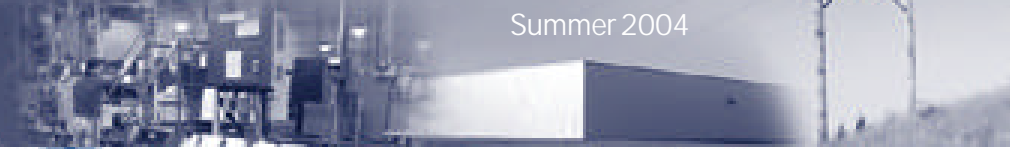




Nebraska

INDUSTRIAL OVERVIEW

Summer 2004



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Looking for Labor? Look here: www.i80nebraska.com

Trenton Agri-Products Invests \$50 million



A labor availability assessment was completed for the I-80 Nebraska Coalition, which consists of nine counties spanning 250 miles along Interstate 80 through York, Hamilton, Hall, Adams,

An open house was held in May to celebrate the grand opening of Trenton Agri-Products in Trenton, Nebraska. The plant, located on 56 acres of land, employs 31 people and

Buffalo, Phelps, Dawson, Lincoln, and Keith counties. The population base in these nine counties is more than 230,000.

utilizes 36,000 bushels per day to produce fuel grade alcohol. The plant will produce 30 million gallons annually. The facility will consume approximately 11 million bushels of corn or milo annually at the current production rate.

The study reports the labor market conditions in the nine counties is conducive to office-related, distribution, and manufacturing operations as well as other industries. A company can find a sufficient supply of well-educated, high quality workers to staff operations, employing several hundred people each.

"This new ethanol plant will prove to benefit southwest Nebraska in many ways. A key to future success of farming and ranching will lie in value added agriculture ventures," said Congressman Tom Osborne. **"Ethanol production consumes approximately 25 percent of the corn grown in Nebraska and that number will likely climb in future years as demand for fuel additive continues to increase."**

The study concluded there are 47,000 "underemployed" residents throughout the Coalition's nine-county region. Skills range from management, administration, education, and computer applications to clerical, construction, and building trades. The nine-county region possesses a hidden labor supply of 61,000 people.

"This plant could have been easily placed in Kansas but instead we chose to locate in Hitchcock County, Nebraska," said Charlie Wilson, Trenton Agri-Product president. **"We chose to locate here partly because of the economic development incentives offered by Nebraska. Churches and other community residents did so much, they brought us meals and made us feel welcome. We appreciate everything everyone did for us and we are looking forward to being a safe and proactive member of the local communities."**

"Availability of a qualified labor force continues to be a large determining factor that locationally active companies consider when making decisions," said Brad Maul, chairman of the I-80 Coalition. **"The results of this study confirm that there is an adequate supply of available labor here in Nebraska."**

Visit www.i80nebraska.com for the results of the Labor Availability Assessment. Results are available by three subregions or by county.

New Facility for Husqvarna in Beatrice



Photo: Ground breaking on June 14, 2004

A ground breaking ceremony was held June 14th for Husqvarna Turf Care Company's 274,000 square foot building on 25 acres near the Beatrice Municipal Airport. This building

will replace the current facility and contain state-of-the-art equipment. The new floor plan in manufacturing will increase productivity and stream-line processes. **"Tremendous growth along all of Husqvarna's product lines has required this expansion,"** said Henric Andersson, president of Husqvarna Turf Care Company.

Husqvarna is a world-leading manufacturer of forest, lawn, and garden products and is one of the oldest companies in the world. The Beatrice plant manufactures commercial lawn mowers, seeders, sod cutters, aerators, and other similar products for the professional user. When Husqvarna purchased Yazoo/Kees in 1999, 75 employees were at the plant and they currently employ more than 300.

Husqvarna Turf Care is expected to be operational at the new location by spring 2005.

Wild Bill's Foods Moves to Hampton



Source: Aurora News-Register

27,000 square foot building in Hampton to distribute their product.

Wild Bill's Foods, Inc., began distributing beef jerky from Hampton, Nebraska. The company, a Pennsylvania-based company, purchased a

"If you draw crosshairs across the United States, Nebraska is right in the center of the nation," said Ted Cundiff, president of Wild Bill's Foods, Inc. The company plans to convert the building to a manufacturing plant within the next 28 months.

"In addition to the proximity to the Interstate, Hampton has other qualities that enticed Wild Bill's to locate a distribution center here," said Cundiff. **"We like the area, we like the people and their work ethics."**

The company will employ six people and if tentative plans to duplicate the full scale production plant in Pennsylvania move forward, an additional 50 jobs could be created in Hampton.

"We see this as a good opportunity for Hampton and we hope it will contribute to our housing growth," said Roger Bamesberger, president of the Hampton Economic Development Corporation.

Ethanol Ready Sites



Is your firm looking for a site to locate an ethanol plant? If so, visit

www.ethanolready.com for a listing of "ethanol-ready sites." Nebraska Public Power District will work with you to find that "productive" location.

Visit with us at Booth 706 at the American Coalition for Ethanol in Duluth, Minnesota, on August 9-12 and learn of the advantages of a Nebraska plant location.

Economy Spiced up in Orleans



Photo: Ribbon cutting by Sam and Traci Dietz and sons, owners of Mama's Salsa

Aroma from the kitchen of Mama's Salsa in Orleans kept everyone aware Traci Dietz was working. Starting in her own kitchen or through contract commercial producers, Mama's Salsa is now located in a

5,000 square foot

building. The building features three 100-gallon cookers. Employing four workers, Mama's Salsa blends jalapeno peppers, onions, and Nebraska-grown hydroponic tomatoes into mild and hot salsa.

With the help of the Food Processing Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Ms. Dietz navigated through the requirements and regulations of the food industry and learned about labeling and marketing. This \$750,000 project was funded in part by a Community Development Block Grant.

"Orleans is a community on the move. The efforts you have put into making sure there is a future, encourages me as your governor. This facility is a vivid illustration of what is possible in economic growth and job creation in communities across the state," said Governor Mike Johanns at the grand opening in May.

"There is practically no way I can thank everyone who had a part in Mama's Salsa. Fifteen months ago when we started this project, we made phone call after phone call and people directed us to other people. We were all over the place but there were always people who knew what we wanted to accomplish and how to get us to the right people," said Traci Deitz, co-owner of Mama's Salsa.

Visit www.mamas-salsa.com for additional information on these products.

Radiant Systems breaks ground in Valentine



Photo (left to right): Governor Mike Johanns, Bob Gustafson, Kirk Sharp, Debra Sharp, and Dean Jacobs, all of Valentine; and John O'Connor, Nebraska Public Power District. Source: Valentine Midland News

Ground was broken April 13 on a 20,000 square foot building that will be occupied by Radiant Systems, Inc., a manufacturer of electric heating units for commercial and industrial use under the name "Comfort Cove." The company will provide 8-10 new jobs in Valentine.

"Each time I visit the Valentine area, there is a new business or new idea in the works," Governor Johanns said. **"I am very impressed by the community's progressive attitude toward development. At the state level, we will continue to partner with rural communities to aggressively pursue new economic development opportunities."**

"A \$186,000 community Development Block Grant was received from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to help finance the new building," said Norma Jean New, Valentine city manager.

"Nebraska worked very hard to keep me in the state," said Kirk Sharp, owner and president of Radiant Systems. **"Bob Gustafson of the First National Bank of Valentine as well as officials from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Nebraska Public Power District were instrumental in our decision to stay in Nebraska."**

Hartington, Nebraska

www.ci.hartington.ne.us



Hartington, the county seat of Cedar County, is located in northeast Nebraska. The northern border of the county is created by the Missouri River, separating Nebraska from South Dakota.

Seventy-two acres in a 147 acre site and an 82,499 square foot building are available for immediate occupancy. Join Hydraulic Components, Hartington Concrete, Pinkelman Manufacturing, and Wiechelmann Repair in providing services to the region.

State Highways 84 and 57 intersect in Hartington. U.S. Highway 81 (designated to be a four-lane highway) is 8 miles west, Interstate 29 is 50 miles east, and Interstate 80 is 150 miles south of Hartington. The Hartington Municipal Airport has a 3,500 foot paved and lighted runway and a 2,600 foot grass runway. Commercial air service is located within an hour's drive.

Served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District, Hartington's 69,000 volt sub-station with a 6,250 kVA capacity connected to the statewide grid system will provide you with reliable, low-cost electric service. Kinder Morgan supplies natural gas in the community. The municipal water system has a maximum capacity of 1,090,000 gallons per day and the sanitary sewerage system has a design capacity of 195,000 gallons per day.

Hartel, a Hartington Telecommunications subsidiary, provides local Internet access. High speed DSL with speeds up to 256k are available in Hartington and rural areas.

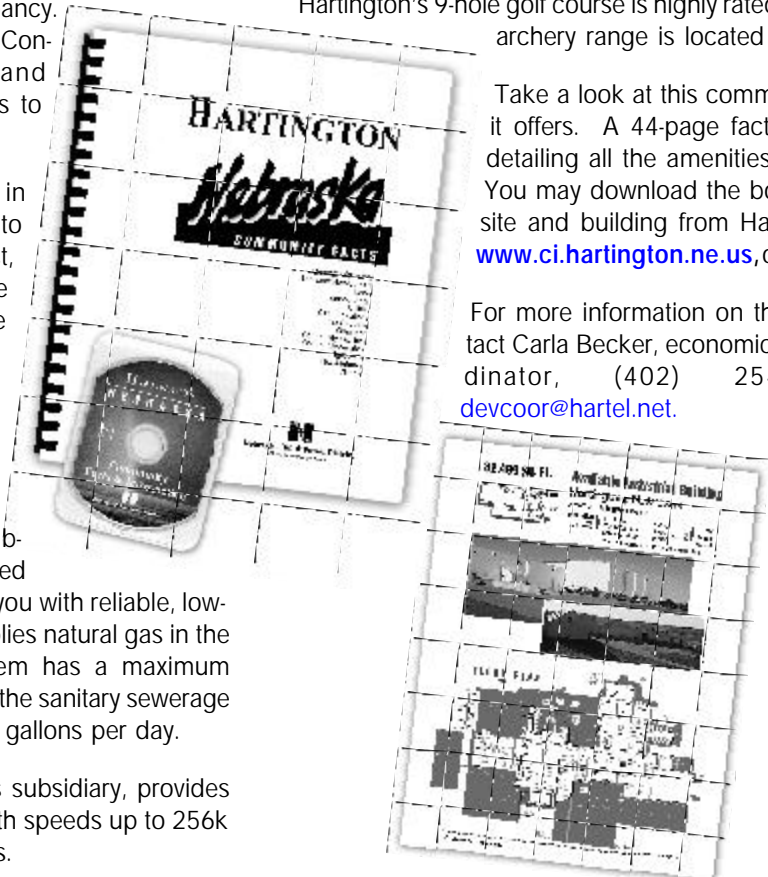
The K-12 public school system is joined by a K-12 Catholic school system in providing education in Hartington. Numerous four-year colleges are located within a 60-mile radius of Hartington.

Avera Sacred Heart Clinic provides medical services in the community. Avera Sacred Heart Health Services in Yankton, 25 miles north, is the regional hospital and service network for a 17-county area in South Dakota and Nebraska. Beverly Health Care is a licensed 53-bed skilled care facility in Hartington.

Northeast Nebraska provides an abundance of recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, swimming, water-skiing, and camping. Lakes and rivers provide beautiful scenery. Hartington's 9-hole golf course is highly rated in the state and an archery range is located nearby.

Take a look at this community to see all that it offers. A 44-page facts book is available detailing all the amenities in the community. You may download the book or the available site and building from Hartington's web site, www.ci.hartington.ne.us, or sites.nppd.com.

For more information on the community, contact Carla Becker, economic development coordinator, (402) 254-6357, email devcoor@hartel.net.



NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 499 • COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68602-0499
(800) 282-6773 • FAX: (402) 563-5090
EMAIL: econdev@nppd.com • sites.nppd.com
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