



Nebraska

INDUSTRIAL OVERVIEW

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Abengoa Bioenergy Corporation Breaks Ground in York



Abengoa Bioenergy Corporation, formerly High Plains Corporation, held a groundbreaking ceremony in October for their new starch and biomass conversion technology pilot plant in York. More than 125 people attended.



Source: York News-Times

The facility, adjacent to the existing York ethanol plant, will be built in two phases. The starch pilot plant is expected to be complete in March 2004, with the second phase—the biomass pilot plant—expected to be complete in spring 2005. This \$34 million project will increase employment by five.

In 2002 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the company a \$36.1 million cost-shared financial assistance agreement to develop and demonstrate starch and biomass conversion technologies for ethanol production. Half will be paid by the U.S. DOE and half by Abengoa.

“Basically this is a project with three objectives—to improve the efficiencies of regular plant production by converting more of the starch in grains to ethanol, to develop a new process to convert biomass products such as corn stover into ethanol, and improve (as well as expand) the quality of uses for the feed byproduct that is produced,” said Chris Standlee, vice-president of Abengoa Bioenergy.

“I am very pleased the U.S. Department of Energy selected the Abengoa ethanol plant in York as the site to pioneer enhanced ethanol conversion technology. Abengoa is one of the world’s largest ethanol producers and its commitment to research and development is well known. Nebraska is proud to host this cutting edge work that Abengoa is undertaking,” said Governor Mike Johanns.

Abengoa Bioenergy Corporation in York produces 50 million gallons of ethanol annually using \$44 million worth of grain. The plant supplies 60 jobs to the area with a \$2.5 million payroll.

Abengoa Bioenergy Corporation is the nation’s fourth largest producer of ethanol. It operates three facilities located in Colwich, Kansas; York, Nebraska; and Portales, New Mexico, currently producing 90 million gallons of ethanol annually along with approximately 275,000 tons of animal feed products on a dry matter basis.

Moving Products Manufactured in Gordon



Chriscott Supply, a Denver-based company, recently relocated their manufacturing facilities to a 17,000 square foot

facility in Gordon. Chriscott expects to employ 15 people at full production.

The Gordon facility manufactures furniture dollies, computer carts, file carts, and various other moving products. The computerized equipment increases efficiency while ensuring quality control.

Chriscott supplies moving products and equipment to companies across the United States. Their main office is in Denver, where they also rent moving products and equipment. Visit their website at www.chriscottsupply.com.

Ainsworth Call Answered



Source: Ainsworth Star-Journal

Technologist Inc., of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, opened a 7,000 square foot call center in Ainsworth in August. The company plans to employ up to 70 people.

"I'm from Nebraska, I know how hard these people work. They're the hardest-working people in North America, if you ask me," said President Tom Gallaway.

This \$2.7 million project received a community development block grant to be used for training workers and start-up funds.

"This is a privately owned company that resells computer products nationwide," said President Gallaway. The company has offices in Houston and Dallas.

A study prepared by Nebraska Public Power District indicates the estimated economic effects of a 50-employee call center in Ainsworth will have nearly a \$3 million impact on the area.

Gallaway thanked the State of Nebraska, the Department of Economic Development, and the Governor's Office for being instrumental in making this happen. He also thanked Nebraska Public Power District for assistance.

Protient Purchases Plant in Norfolk



Source: Norfolk Daily News

Protient Inc., of St. Paul, Minnesota, acquired the Leprino Foods plant in Norfolk to process whey. The company specializes in producing whey protein products for use in products like nutritional bars, sports drinks, infant formula, cereals, and others. Portions of the whey will be concentrated

and shipped to Minnesota for further processing into high protein, value-added products.

The company hired 30 of Leprino's experienced workers and an additional 10 workers may be added within another year. "The Norfolk plant fit Protient's needs because of the trained personnel, processing equipment, and infrastructure available," said Tom Yezi, vice president of operations. "We are very excited about the opportunities in Norfolk and are extremely happy with the cooperation we have received from the city of Norfolk."

This is the first Protient operation in Nebraska. The company has three other manufacturing locations—two in Minnesota and one in Wisconsin.

Cornerstone Manufacturing Breaks Ground in Ord



Photo: Ord business leaders and residents gathered with owners of Cornerstone for a ribbon cutting.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held August 13 at the Ord industrial site for Cornerstone Manufacturing, Inc. The company manufactures electrical

wiring assemblies and connectors for harsh environment conditions as well as CNC machining work. An 8,000 square foot building was constructed with operations to begin in January. The company will employ 15 people initially and up to 100 in the future.

Valley County Economic Development is further developing this 96-acre site with a concrete access road and asphalt frontage road parallel to Highway 11. For more information, contact Bethanne Kunz, Valley County Economic Development Director, valleycountyed@frontiernet.net.

Exmark Expands Again in Beatrice



Three local entrepreneurs incorporated and held a ground-breaking for an 11,200 square foot facility and began operations in 1982 with 8 full-time

and 6 part-time employees in what is today known as Exmark Manufacturing.

During the past 20 years many changes have taken place. In 1992 the company was to be purchased and moved; however, through assistance with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and a community development block grant, the company remained in Beatrice. In 1997 Exmark became affiliated with Toro of Bloomington, Minnesota.

This company continues to grow. Today their manufacturing facility with more than 450 employees covers more than 291,000 square feet. Recent additions include a conference center and training facility, outdoor pavilion, the purchasing and remodeling of an adjacent facility and property, and leasing property for a testing site of various types and heights of turf where vendors can test mowers.

The company is known as the industry leader in commercial mowing equipment. The company offers many products from gear-drive to hydro-drive walk-behind mowers, to the unrivaled performance of the industry leading Lazer Z.

Soybean Processing in Newman Grove



Farmers Co-Op Oil Company recently completed a \$400,000, 3,440 square foot soybean extrusion facility along with outside storage tanks and elevator leg in Newman Grove. The company uses mechanical extruders to process the soybean meal. Approximately two-thirds of the oil is expelled out of the processed meal.

They have a maximum capacity of 2,000 bushels per day. NewMaSoy, the registered trademark in Nebraska, will be shipped to farmers; feed milling

operations; other cooperatives; and dairy, swine, and beef feeding operations.

NewMaSoy employs one full-time and several part-time positions in Newman Grove. The company is also located in Madison, Nebraska. Visit www.newmacoop.com for more information on this soybean extrusion facility.

Gerkin Windows & Doors Expands in South Sioux City



Gerkin Windows and Doors will construct a 150,000 square foot plant in the Westside Technical Business Park in South Sioux City on land that will allow expansion

up to 350,000 square feet. Three new items will be added to their existing products when the new facility is complete in early 2004. Gerkin sells products throughout North America and Canada.

The company, in business for the past 70 years, started in 1932 with 47 employees and came to South Sioux City in 1991. Today the company has 140 employees and anticipates similar growth during the next ten years.

"We are happy to be in South Sioux City and to build our new facility on the Highway 77 bypass. City Hall, the Community Development Agency, and others have been very helpful to make this possible. Helping us find ground that will provide us the room needed and then finishing the deal with infrastructure was the key," explained Steve Schneider, president and CEO of Gerkin Windows and Doors.

"We are excited to see another fine South Sioux City firm expand. This is certainly great news for all of Siouxland," said Mayor William "Bill" McLarty.

South Sioux City, Nebraska

www.southsiouxcity.org



South Sioux City was named "All America City" for 2003. The National Civic League honored the community at a June ceremony in Washington, D.C.

South Sioux City is located in the Sioux City Metropolitan Area, offering small town living with all the amenities of a metropolitan area. Companies interested in the area can draw labor from a labor force of approximately 66,000.

South Sioux City recently built a 10,780 square foot technical office building, which can be expanded to 16,000 square feet. Great West Casualty expanded their operations into 7,840 square feet of this building, leaving 2,940 square feet available for future tenants.

Recent expansions in the manufacturing industry include Beef Products, Inc.; Gerkin Windows & Doors; and Tyson Foods. These multi-million projects are testimony of the quality of life and business climate of the community. Choose your site from 6 acres up to approximately 200 acres. South Sioux City has what you need! Served by Interstate 29, four-lane U.S. Highway 77, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads, as well as Sioux Gateway Airport, the community also benefits by having nearby water transportation on the Missouri River.

The municipal electrical system is owned and managed by the city. Nebraska Public Power District operates their distribution system through an operation and maintenance partnership with the city, ensuring the reliability of the system. South Sioux City has a gas aggregation agreement with Mid-American Energy; Northern Natural Gas is the pipeline supplier.

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The municipal water system has a daily maximum capacity of 4.4 million gallons. The sanitary sewer system has a peak capacity of 30 million gallons per day. South Sioux City has an aggressive technical infrastructure in place, which is ready for use today. The city invested in six miles of fiber with a dual ring structure encompassing the community, including the industrial park.

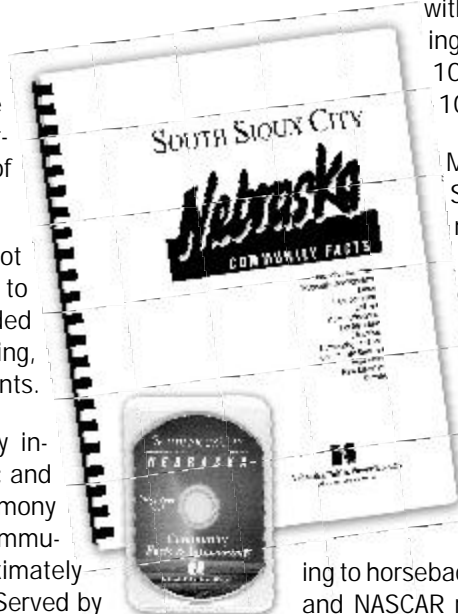
All schools in the district are interconnected with state-of-the-art communications, including Internet access in every classroom. The richness and diversity of the curriculum reflect the commitment to continuous improvement in preparing students for the 21st century. Higher education classes are available with Northeast Community College bringing classes into South Sioux City and 10 other colleges located within a 5- to 10-mile radius.

Mercy Medical Center-Sioux City and St. Luke's Health Systems offer regional medical care to the metro area. South Sioux City also has two nursing homes in the community with ten additional facilities serving the Siouxland area.

A wealth of recreational opportunities for the sports and outdoor enthusiasts are available throughout four distinct seasons of the year.

These opportunities range from cross country skiing to square dancing to horseback riding, to ice hockey, to horse racing and NASCAR racing, to a full range of high school spectator sports.

Come visit this "All America City" and see for yourself all the amenities offered. Visit www.southsiouxcity.org. Download a copy of the 60-page South Sioux City/Dakota City Community Facts Book from sites.nppd.com or request your copy by contacting the South Sioux City offices at (402) 494-7517.



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