

Saline County listed in Top 100 places to live
By Lee De Bevoise

The Progressive Farmer magazine has ranked Saline County in 71st place in their annual list of Best Places To Live In Rural America in the Midwest Region. Only five other Nebraska Counties made the list - Red Willow (10th), Wayne (18th), Cuming (45th), Nemaha (55th), and Hamilton (65th).

Imagine, Saline County is finally being recognized for the great place that it truly is. Something that county residents already knew.

According to the magazine's website, "All statistics—including the population density and tract size numbers here and the full stat sheets on our web site—are researched and provided by OnBoard LLC, a real estate research firm. The Progressive Farmer compiles a list of rural counties based on certain criteria: home and land prices, crime rates, environment, education, economic factors, access to health care and others. Counties are first ranked using a proprietary formula based on these statistics, then arranged again based on editorial opinion after the magazine staff travels to selected counties."

Saline County is close to or exceeds the Top 500 average in almost every category. The county ranked below the benchmark average for household income and household spending, but the average cost of housing was also lower. Saline County far surpassed the national benchmark for college bound students. The county was consistently lower than the national average in all crime statistics. Healthcare availability was lower than the benchmark. However, a newly formed committee, in conjunction with Health Solutions, is working on the Top Health Priorities for the Saline, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, and Thayer counties.

Be sure to visit The Progressive Farmer magazine's website located at www.pfbestplaces.com/default.asp?pageAction=Stats&CountyId=31151 to see all of the statistics. While you are there, why not cast your vote for Saline County for magazine's Reader's Choice The Top Ten List?

Isn't it great that we live in such a wonderful area of the country?