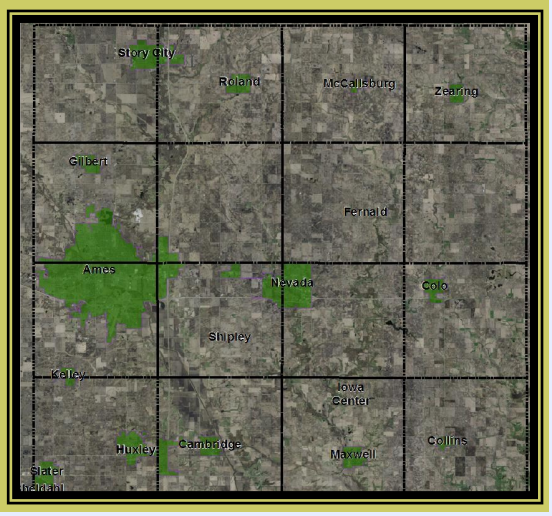
Important things to consider…

UTILITIES

- Telephone communications, cable and internet can be a problem. It may be difficult to obtain another line for fax or computer modem uses. Alternatives to such may need to be sought out. Even cellular phones may not work in all areas.
- If sewer service is available to your property, it may be expensive to hook into the system. It also may be expensive to maintain the system you use.
- If sewer service is not available, you will need to use an approved septic system or other treatment process. Have the system checked by a reliable sanitation company and obtain a permit from the Story County Environmental Health Department.
- If you do not have access to a supply of treated domestic water, you will need to locate an alternative supply. The most common method is use of a water well. The Story County Environmental Health Department issues permits for most wells. The cost for drilling and pumping the well can be considerable. The quality and quantity of well water can vary considerably from location to location and from season to season. It is strongly advised that you research this issue very carefully.
- Electric service may not be available to every area of Story County. It is important to determine the proximity of electrical power, as well as special power needs. It can be very expensive to extend power lines to remote areas.
- It may be necessary to cross property owned by others in order to extend electric service to your property in the most cost efficient manner. It is important to make sure that the proper easements are in place to allow lines to be built to your property.
- Electric power may not be available in single phase and three phase service configurations. If you have special power requirements, it is important to know what level of service can be provided to your property.
- Power outages can occur in outlying areas with more frequency than in more developed areas. A loss of electric power can also interrupt your supply of water from a well.
- You may also lose food in freezers or refrigerators and power outages can cause problems with computers as well. It is important to be able to survive for up to a week in severe cold with no utilities if you live in the rural areas.



- It is good to know the cost for trash removal as you make the decision to move to the country. Trash removal can be much more expensive in a rural area than in a city. It is illegal to create your own trash dump, even on your own land.