

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

WIAD Hosts Successful Housing Summit

Attendees at the WIAD Housing Summit on November 13th were present for one of the more comprehensive community-focused housing workshops offered to date. Sponsored by MidAmerican Energy and co-hosted by Iowa State University Extension, the conference covered topics that included everything from an overview of the housing situation statewide to zoning and specific fails to be sure you look out for when constructing new homes.



Among the presentations:

- A group from Stanton discussed how their community has constructed new housing or re-invigorated vacant units over the past 20+ years.
- Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director at ECIA, Region XII's sister agency in Dubuque, discussed how the COG is developing a pocket neighborhood in Dubuque.
- Abbie Gaffey and Jon Wolseth from ISU-E discussed the new housing assessment tool, designed to move a community from completing a housing needs assessment to choosing the first project(s) to be undertaken.

The 80+ attendees braved the first sketchy weather of the season but most stayed until the closing remarks. Did you miss joining us? PowerPoints from the day can be found on WIAD's website, westerniowaadvantage.com. If you would like more information about the summit, contact one of the WIAD partners!

Western Iowa Advantage Partners Tour EVAPCO in Lake View

In November, Western Iowa Advantage Partners toured the Evapco plant in Lake View. Evapco in Lake View is one of the company's 26 locations worldwide. The Lake View facility was completed in 2000 and employs 196 people. Evapco manufactures industrial cooling and refrigeration units used around the globe.



Pictured: Brett Meyer, Evapco Plant Manager; Sara Slater, Audubon County Economic Development; Rick Hunsaker, Region XII COG; Brandy Ripley, Sac Economic and Tourism Development; and Jill Heisterkamp, Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation.

FEATURED BUILDING: 109 N MARKET STREET, AUDUBON

This former Shopko Hometown which features 24,000 sq. ft. of retail, office, and storage space is available for purchase in Audubon. The building is located off U.S. Highway 71 and is within the Audubon city limits.

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Western Iowa Advantage Partners Tour Dobson Pipe Organ Builders

Since its 1974 founding by Lynn Dobson in Lake City, Iowa, Dobson Pipe Organ Builders has built 96 new pipe organs and restored several dozen more in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and in England. With a staff of 23 craftsmen, Dobson builds and assembles all parts of a pipe organ in its workshop on Lake City's city square; the same people who build the organ then travel to the organ's permanent home to install it. Upcoming work includes new instruments for the University of Dubuque and churches in Chatham, Massachusetts; Sydney, Australia; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Other current projects include the restoration of the 1899 organ at St. John the Evangelist Church in Independence. In addition, Dobson tunes and services approximately 100 pipe organs, chiefly in Iowa and Minnesota.

Known for the beauty of their sound and their visual artistry, Dobson organs can be found in prominent institutions across America. The firm recently completed its largest instrument to date for St. Thomas Church in New York City, which has over 7,000 pipes. Other noteworthy organs can be found in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, and Verizon Hall in Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, home of the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra. Closer to home, there are Dobson organs in 20 Iowa churches and on the Iowa State, Wartburg College, and Wartburg Seminary campuses. The firm has also restored a number of historic Iowa organs, including those for the Union Sunday School in Clermont and St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, famously played by the Czech composer Antonín Dvořák during his summer there in 1893.



The Dobson Pipe Organ located at Saint Thomas Church, New York City.

QUAD COUNTY CORN PROCESSORS PROVIDES QUALITY ETHANOL TO THE NATION FROM IOWA

Quad County Corn Processors (QCCP) has been in business in Galva, Iowa, for 19 years as of September 1st of this year. In 2000, six investors bought an option on 102 acres of land just south of Galva, Iowa, near Highway 20. Their goal was to start an 18-million-gallon-per-year ethanol plant. These six individuals formed QCCP and raised the required equity for the project within a few weeks. The group had over 420 farmers invested in QCCP, which would ultimately increase the value of their corn, provide protein for livestock producers, and create 40 jobs, which boosted the local economy. The current QCCP site was chosen for its proximity to natural gas supply, reasonably-priced corn, high demand for protein, and good roads to gasoline terminals.



WHAT IS ETHANOL, AND HOW CAN IT HELP OUR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT.

Ethanol is a product that has been produced for centuries. The first Ford Model T ran on ethanol! Ethanol is made from glucose of any kind. Quad County Corn Processors uses corn starch and the cellulosic fiber extracted from the corn kernel to create the ethanol. Ethanol is the fastest-growing renewable fuel because it is economical for consumers, improves air quality by replacing carcinogenic aromatics, reduces the U.S.'s foreign oil dependence, and reduces our carbon footprint by replacing fossil fuels. In 2017 alone, over 75,000 new jobs were created in the ethanol industry in the United States, making the ethanol industry a contributor to expanding the job market. Ethanol plants are helping create jobs and bolster the U.S. economy, especially boosting rural economies like rural Iowa.

QUAD COUNTY CORN PROCESSOR'S HIGH-QUALITY ETHANOL FUEL.

Quad County Corn Processors started its ethanol production facility to add value to corn grown in the area by creating a unique and new, local demand for the crop. The business has come a long way since opening its doors in 2001. The first load of ethanol was transported out of the plant in February 2002. In 2011, Quad County installed equipment to extract corn oil. In 2012, they made a significant distillation upgrade, reducing natural gas usage and increasing ethanol production. In 2014, they installed Kernel Fiber Technology KFT™ to produce cellulosic ethanol and high-protein feed. They continue to stay at the forefront of the ethanol industry, using up-to-date equipment and always looking for ways to improve the value of the corn they process.

Producing 100,000 gallons of ethanol a day, which amounts to 35 million gallons a year, Quad County Corn Processors is definitely a local success here in Iowa. They currently employ over 40 hard-working employees and continue their reciprocal relationship with the local corn farmers in the area. Quad County Corn Processors is very proud of its patented Kernel Fiber Technology KFT™ process, which converts the corn kernel fiber into high-protein feed, more distillers' corn oil, and cellulosic ethanol. The KFT™ process created by their research and development team was awarded the 2015 Industry Award by the Renewable Fuel Association for its dedication and commitment to the cellulosic biofuel sector.

Ethanol is quickly rising in its popularity due to its lower costs, high octane, and environmental benefits. Car manufacturers have also started making vehicles that have the capacity to use higher ethanol blends. A consumer purchasing ethanol uses American-grown crops, creates more rural jobs, and supports the Midwest instead of the Middle East. Quad County Corn Processors is helping boost the local economy here in Iowa, creating jobs in the renewable energy sector for local residents, and helping the environment overall by creating a cleaner, greener fuel source for the nation.

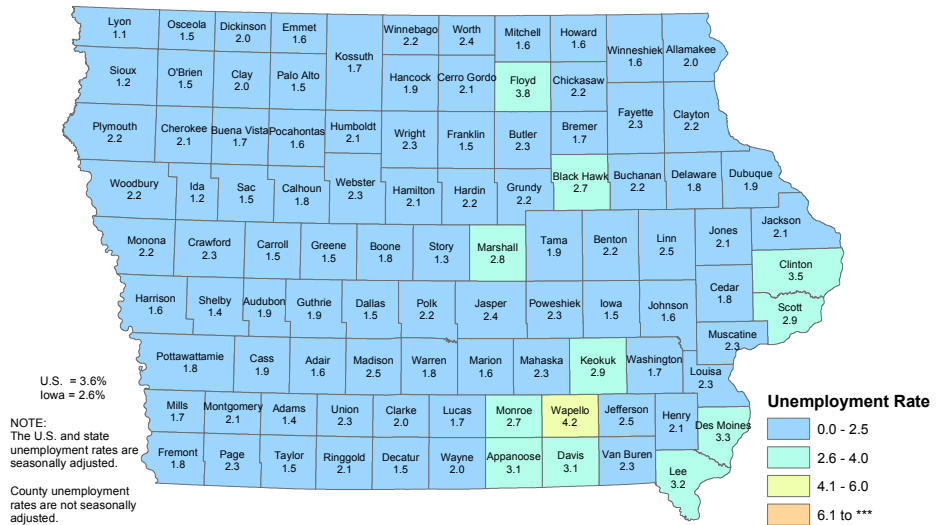
To learn more about Quad County Corn Processors and their products [visit their website](#).

WIAD's Unemployment Rate Falls while the State of Iowa's Unemployment Rises

The Western Iowa Advantage Region's monthly unemployment rate fell from 1.9 percent in October 2018 to 1.7 percent in October 2019, according to figures released from Iowa Workforce Development. Iowa's unemployment rate was 2.6 percent in October 2019 up from 1.9 percent in October 2018. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in October 2019. Total employment in the region increased to 41,700 in October 2019 from 40,350 in October 2018.

Iowa Unemployment Rates by County

October 2019



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

County unemployment rates in the region for October 2019:

- Audubon 1.9%
- Calhoun 1.8%
- Carroll 1.5%
- Crawford 2.3%
- Greene 1.5%
- Ida 1.2%
- Sac 1.5%

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