

## GIS Interview Report Southern Iowa For: The Iowa Geographic Information Council

Prepared by: Pete Buckingham Consulting, Inc.  
2008

The following reports were created with data collected in phone interviews with officials in each county, answering questions regarding GIS, aerial photography, documentation and other relevant information. Interview questions were created in conjunction with IGIC board members and PB Consulting, Inc.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project was to collect accurate information in regards to GIS data availability in each county as requested by IGIC and to assess their technical and data situations, while determining basic needs to assist their progression in Geographic Information Systems.

**Explanation of Ratings:** For the purposes of this report, a ratings system was developed, in which counties use and interest in GIS technology were evaluated. This scale is 1-5 with 1 being lower functioning and 5 being advanced users.

1. Very little interest or use for GIS
2. Interested in GIS, or have GIS but not using it
3. Have GIS, parcel data linked to real estate and basic tasks beyond maintenance
4. High end use of GIS, layer creation and full time GIS staff member
5. Highest End GIS Users in State, larger, highly functioning GIS Staff

## Key Findings:

Total Counties Interviewed: 18  
Counties without GIS: 9  
Counties with GIS: 6  
Counties with GIS contracts: 3 (2 GIS, 1 Ortho)

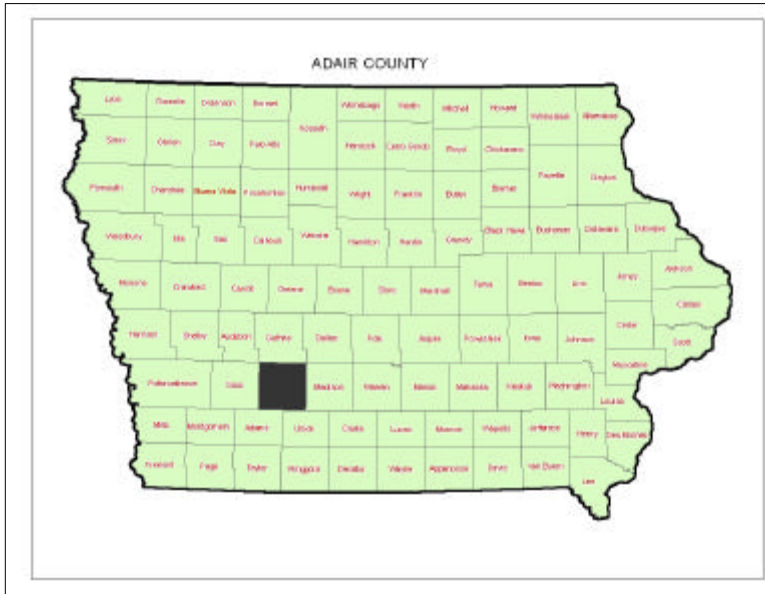
Oldest aerials in Use:  
Ringgold County: 1947

PB Consulting, Inc would classify two (2) of the nine (9) counties without GIS as “Excited” and actively working towards that goal. (Wayne and Taylor) and will be the most likely to advance to the technology. Three (3) additional counties expressed enough interest to have vendors coming for visits and presentations in the near future. Of the counties with no form of GIS existing, four (4) expressed very little interest or likelihood of acquiring it any time soon.

Nine (9) Counties have GIS data on this list. Of those, Appanoose and Monroe have someone dedicated at least half time to GIS functions. Three (3) of these counties appear to be performing GIS tasks beyond parcel maintenance. Several expressed the desire to hire a GIS professional to help their program progress, but funding wasn't available.

Notes of interest related to my findings include areas in which some of the counties with existing GIS data feel they could be assisted by IGIC. The biggest surprise to me was the desire by 4-5 concerning having an option to host their GIS data on a website hosted by IGIC. They have the desire to have the interactive GIS websites, linked to their owner and tax data. One assessor made the quote “that would be heaven”. Other common themes for assistance were 1)Funding 2) Technical Assistance 3) Training. Some of the counties without GIS or newly delivered GIS products expressed fear and concern about the technology, their staffs and issues such as parcel maintenance.

PB Consulting, Inc's recommendation is that IGIC explore allocating E911 data for basic GIS use in these counties. Phase II compliance for E911 requires essential GIS layers such as intelligent road centerline files, townships, corporate boundaries, fire districts and in some cases, GPS information on driveways. This data likely exists in many counties who don't believe they have any GIS data available, and has already been funded by their tax payers.



## Adair County Iowa

County Num: 01

County Seat: Greenfield

Parcels: 15,000

Splits per Year: 150

GIS (Y/N) N

GIS Rating (1-5) 1.5

Progressive in GIS 1= least-5= most.

Technical Contact: Charles Marker  
(641)743-2546

Engineer: Charles Marker

Assessor: Ken Huddleson

Auditor: Jenice Wallace

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

The Assessor and Engineer both have paper/book aerial photos, believed to have been flown in 1980. The resolution is unknown, but 1:400 scale pages county wide and 1:100 scale pages urban exist. GPS monumentation does not exist at this time, but USGS monuments are sometimes used.

### Parcels:

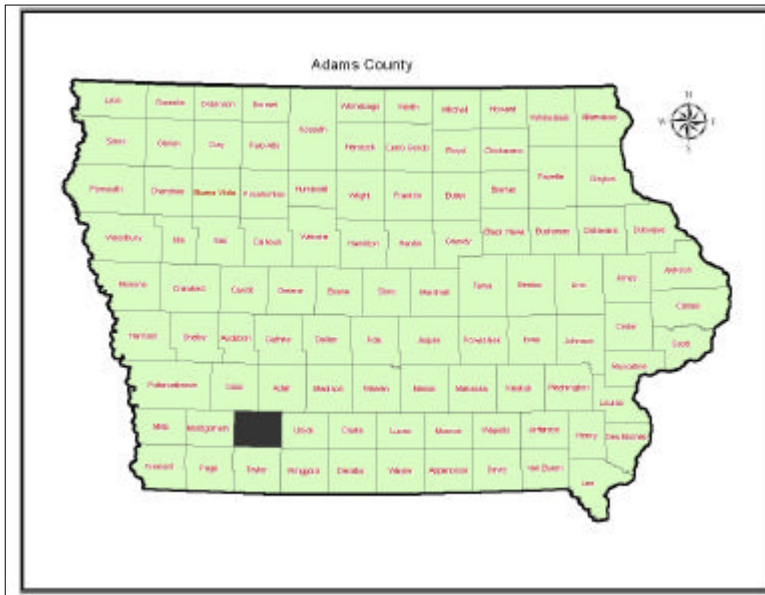
Parcels are maintained in the Assessor and Auditor's offices and are hand drawn into books. They utilize a 10 digit Sidwell style PIN (0101100001).

### Office Reports:

County Assessor, Ken Huddleson reported being vaguely familiar with GIS, and while he could picture the uses of GIS, didn't feel it was very feasible and was cost prohibitive for their county. He suggested that the largest hurdles to acquiring GIS were internal leadership and funding. Mr. Huddleson described his offices view of GIS as "interested, but no plans or funding at this time".

Engineer, Charles Marker is shared with Cass County. Their office has been exposed to GIS demonstrations at the County Engineer's Conference in the past. Engineer Tech "Dave" described their situation in similar fashion to the Assessor. They do use the *Total Station* to collect some elevation data and are doing some basic work in *AutoCad* on culverts and small bridges. Dave has downloaded the DOT road maps and has made some changes to create a "Bridge Weight Capacity Map". They create some of their own project topographical maps as well as cross sections, but hire surveyors for their work. While Dave is retiring in 3 months, Charles does see benefit in GIS, but doesn't feel there is any funding available at this time.

**County Suggestions:** Regional Ownership of GPS equipment



## Adams County Iowa

**County Num: 02**

**County Seat: Corning**

**Parcels: 9671**

**Splits per Year: 50-75**

**GIS (Y/N) N**

**GIS Rating (1-5) 1**

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact: Each Office**

Engineer: Eldon Rike

(641)322-3910

Assessor: Carolyn Burroughs

(641)322-4312

Auditor: Nicky Tucker

(641)322-3340

### **Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:**

Aerials exist in each office in books. The last flight was a joint effort in 1991 with Taylor County. The Assessor uses a book with 1963 data and soil survey information. There is no existing monumentation network and the county does not do their own surveys.

### **Parcels:**

Parcels are maintained by hand in both the Auditor and Assessor's office. The parcel number is a 10 digit number consisting of tax dist-and other location information. Ex. 1606642300

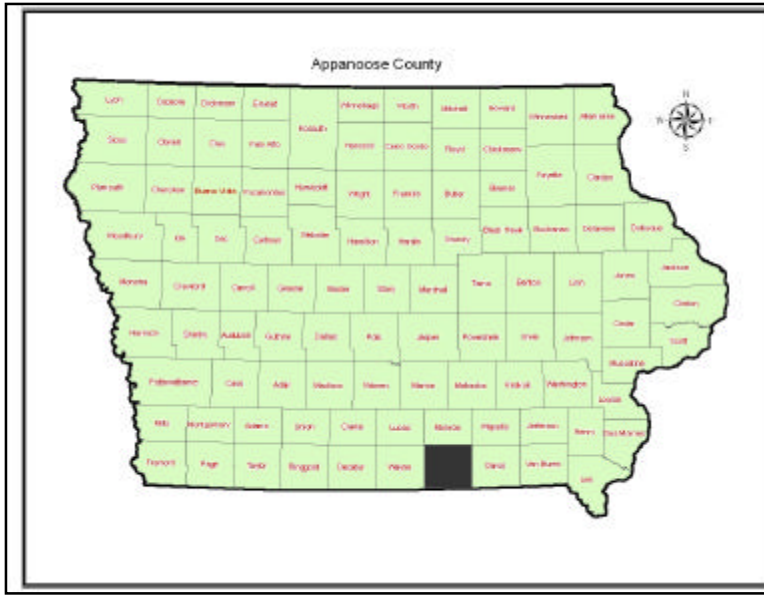
### **Office Reports:**

Assessor, Carolyn Burroughs reports that Adams is the smallest county in the state. They have small staff and she maintains the parcels by hand. They do use Solutions software, but don't really know much about GIS or how it could be useful to them. Previously, they used to utilize a DOS program "Land Check" to check surveys for closure and legals, but it no longer works. At the request of the public and NRCS, she is funding a new soil survey, which is eating up any available funds in the near future. She indicated that each office is responsible for their own computer issues, and that her funds are tied up. Biggest obstacles with GIS are funding and leadership.

Auditor, Nicky Tucker indicated that she had heard a little about GIS, but didn't feel that she saw the value in acquiring GIS at this time.

Engineer, Eldon Rike is shared with Taylor County. They contract out their survey and design work. Mr Rike was not familiar with GIS and indicated that he wasn't interested in it at this time.

Of all counties interviewed, Adams appears to be the least interested in GIS applications.



**Appanoose County Iowa:**

**County Num:** 04  
**County Seat:** Centerville  
**Parcels:** 22,000  
**Splits per Year:** 200  
**GIS (Y/N)** Y

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 3  
 Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:** Jon Foster  
 GIS Tech (641)856-6193

Engineer:  
 Gary Bishop (641)-856-6193  
 Assessor:  
 Auditor:

**Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:**

Appanoose County acquired digital aerial photography in 1999. They are maintained in both paper and digital formats, with 2' pixels on high flight and 6" pixel resolution on low flight for urban areas. A GPS monumentation network was created in 1996, containing 80 monuments. A monuments layer exists as a point theme and per Jon Foster, they are willing to share this for the LIDAR project and would allow it to be posted on the DNR website.

**Parcels:**

Appanoose County has approximately 22,000 parcels which are maintained in the Assessor's office by Jon Foster. The parcels are maintained in Geo database using the Sidwell system, with a unique PIN of twp-range-sec-block-pin template. ex. 691817100004 Jon believes their system is within 3' horizontal accuracy.

**Office Reports:**

Assessor and engineer's offices reportedly use GIS almost daily, while sharing Jon's time equally. Currently, GIS is not shared with other offices or agencies, and they would be charged to acquire this information, because they did not help fund the project initially. Price for the parcel data is \$.50/parcel or \$11,000 for the entire county. Appanoose County has tentative discussions to acquire new aerials in 2009-2010, pending a new engineer's support. They have some issues with linking owner data to parcels, due to an AS400 server, and export shape files to get that information. Each office maintains a workstation, and GIS is not kept on a county wide server. *ArcEditor* licensing is in the assessor's office for parcel maintenance.

The Engineer's office uses GIS regularly, with the addition of E911 addressing and GPS collection of driveway points by Jon. A contractor maintains the road centerline file. Culverts and other basic projects are done using *AutoCad Map*, there are 2 surveyors on staff and a licensed surveyor arriving. *Arcview* level licensing resides on a PC in the engineer's office, with a GIS website being hosted by Schneider's Beacon site.

Appanoose County Continued:

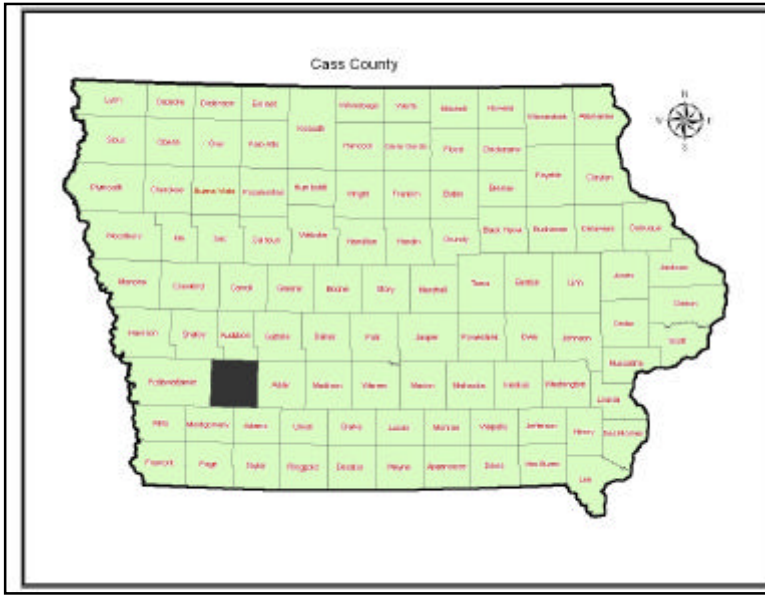
GIS layers currently existing in Appanoose County include the standard Sidwell Tag data model of Parcels, lots, ROW, PLSS. Additional layers including Enterprise zones, bridges, E911, trails, proposed trails and zoning are also used.

My rating of Appanoose County's GIS usage would be a 3, because they have an existing GIS, have a GIS staff person, and are accumulating additional GIS layers. They are however limited by not hosting the information on a server, are not promoting GIS usage among other offices, and rely on shape files for owner information due to lack of open sharing of data within the organization. The groundwork has been in place for a successful GIS in this county, but there is room for growth. It is important to note that the GIS tech also performs zoning and E911 tasks in addition to GIS work.

**County Suggestions:**

Jon had no input as to how IGIC could be of assistance to Appanoose County.





## Cass County Iowa:

**County Num:** 15

**County Seat:** Atlantic

**Parcels:** 18,000

**Splits per Year:** 100

**GIS (Y/N)** N

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 1.5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:** Charles Marker

**Engineer:** Charles Marker

(712)243-2442

**Assessor:** Brenda Nelson 712-243-2005

**Auditor:** Dale Sunderman

(712)243-4570

## Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Aerial photography is in paper form in most offices of Cass County. Scans of 1980 count wide with 1990 updates of cities were scanned, and rubber sheeted. A flight was done in 1999, but only the engineer's office thought they had them, with others using paper maps ranging from 1979 to 1990.

Some monumentation was created in 1997 as a base for orthos. Some HARN and USGS points were used, and an unspecified number were placed by the Engineer's office, but not in a typical grid, as determined in the conversations.

## Parcels:

Cass County has approximately 18,000 parcels and in the neighborhood of 100 splits per year. While the mylar and plats were scanned and provided in digital form, the accuracy leaves plenty to be desired. Parcels are manually maintained in paper maps in the Auditor's office. A parcel number system that used to be 12 digits, is now 15, to include sec-twp-range-block-pin. The assessor and real estate data is in Solutions databases, and is not being linked to maps at this time.

## Office Reports:

Assessor, Brenda Nelson reported that she didn't have a lot of interest in GIS and indicated all GIS had been cut from her budget by the board, and referred me to the treasurer.

Auditor, Dale Sunderman knows a little about GIS and had a GIS vendor coming in for a presentation in Feb 2008. Existing rubber sheeted digital aerials are of low quality and little value. Dale says the Board of Supervisors is very concerned with return on Investment and money savings to the county. They are interested in GIS but funding is a serious issue.

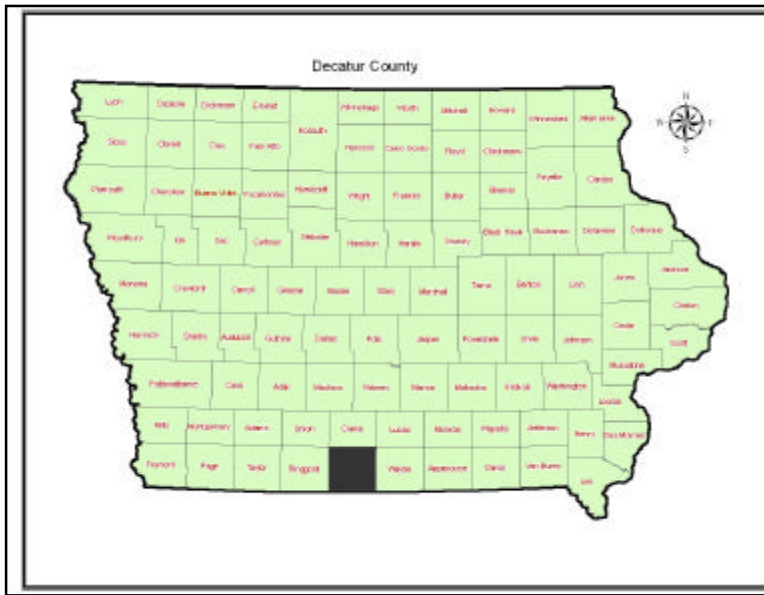
Engineer, Charles Marker splits time with Adair County. He is supportive of GIS but thinks the county boundaries limit a combined effort and doesn't see how it could work. Charles says aerial photos from a 1997(or 1999) flight will likely be used to construct a GIS when the time comes, with partial re-

flights possible in areas with significant change. Charles indicated that GIS could have gone through in 1999 in Cass County, but the cost was too great, it stalled and hasn't progressed much since. The Engineer's office was the most positive in regards to GIS happening in the county, and believes it will happen, when they locate the funding.

**County Suggestions:**

Funding and Technical assistance were the big issues for the Engineer, while the Auditor's chief concerns, which also included funding, were up front and recurring costs and maintenance.





## Decatur County Iowa

**County Num:** 27

**County Seat:** Leon

**Parcels:** 14,616

**Splits per Year:** 50

**GIS (Y/N)** N

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 1.5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

Engineer: Richard McKnight

641-446-7131

Assessor: Jim Flemming

641-446-4314

Auditor: Tiffani Edwards

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Paper copies of aerials flown in 1986 exist in the assessor's office, and at the engineer's office, located in another building. They were flown by Sidwell, however no line work is included in the books. No monumentation grid exists.

### Parcels:

Parcels are maintained in the auditor's office and are hand drawn into grid paper books. Accuracy is an issue as they are hand drawn without the assistance of orthos. In 1995, the assessor purchased an ag product from Promap and a basic parcel layer for ag parcels was created digitally. It did not contain ROW and therefore includes gross acres instead of net acres, was deemed non-usable, hasn't been maintained since and was never used. The parcel number system is similar to the Sidwell system, but has additional designators in front. Ex. BLLA0919400002, would be Bloomington twp, Lamoni School Dist, then the pin.

### Office Reports:

Auditor. Tiffani Edwards is newly appointed and just learning the job tasks, however Dept Auditor Sandy Higdon has been in the office, maintaining parcel information for several years in grid paper books. They are aware of some GIS basic uses, but don't see funding available.

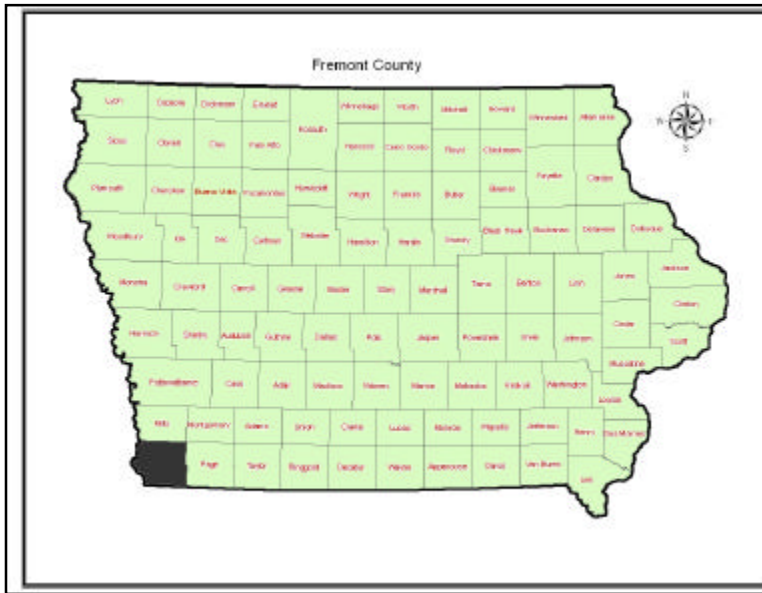
Assessor, Jim Flemming tried a limited ag parcel GIS in 1995, recognizes some benefits and has some interest, however they never really used the product they invested in, don't have the funds to have that product updated at this time. He suggests they are interested in GIS, but have limited technical ability in county, and funding issues.

Engineer Richard McKnight knows some things about GIS, they have a tech that does basic maps in *AutoCad*. They do some survey work, and tie into USGS grid when available.

While GIS doesn't exist in the county, my findings show that many GIS base layers are in E911.

### County Suggestions:

Funding and technical assistance were the major areas where assistance was needed.



## Fremont County Iowa

**County Num:** 36

**County Seat:** Sidney

**Parcels:** 14,500

**Splits per Year:** 200

**GIS (Y/N)** N

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 1.5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

Arnold Emberton, IT

712-374-6671

Engineer: Dan Davis

712-374-2613

Assessor: Karen Berry

712-374-2031

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Aerials were flown in 1996 and exist in assessor's office in paper form with plats overlaying aerial photography. Descriptions lead me to believe it was a vendor project, likely Sidwell. Updates for orthos are not planned at this time. County Engineer, Dan Davis indicated that no monumentation was added for the ortho project in 1996, and confirmed that Sidwell was the aerial vendor.

### Parcels:

Fremont County has approximately 14,500 parcels with 200+ splits per year as they are a bedroom community for Council Bluffs. Parcels are drawn into paper books, but all parcel maintenance is performed and contracted to Sidwell, and is being done in either CAD or GIS format. The parcel number system is a Sidwell based system of twp-range-sec-block-pin.

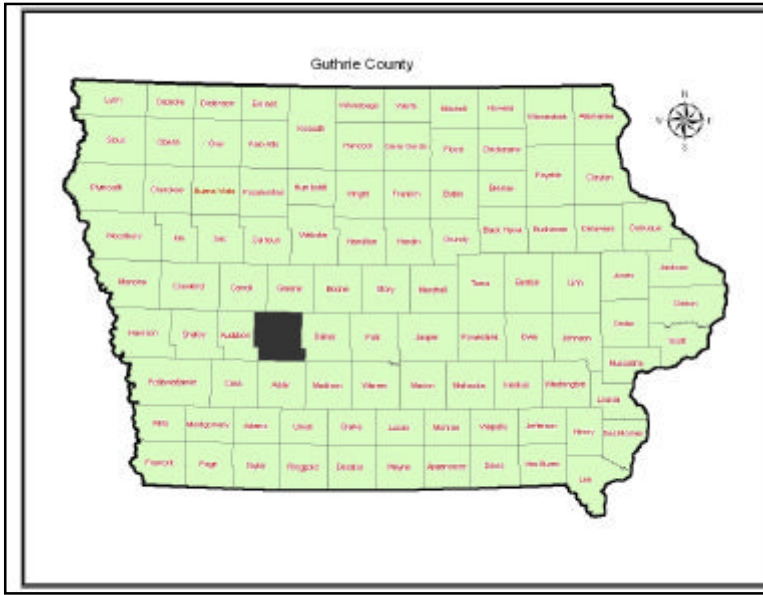
### Office Reports:

Assessor, Karen Berry was somewhat familiar with GIS, and felt the Engineer was more interested than she would be. She expressed that she wasn't sure the average citizen benefited from GIS. She didn't feel compelled to approach her board for funding of GIS at this time and has concerns about funding and on-going parcel maintenance.

Engineer, Dan Davis was more interested and supportive of GIS. Dan said they are not currently using any digital aerial products in their office, do some basic bridge and culvert projects in *AutoCad* and that his office is interested in GIS. They are having a vendor, Midland GIS come in for a presentation to try to gain support. He sees the biggest hurdles as leadership, funding and technical assistance, as he doesn't think Fremont County will be able to fund a GIS person, and the IT person is very busy.

### County Suggestions:

Dan Davis indicated they would look at a regional approach for aerial photography.



## Guthrie County Iowa

**County Num:**39

**County Seat:** Guthrie Center

**Parcels:** 19,621

**Splits per Year:** 1000?

**GIS (Y/N)** Y(under contract)

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2.5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

John Finnegan, Deputy Assessor  
641-747-3319

Engineer-Kris Katzman

641-747-2274

Assessor-Barry Stetzel

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Guthrie County participated with Carroll County in a 2006 Ortho flight. They will have 1:400 county-wide and 1:100 urban, but weren't able to tell me about resolution. Guthrie County did not create a GPS monument network, but did collect some GPS on a few known corners. They are willing to share any monument information they have for the LiDAR project, but it is limited data.

### Parcels:

Guthrie County has 19,621 parcels, currently have significant re-plats, apartments and condos. Splits are currently done manually in the Assessor's office, but GIS conversion is underway by Midland GIS, with anticipated delivery in the fall 2008 of the final project. Parcel numbering is based off of the Sidwell system, contains 15 digits formulated from district-twp-school-PIN.

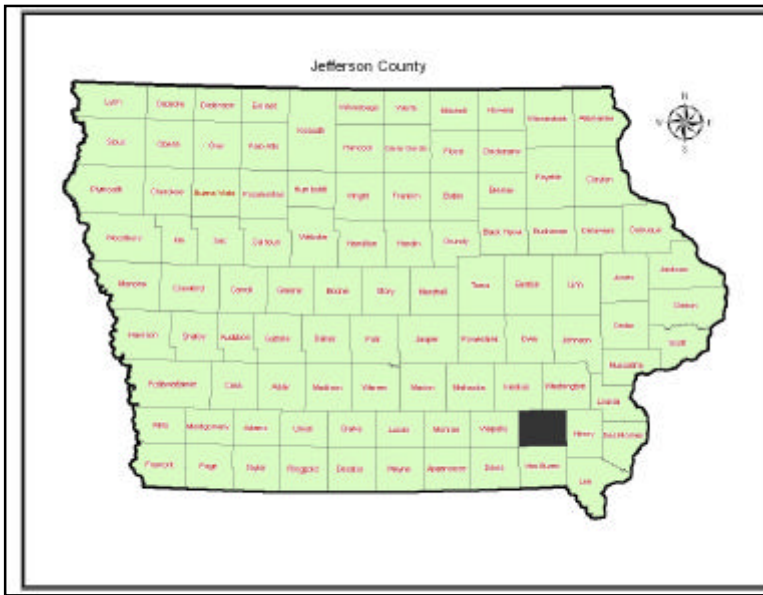
### Office Reports:

Assessor: Assessor Barry Stetzel, referred me to John Finnegan, his deputy, who will be the county GIS coordinator/technician once their project is delivered. John hopes to have 6 townships delivered in February 08, so he can begin learning GIS and working with the data. They will have 1 seat of *ArcEditor* to use in parcel maintenance and GIS maps and layer development. John indicated they anticipate use of the system by several communities, including Guthrie Center, Coon Rapids, Bayard, Panora and Lake Panorama.

**Engineer:** Kris Katzman indicated interest in GIS and mentioned he sits on Engineering and Soil Conservation Boards. He has been a proponent of regional cooperation and had been discussing regional aerial photography projects. I directed him to the NRGIS Library and available free data and the ISU website. Kris doesn't think his office will use GIS initially, but believes they'll eventually work their way into it.

### County Suggestions:

Kris Katzman expressed a lot of interest in regional and state-wide projects. Very interested in projects such as LIDAR and Ortho cooperative efforts.



## Jefferson County Iowa

**County Num:** 51

**County Seat:** Fairfield

**Parcels:** 19,900

**Splits per Year:** 100

**GIS (Y/N)** Y

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2.5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

Assessor: Sherry Blough

641-472-2849

Engineer: Tom Goff

641-472-6528

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Jefferson County has 2006 Orthos, believed to be 1' pixels for the county a possibly 6" pixels for urban areas. Before the aerials were flown, a 3x3mile GPS monument grid was placed by Dan Corbin, Inc. They are in digital format per the Engineer and they are willing to share them with DNR for the LIDAR project. There is no plan for re flight at this time.

### Parcels:

The Assessor's office reports around 19,900 parcels in Jefferson County. Parcel maintenance will be performed by their contractor, Sidwell on the digital data, but the paper books are maintained in both the Auditor and Assessor's offices. Jefferson County uses the Sidwell 10 digit parcel number system in the format of area-sec-block-pin 0101100001. The GIS is a geodatabase in the Sidwell feature tag model and containing their standard layers, Parcels, blocks, subdivisions, PLSS et al.

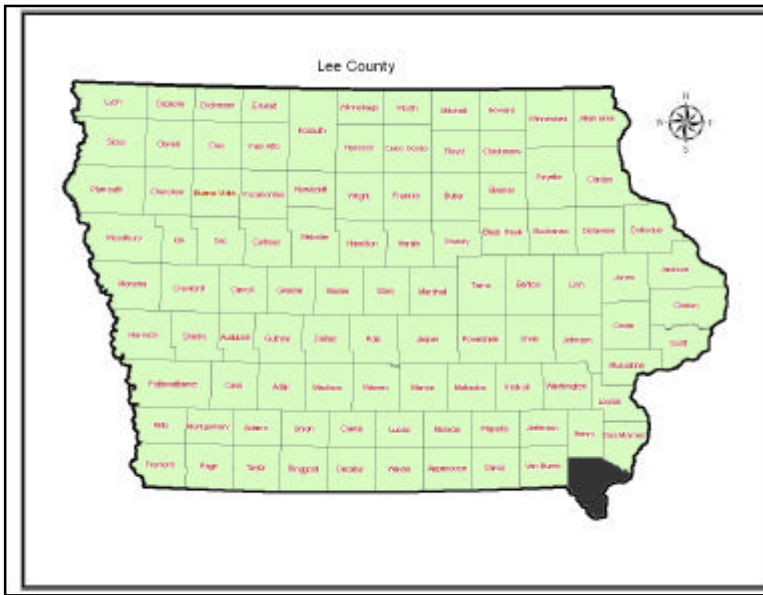
### Office Reports:

Engineer: Tom Goff reported that a Sidwell GIS project was delivered in the Fall of 07, however he has yet to see the data in his office. Engineer Tech, Mark Bell will be ½ time GIS for the Roads Dept. Tom reports that there isn't much interest from departments outside of the Assessor and Engineer in GIS, even though they have a newly delivered parcel base.

Assessor: Sherry Blough is familiar with GIS. I spoke with Colleen, the Deputy Assessor. The GIS has been completed and they are reviewing parcels (active and acreage) for final cleanup by the vendor. They currently have parcel builder and Sidwell *MapView* in their office, but do not have data currently linked for GIS usage. Indications are that the project is stalling due to lack of funding for a GIS coordinator.

### County Suggestions:

Technical assistance and training are the areas in which they feel they could benefit outside of funding of a coordinator.



## Lee County Iowa

**County Num:** 51

**County Seat:** Ft Madison/Keokuk

**Parcels:** 27,000

**Splits per Year:** ?

**GIS (Y/N)** Y

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2.5-3

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:** Luan Schmitt

319-376-2341

Assessor: Jan Calvert

319-372-6302

Engineer: Denny Osipowicz

319-376-2341

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Lee County has digital orthos from 2001 and older paper maps in offices. They are 1:400 county-wide and believed to be 1' pixel resolution, with 1:100 urban with possibly 6" resolution. There are no plans at this time for an updated flight, though the Assessor indicated they are needed due to major road changes and bypass hwy projects. GPS monumentation does exist, with more than average points. There are approximately 120 monuments in the county with a 3x3mile grid, with 30 additional monuments in both Ft Madison and Keokuk. This information is in paper format, but they are very willing to share it for use in the LiDAR project and on the web with board approval.

### Parcels:

Parcels are maintained in GIS through the vendor, Sidwell and reside in geodatabase tag model format through the Auditor's office. No number was given for number of splits for the 27,000 parcel county, but my estimate is 250, due to essentially 2 county seats, both maintaining court houses. Lee County uses a 15 digit parcel number in the format of schoolwprangeseclpin0. ex. 01120623302106-0.

Lee County is currently looking at a vendor solution to put GIS maps on the web.

### Office Reports:

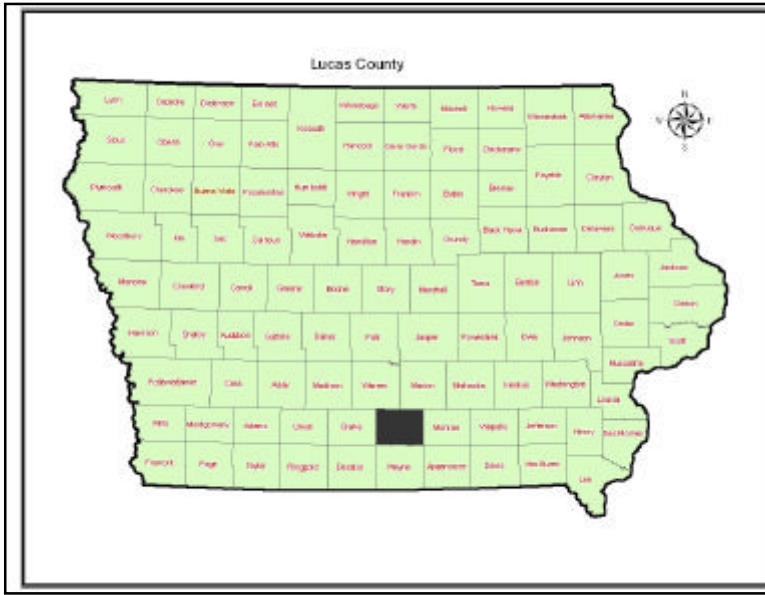
Engineer: Denny Osipowicz is very supportive of GIS and has plans to implement a robust asset management geodatabase and website. A hiring freeze in the county has prevented them from retaining a GIS coordinator, but he feels things are improving. Denny expressed disappointment that the LiDAR data isn't available or FEMA wouldn't wait for it to update their flood plain mapping.

Assessor: Jan Calvert says the GIS project is delivered and she would like to leverage more from it, but its difficult without a coordinator on staff. They are looking at Schneider's Beacon website as an option to get the data out to the public. She expressed that they have a lot of change to highways with the *AVE of the Saints* and a bypass project that require attention to the aerial photography.

Luan Schmitt is IT director and temporary GIS. She has assisted Environ Health and the Sheriff's offices with construction of some map and sex offender mapping.

**County Suggestions:** training and technical assistance would be helpful.





**Lucas County Iowa**

**County Num:** 59  
**County Seat:** Chariton  
**Parcels:** 12,500  
**Splits per Year:** 40-50  
**GIS (Y/N)** Y

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2.5  
 Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:**  
 Tim McGee  
 Assessor: Tim McGee  
 641-774-4411  
 Engineer: Todd Folkerts  
 641-774-2993

**Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:**

Aerial Photography was a sore subject in Lucas County. Tim McGee indicated that though they were flown in 1991, the quality and accuracy was very poor. They have 1:400 county wide and 1:100 urban, but rely on an older FSA flight. I provided Tim links to the NRGIS library links to newer orthos and map layers. Nothing is scheduled for updated flights as funding is tight. There is no existing GPS monumentation grid.

**Parcels:**

Lucas Counties 12,500 parcels are maintained by a contractor, Schneider Corp through the Assessor's office. Tim McGee said the accuracy of the parcels and line work is “not very good”. Lucas County uses the Sidwell style 10 digit PIN. ex. 0101100001

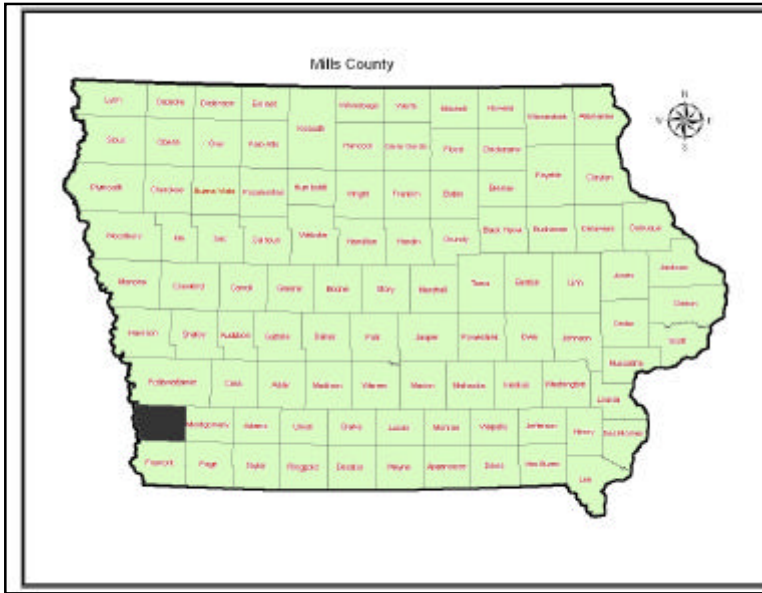
**Office Reports:**

Assessor: Tim McGee indicated that his office is essentially the only one using GIS, other than the Engineer, might be collecting some sign information. He maintains the county E911 road centerline, address ranges. This data is shared with E911, though Tim indicated updates were rare. Parcels are linked to some basic information through Assessor software and database.  
 Lucas County GIS data is available for \$100/layer. ESRI Arcview 9.2 is installed and websites are deemed too pricey to justify.

Engineer: Todd Folkerts didn't have much to report. There is no monumentation available, and they are doing some basic AutoCad work with culverts.

**County Suggestions:**

Tim McGee expressed that it would be “heaven” if IGIC were to find a way to host their county GIS information and serve it to the web.



## Mills County Iowa

**County Num:** 65

**County Seat:** Glenwood

**Parcels:** 17,000+

**Splits per Year:** 50-100

**GIS (Y/N)** Y(contract w/Schneider)

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:** Kevin Mayberry

Engineer: Kevin Mayberry

712-527-4873

Assessor: Christina Govig

712-527-4883

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Orthos were flown in the Spring 07 with 6" pixel resolution county-wide, but they haven't been delivered yet. Currently they use paper books, updated around 2004. The Auditor and Assessor both have paper copies with plats and aerials with Spring 08 delivery of new Orthos expected. Dan Corbin Inc installed a 3x3mile grid of GPS monumentation in the county prior to the flight. Though they exist only in paper form, the coordinates would be provided for use in LiDAR with permission to put on the web.

### Parcels:

Mills counties 17,000 parcels are currently maintained by hand in the assessor's office, based on Sidwell updated (digitized) books from 3 years ago. There is a contract with Schneider Corp to construct a GIS parcel base to begin when aerials are delivered in Spring 08. PINs are number in a system of co-area-sec-block-tax-ID. No parcel data is delivered or linked at this time.

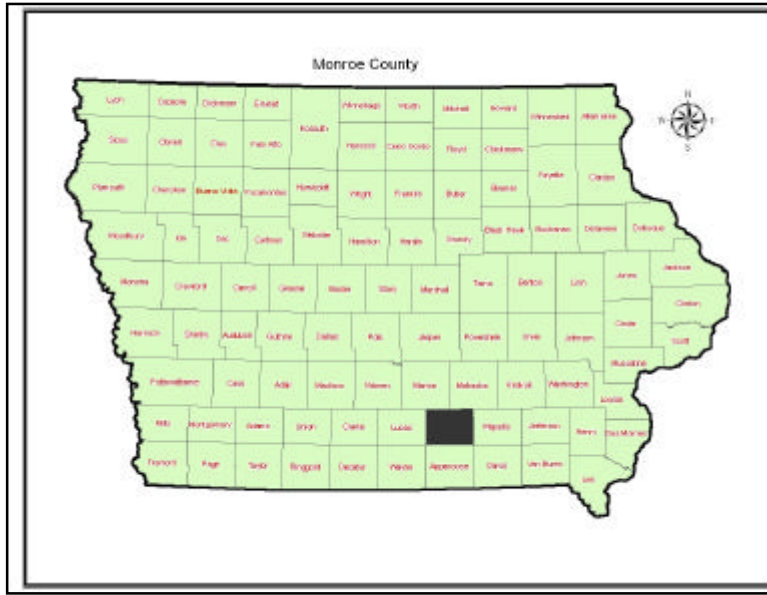
### Office Reports:

Engineer: Kevin Mayberry started with Mills County in March 07, but is excited about GIS. He has a son with GIS degree and is fairly familiar with the abilities. The county will have 3 seats of ESRI and will serve GIS data out of the courthouse. GIS information will be served online via a Schneider Beacon website. Kevin expressed frustration that Mills County wasn't included in the first wave of LiDAR, so they could have had an updated DEM for their ortho flight. He is still willing to share their monumentation for the LiDAR project. They are doing work in AutoCad 3D such as culverts, small bridges and road work, and have a Licensed Land Surveyor on staff who is collecting some elevation data.

Assessor: I spoke with the deputy Assessor, Pam in lieu of Christina Govig. They are aware of GIS and know it is contracted and some of the benefits. They will have *ArcEditor and Geogear* for parcel maintenance and their GIS project will have the typical parcel-block-lot-subdivision-ROW type layers.

**County Suggestions:** Upset that they weren't included in early LiDAR and recommend trying to work in cooperation with counties acquiring aerials.





## Monroe County Iowa

**County Num:** 68  
**County Seat:** Albia  
**Parcels:** 15,000  
**Splits per Year:** 100  
**GIS (Y/N) Y**

**GIS Rating (1-5) 3**  
 Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:**  
 Pam Freshwater  
 641-932-7123  
 Engineer: John Goode  
 641-932-7123  
 Assessor: Karen Fontinel  
 641-932-2180

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Pam Freshwater indicated that Monroe County has digital Orthos from 1997, and believes the 1:400 to be 2' pixel resolution with 1:100 for urban areas. They have begun discussions on acquiring an update. Prior to the 1997 flight, Sidwell created a 2x6 mile GPS monumentation grid including 72 positions. This data exists in paper form, it can be used for the LIDAR project and placed on line.

### Parcels:

GIS Technician Pam Freshwater maintains parcels out of the Engineer's office using the Sidwell Geo database and tool sets. The GDB contains typical layers with parcel conversion. They use a Sidwell style PIN with the Twp-range-sec-block-pin system. Parcels are linked to property data and shared within the county via the Auditor's AS400 server. Pam didn't have numbers but the Board of Supervisors had set a high value on their GIS data layers.

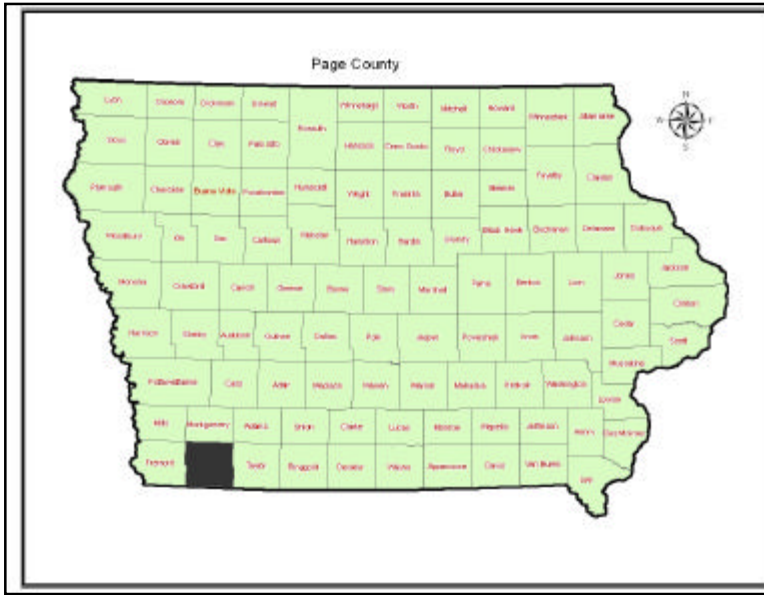
### Office Reports:

Engineer: Pam Freshwater has been the Monroe County GIS Technician for 7 years, as she was trained upon delivery of their project. She oversees GIS activities in the county and it is currently being used in some capacity by the Engineer, Assessor, Auditor, Public Health and other offices. Most are served via Sidwell Mapviewer, but they do have ArcView, ArcEditor and ArcPublisher.

Engineer, John Goode is very supportive of GIS and excited about LiDAR. In addition to supporting Pam, they do some work in *AutoCad*, and have a tech doing a GPS culvert inventory now, with hopes of adding additional layers.

### County Suggestions:

Monroe County does not have a GIS website, and a year ago discussed it, and found it to be cost prohibitive. If IGIC were to host GIS information that could be linked to owner information on other vendor sites, they would find that very useful in expanding their existing GIS.



## Page County Iowa

**County Num:** 73

**County Seat:** Clarinda

**Parcels:** 18,000

**Splits per Year:** 150

**GIS (Y/N)** N

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:**

Peggy Smith

Assessor: Peggy Smith

712-542-2516

Engineer: David Shanahan

712-542-2510

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

There is some confusion as to what ortho-photography Page County has. PB Consulting, Inc understands as follows: The Engineer and Assessor have books with aerials, vintage 1983. A flight was done in 1996, but the Engineer left in the middle of the process and the flight was not finished or delivered. The books that do exist are 1:400 rural and 1:100 pages for urban areas. Per Carol, the asst engineer, there is no official GPS grid, however the Engineer reports “great section corner data” that is up to date each year and in a database.

### Parcels:

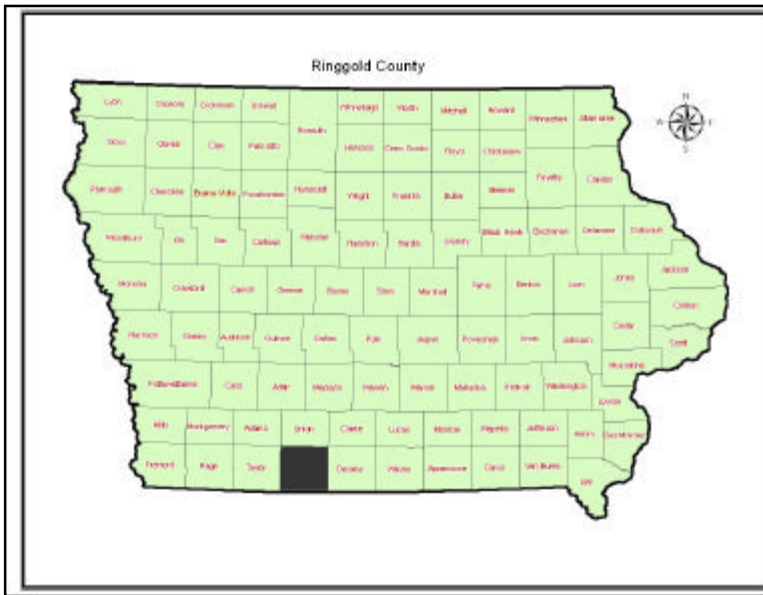
Currently, Page County's 18,000 parcels are maintained in paper form by hand in the Assessor's office. Books with Mylar pages exist in Auditor and Assessor offices. The existing PIN system is based off of the 10 digit Sidwell scheme, with a tax number following. ex. 0519400001 000

### Office Reports:

Assessor Peggy Smith is very supportive of GIS and has been part of a GIS implementation while in Montgomery County. She has recently completed revaluation and has begun putting funding aside for GIS and currently has \$35k or her desired \$100k in reserve. Peggy suggested that the Auditor was also interested in acquiring GIS.

Engineer David Shanahan was unavailable but I spoke with the assistant engineer, Carol. He indicated that the engineer's office was also interested in GIS, but less informed than the Assessor. They have worked hard on a section corner database and inventory. A 2000 version of *AutoCad Developer* is used to perform some rudimentary tasks with culverts and low water crossing type projects. Bench marks are being collected for bridges and culverts, some elevations on bridges but a lot are listed as “100”. Page County does retain a surveyor on staff.

**County Suggestions:** Funding and learning curve were the main concerns to both offices in acquiring GIS. They believe it will happen in the near future.



## Ringgold County Iowa

County Num: 80

County Seat: Mt Ayr

Parcels: 13,500

Splits per Year: 75

GIS (Y/N) N

GIS Rating (1-5) 1

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

Neil Morgan

Assessor: Neil Morgan

641-464-3233

Engineer: Dan Coulson

641-464-3232

Auditor: Renda Paxson

641-464-3239

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Ringgold County appeared to be the most in need of new orthos, as the latest aerials they have in house were flown in **1947**. They reported that they rely on the ISU Cairo or other websites when they need to see aerials. The Soils program in the assessor's office uses 1990 aerial imagery. I provided links to NRGIS library and additional on line map resources to the Assessor. The Engineer reported no surveyor on staff and no monumentation.

### Parcels:

The 13,500 parcels of Ringgold County are maintained in the Auditor and Assessor offices. They are drawn into old books and soils calculations and PINs are done in the Assessor's office. The Assessor indicated that the county does not have a uniform county wide PIN system, and they use a random 6 digit number with the township. Forest Reserve acres are calculated using aerials from the ISU Ortho website.

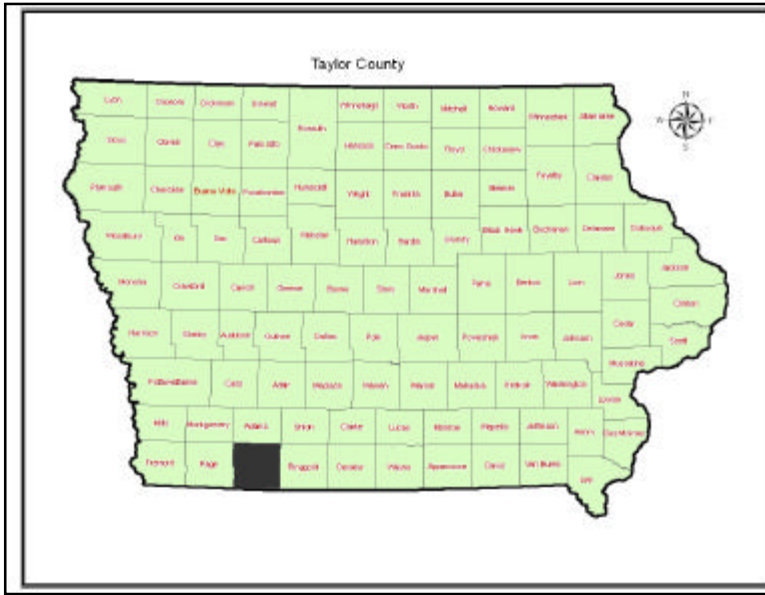
### Office Reports:

Auditor: Renda Paxson said she hadn't heard anything about GIS, and indicated she was not very familiar with their parcel numbering system or the parcel split process.

Engineer: Dan Coulson indicated that he had heard of GIS and that he wasn't interested in it. He said they had no surveyor on staff, relied on contractors and had no interest in participating in a regional project. He said he was looking into GPS of road signs but that was the extent of his interest. Dan said they had *AutoCad* and used it a little bit on some bridges.

Assessor: Neil Morgan appeared to be the most informed about GIS in Ringgold County. He was interested in GIS and saw some benefit, but "didn't want to tackle GIS on his own", and felt that he would be at this time. He suggested his biggest barriers to GIS were leadership, funding, staff and technical assistance.

**County Suggestions:** Very, very little interest in GIS. NRGIS and the IGIC Ortho websites and data links were emailed to the Assessor including information about LiDAR.



## Taylor County Iowa

**County Num:** 87

**County Seat:** Bedford

**Parcels:** 17,000

**Splits per Year:** 100

**GIS (Y/N)** N

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2(very interested)

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

Bonny Baker

Auditor: Bonny Baker

712-532-2280

Assessor: Rosalyn Cummings

712-523-2444

Engineer: Eldon Rike

712-523-2167

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Aerial Photography from 1991 in Sidwell produced plat books in Taylor County. Discussions on updates have occurred by are going nowhere at this time. There are no digital files in use, and no monumentation system is in place.

### Parcels:

Taylor County's 17,000 parcels are currently maintained in the Auditor and Assessor offices. Both draw splits into paper books by hand, the assessor assigns PINs and Ag values while the Auditor enters the information into the Computer. Vanguard and Solutions are the real estate and tax vendors. They use a 13 digit PIN that includes county number and tax district information.

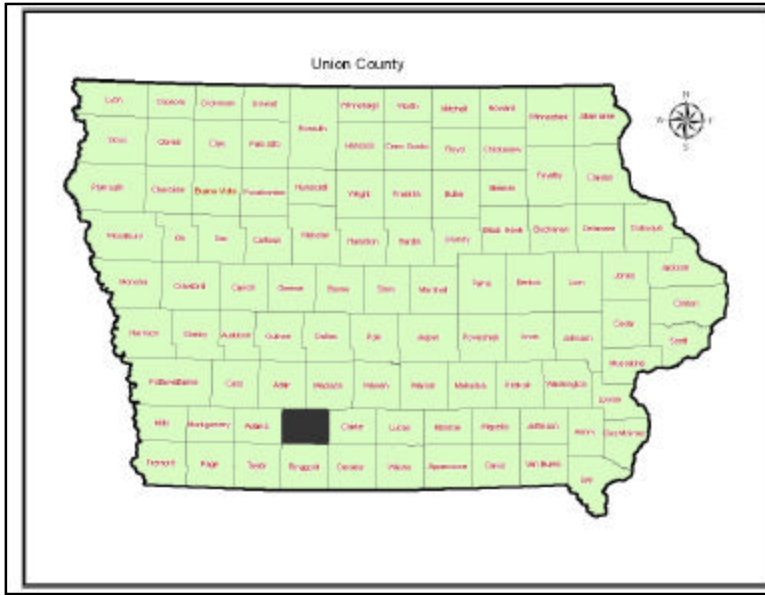
### Office Reports:

Auditor: Bonny Baker was very enthusiastic about GIS. They've attempted to work with Midland GIS a couple of times but funding has been shot down by the Board of Supervisors. She is very aware of the benefits and would love to have GIS. They recently had a school district dissolve and she felt GIS would have been very helpful in solving those issues. They had attempted a 5 year payment option with a vendor, but the board denied it and wanted approval of funding of the project, not the Assessor's office.

Assessor: Rosalyn Cummings was also very supportive of GIS. Funding appears to be the biggest obstacle because there is definite support from the offices.

Engineer: Eldon Rike is shared with Taylor County. They contract out their survey and design work. Mr Rike said that he wasn't familiar with GIS, indicated that he wasn't very interested in it, and referred me to Brian. I spoke with the Assistant engineer, Brian. They are aware of GIS. They are using *AutoCad* on some smaller projects. They aren't currently using GPS, but have had discussions about a road sign inventory, and mentioned that Iowa One Call prefers GPS location data.

**County Suggestions:** Funding is their biggest obstacle, because the enthusiasm is there.



## Union County Iowa

**County Num:** 88

**County Seat:** Creston

**Parcels:** 15,000

**Splits per Year:** 75

**GIS (Y/N)** N

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:**

Gene Haner

Assessor: Gene Haner 641-782-1735

Auditor: Sandy Hysell 641-782-1701

Engineer: Scott Nixon 641-782-7417

### **Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:**

Union County is utilizing paper forms of 1991 orthos, 1:400 rural and 1:100 urban. They have no planned flights at this time. They have some cornerstones but no monumentation grid.

### **Parcels:**

Union County's 15,000 parcels are maintained by hand in books in the Assessor's office. New splits are drawn in using a compass and scale ruler in Sidwell books. They use a PIN that includes a 5 digit district number and then block and pin. Ex 01010-000-001-00

### **Office Reports:**

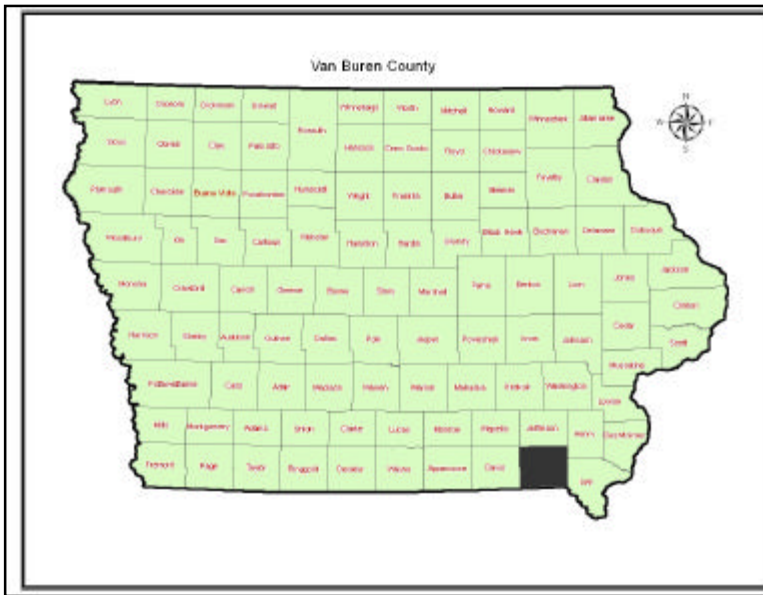
Assessor: Gene Haner is very interested in GIS and expressed that there was overall support for GIS in the county, but funding is a major hurdle. Gene indicated that no one is in charge of GIS at this time, but they are very interested and have a vendor they'd like to work with when funding permits. He expressed interest in a regional ortho project, but not likely GIS.

Engineer: Scott Nixon was unavailable, so I spoke with the assistant engineer. Union County does not currently do any *AutoCad* work, nor do they collect any elevation data or GPS. He said GIS has been discussed and they are in general favor of the project.

### **County Suggestions:**

Funding was the overall biggest obstacle to acquire GIS in Union County. Regional efforts in ortho-photography flights might be appealing as well.





## Van Buren County Iowa

**County Num:** 89

**County Seat:** Keosauqua

**Parcels:** 14,000

**Splits per Year:** 50

**GIS (Y/N)** Y

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2-2.5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

### Technical Contact:

Dixie Saunders

Assessor: Dixie Saunders

319-293-3001

Auditor: Jon Finney

Engineer: Ron Bonjour

319-293-3663

### Aerial Photography/ Monumentation:

Orthophotography was flown in 2000, with county wide 1:400 scale at what is believed to be 2' pixel resolution per our discussion. They hope for a re flight in 2010 but funding may not be available.

### Parcels:

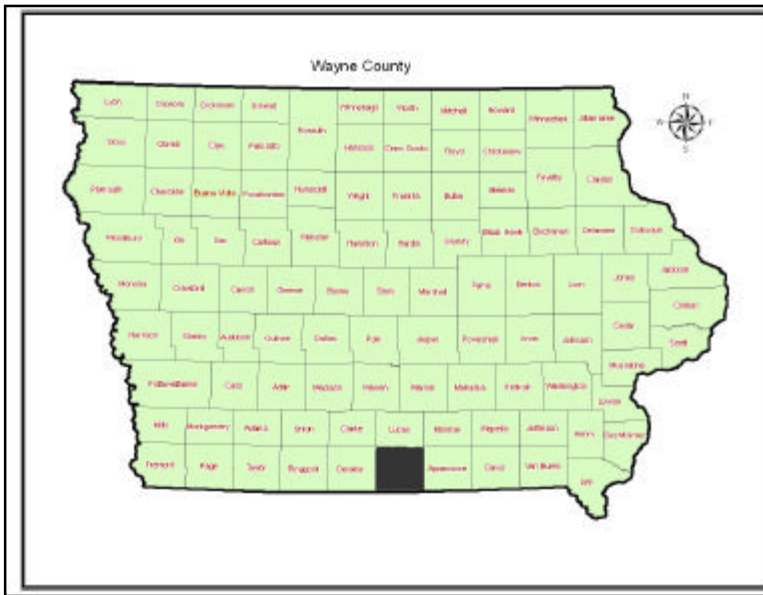
Van Buren County maintains 14,000 parcels in a GIS format with Sidwell tools and using their tool pallet. The PINs are derived from Sidwell's 12 digit parcel ID. ex. twp-range-sec-block-pin. I was unable to acquire any information about monumentation.

### Office Reports:

Assessor: Dixie Saunders reports that Van Buren County has a functioning GIS converted by Sidwell in 2000. They currently have a staff member who spends 25% of her time on GIS issues, but currently only does parcel maintenance they have a soils/ag assessment program but aren't utilizing it.

### County Suggestions:

Dixie suggested that small counties need a lot of help, including technical support and assistance, training opportunities and affordable GIS web hosting of their maps were deemed helpful options.



## Wayne County Iowa

**County Num:** 93

**County Seat:** Corydon

**Parcels:** 14,500

**Splits per Year:** 50

**GIS (Y/N)** N (in process)

**GIS Rating (1-5)** 2-2,5

Progressive in GIS 1=least-5=most

**Technical Contact:**

Tim Ehrich

Assessor: Kay Middlebrook

641-872-2663

Engineer: Tim Ehrich

641-872-2025

### Aerial Photography/Monumentation:

Ortho flights are planned in Wayne County for Spring 2008. They will be 1:200 county wide and 1:100 for urban areas, and will be provided in *MrSid* and .tif images. They placed 38 GPS monuments in the fall of 2007 with the assistance of Dan Corbin, Inc. These monuments are physically located and work is being completed. The monument network will be available for use with LiDAR and approval to put on the web.

### Parcels:

Wayne County maintains their 14,500 parcels in the Assessor's office and are hand drawn in books in both auditor and assessor offices. They use a form of the Sidwell PIN system that includes the book and page as well as a parcel location system. Ex 02-0-D-0101100001. No current GIS exists.

### Office Reports:

Assessor: Kay Middlebrook has a definite interest in GIS and is interested in working towards it once the Engineer acquires aerial photography. She suggested that funding is an issue and doesn't believe her conference board will approve funding for GIS until their loan for the NRCS Soil Survey is paid in full in 4 more years. She definitely wants it to happen, but sees funding and technical assistance as issues of concern. Kay doesn't feel that a loan is a viable option for her until the NRCS Soil Survey is paid but she is willing to listen to regional solutions.

Engineer: Tim Ehrich is forging ahead towards GIS by working on monumentation and updating orthophotography. He has a "keen interest" in acquiring GIS and sees much value in this data. He currently has a seat of *Arcview 9.2* installed on a PC in their office, but they aren't doing much yet, but would like some training. GIS has been in discussion at some level for 8 years in Wayne County, and he's trying to move ahead. He suggests that it is only a matter of time, and feels that acquiring aerials as a base layer will help knock down some existing barriers.

**County Suggestions:** Funding, Technical assistance and training were suggested