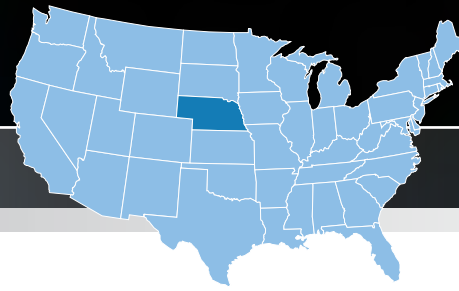


Nebraska Overview

Economic Development



Economic News from
Nebraska Public Power District

Summer 2016

Fortigen fertilizer plant breaks ground in Geneva

Fortigen LLC recently broke ground in Geneva, Nebraska, for their Nitrogen Production Plant. A group of nearly 100, including residents, Governor Pete Ricketts, Mayor Rod Norrie, and other dignitaries, officially welcomed the Fortigen anhydrous ammonia plant to Geneva during a ceremony in early March.

The company purchased 122 acres of farm ground and the plant will sit on about 20 acres of this property. Construction of the \$72–\$80 million production facility began the end of March and is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2017. Fortigen anticipates employing up to 30 full-time people, while producing approximately 100 tons of fertilizer a day.

Fortigen LLC is a subsidiary of Omaha-based Tetrad, Inc., which also operates as Tetrad Corp. and Tetrad Property Group. This will be the Nebraska-based company's first fertilizer manufacturing facility.

Joshua Westling, a representative of Tetrad Corporation, has been working with the City of Geneva for over a year to plan this major construction. Geneva Mayor Rod Norrie said, **“Making the plant possible was a community effort with lots of players behind the scenes. It will be a huge economic boost to the community and the county.”**



Left to right: Eric Kamler, President, Fillmore County Development Corporation; Senator Laura Ebke; David Scott, CEO, Tetrad Corporation; Governor Pete Ricketts; Geneva Mayor Rod Norrie; Joshua Westling, Tetrad; Shawn Rana, Fortigen; and Vance Gardiner, Tetrad

The Geneva City Council annexed the land which is located directly north of the current industrial site, one-half mile east of U.S. Highway 81 on R Street. This allows Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding for the project.

“Their (Tetrad) motto has always been ‘what can we do for the community of Geneva’ not what we can do for them,” said Mayor Norrie. **“This is a great way to continue to grow Geneva. Let’s continue to keep this momentum going.”**

Fortigen LLC will be served electrically by Perennial Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District.

Important Notice

In an effort to be more earth-friendly and reduce costs at the same time, beginning in 2017, the Nebraska Economic Development Overview will be available in electronic format only.

This quarterly newsletter is our way of highlighting economic news pertaining to Nebraska, whether it's a business expansion, a new company moving to our centrally located state, available sites and buildings, incentives, upcoming tradeshow, or information regarding Nebraska Public Power District, it's our way of getting important information out to you.

If you're receiving this newsletter via hard copy and don't want to miss a single issue, please send me your contact information including your email to: jmbarte@nppd.com with a subject line: **Overview**. You will then be added to the electronic list and receive a quarterly email from me containing a list of story highlights and a link to the PDF.

The Fall 2016 copy will be the final issue in printed format. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!
Jeanne Bartels, Editor



▶ Selects York, Nebraska

Pellet Technology USA (PTUSA) has selected York, Nebraska, to build their first commercial production facility.

This multi-million dollar investment will create 38 jobs at start-up. An additional economic impact will be the company's purchase of excess corn stover for use in the manufacturing of high quality animal feed. Corn stover bales will primarily come from a 50-mile radius of York. This will provide an additional cash crop for area corn farmers.

Pellet Technology USA is a Nebraska-based agricultural manufacturing company. The company's innovative processing of agricultural residues produces consistent, safe and high-quality animal feed.

"We're grateful for the welcome from the community and each local producer involved with our program. Everyone's excited to bring this first facility and the next generation of feed to York," said COO, Russ Zeeck.

York's Mayor Chuck Harris, stated, **"We welcome Pellet Technology USA, and appreciate the investment they are making in the community. This is a good example of recruiting an identified industrial target which will benefit our farmers and overall community."**



York County Development Corporation's Executive Director Lisa Hurley, said, **"In a rural community, it's not every year a community is able to recruit a new production facility, which makes this a huge win for York County. It has been a pleasure working with the Pellet Technology USA leadership team, and I cannot wait to see the growth of PTUSA-York."**

The company started construction in April 2016 on a 40-acre site. The campus will include three buildings (25,000 sq. ft., 12,000 sq. ft., and 7,200 sq. ft.) to be finished in fall of 2016.

Pellet Technology USA will be served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District.

For more information, visit: www.pellettechnologyusa.com.



Nebraska's Pro-Active Leadership Program

The Leadership Certified Community Program, administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, is designed to provide a solid framework for communities to identify capacity, stimulate focused planning, and utilize technology to provide a strong foundation to meet the challenges of the future. The Leadership Certified Community program is geared more towards the smaller communities who do not necessarily have a full-time economic developer.

The certification process is ongoing and noncompetitive. Nebraska communities that exhibit the required documented leadership readiness, as defined in the program criteria and approved by a review committee, will earn certification. Each applicant community is evaluated on community involvement, strategic planning, community planning and zoning, business and technology development, and the ability to implement their plans into action. Leadership Certification is good for five years as long as the community keeps their website and information up to date.

The following eight Leadership Certified Communities identified on the Nebraska map below are all served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District or one of its wholesale partners:



For more information about the Leadership Certified Community Program, visit: www.neded.org/community/community-info/community-improvement/leadership-community.

OCT Pipe LLC Update

OCT Pipe broke ground in Norfolk, Nebraska, on April 28, 2016. The company will create 300 jobs in Norfolk—about 120 more than previously announced. The plant to be built by Ayars & Ayars of Lincoln, Nebraska, will be about 1.2 million square feet and will represent the largest single construction project in the United States.



Left to right: Dirk Petersen, Vice President and General Manager, Nucor Steel; Norfolk Mayor Sue Fuchtmann; Senator Jim Smith; Charley Havens, Owner and CEO, OCT Pipe; Governor Pete Ricketts; John Ferriola, CEO and President, Nucor Corp.; Wil Reisinger, Business Associate; and Mike Ayars, President, Ayars & Ayars, Inc.

Nicole Sedlacek

Joins ED Team

Nicole Sedlacek, the former Executive Director of the Holt County Economic Development, has joined the Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD's) Economic Development Team. "Nicole brings outstanding leadership skills and knowledge of rural communities to the team. She is a business coach through the Gallup Organization and a TeamMates mentor. Her energy and enthusiasm will enable her to serve our customers well," said Mary Plettner, NPPD's Economic Development Manager.



InternNE *\in-,tərn\ n* : grant to hire paid Nebraska intern

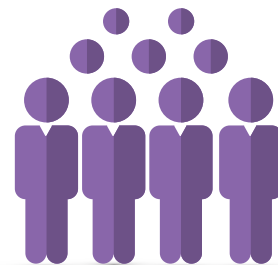
Intern Nebraska (InternNE) is a program that provides financial assistance to businesses that create new internship positions. The program focuses on helping businesses afford interns, helping students locate internships, and encouraging students to explore all the career-related possibilities that exist right here in Nebraska.

Administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED), the InternNE program helps address Nebraska's workforce challenge since more than half of interns go on to become full-time employees at their place of internship after receiving their two- to four-year degree.

A recent change to the program now allows non-resident Nebraska students to be eligible, while also allowing high school students in the 11th and 12th grades to participate in the grant program.

"Students provide fresh energy and new ideas. They are a great resource when trying to complete short term projects. Also, providing students with a great internship can prove to be an invaluable recruiting tool for employers who are trying to attract new talent," said Rose Baker, Job Training and InternNE coordinator with the NDED.

Since the program began in 2011, participating companies have filled around 1,180 intern positions and awarded \$9.2 million through May 2016.



"As far as talent and labor are concerned, our workforce drives the success of our businesses and industries. So how we attract and develop the kind of strong, reliable workforce we will need during the next 10 to 20 years to match business needs really factors into the programs we develop to target these specific needs," said Courtney Dentlinger, NDED director. **"InternNE has proven to be a great program for the express purpose of future talent attraction and development."**

For more information, visit: www.neded.org/business/talent-a-innovation-initiative/internne.

The **City of Superior** was presented with the *Governor's Showcase Community Award* during National Community Development Week in late March. The award recognizes a community or communities every year that have demonstrated exceptional efforts in community development over the previous five years.

Nfact

Nebraska Economic Fact

Nebraska is the Number 2 state for the new national mammal – the Bison.

Source: USDA



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