

Alfalfa

This county is named for William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, president of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention and ninth Governor of Oklahoma. Cherokee was chosen as the county seat by an election in 1909.

While the principal agricultural products are wheat and grain sorghums, cattle raising, alfalfa hay, manufacturing, and oil production also contribute to the economy of the area. Churches, Lions Club, Future Farmers of America, Farm Bureau, and other groups represent an active segment of the community.

Places of interest include the Cherokee Salt Plains and the Great Salt Plains Lake and recreation area, located on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River. Other points of interest include the Byron State Fish Hatchery, and the artesian water well. Places of historic interest include: the Union Valley Church, Locust Grove School, and an original sod house, all more than one hundred years old.

Cherokee hosts the Selenite Crystal and Birding Festival in May each year. It is also home to the Alfalfa County Historical Society Museum. Cherokee celebrated its centennial in 2001. The Cherokee Chamber of Commerce also serves as a tourist center. For more information, call the county clerk's office at 580/596-3158.

Districts County Officials

Cong 3	Court Clerk	Lori Irwin (R)	Aline
St. Sen 20	Clerk	Bruce Martin (R)	Aline
St. Rep58	Sheriff	Charles Tucker (R)	Cherokee
D.A26	Treasurer	Carolyn Stands (R)	Cherokee
Ct. of Appeals 6	Assessor	Sonya Booher (R)	Burlington
Ct. of Crim. Appeals 5	Election Brd. Sec.	Joyce Thornburgh (D)	Helena
Supreme Ct. Jud 4	Dist. 1 Comm.	Richard Polson (R)	Amorita
E. Cent. Jud. Adm 4	Dist. 2 Comm.	A. J. Rexroat (D)	Aline
(Div. I)	Dist. 3 Comm.	Roger Nichols (R)	Helena

Property Valuations	Assessment	Assessment	or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$30,473,341	\$29,883,003	(\$590,338)
Personal Subject to Tax	\$12,086,668	\$9,286,175	(\$2,800,493)
Total Locally Assessed	\$42,560,009	\$39,169,178	(\$3,390,831)
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$1,484,007	\$1,432,930	(\$51,077)
Net Assessed Locally	\$41,076,002	\$37,736,248	(\$3,339,754)
Public Service Assessment	\$6,586,431	\$6,575,488	(\$10,943)
Net Assessed Valuation	\$47,662,433	\$44,311,736	(\$3,350,697)

2002 2004

County Seat—Cherokee (Pop. 1,559) 2003 Estimate Area (Land & Water)—881.44 square miles

Per Capita Income (2003)—\$24,166 (Ranks 21st of 77 counties)

Population Stats (2000)—Fem.-2,643, Male-3,462 • Ethnicity— Wh.-5,394; Bl.-250; Am. Ind.-157; As.-7 Other-4; Pacific Is.-3; Two or more races-113; Hisp.-177

Births (2003)—48 • Deaths (2003)—88

Unemployment Rate (2003)—2.3%

Labor Force (2003)-2,460

Number of Establishments (2002)—143

Number of Manufacturers (2002)-4

Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)-\$29,994 TANF—\$6,310 • Supplements—Aged-\$5,501; Blind-0; Disabled-\$18.183

Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles-3,327; Farm Trucks-1.485: Comm. Trucks, Tractors. Trailers-202; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers-147; Motorcycles-92; Manufactured Homes-1; Tax Exempt Licenses-9; Boats-242

Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder-0; Rape-0; Robbery-0; Fel. Assault-10; Breaking and Entering-12; Larceny-31; Motor Vehicle Theft-2; Arson-0 • Total Crime Index-55; Crime Rate per 1,000-9.28

Farms (2002)—666 • Land in Farms (2002)—461,288

County Population		
1907 (Okla. Terr.) 16,070		
191018,138		
192016,253		
1930 15,228		
194014,129		
1950 10,699		
1960 8,445		
19707,224		
19807,077		
1990 6,416		
20006,105		
2004 Estimate 5,810		

Recreation Area—Great Salt Plains

Major Lake—Great Salt Plains

Major Stream Systems—Salt Fork of Arkansas, Turkey Creek, Eagle Chief Creek

Museums and Historic Sites—Sod House Museum, Aline; Alfalfa County Museum, Cherokee

Minerals—oil and gas

