

Spink County Quality of Life and why it is one of the nicest places to raise a family.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Rick and I have been a resident of Spink County for eight years. I moved here from the megalopolis of the eastern seaboard and have never, even for a minute thought I made a mistake.

First, let me thank you for interest in Spink County South Dakota. I have lived here for eight years now and I can tell you that it is a wonderful place to be.

Unlike many of our residents, I am not from here. I am a transplant. As a person who has not been raised here, I can easily see the benefits of living here. I found this county just like many of you are doing right now, looking on the internet. I am a retired Navy man who was raised in New Jersey and has lived in many parts of the country. Like most Navy folks, I also did my share of traveling. When I decided to retire, I wanted a place that was safe and affordable. Detroit is affordable but far from safe. A gated community in Malibu is certainly safe, but not anything I could afford.

My wife and I planned to buy a large RV and tour the country while maintaining a homestead somewhere. Why did we Choose Spink County? Simply put... money - *the cost of living vs. the quality of life*.. Housing is more easily affordable here than in most other parts of the country. I can keep a household here for a small fraction of what it would cost on either coast while I also feel comfortable enough to leave it alone and for weeks at a time. I have the best security, good neighbors. So I moved here and established my anchor home. But we never bought the big RV. More on that later.

We moved here to Spink County for financial reasons. We stayed here for other reasons. It is those reasons I would like to talk about.

There is a phrase called “quality of life” that is bantered about in sales brochures for golf resort communities and Chamber of Commerce pamphlets. What does it mean? How is it good for me? My family? It’s a hard thing to define.

I want to talk to you, one on one, about that “quality of life” we have here in Spink County, South Dakota. There is a sense of community here, we have many small towns with many small schools and churches. Neighbors look after neighbors. Kids play outside day or evening without fear of harm. Many folks do not lock their cars when in town shopping or dining. It is a place of honest people doing honest work and raising families with true wholesome values. Locks are rarely used yet there has not been a jury trial in our country for over eight years.

Spink County has 10 small towns from populations ranging from 50 to 2,300. Sounds too small to you? Think about your children attending public school with class sizes under ten students. Think about the quality of the education.

With the information age upon us, more and more people are realizing they can work from home. All the tools are readily available without going to an office. There are consultants, sales persons, account representatives, customer service agents, accountants, medical transcriptionists and many other professional people who rarely if ever go into a building to work. They are products of today’s technology and they use information technology to earn a living. There are web page designers, writers, CEO’s CFO’s, IT Specialists and even importers and internet sellers who work from home. When these people who are working from home realize that they can work from home ANYWHERE, they start looking for nicer places to live. Places with a good quality of life and a low cost of living.

A place with a real sense of America with Real American values. A place with good schools and high quality teachers not bogged down by reams of red tape and regulation. Folks look for a home where it is safe to let their kids play outside, even after dark. That's where rural America and Spink county is becoming the answer for many of these independent people. We have small town living with big town amenities. Even a tiny town with a population of under 200 has high speed internet. That town also has a school with fewer than two hundred students.

Young families are seeing the advantage of rural inexpensive small town living while maintaining their big town salary. These folks are moving into areas where the homes are affordable and the streets are safe. Spink county is one of those areas.

Now, remember me telling you that the plan was to buy the big RV and tour the country? Well.... That didn't happen. We got here and we loved it so much that we didn't want to leave! We never bought the big RV and we never did travel the country.

We are living here on a small fraction of what it costs to live in New Jersey. We don't need to lock our cars when we go to town. The neighbors are some of the finest people you can meet. We found a church we like and a community that truly welcomes us.

I can't say enough about living here. It has to have been one of the best decisions of my life. I can honestly say that in the eight years I have lived here I have never regretted my decision and I mean NEVER – not for one minute.

Well.... That's it in just over 1000 words.

Spink County, South Dakota in a nutshell:

No State Income Tax

No Corporate Income Tax.

No Personal Property Tax

4% Sales Tax (another 2% added in some towns)

3% Use Tax (no sales tax) on automobiles (one time)

HIGH Quality of life.

And Most important - The warmest most honest and friendliest people on earth.

South Dakota? Why retire in South Dakota?

Because I CAN