

*Western Iowa Advantage is a collaborative group of economic development officials in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Ida, and Sac Counties.*

## Inaugural WIAD Housing Summit to be held in Carroll

Current trends, resources, and case studies of successful rural housing projects will be the focus of a one-day Housing Summit sponsored by Western Iowa Advantage on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 in Carroll.

Bill Menner, Executive Director of the Iowa Rural Development Council and former State Director of USDA Rural Development, will be the morning key note speaker and will provide an update on the state of rural housing in Iowa. Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Greg has been invited to present a luncheon address on rural economic development.

The Iowa Finance Authority will share funding resources available for both owner-occupied single family, multifamily, and special needs/senior housing projects. Speakers from Iowa State University Extension Community Economic Development will share a new Rural Housing Readiness Assessment tool and a session on how local zoning codes can be adapted to encourage more housing rehabilitation and infill development. Construction expert Bill McAnally, a regularly featured contributor on Iowa Public Radio, will deliver a session on how communities can work with private developers. The WIAD Housing Summit will also feature speakers from rural Western Iowa communities who have successfully completed housing projects in their small towns.

The Summit will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, November 13, at The Carrollton Inn, 1730 U.S. Hwy. 71, in Carroll. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The Summit is sponsored by Western Iowa Advantage and Iowa State University Extension Community Economic Development. The registration fee will be \$25 which includes lunch and breaks. Check out [www.westerniowaadvantage.com](http://www.westerniowaadvantage.com) for future registration information.



## Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation Joins Western Iowa Advantage

Calhoun County Economic Development Corp. (CCEDC) has recently joined the Western Iowa Advantage cooperative economic development marketing region.

“CCEDC closely examined many factors in choosing to join Western Iowa Advantage, such as shared workforce demographics, common industries, and similar county profiles and attributes,” said Jill Heisterkamp, Executive Director for CCEDC. “The counties within Western Iowa Advantage and the consortium’s marketing focus and regional advocacy really resonated with CCEDC’s board of directors and our county supervisors. We believe that being a member will further increase the region’s assets and synergy and encourage new business and economic growth opportunities for all of its member counties.”

## Calhoun County Joins WIAD continued from page 1

Calhoun County's population is just under 10,000 residents, spread out among the 11 communities of Farnhamville, Jolley, Knierim, Lake City, Lohrville, Manson, Pomeroy, Rinard, Rockwell City, Somers, Yetter, and the unincorporated area of Twin Lakes. While agriculture is its main industry, Calhoun County is also home to a variety of quality care centers such as Stewart Memorial Community Hospital and Opportunity Living, plus unique manufacturing industries such as Dobson Pipe Organ Builders and Bowie International and its mobile veterinary clinics.

Western Iowa Advantage is in the process of updating its website, marketing materials, and regional data to reflect the addition of CCEDC and Calhoun County.

Western Iowa Advantage is a collaborative effort of economic development officials in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Ida, and Sac Counties with the objective to embrace, leverage, and promote the strengths of the region. Additional information about the region can be found at [www.westerniowaadvantage.com](http://www.westerniowaadvantage.com).



**CCEDC**

**Calhoun County  
Economic Development Corp.**

## Western Iowa Advantage Partners Tour Gomaco Trolley Company

In August, Western Iowa Advantage Partners toured the Gomaco Trolley Company in Ida Grove. Gomaco Trolley, established in 1982, manufactures authentic trolley cars that match the precision of quality craftsmanship of yesterday, while incorporating the engineering technology of today.

Gomaco Trolley Company began building trolley cars in 1982 with a contract from the Department of the Interior. The contract called for the construction of two 15-bench, open-style trolley cars. These cars were replicas of the J.G. Brill car built in 1902 and were of the 1597-1600 series. In 1984, the cars, numbered #1601 and #1602, were delivered to the Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, Massachusetts.



*Above: Chris Whitaker, Region XII COG; Sam Wagner, Mid-American Energy; Sarah Gomez, Midwest Partnership; Rick Hunsaker, Region XII COG; Sara Slater, Audubon County Economic Development, Jill Heisterkamp, Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation; and Brandy Ripley, Sac Economic and Tourism Development. Photo Credit: Ida County Economic Development.*

*Left: WIAD Partners inside a trolley being restored from Galveston Island, Texas. Photo Credit: Ida County Economic Development.*

## Puck Enterprises: 40 Years of Excellence Here in Western Iowa!

Western Iowa is proud to say that Puck Enterprises has been thriving in our area for over forty years! Puck Enterprises is an industry leader in liquid manure transfer equipment and continues to be the leader of liquid transfer equipment and services here in Western Iowa.

With a history of innovation and success, Puck Enterprises has changed with the times and the landscape of the farming industry in Iowa. Starting out originally with vacuum trucks and small square balers and transitioning to manufacturing their own equipment and control systems to further customize their work for their customers. Today they offer liquid transfer products for the agricultural, oil and gas, municipalities, mining, and forestry industries. They also offer control systems and hose products for their customers. Puck Enterprises continues to grow and expand, continuing the proud tradition of over four decades of innovation and hard work.

### PUCK ENTERPRISES HAS STOOD FOR QUALITY AND INNOVATION FOR OVER 40 YEARS.

*From our innovative liquid transfer products and control systems to our unwavering customer support, we take pride in knowing that with our help, customers are able to enjoy a higher quality-of-life.*

So, what sets them apart from the rest? Puck Enterprises currently applies 250 million gallons of liquid manure, on an annual basis, within approximately 45 miles of Manning. This work and their services are fully customized to the area, giving Manning only the very best service. They have also grown to over 145 employees, in the Manning location, from only 15 employees in 2010! Showing a massive spike in the growth of their workforce and proving just how unique and sought after their products and services are to this community.

Puck Enterprises celebrated turning 40 this last July of 2019 in Manning, Iowa. Ben Puck, the President, CEO, and founder of Puck Enterprises, started this company in the late 1970s as a farmer who saw an opportunity to help the Iowa farming community succeed.

### FAMILY IS AT THE CORE OF PUCK ENTERPRISES

*“Family is at the core of who we are, within our company and in our personal relationships with customers. Through decades of hard work driven by family values, we have built Puck on a legacy of innovation and being good stewards of the land.” - Ben Puck (President, CEO, and Founder)*

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Manning, Iowa, was the perfect place for Puck Enterprises to build their business. Employees love working and living in the area because of its culture and strong sense of community. Manning, Iowa was the birthplace of Puck Enterprises, but it has grown into a 5-location business success! Puck Enterprises now has locations in Farley, Iowa, Worthing, South Dakota, Angier, North Carolina, and Osijek, Croatia, as well as their original location here in Manning, Iowa. What started out as a small business in the heart of farm country has now turned into a national and international success story. And it all started here in Manning, Iowa, where the cornfields are overflowing with abundance, in part thanks to Puck Enterprises and their innovative work.

Even though the company has seen massive growth in the past forty years the CEO and employees alike both believe that their maintained success has to do with the people who day in and day out work hard to maintain this success. Employees and management both agree that work ethic in their workforce is the key to their success.

*“If you surround yourself with good, hard-working people, you can accomplish most anything.”*

*- Jeremy Puck (General Manager)*

With creativity, innovation, and hard work, Puck Enterprises continues to be a top industry leader in liquid transfer equipment and services. Starting out in the liquid manure field so many years ago, they now have expanded to manufacturing liquid transfer systems to other target industries, such as the oil and gas industry, and more! They have grown into a 5-location business, yet maintain their small town, hard-working mentality. Puck Enterprises is proud to call Manning, Iowa, home, and continues to thrive right here where it all began.

Puck Enterprises is truly, ‘Built to Lead.’ If you are interested in learning more about Puck Enterprises you can contact [info@puck.com](mailto:info@puck.com) or visit their website for more information.

## WIAD Partners Attend BIO World Congress in Des Moines

BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotech and AgTech was held in Des Moines on July 8-11. BIO World Congress covers the latest in Agricultural Crop Technologies, Industrial Biotech including Synthetic Biology and Genetic Editing, Advanced Biofuels, Biobased Materials, Renewable Chemicals, Flavors, Fragrances and Food Ingredients, and Biomass Supply. Rita Frahm, Ida County Economic Development Executive Director and Evan Blakley, Executive Director of the Chamber and Development Council of Crawford County represented Western Iowa Advantage.



July 8-11, 2019 | Des Moines, Iowa



**15%**

**Attendance up 15% from 2018; highest attendance of any U.S.-based BIO World Congress in five years.**



**1,000 U.S.-based attendees registered; international delegates represented 35% of attendees.**



**Iowa-based organizations hosted BIO World Congress' first-ever Bioeconomy Site Tours.**



**More than 30 emerging companies presented new technologies and innovations to investors, analysts and strategists.**



**New connections established through 1,900 partnering meetings between industrial biotech companies and BIOWC delegates.**



## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Rises to 2.5% in June 2019

The Western Iowa Advantage Region's monthly unemployment rate rose from 2.3 percent in July 2018 to 2.4 percent in July 2019, according to figures released from Iowa Workforce Development. Iowa's unemployment rate was 2.5 percent in July 2019 up from 2.4 percent in July 2018. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in July 2019. Total employment in the region increased to 41,160 in July 2019 from 41,140 in July 2018.

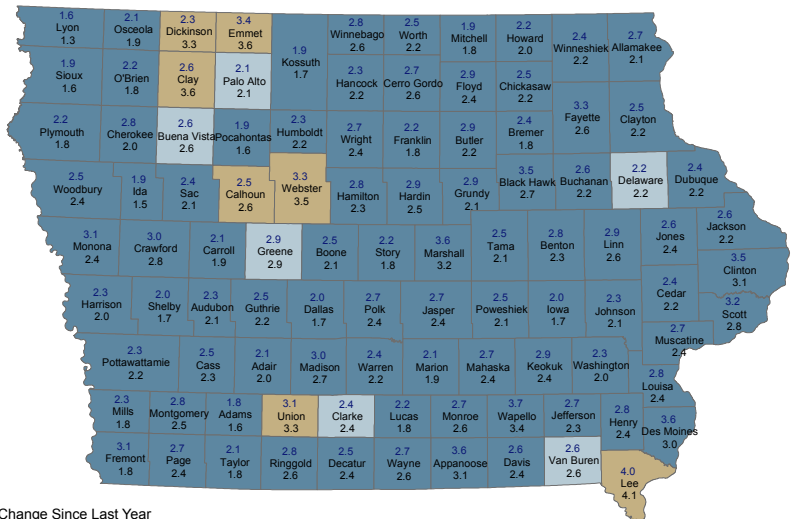
Western Iowa Advantage tracks various economic indicators in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, and Sac Counties in Iowa, including employment trends.

County unemployment rates in the region for July 2019:

- Audubon 2.3%
- Calhoun 2.5%
- Carroll 2.1%
- Crawford 3.0%
- Greene 2.0%
- Ida 1.9%
- Sac 2.4%

Unemployment Rates for Iowa Counties in July

July 2019 (Rate Above) and July 2018 (Rate Below)



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