

**WESTERN IOWA'S KEY BUSINESS STRENGTHS HELP CREATE VIBRANT INDUSTRY SECTORS.**

Targeted industries thrive in the Western Iowa Advantage region.

The Western Iowa Advantage has identified key industry sectors for emphasis in the region. By doing so, Western Iowa can both help to attract industry to the area and help bolster the existing industry already in operation. These targeted industries are showing outstanding growth potential and include manufacturing, renewable energy and biosciences.

**Manufacturing is building**

The Western Iowa Advantage region is home to numerous manufacturing companies that market their products nationally and internationally. Among them are some of the world's leading manufacturers of food products, specialty trucks, athletic equipment, quilting machines, commercial coolers, building products, concrete products and more. Manufacturers here benefit from the unsurpassed productivity of the Iowa worker to remain competitive in the global economy.



**CONCRETE REASONS FOR MANUFACTURING'S SUCCESS.**

“This part of the state has a lot of good, committed workers.”

What's the key to success for portable concrete equipment manufacturer AMANCO? According to shop foreman Travis Partridge, it's the Audubon company's ready access to an outstanding labor force. “This part of the state has a lot of good, committed workers,” said Partridge. “They stick with their companies for a long period of time. Also, we're located at a convenient site; so it's easy for people within a 30-mile radius to commute here (to Audubon) — and they don't mind the commute.”

**Renewable energy is gaining power**

With today's soaring fuel costs, our nation has never been in greater need of alternatives to the world's dwindling supply of fossil fuel. As the nation's leader in ethanol production, Iowa is working to solve this dilemma. The raw biomass produced in Western Iowa's vast corn and soybean operations is playing a significant role in the state's success. State-of-the-art ethanol and biodiesel plants are currently in production here to help meet the nation's increasing energy demands.

**RALSTON COMPANY HELPS FUEL NATION'S ECONOMY.**

West Central Cooperative markets 65 million bushels of grain annually and has grain storage facilities in 19 Western Iowa communities, but it's the company's diversification into biodiesel production in 2002 that is fueling much of the company's recent growth. As one of the world's largest continuous-flow plants for processing soybeans into premium biodiesel fuel, West Central is helping to fill critical needs in meeting the nation's evolving energy demands. Bob Goldstein, executive vice president of administration, is quick to credit local and state government for West Central's foray into alternative fuels. “This expansion would not have been possible without state and local grants and tax incentives as well as the assistance of Greene and Carroll County economic development groups,” acknowledged Goldstein.

**Biosciences are big business**

Nearly 83,000 Iowans are employed across more than 1,800 establishments in the state's bioscience industry. Several of these companies and workers are located in the area represented by the Western Iowa Advantage. Right now, innovative product development and commercialization from Western Iowa bioscience companies are resulting in exciting advances that promise to transform lives around the globe. And the industry is bound to grow as more companies take advantage of Western Iowa's abundant raw biomass and highly skilled workforce.

**THESE LITTLE PIGGIES SAVE LIVES.**

Struve Labs, Inc. in Manning, Iowa, is the only commercial lab in the United States raising caesarian-derived, colostrum-deprived (CDCD) piglets. These piglets are the cleanest pigs available and provide a source of lifesaving organs for humans. Struve Labs has the technology to provide laboratory services, safety and efficacy trials, and specialized surgeries for biological/pharmaceutical companies and researchers across the country.