

Being counted counts

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Census begins in Dawson County March 1.

When a U.S. Census Bureau employee taps on your door and hands you a short questionnaire, take the five or so minutes necessary to fill it out and then stick it in the mail.

For every person who does not allow themselves to be counted, the state stands to lose \$1,114 in federal money.

“It’s our power and our money,” said Vic Gentry, manager for the Census office in North Platte. “There’s a lot at stake if people don’t respond.”

The North Platte Census office is one of three in the state responsible for delivering the questionnaires and collecting the data. The other two offices are in Lincoln and Omaha.

Gentry said his office covers the 52 most western counties of the state, from Grand Island to the Wyoming border.

“It’s between 55,00 and 60,000 square miles,” he said. “That’s a lot of ground to cover.”

And in the majority of those counties, Census questionnaires will be hand delivered to each household by the 1,000 or so employees beginning March 1.

