



# Nowata

Stories abound as to the origin of the name Nowata. One opinion is that two railroad surveyors took the suggestion of Roberta Campbell Lawson, an educated Delaware Indian woman, “Noweta” meaning “welcome.” Others say a Georgian exploring the area found no water at some springs and posted a sign “No Wata” to warn other travelers. Created at statehood, Nowata County took its name from the county seat of Nowata.

In 1904, when oil and gas were discovered, Nowata County became known as the world’s largest shallow oil field, and some are still producing. Today, the county is principally ranching.

The Nowata County Courthouse is a historic site and the Verdigris River and Oologah Lake Double Creek Cove provide recreational and fishing opportunities.

*A Look at the History of Nowata* by Robert W. DeMoss offers more about the area. Annual events include Wild Turkey Festival in May, Nowata Annual Championship Rodeo (ACRA and CRRSA sanctioned) in July, the City-Wide Garage Sale in September and Christmas Open House in December at the Glass Mansion, a home designed and built by John Duncan Forsythe.

For additional information, call the county clerk’s office at 918/273-2480 or the Nowata Area Chamber of Commerce at 918/273-2301.

## Districts

## County Officials

Cong. .... 2	Court Clerk	Beverly McKee (D)	Nowata
St. Sen. .... 29	Clerk	Teresa Jackson (D)	Nowata
St. Rep. .... 10	Sheriff	James Hallett (D)	Nowata
D.A. .... 11	Treasurer	Bonnie Workman (D)	Nowata
Ct. of Appeals ..... 2	Assessor	Sandra Stanley (D)	Nowata
Ct. of Crim. Appeals... 2	Elect. Brd. Sec.	Barbara Dawson (R)	Nowata
Supreme Ct. Jud. .... 1	Dist. 1 Comm.	Charles Parker (D)	Alluwe
N.E. Jud. Adm. .... 11	Dist. 2 Comm.	Dale Duke Epperson (D)	Nowata
	Dist. 3 Comm.	vacant	

## Property Valuations

	2003–2004 Assessment	2004–2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$26,942,591	\$27,775,769	\$833,178
Personal Subject to Tax	\$7,715,898	\$8,309,781	\$593,883
Total Locally Assessed	\$34,658,489	\$36,085,550	\$1,427,061
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$3,064,760	\$3,026,746	(\$38,014)
Net Assessed Locally	\$31,593,729	\$33,058,804	\$1,465,075
Public Service Assessment	\$8,359,015	\$8,357,659	(\$1,356)
Net Assessed Valuation	\$39,952,744	\$41,416,463	\$1,463,719

**County Seat**—Nowata (Pop. 4,035) 2003 Estimate

**Area (Land & Water)**—580.87 square miles

**Per Capita Income (2003)**—\$18,158 (Ranks 74th of 77 counties)

**Population Stats (2000)**—Fem.—5,372, Male—5,197 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—7,596; Bl.—260; Am. Ind.—1,728; As.—13; Other—6; Pacific Is.—0; Two or more races—836; Hisp.—130

**Births (2003)**—125 • **Deaths (2003)**—116

**Unemployment Rate (2003)**—7.6%

**Labor Force (2003)**—3,490

**Number of Establishments (2002)**—166

**Number of Manufacturers (2002)**—10

**Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)**—\$180,962  
TANF—\$56,890 • Supplements—Aged—\$29,222; Blind—\$0; Disabled—\$94,760

**Vehicle Registration (2004)**—Automobiles—7,211; Farm Trucks—1,063; Comm. Trucks, Tractors, Trailers—398; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—333; Motorcycles—189; Manufactured Homes—19; Tax Exempt Licenses—97; Boats—1,136

**Crime Incidents (2003)**—Murder—0; Rape—6; Robbery—2; Fel. Assault—20; Breaking and Entering—68; Larceny—132; Motor Vehicle Theft—13; Arson—6 • Total Crime Index—241; Crime Rate per 1,000—22.31

**Farms (2002)**—887 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—311,198

**County Population**

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	10,453
1910	14,223
1920	15,899
1930	13,611
1940	15,774
1950	12,734
1960	10,848
1970	9,773
1980	11,486
1990	9,992
2000	10,569
2004 Estimate	10,717

**Major Stream Systems**—Verdigris River and Big, Lightning, Salt and Snow creeks

**Museums and Historic Sites**—Nowata County Historical Museum, Post Office, Glass House, Savoy Hotel, Nowata Lodge, Presbyterian Church

**Minerals**—oil and gas, coal

