from 2000 to 2008.

In 2000, eighteen percent (18%) of the population (831 persons) was age 65 or over. IPSR estimates that this percentage will decrease to thirteen and three-tenths percent (13.3%) by 2030 (720 persons). The median age for residents of Meade County in 2000 was 36.1 years. The median age has been decreasing since 1990. The median age for all Kansas residents in the year 2000 was 35.2 years.

In 2007, the per capita income in Meade County was \$31,535, while the per capita income for Kansas was \$36,525. Meade County residents are relatively well educated. Eighty percent (80%) of the persons age 25 or over are high school graduates, and one in four have earned a bachelor's degrees or higher. Fifty one and eight-tenths percent (51.8%) have some college or higher. The unemployment rate in Meade County in 2008 was two and eight-tenths percent (2.8%). The state average in 2008 was four and four-tenths percent (4.4%).

Strengths

The strengths of Meade County are the building blocks for future economic growth and social vitality. A definitive strength for Meade County is a strong foothold in agriculture and agri-business. While a volatile and changing industry, Meade County possesses the resources to sustain a strong agriculture industry. It is important to maintain this strength as it is the backbone of our local economy.

Meade County has strength in its proximity to the heavily traveled U. S. Highway 54, the Union Pacific Rail Line, and State Highways 23 and 160. Meade has a municipal airport with several improvements and expansions completed in recent years; a new ramp area is complete with a new parking lot and security fence scheduled the fall of 2009. In addition, the airport has an Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS). Local businesses, the hospital, agri-business and the tourism industry are benefited from all of these means of travel.

Meade County communities are also in the unique position of being able to attract growth from neighboring Liberal, Dodge City and other communities. Liberal and Dodge City are expected to experience heavy growth, increasing their populations by more than fifty percent (50%), over the next 30 years. As these cities grow, an opportunity will arise for Meade County to satisfy the needs of individuals that are tied to these cities through employment, but prefer the lifestyle offered by small communities and country living.

Meade County enjoys residents that are largely committed to living in the area. It does not have a transient population. Eighty four percent (84%) of the respondents to the Meade County survey, which was completed in 2003, indicated that they expected to be living in Meade County five years from the time of the survey. Seventy five percent (75%) of those responding have been citizens of Meade County for more than ten years.

The crime rate is low. Only four percent (4%) local inmates (average of three persons) reside in the seventy-six (76) bed county jail with the remaining ninety six percent (96%) of inmates being from other counties.

The Meade County communities are collaborating together more. A community development program, The Public Square, was initiated in 2009.

Meade County is home to a modern hospital that opened in 2004 servicing county and regional residents along with good school systems, governing bodies, a well maintained State Park and Lake, an improved municipal airport with an Automatic Weather Observation System, historical sites, such as the Dalton Gang Hideout & museums, parks, senior centers, utility companies, cattle feed lots, agriculture products & services, modern dairy operation, farming and cattle production, a cement & construction company, an apple orchard, guided hunting/lodging, golf

courses, camping facilities, fair ground, churches, restaurants, auto sales & services, general shopping & services, and general lodging. It is positioned to accommodate future growth and stability.

Challenges

While Meade County has historically enjoyed a successful agricultural economy, it is understood that all businesses will jointly sustain future economic growth.

Agriculture has become more efficient, but it is faced with specific challenges such as water becoming more restricted. Partnering with the agriculture industry, all county business and youth will remain critical to the county's future.

Emphasis on retention and expansion of existing agriculture and community businesses is considered imperative, along with attracting regional events. By continuing to address the communities' needs, business, education (youth initiatives), human services and government, enormous challenges and opportunities exist.

Renewable energy is considered a critical area for the future, offering Meade County an opportunity to finalize guidelines for potential growth in wind and possibly solar technology, that will preserve the county's and communities' infrastructures. Timely development of the new renewable energy era in Meade County is viewed as beneficial for the county, its rural areas and its communities overall.

The aging infrastructures of Meade County's three communities (Fowler, Meade & Plains) are recognized as another critical issue, along with the need to continue addressing old abandoned buildings with leaking roofs, and making available real estate useable. Implanting the "need for growth" idea in the minds of the public to encourage support for future funding to sustain economic development is sited as being of utmost importance.

Goals and Vision for the Future

Goals . . .

1. **Communities** - Each community in Meade County has individual needs, interests and each is affected by external factors; technology, governing issues, expenditures, etc. As goals and plans are established for the future, it is vital to recognize and embrace the individuality of each community.

2. **Business** – Existing businesses include agriculture, retail, service, manufacturing, cement & construction, health/medical, academics, recreation, and tourism are the backbone of Meade County’s economic growth and vitality. Identifying ways to add value to its businesses will lead to more products and services while continuing to place emphasis on retention, expansion and recruitment of new businesses.

3. **Youth** – Statistics continue to reflect their desire to be a part of Meade County’s future. It is important to nurture and utilize the leadership abilities of its younger generations, emphasize with them, provide exceptional educational opportunities and support economic opportunities that will include the youth.

4. **Housing** - Affordable, suitable and available housing continues to be a vital component of economic growth. To aid in the growth of the Meade County communities, specific needs must be identified as existing housing is rehabilitated, and new structures are developed.

5. **Quality of Life** –Taking advantage of today’s opportunities of living in or near a small Meade County rural community offers an environment that can be appreciated by those wanting to do so. Retention and expansion of existing business operations, accommodating their needs, including new start-up businesses, will help assure the future of Meade County. Emphasis on community facilities will remain important.

6. **Tourism** - Maintaining the historical attributes of Meade County communities and rural areas, will continue to preserve sites like the well known Dalton Gang Hideout and others that reflect back to the beginning of Meade County. Tourism occurs daily.

7. **Internet** – The Internet has become a way of life for many. It opens a way to possibly help Meade County grow by providing a place for those utilizing the Internet to introduce their products and services to national and international markets. By continuing to enhance communication systems in Meade County, including wireless technology, the utilization of the Internet is considered a positive and beneficial endeavor.

8. **Renewable Energy** – While Kansas continues to embrace renewable energy by developing various incentives and supporting the growth and expansion of all energy sources, Meade County wants to position itself as a viable place to develop wind, solar and other renewable energy industries. The Kansas Corporation Commission reports

Meade County as being a favorable location for wind farms in relation to the amount of wind being a reliable source.

Meade County's Vision . . .

Meade County's vision is for its communities and rural areas to become stronger while taking control of its future. The goals and projects outlined in this plan represent a portion of what is considered needed to secure the future economic growth of Meade County. Economic development plays a major part in facilitating growth efforts throughout Meade County, its communities and rural areas.

Community Development Objectives . . .

Communicate with community governing bodies in a timely manner.
Offer assistance in areas that will enhance community development.

Strategy A1

By communicating with all of the communities' governing bodies regularly, a dialogue develops. It provides opportunities to distribute applicable information from community development sources as it becomes available to assure each is aware of current releases and events.

Action A1

Continually research news releases where other communities have benefited from individual initiatives, the Internet and attend seminars/conferences regarding community development ideas and programs, such as the "Public Square" concept.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Excerpts from subscribed business journals and articles furnished by Meade County Economic Development's library sources, which are shared with the governing bodies.

Action A1.1

Attend City Council Meetings periodically to share information pertaining to community development, and assist community governing bodies whenever new start-ups, retention or expansion of existing businesses occurs and Meade County Economic Development can facilitate a project.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Each time a project is initiated that is pertinent to each community, a City Council Meeting is attended to present the data and materials.

Action A1.2

Assist in the "Public Square" initiative of 2009, which works with all communities and the four (4) sectors; Business, Education, Human Services and Government.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: A Steering Committee is seeking investments from the four (4) local sectors of Meade County and its three (3) communities. The Director of MCEDC is an at-large member of the Steering Committee.

Strategy A2

Facilitate and foster community involvement in local events.

Action A2

Participate on the Board of the Meade County Performing Arts Council, Inc. to work towards its mission of providing local and regional entertainers an opportunity to perform for Meade County and regional families.

This action item represents specific cultural activities designed to involve and benefit each community in Meade County. Events include musical performances, dramas, cowboy poets, and other entertainment that would attract widespread interest.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Meade County Performing Arts Council, Inc.

Progress: Several events have occurred the past several years and more are planned that utilize local and school facilities in line with the organizations mission to provide various types of family events for everyone to enjoy.

Action A2.1

Participate in the annual Fowler Threshing Days Festival by assisting in the preparation and activities.

This action item affords the MCEDC Director an opportunity to help with the festival such as judging parade entries and utilizing the Meade County Trolley.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Fowler Threshing Days Festival Committee

Progress: This annual event has occurred for twenty nine (29) years. The MCEDC Director is usually part of the parade along with the Meade County Historical Society.

Action A2.2

Participate in the annual Meade County Fair at the Meade County Fairgrounds.

This action item provides an opportunity to develop and initiate family oriented events prior, during and after the fair.

Timeline: Ongoing
Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Meade County Fair Board

Progress: Several events have occurred the past several years hosted by various groups. The Horse Riding Association sponsored a new Ranch Rodeo that preceded the fair in 2009, plus annual Lawnmower Races and annual Duck Races were hosted by MCEDC.

Action A2.3

Participate on the committee of the annual Dalton Days Wild West Festival.

This action item provides a means for the MCEDC Director to assist with the planning and be part of the weekend activities.

Timeline: Ongoing
Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Meade County Historical Society

Progress: This event has occurred for thirty five years. The MCEDC Director sits on the committee, helps with preparations, assists during the weekend activities and utilizes the Meade County Trolley

Action A2.4

Participate with the newly formed annual Widest Main Street Festival in Plains.

This action item offers an opportunity for MCEDC to be part of this new event.

Timeline: Ongoing
Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Widest Main Street Committee of Plains

Progress: The first festival occurred in 2009. MCEDC provided canopies for the family picnic.

Action A2.5

Participate in the annual Christmasing in Plains festivities sponsored by the Lions Club of Plains.

This action item affords the MCEDC Director an opportunity to take part of an annual community event, which provides family activities, a parade and meal for everyone to enjoy.

Timeline: Ongoing
Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Lions Club of Plains

Progress: This annual event has occurred for forty six (46) years in the present format. The MCEDC Director participates in the planning, the activities and utilizes the Meade County Trolley as a Board Member of the Lions Club of Plains.

Business Development Objectives . . .

Facilitate growth of existing county wide businesses, industries and new start-up businesses.

Assist in the academic development of Meade County's youth in preparation for their future careers and business endeavors.

Strategy B1

Provide support for local business retention, potential expansion opportunities, and recruitment of new businesses by offering a variety of business development services through the Meade County Economic Development office.

Action B1.1

Develop and maintain a Business Resource Network and Library to serve as a reference, information and problem-solving hub for existing and potential Meade County businesses.

The intention is to create a significant source for business development needs. One that can be utilized by all Meade County businesses and anyone interested in starting or relocating a business to Meade County. The Business Resource Network and Library includes:

- Access to the World Wide Web and internet resources.
- Access to information on up-to-date community data & demographics, local codes & regulations, site information, business and marketing plans.
- A directory of network of professionals and consultants available to assist in business planning needs
- Assistance with sources of financing
- Assistance with government programs

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Extensions: City Councils

Progress:

- Meade County Economic Development has a high-speed Internet access.
- Meade County Economic Development maintains a library of useful business resources.
- Meade County Economic Development maintains contacts with the Small Business Development Center, Kansas State University, Kansas Department of Commerce, Office of Rural Opportunity, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These and other agencies provide consulting and group seminars.
- Meade County Economic Development offers both Micro Loans and Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) loans to those qualifying.
- Meade County Economic Development offers consultation and applications for its loan programs and USDA assistance programs.
- Meade County Economic Development's Director visits county wide businesses regularly.

Action B1.2

Provide small business grant and loan opportunities whenever feasible.

Some federal, state and privately funded grant and loan opportunities exist from which Meade County businesses can benefit. Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. will monitor these programs and apply and/or distribute information accordingly.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Progress: Micro Loans and Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) loan applications are available through the Meade County Economic Development office.

Action B1.3

Explore agriculture business opportunities.

Agriculture value-added and renewable energy initiatives such as ethanol, wind generators, solar, seed warehousing, diesel alternatives, sorganol, etc. will be researched to determine the feasibility of pursuing one or more of these items.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Progress: A study of ethanol production from corn was completed and presented to the Meade County Economic Development Board and the Meade County Commissioners in 2006. Renewable energy conferences are attended regularly to keep up-to-date on current initiatives.

Action B1.4

Host and coordinate business education seminars whenever appropriate. They will be promoted locally and on the Network Kansas website.

In addition to the Business Resource Network, business education seminars will be developed highlighting topics of interest and/or emerging business practices.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.,
Meade County Extension, and county wide businesses.

Action B1.5

Maintain an annual Meade County Business and Service Directory, a Business Available Listing, and Employment Opportunity Listing on Meade County Economic Development, Inc.'s website; www.meadecountyecodevo.com.

A Business and Service Directory was first prepared for Meade County in 1996 by a K-State Summer team. This directory, which lists local businesses and its contact information and services and/or products provided, is updated regularly.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Progress: Economic Development maintains a list of Meade County businesses on its website; www.meadecountyecodevo.com, provides direct contact for businesses with a "Webmaster", who manages the website.

Youth Development Objectives . . .

Strategy C1

Nurture and utilize the leadership abilities of Meade County's youth.

Empathize with them, strive to provide exceptional educational opportunities, and support economic opportunities.

Action C1

Explore the establishment of a summer economic development internship for community youth. As a vehicle to involve community youth in local business and the community planning process, the Meade County Economic Development Committee will assist in the development of a program, and provide sponsorship for a summer internship program.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and City Councils

Extensions: Meade County School Systems

Progress: One meeting occurred with the Meade Superintendent of Schools to discuss the possibility of an internship program. The Business Advisory Group that the MCEDC Director is a member is reviewing ways to initiate a program.

Action C2

Perform research on other community youth endeavors; locally, regionally and nationally. Present the research information to all county City Councils for review and possible implementation.

Timeline: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Progress: Information acquired at a Kansas Department of Commerce Conference in 2006 was presented to all City Councils, along with the federal sponsored "Helping America's Youth" program. Youth involvement has been discussed with business owners and operators during visits. Research continues to determine whether an entrepreneurship initiative is feasible.

Housing Development Objectives . . .

Strive to improve on the availability of affordable and suitable housing in Meade County's communities and rural areas.

Strategy D1

Promote growth and rehabilitation of the housing.

Action D1

Encourage the use of housing development and rehabilitation grant programs upon availability.

Distribute information on federal, state and privately funded grant and loan opportunities that exist to support housing rehabilitation and development to MCEDC Board Members and all City Councils. Meade County Economic Development Committee will monitor new programs and continue to distribute information accordingly.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Extensions: City Councils

Progress: Economic development has publicized USDA housing repair grant and loan programs and the 504 housing program. Several Meade County residents have been approved for grant and loan funds to make important home repairs to aid in the preservation of older houses.

Meade County Economic Development Committee has purchased land in Meade to become available to people, particularly those who qualify for the USDA 504 program, to build new homes. The lots should accommodate up to three houses with attached garage. USDA representatives are involved.

Action D1.2

Explore development of a cost-share program or incentive program for new home construction or rehabilitation of housing currently unavailable.

As a supplement to other housing development efforts, a housing incentive program would possibly be feasible offering certain discounts or incentives to individuals that construct, or rehabilitate homes in Meade County. Examples could include construction discounts, utility discounts and telecommunication discounts. Such a program would require the cooperation and involvement of a variety of local businesses.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Extensions: Local Businesses

Action D1.3

Continue to explore properties that Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. could purchase to facilitate growth of the housing through investment in real estate and/or housing units.

Meade County Economic Development Committee could possibly facilitate housing development and/or rehabilitation through direct investment or partnering in property and/or housing.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Extensions: City Councils

Quality of Life Development Objectives . . .

Place emphasis on the opportunities of living in or near a Meade County community.

Retention and expansion of existing agriculture and community business operations, accommodating their needs, including new start-up businesses, will help assure the future of Meade County. Business, Education, Human Services and Government play a major role in providing good quality of life in Meade County.

Strategy E1

Promote existing businesses and organizations in Meade County; locally, regionally and nationally.

Action E1

Continue supporting a section in a county wide newspaper; "The Mercantile" that provides space for articles by various local organizations and Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. Maintain current information about Meade County Economic Development on its website.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Extensions: Approved articles by various Meade County organizations.

Progress: Advertisement space available in Meade County Newspapers, especially "The Mercantile" are being utilized to promote businesses, business concepts found successful in other areas and county organizations. Phone contacts allow MCEDC to determine interests in Meade County. A business directory is available on MCEDC's website; www.meadecountyeconomicdevelopment.com.

Action E1.2

Monitor information regarding successes of other areas that might benefit Meade County.

Participate in organizations with a mission to the betterment of Meade County, the region and State of Kansas, as appropriate with Meade County's goals and vision.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Conferences by the Kansas Department of Commerce, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development and Conservation (RC&D), and the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA) are being attended regularly by MCEDC's Director. Results of the meetings and materials are shared with the MCEDC Board Members, County Commissioners and City Councils accordingly.

MCEDC's Director is a Board Member of wKREDA, the Lions Club of Plains, The American Legion, Meade County Performing Arts Council, member of the Meade High School Business Advisory Group,

Friends for Meade State Park & Lake, and an at-large member of the Meade County “Positive Pursuits” Community Development Steering Committee.

Tourism Development Objectives . . .

Increase tourism visits in Meade County by placing additional emphasis on existing attractions and promoting their existence on a regular basis.

Solicit and promote regional events utilizing existing facilities.

Strategy F1

Promote growth and improvements in our historical sites.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Extensions: Meade County Historical Society (Museums, Dalton Gang Hideout, archeological finds, history re-enactments, and tours to historical sites).

Progress: Meade County Historical Society has dedicated the new Goodnight Gallery in its museum, which features local and regional artists. Classic gunfights and historical re-enactments by the American Frontier Re-enactors Guild has become an annual event at Dalton Days Fest.

The Meade County Trolley provides an additional means of transportation in the county for local and regional events.

Meade County Economic Development participated in Unlock the Magic of Kansas motor coach familiarization tour.

Action F1

Explore opportunities for partnerships with other Kansas communities and tourism attractions. Meade County can benefit from alliances with neighboring areas. These partnerships are encouraged and implemented by the Tourism Council.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: MCEDC has become the manager of the Kansas Visitors Guide website for Meade County. It involves updating information for a Kansas visitors guide and specific locations in the county.

Action F1.2

Take advantage of tourism-oriented grant programs when available.

Federal, state and privately funded grant and loan opportunities are available that support tourism development efforts. Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and the Tourism Council will monitor these programs and apply and/or distribute information.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. and Tourism Council

Internet Development Objectives . . .

Maintain a Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. website and promote use of websites by existing agriculture business, local businesses, industries, governing bodies and organizations to enhance their mission and operations.

Promote Meade County as a good location for Internet driven business ventures to offer products and services nationally and inter-nationally.

Strategy G1

Activate and manage a revised Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. website.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: The existing website was revised and updated in 2006 managed by a Webmaster; www.meadecountyecodevo.com.

Action G1

Provide information on the MCEDC website regarding services, grants, loans and rental properties that are available through the Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Pages specifically covering the above items is active.

Action G1.2

Provide information on the MCEDC website for the three communities; Fowler, Meade and Plains and rural areas.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Pages are available on each community that can be linked to their specific websites once available.

Action G1.3

Provide a Business Directory (By Category and Alpha) of all Meade County businesses with links to those having their own website.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: The Business Directory is active and accessible by anyone with the capability to utilize the Internet and the World Wide Web. All businesses and organizations can submit additions and revisions directly to the site's Webmaster.

Action G1.4

Add the capability for Meade County businesses to list properties for sale and/or lease to the MCEDC website, along with positions available.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: The MCEDC website has two locations that provide for Meade County business owners/operators to list properties and positions available. They can submit their information on line.

Action G1.5

Research other county websites to get ideas to improve the MCEDC website, so it is appealing and useful for everyone accessing it.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Strategy G2

Encourage Meade County governing bodies, agriculture businesses and local businesses to develop websites as an additional service to their customers and to broaden their exposure beyond area boundaries.

Action G2

During visits to City Council, County Commissioner meetings and business visits promote the services available to construct a website.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Most of above have been visited. Some have pursued websites.

Renewable Energy Objectives . . .

Meade County wants to position itself as a viable place to develop wind, solar and other renewable energy industries. Meade County Economic Development will continue to follow Kansas incentives and strive to keep up-to-date on the latest events as developed, so Meade County is informed and prepared for potential renewable energy projects.

Strategy H1

Communicate information to interested parties of Meade County as it becomes available. Director of MCEDC attends pertinent conferences and workshops pertaining to renewable energy issues.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: The Director of MCEDC attends the annual Kansas Wind & Renewable Energy Conference; sessions and exhibits. Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA) is taking an active role in renewable energy and manufacturing components; the Director of MCEDC is a Board Member.

Action H1

Provide information to the governing bodies and land owners with properties that could possibly be a candidate for wind and/or solar farms. Make information available to interested parties through the Meade County Economic Development office library and the internet.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Latest Kansas Wind Resource Maps, posters, brochures, data and various articles regarding the renewable energy industries are available in the MCEDC office library. Information is delivered to the MCEDC Board Members, County Commissioners, Mayors, and City Councils accordingly.

Action H1.2

Provide assistance to Meade County residents, land owners, businesses, organizations, alliances and governing bodies that are pursuing renewable energy endeavors. Help support their needs with internet research, their informative meetings, and hosting meetings.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: Information in the MCEDC library is being updated regularly, and the governing bodies are updated accordingly. MCEDC has hosted a land owner information meeting provided by the Kansas Rural Center regarding

development of wind farms. Advertisements, poster preparation, mailings, and meeting equipment services are made available.

Action H1.3

Provide transportation for field trips touring various renewable energy projects for those having an interest in existing facilities, etc.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: MCEDC hosted a field trip to Hodgeman County, Kansas to hear a presentation and tour two wind turbines installed at Jetmore, Kansas. The Meade City Administrator and two technicians participated.

Action H1.4

Add the capability for Meade County businesses to list properties for sale and/or lease to the MCEDC website, along with positions available.

Time line: Ongoing

Responsibility: Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. (MCEDC)

Progress: The MCEDC website has two locations that provide for Meade County business owners/operators to list properties and positions available. They can submit their information on line.