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Nebraska Mineral Operations Review, 1982

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NEBRASKA MINERAL OPERATIONS REVIEW, 1982

R. R. Burchett and D. A. Eversoll



May 1983

**Nebraska Geological Survey
Conservation and Survey Division
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln**



A total of 3,235 quarries, pits, and mines have been active at various times over approximately the last 80 years in Nebraska (table 1). Of this number, 364 were limestone quarries; 2,696 sand, gravel, and silt pits; 24 clay or shale pits; 88 sandstone pits; 11 quartzite pits; 29 volcanic ash pits; 14 coal mines; 1 chalk mine; 3 flint quarries; and 5 peat pits. These operations have disturbed about 38,313 acres, of which approximately 50 percent have been reclaimed.

During 1982, there were 36 limestone quarries; 584 sand, gravel, and silt or siltstone pits; 7 clay or shale pits; and 17 sandstone pits active in Nebraska (table 2). These 644 active mining operations disturbed 490 acres and restored 211 acres during the year. The locations of these quarries, pits, and mines are shown in figure 1.

The Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission reports that 2,024 wells produced 6,872,204 barrels of oil and 1.8 billion cubic feet of casinghead gas. Approximately 0.5 billion cubic feet of dry gas was produced from 23 wells and 10 gas wells were shut-in during 1982. Locations of the oil and gas fields are shown in figure 2. Of the 452 drilling permits issued by the commission during the year, 261 were for exploration and 191 for development. The largest number of exploration and development wells completed occurred in Hitchcock County, followed by Kimball, Red Willow, Cheyenne, Banner, and Dundy counties.

Current information collected by the Conservation and Survey Division (Nebraska Geological Survey), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Soil Conservation Service), and the Nebraska Department of Roads (Materials Division) has been compiled and placed on open file at the office of the Conservation and Survey Division, 113 Nebraska Hall, 901 North 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517.

TABLE 1 - CUMULATIVE SUMMARY OF NEBRASKA QUARRIES, PITTS, AND MINES
January 1, 1983

COUNTY	No. of Sites		Estim. Acres		Limestone of Acres		No. Sand, Gravel of Acres		No. Clay, Shale of Acres		No. Sandstone of Acres		No. Quartzite of Acres		Misc. Acres	
	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.
ADAMS	16	96	156	96	0	0	16	156	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANTELOPE	25	82	291	82	0	0	25	291	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BANNER	20	98	98	25	0	0	20	98	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLAINE	7	10	27	10	0	0	7	27	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOONE	8	90	90	90	0	0	8	90	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOX BUTTE	5	115	115	18	0	0	1	80	0	0	0	4	35	16	0	0
BOYD	17	53	53	11	0	0	17	53	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BROWN	39	278	278	150	0	0	38	276	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
BUFFALO	121	1886	1697	1697	0	0	121	1886	1697	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURT	17	47	32	32	0	0	15	41	32	1	4	1	2	0	0	0
BUTLER	23	651	334	334	0	0	23	651	334	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CASS	199	3036	670	313	154	2324	27	677	357	8	25	10	10	0	0	0
CEDAR	52	338	232	231	2	5	1	80	333	231	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHASE	31	173	65	57	0	0	26	154	57	0	0	5	19	8	0	0
CHERRY	17	40	37	9	0	0	13	37	9	0	0	1	7	0	0	2
CHEYENNE	50	551	292	292	0	0	50	551	292	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLAY	9	158	29	29	0	0	9	158	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CULFAX	27	525	412	412	0	0	27	525	412	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CUMING	15	578	338	338	0	0	15	578	338	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CUSTER	19	267	64	64	0	0	16	260	64	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
DAKOTA	21	300	174	174	0	8	14	296	172	0	0	1	2	2	0	0
DAWES	31	114	26	26	0	0	31	114	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAWSUN	104	1655	887	887	0	0	104	1655	887	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEUEL	34	266	113	113	0	0	34	268	113	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIXON	21	97	10	10	5	28	4	69	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DODGE	42	2063	1617	1617	0	0	42	2063	1617	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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January 1, 1983

COUNTY	No. of Sites	Estim. Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Limestone Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Sand, Gravel Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Clay, Shale Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Sandstone Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Quartzite Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Misc. Acres Mined
DUGLAS	33	1360	004	0	0	33	1360	004	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNDY	46	171	136	0	0	44	170	135	0	0	2	1	0	0
FILLMORE	8	153	74	0	0	8	153	74	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	31	363	92	0	0	27	296	92	0	0	0	67	0	0
FRONTIER	8	62	26	0	0	4	24	17	0	0	0	34	5	4
FURNAS	33	248	84	5	23	25	223	84	0	0	0	0	0	2
GAGE	76	744	289	15	128	55	600	258	1	2	2	1	0	12
GARDEN	40	81	29	0	0	40	81	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
GARFIELD	6	42	39	0	0	6	42	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
GOSPER	11	136	133	0	0	10	133	133	0	0	0	0	0	3
GREELEY	11	21	11	0	0	10	19	9	0	0	0	0	0	2
HALL	143	1916	860	0	0	143	1916	860	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAMILTON	30	268	155	0	0	30	268	155	0	0	0	0	0	0
HARLAN	12	168	125	0	0	10	142	99	0	0	0	0	0	26
HAYES	12	97	72	0	0	12	97	72	0	0	0	0	0	0
HITCHCOCK	30	206	109	0	0	29	204	107	0	0	1	2	2	0
HULT	86	668	189	0	0	84	659	185	0	0	2	9	4	0
HOCKER	9	60	48	0	0	9	60	48	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOWARD	18	180	93	0	0	18	180	93	0	0	0	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	45	382	143	11	57	29	295	124	4	29	19	0	0	1
JOHNSON	13	31	19	2	12	4	19	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEARNEY	16	264	196	0	0	16	264	196	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEITH	65	959	568	0	0	65	959	568	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEYA PAHA	68	172	76	0	0	40	100	50	0	0	26	72	26	0
KIMBALL	32	266	112	0	0	32	266	112	0	0	0	0	0	0
KNOX	38	560	240	0	0	38	560	240	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 1 - CUMULATIVE SUMMARY OF NEBRASKA QUARRIES, PITS, AND MINES
January 1, 1983

COUNTY	-No. of Sites		Estim. Acres		Limestone		Sand, Gravel		Clay, Shale		Sandstone		Quartzite		Misc.				
	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Sites	Acres			
LANCASTER	62	419	202	11	224	96	35	115	81	4	49	3	12	31	22	0	0	0	0
LINCOLN	131	1751	1066	0	0	0	121	1726	1066	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	25	0
LOGAN	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOUP	17	93	66	0	0	0	17	93	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MADISON	25	858	251	0	0	0	24	858	251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
MCPHERSON	2	15	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MERRICK	58	637	420	0	0	0	58	637	420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MORRILL	83	400	111	0	0	0	72	369	109	0	0	0	11	11	2	0	0	0	0
NANCE	13	194	76	0	0	0	13	194	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEMAHA	73	616	126	60	581	108	12	35	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
NUCKOLLS	28	227	43	2	8	0	25	218	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
OTCE	30	160	92	11	88	31	13	55	54	2	19	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
PAWNEE	33	160	122	14	105	83	14	44	39	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0
PERKINS	20	81	28	0	0	0	20	81	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHELPS	9	100	44	0	0	0	9	100	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PIERCE	14	340	83	0	0	0	14	340	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PLATTE	38	1301	749	0	0	0	38	1301	749	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLK	18	433	352	0	0	0	18	433	352	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RED WILLOW	40	629	427	1	2	2	35	623	421	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
RICHARDSON	58	441	193	26	235	68	27	203	125	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
ROCK	22	108	70	0	0	0	22	108	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALINE	31	276	61	3	14	0	28	262	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARPY	55	1311	885	18	294	62	31	1007	823	2	3	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0
SAUNDERS	72	1236	765	1	118	44	68	1113	721	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	3	0
SCOTTSSBLUFF	129	661	376	0	0	0	129	661	376	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEWARD	18	63	14	4	26	4	14	37	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.	
SHERIDAN	27	66	10	0	0	23	54	10	0	0	0	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SHERMAN	8	6	5	0	0	8	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SIoux	17	37	12	0	0	17	37	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
STANTON	12	299	189	0	0	12	299	189	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
THAYER	50	536	132	3	23	46	512	132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0		
THOMAS	20	251	146	0	0	20	251	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
THURSTON	21	41	14	2	7	18	34	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
VALLEY	15	178	89	0	0	13	175	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1		
WASHINGTON	0	145	55	3	137	49	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WAYNE	2	4	4	0	0	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WEBSTER	21	292	30	5	7	16	285	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WHEELER	2	12	12	0	0	2	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
YORK	31	480	256	0	0	31	480	256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTALS----	3235	36313	19558	364	4452	399	2696	33293	18502	24	141	29	88	224	86	11	105	9	52	98	33

*Acreage totals are approximate because of rounding.

TABLE 2 - SUMMARY OF ACTIVE NEBRASKA QUARRIES, PITS, AND MINES
January 1, 1983

COUNTY	No. of Sites		Estim. Acres Mined	No. of Sites		No. of Sites		No. of Sites		No. of Sites		No. of Sites		No. of Sites		No. of Sites	
	Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.	Mined	Recl.
ADAMS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANTELOPE	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BANNER	11	0	5	0	0	0	0	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLAINE	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOYD	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BROWN	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BUFFALO	14	27	10	0	0	0	0	14	27	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BURT	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BUTLER	5	85	28	0	0	0	0	5	85	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CASS	24	17	3	16	10	3	7	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CEDAR	9	1	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHASE	12	1	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CHERRY	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CHEYENNE	15	2	0	0	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLAY	3	5	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COLFAX	4	10	7	0	0	0	4	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CUMING	3	17	3	0	0	0	3	17	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CUSTER	4	8	4	0	0	0	4	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAKOTA	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAWES	12	4	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAWSUN	17	7	15	0	0	0	17	7	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEUEL	17	20	0	0	0	0	17	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIXON	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DODGE	6	22	3	0	0	0	6	22	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOUGLAS	9	12	0	0	0	0	9	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNDY	17	12	0	0	0	0	17	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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COUNTY	No. of Sites	Estim. Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Limestone Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Sand, Gravel Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Clay, Shale Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Sandstone Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Quartzite Acres Mined	No. of Sites	Misc. Acres Mined
FILLMORE	2	1	10	0	0	2	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	4	3	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRONTIER	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FURNAS	1	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAGE	17	9	8	2	8	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GARDEN	13	2	0	0	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GARFIELD	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GOSPER	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GREELEY	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HALL	7	6	0	0	0	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAMILTON	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HARLAN	3	8	0	0	0	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAYES	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HITCHCOCK	8	6	4	0	0	8	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOLT	26	4	0	0	0	26	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOWARD	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	7	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
JOHNSON	3	0	2	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEARNEY	3	15	0	0	0	3	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEITH	9	10	0	0	0	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KEYA PAHA	23	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
KIMBALL	16	1	0	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KNCX	14	8	21	0	0	14	8	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
LANCASTER	10	2	2	2	2	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
LINCOLN	15	20	3	0	0	15	26	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOUP	5	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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January 1, 1983

COUNTY	No. of Sites	Estim. Acres Mined	No. of Sites Mined	Limestone Acres Recl.	No. of Sites Mined	Sand, Gravel Acres Mined	No. of Sites Mined	Clay, Shale Acres Recl.	No. of Sites Mined	Sandstone Acres Recl.	No. of Sites Mined	Quartzite Acres Mined	No. of Sites Mined	Misc. Acres Mined
MADISON	8	10	0	0	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MERRICK	7	7	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MORRILL	53	10	0	0	47	10	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
NANCE	3	4	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEMAHA	2	4	12	4	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NUCKOLLS	6	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAWNEE	3	7	7	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERKINS	9	2	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHELPS	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PIERCE	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PLATTE	12	5	0	0	0	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLK	2	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RED WILLCOX	11	3	10	0	0	11	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
RICHARDSON	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROCK	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALINE	6	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARPY	6	9	2	3	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAUNDERS	9	12	25	1	0	8	12	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCOTTSSBLUFF	9	14	0	0	0	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEWARD	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHERIDAN	10	1	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHERMAN	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SIOUX	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STANTON	3	6	10	0	0	3	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
THAYER	8	9	0	0	0	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THOMAS	2	5	3	0	0	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 2 - SUMMARY OF ACTIVE NEBRASKA QUARRIES, PITS, AND MINES
January 1, 1983

COUNTY	No. of Sites		Estim. Acres Mined	No. of Sites		Limestone Acres Mined	No. of Sites		Sand, Gravel Acres Mined	No. of Sites		Clay, Shale Acres Mined	No. of Sites		Sandstone Acres Mined	No. of Sites		Quartzite Acres Mined	No. of Sites		Misc. Acres Mined	
	Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined	Recl.		Mined
THURSTON	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VALLEY	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WASHINGTON	2	3	3	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEBSTER	6	2	0	2	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YORK	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS----	644	490	211	36	37	38	584	451	171	7	2	2	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Acreage totals are approximate because of rounding.

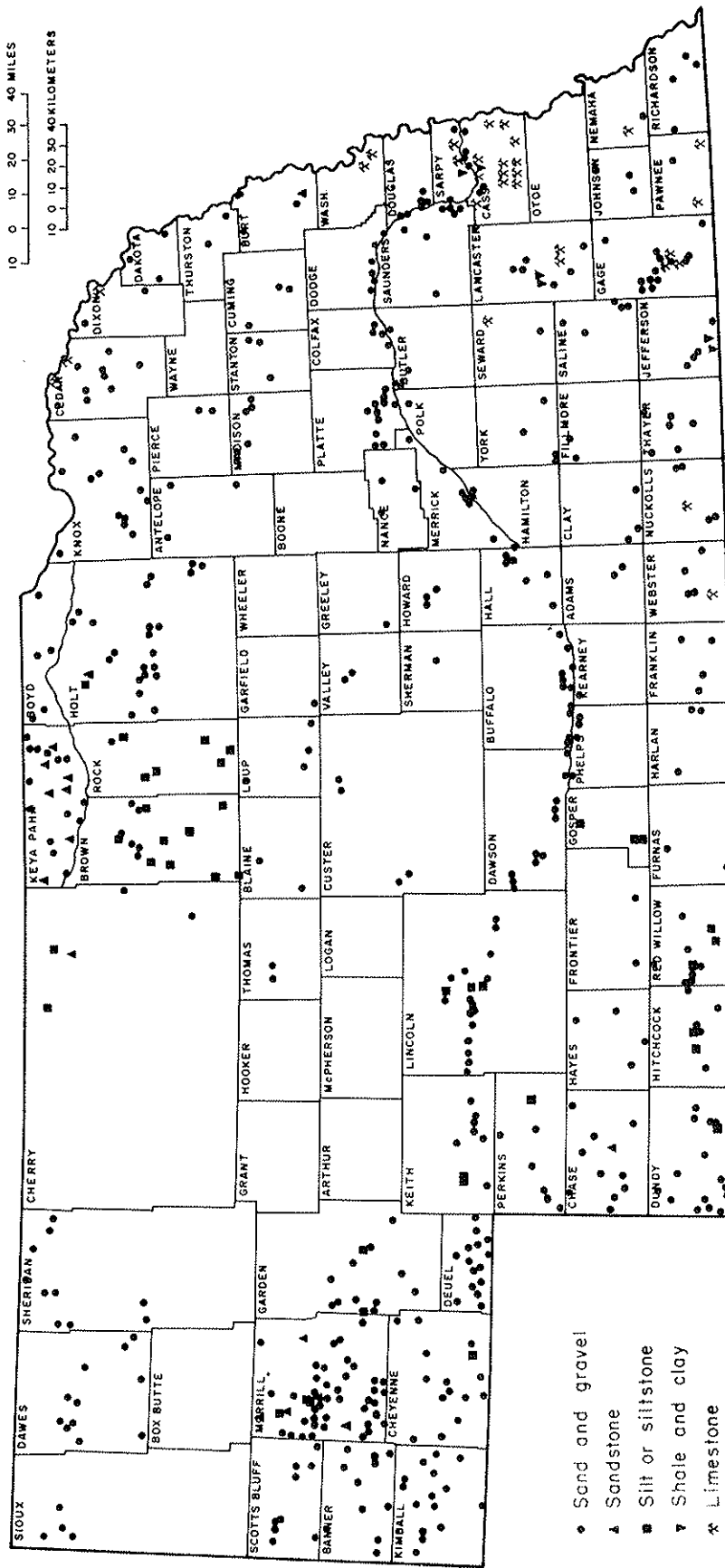


Fig. 1. Location of active quarries, pits, and mines in Nebraska, 1982

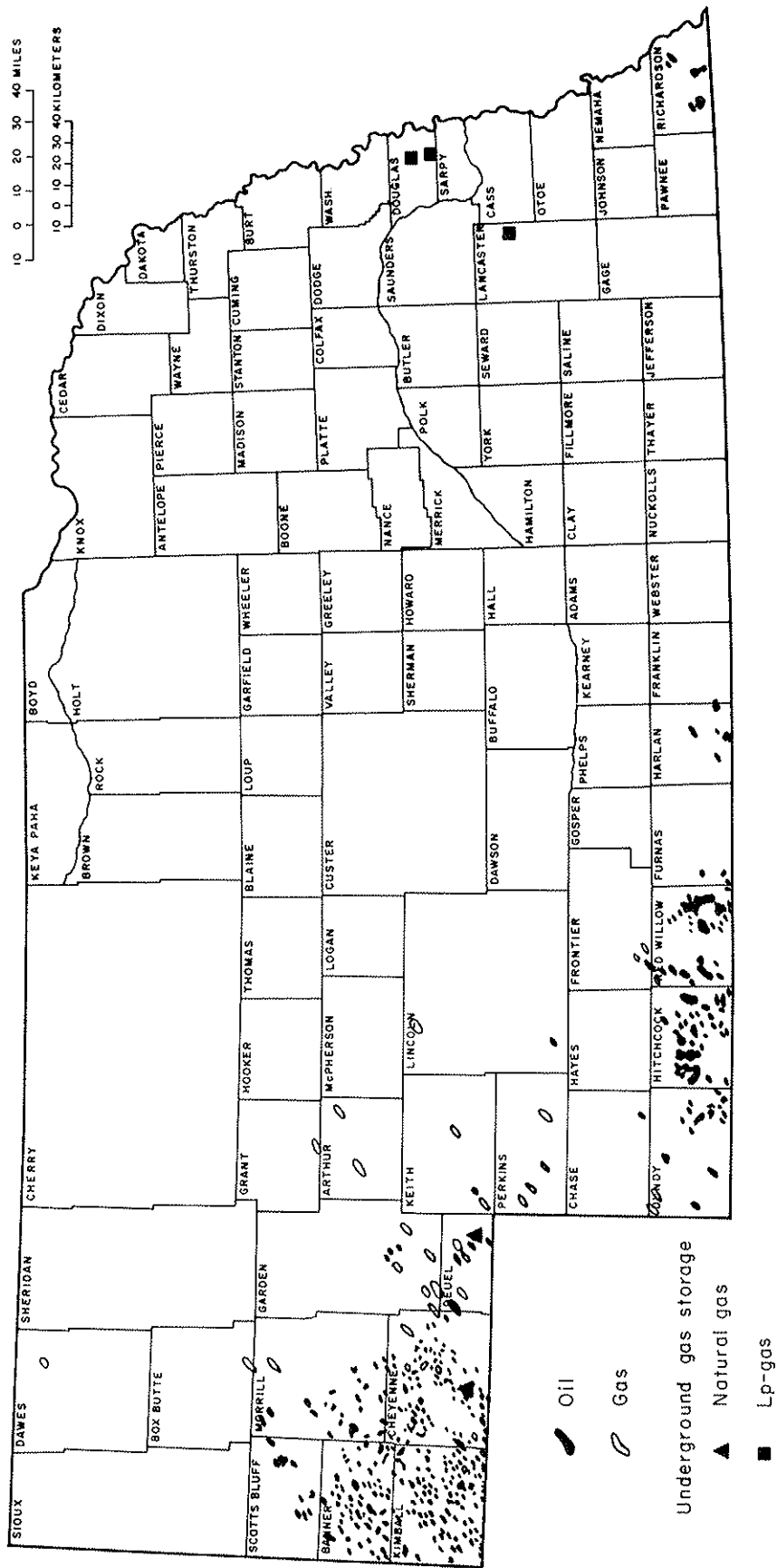


Fig. 2. Location of active oil and gas fields in Nebraska, 1982

Role of Minerals in State Economy

Few Nebraskans live a single day without using raw mineral products or materials manufactured from, processed by, fertilized with, or in some other way affected by minerals or mineral products. Unlike some natural resources, minerals are not renewable.

The value of mineral production in Nebraska during 1982 was \$288.1 million (figure 3). About 1,600 people are employed by the mining industry in Nebraska, the greater number working in the counties with the largest mineral production value. The 1982 mineral production of Nebraska, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, follows:

Table 3.--Preliminary data on mineral production^{1/} in Nebraska during 1982

	1982	
	Quantity	Value, thousand dollars
Clays.....thousand short tons..	132 ^P	434 ^P
Natural gas.....million cubic feet..	2,280	4,514
Petroleum.....thousand 42-gallon barrels..	6,872	210,496
Sand and gravel.....thousand short tons..	10,120 ^P	23,020 ^P
Stone, crushed.....do.....	3,050 ^P	14,200 ^P
Combined value of cement (masonry and portland), gemstones, and lime.....	XX	35,425 ^P
Total.....	XX	288,089

^PPreliminary. XX Not applicable.

¹Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

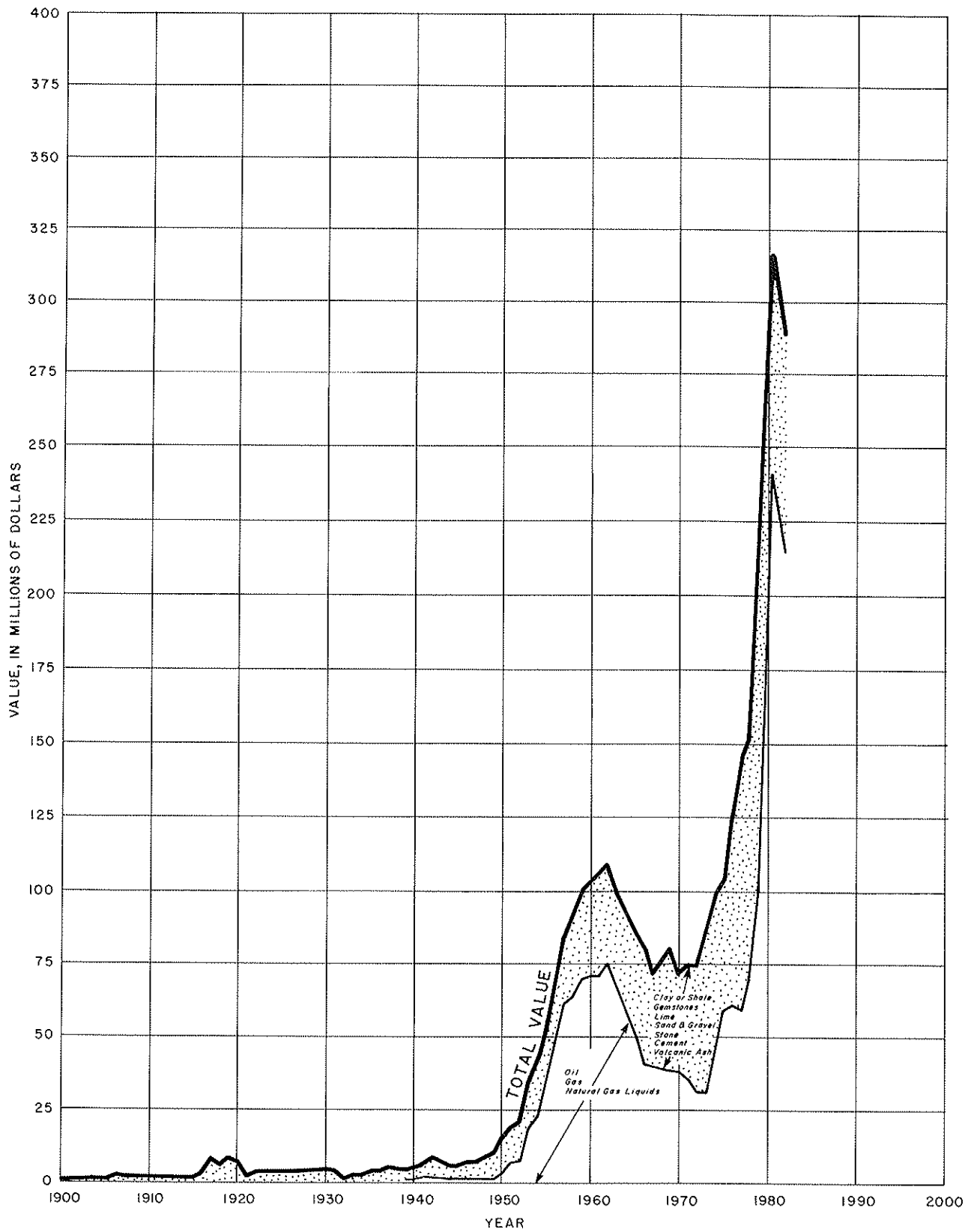


Fig. 3. Value of mineral production in Nebraska

Mineral Resource Industries

Industrial plants manufacturing products from mineral resources are scattered throughout Nebraska. These plants, whose locations are shown in figure 4, are discussed below:

Agricultural Lime Plants. Three firms produce agricultural lime exclusively. They are located near Garland in Seward County, near Nelson in Nuckolls County, and one near Ponca in Dixon County. Most crushed limestone plants, largely in southeast Nebraska, produce some agricultural lime.

Brick Plants. Three firms produce brick in Nebraska: Endicott Clay Products Company near Endicott in Jefferson County; Yankee Hill Brick Manufacturing Company near Lincoln in Lancaster County; and Omaha Brick Works near Ralston in Douglas County. Common and face brick are the main products of these plants.

Cement Plants. Cement is produced by Ash Grove Cement Company near Louisville in Cass County and Ideal Cement Company near Superior in Nuckolls County. Limestone, shale, and gypsum are the chief raw materials used in cement manufacture.

Concrete Products Plants. Many plants across the state produce concrete products such as block, brick, precast and prestressed slabs and construction beams, tile, pipe, vaults, septic tanks, steps, feed bunks, and bunker silos.

Crushed Limestone Plants. There are approximately 15 limestone plants in the eastern third of Nebraska. Principal producers are Fort Calhoun Stone Company, Kerford Limestone Company, and Martin Marietta Aggregates. Cass and Washington counties are the leaders in production. Crushed limestone is used for aggregate in concrete, cement manufacture, road base, riprap, agricultural lime, wallstone, and mineral fillers.

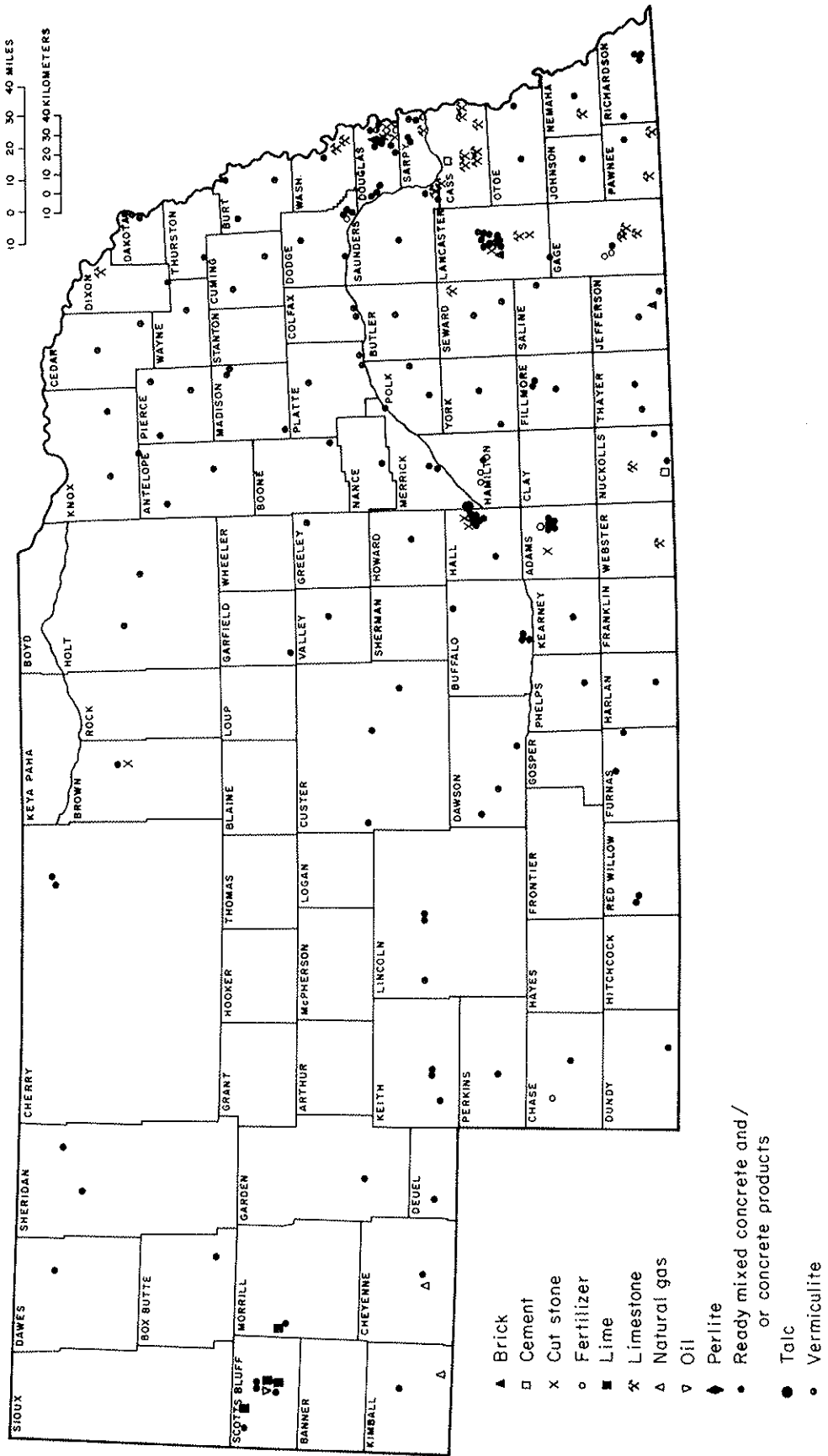


Fig. 4. Location of mineral-resource processing plants in Nebraska, 1982

Cut-Stone Plants. Stone imported from other states is cut by Nebraska firms. Two of these firms are near Grand Island in Hall County, two near Lincoln in Lancaster County, one is near Juniata in Adams County, one near Ainsworth in Brown County, and seven are near Omaha in Douglas County.

Fertilizer Plants. Some of the larger producers of ammonia, urea, and ammonium nitrate include Allied Chemical Company at La Platte in Sarpy County; CF Industries, Inc., at Fremont in Dodge County; and Phillips Chemical Company at Beatrice in Gage County. The Farmland Industries, Inc., plant at Hastings in Adams County produces ammonia. Ammonium nitrate is produced by Cominco-American, Inc., in Beatrice.

Gem and Ornamental Stone Plants. Many small firms around Nebraska cut and polish gems and ornamental stones such as agate, quartz, jasper, chalcedony, chert, and petrified wood.

Glass Plants. Several firms around the state manufacture items from glass produced in other states.

Ground Limestone Plants. Three firms in Nebraska produce finely ground limestone (calcium carbonate) for feed supplements and fillers for cement, paint, and rubber. Kerford Limestone Company and American Cyanamid Company are west of Weeping Water in Cass County, and the United Mineral Products Company is southeast of Weeping Water.

Lime Plants. Great Western Sugar Company produces lime from limestone imported from their quarry in Wyoming. Limekilns are located at Scottsbluff, Gering, and Mitchell in Scotts Bluff County, and at Bayard in Morrill County. The lime is used mainly for sugar refining.

Natural Gas Processing Plants. Two natural gas processing plants are located in Nebraska. One, south of Kimball in Kimball County, is operated by Cities Service Oil Company. The other, west of Sidney in Cheyenne County, is

operated by Marathon Oil Company. Production from these two plants includes natural gasoline, cycle products, liquid petroleum gases, and ethane.

Oil refineries. Only one refinery remains in Nebraska. It is near Scottsbluff in Scotts Bluff County and is operated by CRA, Inc. Production includes natural gasoline and cycle products.

Perlite Plants. The Zonolite Division of W. R. Grace & Company is the sole manufacturer of expanded perlite in Nebraska. Its plant near Omaha in Douglas County imports crude perlite from other states, expands it, and sells it as filler material, as aggregate for plaster and concrete, and as a horticultural product.

Ready-Mix Concrete Plants. Ready-mix concrete plants located throughout the state produce wet concrete for construction purposes. Some of these plants also manufacture cured concrete products.

Sand and Gravel Plants. All but eight of Nebraska's counties produce sand and gravel. Among the largest producers are Central Sand and Gravel Company in Butler, Madison, Pierce, and Platte counties; Hartford Sand and Gravel Company in Douglas and Dodge counties; Lyman-Richey Sand and Gravel Corporation in Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Morrill, Platte, Sarpy, and Saunders counties; and Western Sand and Gravel Company in Cass, Dodge, and Saunders counties.

Talc Plants. Cyprus Mines Corporation, United Sierra Division's plant near Grand Island in Hall County, is the only producer of ground talc in Nebraska. The unground talc is obtained from outside the state. The product is used in paper, ceramics, rubber, paint, insecticides, textiles, and toilet articles.

Underground Gas Storage Terminals. There are five underground gas storage areas in Nebraska. Two are natural gas storage areas operated by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Co., Inc. and are located in Cheyenne and Deuel counties of western Nebraska. The remaining three are liquid propane gas storage areas, two of which are located in Douglas County near Omaha, and one in Lancaster County near Lincoln. The Douglas County storage units are operated by Metropolitan Utilities District. The storage unit near Lincoln is operated by Mid-America Pipeline Company.

Vermiculite Plants. The only producer of exfoliated vermiculite is the W.R. Grace & Company, Construction Products Division, near Omaha in Douglas County. Montana is the source of crude vermiculite. The expanded product is used principally for insulation, concrete aggregate, and fireproofing.