



## April 2009

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- Food Manufacturer Conference

## Invitation to All Small Food Manufacturers

NATIONAL SMALL FOOD MANUFACTURER CONFERENCE. Presented by The Food Processing Center • University of Nebraska - Lincoln

April 23-24, 2009  
Holiday Inn - Downtown Lincoln



This conference is the first national conference designed specifically for micro and small food manufacturers throughout the country. It includes current topics and industry recognized national speakers which will educate and motivate participants. Attendees will:

1. Learn from national industry respected, knowledgeable speakers.
2. Learn how to expand their business.
3. Participate in interactive sessions.
4. Explore new opportunities.
5. Network with peers and industry experts.

For more information or to register for the conference please visit the conference website:  
[www.fpc.unl.edu/nsfmc](http://www.fpc.unl.edu/nsfmc)

For additional information or questions please contact Jill Gifford at 402 472 2819 or [jgifford1@unl.edu](mailto:jgifford1@unl.edu)

## FEATURE: Nebraska Ag and Irrigation Inc. - New Ag Business in Cozad

Nebraska Ag and Irrigation, Inc. is your local dealer for Zimmatic Pivots, Sukup Grain Bins, Golden Harvest Seed and Dairyland Seed. They are located at 609 S. Meridian in Cozad, NE just off exit 222 from I-80. Pete and Deb Wardyn took on the Zimmatic dealership from Fairbanks International in Lexington and brought on the experience of Travis Ballew as their service manager.

Nebraska Ag and Irrigation has been in business since Sep. 2008, they are now located in their new building on the strip in Cozad. The energy efficient building was constructed by Paulsen, Inc. and Nebraska Ag & Irrigation was able to move into the new building in January 2009. The building is 5000 sq ft which includes 4 offices, a parts area and shop. They celebrated their grand opening and ribbon cutting on Friday, March 6 with a great deal of community support. Nebraska Ag and Irrigation brings with it an experienced team.

Pete grew up on a farm and had farmed for 13 years, he has also worked in ag sales for past 10 years. Deb has been associated with the farming operation as well as working in the business/accounting field for the past 30 years. They currently have 4 full time employees aside from themselves and work in conjunction with several who provide contract labor, for example in bin and pivot erection. They look forward to serving the ag and irrigation needs of the area and providing their customers solutions.

Nebraska Ag and Irrigation received assistance from Dawson Area Development as well as Cozad Development Corporation in obtaining the property and in obtaining low interest financing for the new construction. Cozad State Bank and Adam Boryca have been a great asset in helping this all come together as well as the team at Lindsay Manufacturing in coordinating the transfer of the Zimmatic dealership and helping to hit the ground running. Lindsay manufactures Zimmatic pivots and parts at Lindsay, NE and Nebraska Ag and Irrigation is proud to help grow Nebraska.

Nebraska Ag and Irrigation services and sells Zimmatic pivots as well as Genuine Zimmatic parts while servicing all makes and models of pivots. Nebraska Ag & Irrigation also provides underground trenching. Designing a Zimmatic pivot specific to an individual's needs is made available through Lindsay's technology and Smart Design.



Nebraska Ag & Irrigation is located at 609 S. Meridian on the strip in Cozad.

Aside from the irrigation side of things Nebraska Ag and Irrigation also is a dealer for Sukup Grain bins, drying floors, grain unloading options, stirrators, and aeration equipment. Sukup has been popular for their grain unloading equipment and fans for years. Sukup is the heaviest grain bin on the market today.

Pete is a dealer for Dairyland Seed which maximizes yields with hybrid alfalfa seed. The only hybrid alfalfa available on the market. Hybriforce 400 with high yield potential and hybriforce 420 for wet, low areas are just a few varieties that are offered. Nebraska Ag and Irrigation also sells Golden Harvest NK soybeans and seed corn. Allowing the farmer to reap the benefits with Agrisure traits, provide investment protection, help cost-share volunteer corn control. Take advantage of the brand that is farmer tested, farmer trusted, and farmer delivered with Golden Harvest. Nebraska Ag and Irrigation offers drill rental also, with those who purchase their seed receiving a lower rental rate.

As you can see this is a diversified company and Nebraska Ag & Irrigation strives to give their customers solutions. Contact Nebraska Ag and Irrigation by dialing 308 784 2118.

## ABLE Hosts Second Annual Dawson County Career Fair/Expo at the Dawson County Fairgrounds Over 450 Students and 65 Presenters Participate - Great Mixer for Students, Employers and Education

The second annual Dawson County Career Expo/Fair was held at the Dawson County Fairgrounds on March 17th with over 450 students and 65 presenters participating. ABLE would first off like to extend a large thank you to The Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Susan Bennett, and Kristy Klein, Amanda Penner, Richard Johnson, Vickie Clements, Marla Stallbaumer, Nova Barmore, Connie Bennett, and Peg Saunders (Lexington ambassadors) for all of their help with preparing dinner for the students and presenters. ABLE would also like to extend a thank you to Rick Love who again like last year, spent the entire day Monday and Tuesday helping set up and coordinate the event. ABLE would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this year's event a success. It took the work of a ton of people to pull off an event of this magnitude.



Once again, the presenters were asked to make their booths or presentations as "hands-on" as possible to better engage the students and give them a real life experience as opposed to simply marketing materials. We (ABLE) really enjoy putting this event together, we believe it is a valuable day and a good investment of time for all parties involved be it students, presenters, school faculty, administration, volunteers, etc.



Katie Arndt Photography was a huge success in their first year of participation as students shot photos and received a "5 basic tips to photos handout."



Tyson Maintenance Department allows students to experiment with a couple of their trainers they use in the plant to train maintenance employees.



Dan Davidchick of the CCC Mechatronics Program allows students to see the future of manufacturing which will entail an increasing amount of automation.



Jill Brown represents the University of Nebraska as a Career Specialist from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.



Small businesses such as Sign Pro are very valued participants. Owner Curt Bennett above hands out decals of all of the mascots of the schools who attend.



The Nebraska National Guard never fails to impress as a Chinook helicopter lands at the fairgrounds prior to the fair. Many students had the opportunity to see the helicopter take off in the early afternoon.



The Chasing4Life Stormchasing Team was also on hand for their first time. A stormchaser explains to the students the technology involved in their equipment.

## Cozad and Gothenburg Awarded \$250,000 Each for Phase II Downtown Revitalization Projects

### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Patty Wood at 800-426-6505, 402-471-1559, or  
patty.wood@nebraska.gov

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$1.25 million funding awarded for Phase II downtown revitalization projects

LINCOLN, NEB. (April 6, 2009)—The Nebraska Department of Economic Development has awarded a total \$1.25 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to Cozad, Gothenburg, Nebraska City, Sidney and Wayne to initiate phase two downtown revitalization projects.

The funding is awarded as follows:

- Cozad**—\$250,000 to improve sidewalks and commercial facades, and make physical improvements that bring infrastructure into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Gothenburg**—\$250,000 to improve commercial facades, and make energy efficiency improvements and physical improvements that bring infrastructure into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Other communities receiving similar funding include Nebraska City, Sidney and Wayne.

The funding amount for this Phase II Project Implementation is drawn from the Department's CDBG Economic Development Category, and based on the projects and goals identified in the comprehensive plans established by communities during Phase I when each was awarded \$30,000 from the Department's CDBG Planning Category.

The CDBG Downtown Revitalization Category is open to incorporated Nebraska municipalities of populations 20,000 or less, having earned designations as Economic Development Certified Communities, and having already adopted comprehensive plans, zoning and subdivision ordinances, building codes, code enforcement, and building permit processes.

For information, contact Steve Charleston at 800-426-6505, 402-471-3757, or [steve.charleston@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.charleston@nebraska.gov)

## GHS Students Participate in Animal Science Based Activity and Elwood Junior High Spring In-Class Speakers

On March 30th the Gothenburg High School Animal Science class enjoyed a day long activity where instructor Mr. Dan Scherer and the students visited Tyson Foods, Colorado Biolabs, Hi-Gain Feedlot and Eastside Animal Center. The day long exercise was put in place in order that the students could see some various opportunities in Dawson County that heavily involve education in Animal Sciences.

Each spring for two years running, Mrs. Sandy Dean, Instructor of Elwood's Jr. High Careers Class, coordinates with ABLE in order to bring in an array of business speakers throughout the spring semester. Spring presenters include: Veterinarian - Marshall Goodenberger, DPPD - Fred Kopf and Cheri Bliven, Johnson Lake Flying Service - Dave Malcom, and Elwood Care Center - Kate Reiners. The students will also venture to the Lied Center/Sheldon Art Gallery this spring which is funded by the Nebraska Arts Council. The students will wrap up the semester long activities with a field trip to Natural Escapes in Cozad where Jeremy Koch will certainly have an exciting and hands-on presentation ready for the kids.

Dave Malcom of Johnson Lake Flying Service said, "I thought it was a great experience for the students and myself. I started the rapport with the kids by telling them about my job and basically the kids took it from there with a variety of questions. I was surprised how much the students really did know about our local industry and especially ag based businesses."



Elwood Jr. High students experiment with equipment at the Elwood Care Center and Assisted Living facility.

## Dawson Estates Progress

Progress continues on the fifteen CROWN home project, Dawson Estates. The project began in Lexington, then in Cozad one month later, and Gothenburg one month after Cozad. Therefore, the five homes in Lexington will be the first ones completed—around June 1st, with Cozad and Gothenburg following by one month and two months, respectively. The owner is now taking applications from residents to lease these homes that feature three bedrooms, two full bathrooms and a double car garage. Qualifications for lease are determined by annual household income. For questions concerning eligibility or rent, contact the management company, located in North Platte. The person to contact is Beth Watson at (308) 534-7488.

(Pictures are of the Lexington homes, taken 3/25/09)



## NPPD Outreach and ABLE Educate Overton Students

NPPD's Kim Liebig, Outreach Programs Specialist, contacted the ABLE program in hopes of working with the seven schools that ABLE works with in providing opportunities for Dawson Area students to better understand the array of careers available at NPPD.

As part of NPPD's Outreach Program activities, Gerald Gentleman Station hosted a student tour of its facility on March 10. Approximately 40 students from Overton High School participated in the plant tour, which kicked off in the morning with a career exploration of NPPD's line technicians, complete with a display of the District's bucket trucks. After a tour of the plant, a panel of subject matter experts was on hand to discuss their careers and career paths and answer questions from the students.



NPPD's Outreach Program goal is to educate high school and middle school students across Nebraska about career opportunities in the electric utility industry. To help prepare for the future, the District must ensure that students know about the opportunities available right here in Nebraska. Various career awareness opportunities that are being made available to the schools include classroom presentations about NPPD careers, school career fairs, student tours of various NPPD facilities and making NPPD career materials available to the students. The ABLE program and NPPD's outreach program mesh well together and both programs will continue to work together to provide career awareness to Dawson area students.



## Nebraska Called "Happiest Place in Nation" by Good Morning America

CONTACT Patty Wood at 800-426-6505, 402-471-1559 or [patty.wood@nebraska.gov](mailto:patty.wood@nebraska.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nebraska called "Happiest Place in Nation"  
Featured on ABC's Good Morning America

HASTINGS, NEB. (April 6, 2009) – This morning, ABC's Good Morning America featured Nebraska as the "Happiest Place in the Nation", according to Mainstreet.com's first ever Happiness Index ranking.

The Happiness Index is all about which states are best weathering the current economic storm. The Happiness Index looks at household income, debt, employment and foreclosures. Nebraska ranked 2nd overall in lowest number of foreclosures, 2nd in lowest unemployment rates, and 5th in lowest percentage of non-mortgage debt by income.

"When we received the call from ABC's Good Morning America on Friday afternoon, we were ready to assist. They said we topped a list, but were very secretive about the kind of ranking. They had specific requests, and wanted to film in Nebraska the very next day

(Saturday) to air this morning," said Patty Wood, marketing director for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. "This ranking shows that Nebraska and the Midwest are somewhat insulated from the initial shock of economic recessions, and are more modest overall about our personal spending and economic well-being."

Mainstreet.com says that while money alone can't buy happiness, having a job, home, and enough money to cover basic budgetary needs is a good start. Contrary to popular wisdom that densely populated urban areas of the country have 'recession-proof' housing markets and boast impressively high average salary ranges, The Happiness Index suggests that the Midwest is the main source of financial happiness. After Nebraska in the top spot, Iowa and Kansas came in at 2 and 3 on the list.

Hastings was the featured community in the Good Morning America footage. Dee Haussler, executive director of the Hastings Economic Development Corp., was prepared for national media to film the 'quintessential Nebraska community'. To view the ranking online, visit: [www.mainstreet.com](http://www.mainstreet.com).

## DAD Industry Appreciation Day - June 17, 2009 - Gothenburg



**Save the Date**

**Wednesday, June 17th, 2009**  
**Wild Horse Golf Club**  
**Gothenburg, Nebraska**

**Please mark your calendars.**

- 1:00 - golf tournament**
- 3:00 - pitch tournament**
- 6:00 - steak dinner**

**email registration will follow in June**