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ABLE Thanks BALDWIN Baldwin Filters Supports ABLE

The ABLE program recently received a more than generous financial contribution of \$5,000 from CLARCOR, the parent company of Baldwin Filters. Baldwin Filters in Gothenburg has been in operation for the past fifteen years with a current employee count totaling 179.



Baldwin Filters - Gothenburg

"On behalf of the business and education community of Dawson County, we thank the CLARCOR Foundation, the employees of Baldwin Filters, Baldwin Filters President Sam Ferrise, and Gothenburg Plant Manager David Haynes for making the contribution possible. The ABLE program would not be possible without supporters such as CLARCOR and Baldwin Filters. Thank you."

John T. Bell - ABLE Coordinator

FEATURE: ALL POINTS COOPERATIVE

Competitive Products, Services, and Grain Marketing for 79 Years

All-Points currently serves members and non members in 12 communities and 5 counties. Since 1927, All Points Cooperative has been a source for competitive products, services and grain marketing.



Bringing information, technology, and a staff of highly trained professional individuals together in an effort to attain the following company mission statement has been and will continue to be our future focus.

"To provide quality products, services, and information as a Cooperative that enhances our customer's ability to be profitable in their chosen professions."

All Points continues to be a leader in long term partnering with producers to bring them opportunities and solutions to enhance their

operations. Services currently available include: *Grain Risk Management, *Grain & Fuel Contracting (a type to meet any need), *Soil Testing, *Field Scouting, *Variable Rate Application, *Agronomy Recommendations, *Electronic Pricing, *Financing & Accounting, and a dependable supply of fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, farm supply, and grain market options.

All Points has maintained a steady and healthy growth for 79 years, when its founders got together to create the Farmers Coop Elevator. Through the years, All Points Cooperative has grown and leveraged economies of scale to compete in a global market to bring a competitive product and service to the members while holding true to a steadfast tradition of integrity and ideals set forth by its founders. The recent merger of the Farmland Service Coop (Gothenburg) and All Points Cooperative (Lexington) is another example of the company's foresight and willingness to embrace the change needed to continue to grow and meet the challenge of today's ever changing environment. "All Points Cooperative is positioned and ready to meet the commitment of tomorrow in order to best serve its patrons." Ed Foster CEO/President



All Points Farm Store

West Highway 30 - Gothenburg

All Points Offices

DAWSON COUNTY EDGE PROGRAM

Enhancing Developing and Growing Entrepreneurs

Potential, new, and existing small business owners will have the opportunity to enhance business skills and profitability as Dawson County EDGE offers an upcoming NebraskaEDGE [Enhancing, Developing, Growing Entrepreneurs] training course in Cozad beginning January 9, 2007.



Amber Burge
Course Instructor
Dawson County EDGE



Khris Jinks
Program Manager
Dawson County EDGE

The NebraskaEDGE course is a comprehensive, 12-week training program designed to assist small business owners in the development of a viable business plan as well as increase management skills that lead to new, expanding and profitable businesses.

Since 1993, NebraskaEDGE has fostered and developed Nebraska's entrepreneurial community by providing successful business training for more than 2,000 people.

Along with creating a viable business plan, the NebraskaEDGE course will cover the following areas affecting small businesses: legal issues, market research, management issues, budgets and cash flows, money sources, transfer of ownership, government regulations, contracts and more.

The Dawson County EDGE works in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), The Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI) and the NebraskaEDGE Program to offer the training course.

Dawson Area Development will serve as Lead Agent and has hired Amber Burge as Course Instructor and Khris Jinks as Program Manager. Along with Dawson Area Development, local area banks:

- Gothenburg State Bank - Gothenburg
 - First State Bank - Gothenburg
 - Cozad State Bank/Plum Creek Bank - Cozad
 - Security First Bank - Cozad
 - Home Federal Savings and Loan - Lexington
 - Pinnacle Bank - Lexington
 - TierOne Bank - Lexington
 - Security First Bank - Overton
 - Farnam Bank - Farnam
 - Five Points Bank - Sumner
- are also sponsoring Dawson County EDGE.

DAWSON COUNTY HOUSING PROJECTS CONTINUE

Efforts Underway in all Communities

Housing projects continue to be a priority in Dawson County. The "New Neighborhood Initiative" and "Flexible Investment Targeting" programs available through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development are being considered by member communities as avenues to further housing development. Pre-applications for both funding sources are due in January 2007, and if successful, final applications and/or clarifying questions and on-site interviews will result.

The CROWN housing combined application to NE Department of Economic Development

and NIFA was not chosen for funding in the 2006 cycle, so efforts are underway by the developer to pursue other funding. It is the developer's hope, along with the DAD housing Committee, that 15 CROWN homes will be a reality in the near future.

Qualifying households in the area continue to be referred to agencies for home improvements. The Owner Occupied Housing Rehab program in Lexington will be completed in summer of 2007, and another round of OOR monies may be available in the county in 2007.

LEADERSHIP

Health and Human Services

Dawson Area Development's January Leadership Class of 2006-07 came up quickly after the holiday season. The topic for the month was "Health and Human Services", and with the recent area storms was particularly interesting.



Terry Krohn (left) Director of Two Rivers Public Health is introduced by class member Ken Terry.

Terry Krohn, executive director of Two Rivers Public Health Department in Holdrege, gave an extensive update on the functions of the Public Health department that covers 7 counties in south-central Nebraska. She also commented on the current situation of electrical power outages due to ice storm damage—since south-central Nebraska was the hardest hit, her office has been busy with emergency services.

The class heard presentations from Nebraska Health and Human Services personnel in the Lexington office, representatives from the area hospital districts and home health care and hospice, toured the N.E.A.T. facility at the ESU 10 Center, and learned about the operations of Mid-NE Community Action Partnership, Parent/Child Center, Victim Witness Advocate Program, Haven House, and Dawson County Red Cross and Emergency Management. The day was an eye-opening experience as to the services that are available in our county.

ELECTRONIC REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL

Helpful guidelines when providing DAD with documents for the production of RFP's.

We are receiving more and more Requests for Proposals to be emailed electronically. We rely many times on information gathered from multiple sources to respond to these requests. Many of you are providers of this information including letters and maps. We have run into a few problems with the size of files being too large to email. Therefore we would like everyone to follow some guidelines when providing Dawson Area Development electronic information for RFPs:

Files over 6 MB cannot be received or sent by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development's mail server, therefore cannot be forwarded to consultants.

Most PDF users can tell you, the main factors affecting the size of a PDF are image resolution, image type (bitmap or vector), fonts and how they're embedded, PDF version and the level of compression.

Below are a few tips that will help to eliminate snags in preparing RFPs.

Use the Save As Command

This is Adobe's No. 1 suggestion for reducing the sizes of your PDFs. When you make changes to your PDF, select Save As to overwrite the entire PDF. Otherwise, if you just click Save, changes are appended to your file, and you'll notice a slow and steady increase of kilobytes.

Use the PDF Optimizer

By selecting Advanced > PDF Optimizer > Audit Space Usage, you can find out which elements in your PDF (fonts? images?) are taking up the most space and make changes accordingly.

Manage your graphics

Graphics are always a big problem when optimizing a PDF for size. First and foremost, use vector-based graphics whenever possible. Vector-based graphics scale perfectly, look better and take up less space than their GIF counterparts.

If you have to insert a graphic as a bitmap, prepare it for maximum compression and minimum dimensions. Don't compress the graphic beforehand, because distilling them in the PDF may cause the creation of noticeable artifacts in the image.

To tinker with the image compression quality to size ratios, select Advanced > PDF Optimizer, and on the images tab select compression options for color, grayscale, and monochrome images. Or, select Enable Adaptive Compression and drag the slider to to balance file size and quality.

Manage Your Color

If you're making a PDF for the Web and/or if you're not concerned about printing colors, use the RGB color space. RGB has one less data channel than CMYK, so your files will be that much smaller.

Minimize Fonts

Fonts take up a lot of space. If possible, don't embed your fonts. But if your document requires a certain look (and most do), keep the number of fonts to a minimum. Using subsetted fonts that only include the glyphs actually used will go a long way toward minimizing font size bloat.

Do Not Scan in Letters

For letters of support please create letterhead in Word and type your letter on the created letterhead. A digital signature should be added. Then the letter can be converted to a PDF. Our largest culprits seem to be scanned information. In addition site consultants cannot copy and paste information if you scanned it into a PDF, versus converting it to a PDF.

When sending DAD information please be sure to check the file size before you email it to make sure it is not too large for us to receive. Also do not number pages on the items you are sending, as we will have to change those as we add other information.

We have been told that our RFPs are presented superior to those of other communities, so let's keep it up. Thank you to everyone who provides us with prompt information when we are assembling RFPs.

The new Adobe Reader 8 is now available. You may want to update your business and personal versions @ www.adobe.com. Click on the logo below to begin the downloading process via adobe.com.

