

prices. Natural gas is readily available at very competitive prices, thanks to Ohio's state-wide deregulation of the clean-burning fuel.

Water supplies are abundant in the county's larger communities, too. Caldwell's water system, for example, has plenty of capacity to grow, as does the city's sewer system.

A 'Get-It-Done' Attitude

Despite its advantages, Noble County obviously isn't one of the first names on people's minds when they're looking to build or expand a business. That's why the county takes a "Get-It-Done" approach when opportunity presents itself.

Some years ago, for example, civic leaders realized that the county needed an airport. The result: Noble County Airpark, built with local money — and with volunteer local labor that built a 3,800-foot runway by bulldozing the tops off of two hills and filling in a valley between them.

That project won Noble County the nickname, "The County That Moves Mountains." Local political and industrial leaders proudly tell visitors that that attitude still pervades the community today.

In the early 1990s, for example, the county's willingness to "get it done" paved the way for a major state government facility to locate there. To demonstrate the county's commitment, two local banks put together a no-interest loan for the Chamber of Commerce, which used the funds to purchase the needed land for the project. The county then gave the land to the State of Ohio.

And while the county isn't promising free land for new development, it can offer a strong total economic package, including low land costs, low tax rates, and other benefits.



International Converter, Inc. has called Noble County home since 1989.

The Right Fit

Industrial development isn't new in Noble County. The area's first industrial park, initially developed in the Caldwell area during the 1950s, has brought a number of employers to the community — employers that have grown and prospered. The last of the park's available sites was recently filled, as one manufacturer with a plant in Caldwell decided to expand and bring its corporate headquarters to the community.

Today, the county is aggressively developing a new industrial park, close to Caldwell and its excellent transportation access.

Another potential for development is in the agricultural and food processing area, thanks to opportunities presented by The Ohio State University agricultural research center in the county.

What About People?

In recent years, Noble County has seen some traditional rural industries, including mining and timber, cut back on employment. This, in turn, has increased unemployment levels.

It also means that Noble County's available work force really has experience working!

There's a sizeable pool of commuters to draw upon; half the work force leaves Noble County communities each morning for jobs in nearby communities. Give them a hometown job opportunity and many will jump at it.

For entry level positions, the county's high school prepares young people for work through one of the state's vocational education programs. And nearby Guernsey County, in cooperation with business in Noble County and throughout the region, has led the establishment of a workforce development center, which will provide additional skills needed by employees.

The area's colleges and universities — ranging from two-year community colleges and branches of larger schools, to full, four-year schools — are also a valuable training and education asset.

Hills, Streams, and Lakes

Make no mistake about it: Noble County is, and will remain, a rural county in Southeast Ohio. People live there because they love the relaxed lifestyle, the scenic surroundings, and the recreational opportunities.



Caldwell's DANA-Glacier Vandervell operates the only A2LA certified laboratory east of the Mississippi.

A Winning Combination

Noble County and its communities have a lot to offer to employers and employees, but those natural advantages are magnified by two important pluses: Ohio and Appalachia. Because the State of Ohio, already a leader in economic development, has developed a special set of incentives available to employers locating or expanding in the state's river crescent.

Ohio's incentives are internationally recognized for their effectiveness. In fact, during the 1990s, more U.S. companies—over 6,000—selected Ohio for investments in new facilities and expansions than any other state. More global companies have made Ohio their second home than any other state, too. Over 1,200 non-U.S.-owned companies have decided to invest in Ohio.

The state's incentive philosophy is built on several cornerstones:

- *Provide meaningful incentives that help companies grow — incentives such as tax credits that reward investment and job creation, training assistance, and other programs.*
- *Offer those programs to new and existing employers, to help companies that already operate in the state build their future in Ohio.*

The success of those development policies is obvious: 44 other states have adopted economic development programs that mirror Ohio's! Capitalizing on their benefits is one of the cornerstones of the Governor's Opportunity Agenda.

But employers choosing Noble County for projects enjoy additional benefits, thanks to the state's commitment to encourage development in its Appalachian region.

For example, the Governor's Office of Appalachia funds economic development, training, travel and tourism, and other initiatives.

To learn more about the State of Ohio's economic development efforts, contact the Ohio Department of Development at 1-800-345-OHIO.