



# Custer

A part of the original Cheyenne-Arapaho Reservation established by treaty in 1867, Custer County was named for General George A. Custer and was part of 3.5 million acres opened for settlement by the Land Run of April 19, 1892. Arapaho is the county seat.

Both Clinton and Weatherford (fifteen miles east of Clinton) were established largely as a result of the westward expansion of the railroads. The Rock Island Railroad completed its east-west line to present-day Clinton, then called Washita Junction, in 1903. A special act of Congress allowed four Indians to sell half of each of their 160-acre allotments to create the Clinton townsite.

The territorial government established a two-year college for training teachers at Weatherford. This college has become a four-year university offering some graduate degrees and a pharmacy school.

The economy of Custer County is allied with oil and gas prices as the area lies atop the rich Anadarko Basin. Foss State Park and a wildlife refuge near Butler as well as a large Imatation facility near Weatherford and Freightliner and Doane’s PetCare facilities in Clinton also contribute to the economy of the county.

For additional county information, call the county clerk’s office at 580/323-1221.

## Districts

Cong. ....	3
St. Sen. ....	38
St. Rep. ....	57
D.A. ....	2
Ct. of Appeals .....	6
Ct. of Crim. Appeals...	5
Supreme Ct. Jud. ....	4
N.W. Jud. Adm. ....	2

## County Officials

Court Clerk	Connie S. Burden (D)	Clinton
Clerk	Karen Fry (D)	Clinton
Sheriff	Mike Burgess (D)	Clinton
Treasurer	Karen Klein Clanton (D)	Clinton
Assessor	Debbie Collins (D)	Butler
Electn Brd. Sec.	Narci K. Smith (D)	Butler
Dist. 1 Comm.	J.M. Kelley (D)	Clinton
Dist. 2 Comm.	Raymond Ford (D)	Weatherford
Dist. 3 Comm.	Darrell Dupree (D)	Butler

## Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$76,072,253	\$78,107,974	\$2,035,721
Personal Subject to Tax	\$40,126,645	\$38,010,576	(\$2,116,069)
Total Locally Assessed	\$116,198,898	\$116,118,550	(\$80,348)
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$5,372,401	\$5,387,713	(\$15,312)
Net Assessed Locally	\$110,826,497	\$110,730,837	(\$95,660)
Public Service Assessment	\$25,113,303	\$25,607,443	\$494,140
Net Assessed Valuation	\$135,939,800	\$136,338,280	(\$398,480)

**County Seat**—Arapaho (Pop. 713) 2003 Estimate

**Area (Land & Water)**—1,002 square miles

**Per Capita Income (2003)**—\$22,534 (Ranks 35th of 77 counties)

**Population Stats (2000)**—Fem.—13,414, Male—12,728 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—20,743; Bl.—739; Am. Ind.—1,431; As.—221; Other—11; Pacific Is.—10; Two or more races—626; Hisp.—2,361

**Births (2003)**—372 • **Deaths (2003)**—262

**Unemployment Rate (2003)**—3.3%

**Labor Force (2003)**—11,890

**Number of Establishments (2002)**—827

**Number of Manufacturers (2002)**—30

**Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)**—\$514,489  
TANF—\$229,811 • Supplements—Aged—\$52,523;  
Blind—\$1,235; Disabled—\$230,920

**Vehicle Registration (2004)**—Automobiles—19,202;  
Farm Trucks—2,771; Comm. Trucks, Tractors,  
Trailers—1,465; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—740;  
Motorcycles—675; Manufactured Homes—35; Tax  
Exempt Licenses—84; Boats—2,142

**Institutions of Higher Learning**—Southwestern  
Oklahoma State University, Weatherford

**Crime Incidents (2003)**—Murder—1; Rape—8; Robbery—  
7; Fel. Assault—58; Breaking and Entering—161; Larceny—453; Motor Vehicle Theft—27; Arson—5 • Total  
Crime Index—715; Crime Rate per 1,000—28.24

**Farms (2002)**—802 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—544,615

**County Population**

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	18,478
1910	23,231
1920	18,736
1930	27,517
1940	23,068
1950	21,097
1960	21,040
1970	22,665
1980	25,995
1990	26,897
2000	26,142
2004 Estimate	25,230

**Recreation Area**—Foss State Park  
**Major Stream Systems**—Washita  
and Canadian rivers

**Museums and Historic Sites**—  
Western Trails Museum, and

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton

**Minerals**—oil and gas; clays

