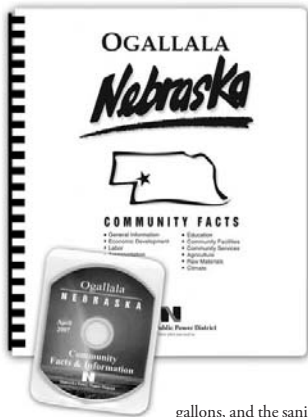


COMMUNITY FEATURE

Ogallala, Nebraska www.ogallala-ne.gov



Come to Ogallala, a wonderful place to live, work, and play! The home of Lake McConaughy (Big Mac), Ogallala is located in southwest Nebraska along Interstate 80. The community, population 8,330, reigns as Nebraska's recreation capital with Big Mac ranking as Nebraska's #1 vacation destination!

Ogallala also offers amenities for new businesses. A 193-acre industrial site and a 121.55-acre business park are available for immediate occupancy. Major employers in the community include American Shizuki/ASC Capacitors, Arnold Magnetic Technologies, Banner Health Ogallala Community Hospital & Clinic, Ogallala City Schools, Educational Service Unit 16, Keith County, Prophet Systems, and Travel Center of America.

Interstate 80 is within the city limits of Ogallala and Interstate 76 is 26 miles west. U.S. Highways 30 and 26 as well as Nebraska Highway 61 intersect in Ogallala. A main line of the Union Pacific Railroad serves the community. Searle Field, the municipal air field has two paved and lighted runways (5,100 feet and 3,700 feet), and commercial air service is available within 45 minutes at the North Platte Regional Airport (Lee Bird Field).

Nebraska's industrial rates are 42 percent below the national average. Electric service is supplied to the community by Nebraska Public Power District. Kinder Morgan is the natural gas supplier. The municipal water system in Ogallala has a maximum capacity of 12.8 million gallons, and the sanitary sewerage system's capacity is 1.5 million gallons per day. Qwest Communications is the local electric carrier in Ogallala with a high speed digital central office.

The school system is comprised of three elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. There are also two parochial schools serving kindergarten through 5th grades—one Catholic and one Lutheran. An extended campus of Mid-Plains Community College is located in Ogallala providing on-site training in the city. Banner Health Ogallala Community Hospital has 18 licensed beds and Indian Hills Manor is an 82-bed long term care facility.

Lake McConaughy boasts 100 miles of shoreline of white sandy beaches and 30,000 surface acres and some of the best walleye fishing in the nation. The lake is a mecca for sailboat and sailboarding enthusiasts as well as fishermen and campers. Two 18-hole golf courses, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, nine parks with 10 ball fields, six tennis courts, and four parks with playground equipment add to the quality of life in Ogallala.

For a copy of the 50-page Ogallala Community Facts Book, call the Keith County Area Development, (308) 284-4066, or visit sites.nppd.com.



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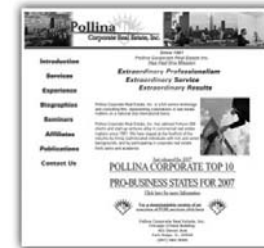


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Nebraska is One of the Top Ten Pro-Business States



www.pollina.com

A 2007 national survey released in March named Nebraska as one of the nation's top 10 pro-business states. This is the first time in the report's four-year history Nebraska made it in the top ten.

"This is evidence that the efforts we've made to improve our tax climate and provide competitive incentives for businesses to locate and expand in Nebraska have been noticed by professionals in the field," said Governor Dave Heineman. "It is a signal that the Nebraska Advantage continues to have a positive impact on our ability to attract businesses interested in creating jobs in our state."

Nebraska was recognized for pro-business strategies in the areas of human resources, status as a right-to-work state, strong employment index, the absence of a business inventory tax, and low electric rates, along with strong quality of life ratings. Dr. Ronald Pollina is publisher of the The Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States study.

"Nebraska made some needed improvements to incentive programs in the last year, which were instrumental in propelling Nebraska onto the top 10 list," said Dr. Pollina.

New Look @ sites.nppd.com



sites.nppd.com

sites.nppd.com has a new look. The website is designed for users to easily find information on Nebraska's advantages as a plant location, community data, available sites and buildings, and economic and demographic data on communities, counties, and regions. Thousands of businesses have already discovered Nebraska to be a place of unequalled potential. Whether you are looking at coming to Nebraska or expanding in Nebraska, we want you to be successful!

Find the data you need for your project on sites.nppd.com. Accurate and up-to-date information is at your fingertips. Searchable data within this website include:

- Communities, Counties, Regions
- Available Sites & Buildings
- Community Facts Books
- Community Profiles
- Targeting Opportunity Studies
- Trend Studies
- GIS Economic & Demographic Data
- 2000 Census Population Demographics



Ethanol Training Coming to Nebraska



Source: Norfolk Daily News

Northeast Community College was awarded a nearly \$2 million grant by the U.S. Department of Labor to implement a statewide initiative between Northeast Community College and its coalition of community colleges to establish a continuum of education and career development activities to meet the growing needs of the ethanol industry.

"This is important news for Nebraska," said U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel. "The growing demand for alternative sources of energy requires educated professionals in Nebraska with a strong understanding of the technical, economic, and agricultural needs of the rapidly expanding ethanol industry. This grant will put Northeast Community College at the forefront in training a well-educated work force for the ethanol industry."

"The nearly \$2 million grant is just for ethanol-based bio-training. It will help cover initial costs of equipment, full-time faculty, and some administrative costs associated with starting the project," said Bill Path, president of Northeast Community College. Northeast has taken the lead in developing ethanol training and is working with the state's five other community college partners.

Dr. Donis Petersan, Nebraska Public Power District Economist, serves on the advisory council for the Nebraska Ethanol Training Project.

Nebraska Representatives will be at Trade Shows

- Plastec East - New York, June 12–14
- Fuel Ethanol Workshop & Expo - St. Louis, June 26–29

Visit with Nebraska representatives at these shows to learn about the savings your company can experience with a Nebraska plant location. Nebraska's industrial electric rates are nearly 42% below the national average. Nebraska has available industrial sites and buildings ready for occupancy. To assist in your property search, visit sites.nppd.com or contact the Nebraska Public Power District's Economic Development Team at (800) 282-6773, Ext. 5534, for confidential plant location services. The study, "Profit Opportunities for Manufacturers of Plastics Products," is also available online at sites.nppd.com.

Nebraska Promoting Careers in Manufacturing



www.dreamit-doit.com/Nebraska

With the United States facing a global market that rewards the most highly skilled and technologically advanced companies, Nebraska is leading an effort of preparing the state's youth to be global winners.

The Nebraska Dream It. Do It. campaign is a statewide program that promotes careers in manufacturing, the utility industry, and related businesses while highlighting educational and training opportunities for young people seeking careers in Nebraska businesses.

"We look forward to working with leaders in the industry and the educational community in utilizing new ideas to make sure young people in Nebraska are aware of the interesting career opportunities available in manufacturing and the electric utility in our state," said Ron Asche, president and CEO of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). NPPD presented a \$25,000 check to the Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition in support of the Dream It. Do It. campaign. Asche said the career campaign dovetails well with the District's vision of enhancing the quality of life in Nebraska.

"In order to stay competitive in today's global economy, Nebraska manufacturers must attract the state's finest talent," said Tony Raimondo, chairman of Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition and chairman of Behlen Mfg. Co. of Columbus, Nebraska. He views Dream It. Do It. as an investment in Nebraska's youth and the state's economic development.

BPI Announces \$400 Million Expansion



Source: Dakota County Star

BPI, the world's leading manufacturer of boneless lean beef, announced in December a \$400 million, four-phase expansion project at their facility in South Sioux City, Nebraska, which will create 300 new jobs by 2010. The expansion focused on the implementation of internally developed processes and technologies which have already been patented. These advances will lead to BPI's investment in the aggressive development of new products and in the pursuit of new markets.

"Today's announcement is one of the greatest announcements in South Sioux City history," said South Sioux City Mayor Bob Giese. "These BPI expansions will help secure this community's economic growth for years to come."

"In an effort to meet increasing consumer demand for safer and healthier products, BPI has been actively engaged in the research and development of processes and products that reduce or eliminate food-borne pathogens and decrease fat content, while actually enhancing flavor," explained BPI Corporate Administrator Richard Jochum.

The first phase of the expansion will be a \$20 million cooked meats/pizza topping initiative intended to open new markets to a series of the company's emerging product lines. The second phase is expected to represent a \$15–\$20 million investment in a state-of-the-art utilities facility. With centralized utility operations and consolidated monitoring equipment, the corporation expects to realize significant energy efficiencies. Company executives anticipate the two initial phases will break ground in spring 2007.

Phases three and four remain under development, but include a new production facility for ground beef, as well as a product enhancement facility. Phase three represents a capital investment projected at approximately \$175 million and will create nearly 100 new jobs. Phase four calls for the construction of a "proprietary new injection enhancements facility" focused on strengthening the quality of BPI's product line with improved safety and health technologies, as well as improving flavor. With a capital investment estimated between \$150–\$200 million, phase four anticipates the creation of an additional 200 employment opportunities.

Madison Foods to Expand 10,000 Square Feet



The city of Madison was awarded a \$205,000 Community Development Block Grant by Governor Dave Heineman in January to help Summit Foods, Inc. dba Madison Foods expand its operations. Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council provided an \$8,000 forgivable loan for the project. The company will build a 10,000 square foot warehouse addition to the existing warehouse and production facility in Madison, Nebraska. The expansion will allow the company to double production of all its featured food brands. The company also purchased additional land to locate a freezer to allow for future expansion. Ten new full-time supervisory and production positions will be created.

Madison Foods started with only one product, "Bettur," a soy-based butter substitute manufactured for the commercial food service market. The company diversified operations in 1995 and added a variety of barbecue and pasta sauces and salsas for food service and retail markets. The company works closely with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Food Processing Center and Nebraska entrepreneurs to co-pack locally developed products.