

IADG Celebrates 40 Years

2,750+
Projects Supported

\$12B
In Investments

46,000
Jobs Created/Retained

\$234M
USDA Awards



The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) is celebrating a significant milestone in 2025: our 40th anniversary.

For four decades, IADG has been a dedicated champion for the growth and prosperity of rural Iowa, fostering collaborative partnerships and helping our electric utility members and broadband partners deliver impactful solutions that have shaped their communities.

Established in 1985, IADG was created from a shared vision among Iowa's electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities to proactively support economic development. That spirit of collaboration remains central to our mission. More than 15 years ago, this effort expanded to include Aureon and independent broadband providers, further strengthening our reach and impact.

Over the years, we have worked alongside local leaders, businesses, and organizations to attract investment, create jobs, and improve quality of life

for Iowans. Together, we have been involved in more than **2,750 projects** resulting in over **12 billion dollars in investment** and the creation/retention of **46,000 jobs**.

Through these efforts, our members have also secured more than **234 million dollars in USDA grants and zero percent interest loans**. Those funds helped establish 76 revolving loan funds totaling over 86 million dollars, which continue to be reinvested into rural Iowa.

As we look ahead, we are filled with gratitude for the trust and collaboration we have shared with our members, partners, and the many individuals who have contributed to this success. The progress we have made is a direct result of strong relationships and a shared commitment to building a brighter future for Iowa.

Join us throughout 2025 as we celebrate this milestone, reflect on our journey, and share stories that highlight the power of partnerships in economic development. Thank you for your continued support.

Perry Selected for ADR Axels Headquarters



ADR Axels USA, Inc. has announced plans to locate in the Perry Industrial Park. The company plans to invest over \$14M in the community to build a 54,000-square-foot production facility in Perry and create 35 jobs. ADR is an affiliate of ADR S.p.A of Milan, Italy, and the Perry facility will be the company's North American headquarters. The company produces axles for farm equipment manufacturers such as John Deere, Massey Ferguson, Case New Holland and Kinze Manufacturing.

To help locate the project, the company received a Tax Increment Financing Incentive from the City of Perry as well as a tax credit award from IEDA's High Quality Jobs Program. Likewise, Perry Economic Development sold 15 acres to the company which is served by Guthrie County REC.

Congratulations to all of the partnering entities involved in the project including the City of Perry, Greater Dallas County Development Alliance, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Guthrie County REC and Perry Development Corporation.

2024 VENTURE AWARDS

Three Honored with Iowa Venture Award

Each year since 1989, Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) and its electric cooperative members have recognized the entrepreneurial spirit and capital investment of growing businesses and the leadership of organizations that support Iowa's rural economy.

With a new presentation format, three of this year's recipients were honored in early April in conjunction with the annual meetings of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) and Corn Belt Power Cooperative. These award winners join an impressive list of 293 entities who have been honored with this distinguished award.



Phil Dornbier Trucking, Inc
Nominated by *Prairie Energy Cooperative*



Fairfield by Marriott Sioux Center
Nominated by *North West Rural Electric Cooperative*



Iowa Central Community College—Storm Lake
Nominated by *Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative*

A video dedicated to each of these recipients can be found as part of IADG's Venture Award Hall of Fame at www.iadg.com/hall-of-fame.

As part of the award's new format, IADG will present one additional Venture Award at an annual meeting later this year.

See page 3 for more on the 2024 Iowa Venture Award honorees.

IADG Members Receive REDL&G Awards

Cole Excavating is expanding their business in Greene, Iowa with the construction of a new maintenance shop, cold storage building, and office building. Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power

Cooperative are each sponsoring \$2M USDA REDL pass-through loans in support of this roughly \$5.3M construction and equipment purchase project. In addition to improving workplace efficiencies, Cole Excavating is planning on adding seven full-time positions over the next three to five years.

Cole Excavating, LLC, is an excavation, grading, and underground utilities contractor located in Greene, Iowa. The business offers services for farm, commercial, IA DOT highway work, and wetland construction in the state of Iowa.

Utility: **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative**

REDL: **\$2,000,000**

Utility: **Corn Belt Power Cooperative**

REDL: **\$2,000,000**



Life Skills Training Center is planning an expansion project for its new 9,950 square-foot property near Le Mars, Iowa, sponsored with an REDG loan from North West Rural Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$360,000. Funding for the renovations of the property will house its day habilitation program, with a gymnasium, a sensory room, a kitchen, as well as spaces for gardening and entertainment for individuals with disabilities.

Life Skills provides on-going education and training of their staff to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving their goals. Consumer programming is provided by trained, professional staff who help develop individuals' skills for employment and the social skills necessary for community integration. An additional six full-time staff members will be employed at the new facility. This project will ensure the long-term success of a well-respected educational and jobs training facility in rural Iowa.

Utility: **North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

REDG: **\$300,000**

Match: **\$60,000** from **North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

Shell Rock Soy will be upgrading their facility with new pieces of equipment that will limit bottlenecks and improve efficiencies and output of its soybean products. To assist with the costs of the new equipment, Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative is sponsoring a REDL pass-through loan. With the increased capacity for production, this project is anticipated to create two new full-time positions over the next three years.

Formed in 2021, Shell Rock Soy Processing, LLC, processes soybeans into soybean meal and soybean oil to serve food, feed, and renewable fuel markets. The plant crushes approximately 40 million bushels of soybeans annually.

Utility: **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative**



Southwest Webster Ambulance (SWWA) is set for the construction of a new ambulance and medical services facility in Gowrie, Iowa after receiving a REDG award from Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association. In addition to the REDG, Webster Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association and Aureon will each contribute \$30,000 in matching funds to loan a total of \$360,000 for this project. This will allow SWWA to expand medical services and workforce training opportunities in rural Webster County, including retaining two part-time positions and employing an additional two full-time positions.

Utility: **Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association**

REDG: **\$300,000**

Match: **\$30,000** from **Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association**

Match: **\$30,000** from **Aureon**



Trackside Storage will be constructing a veterinary clinic on the main floor of a commercial property in Woodbine, Iowa, funded partially by a \$350,000 REDL pass-through loan from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative. Funds will be used to remodel a commercial property that includes three buildings: two storage facilities and a third vacant building, which will become the vet clinic for small animals. The project will create ten new full-time positions over the next three years. A licensed veterinarian in Iowa since 2011 and the sole owner of Trackside Storage, Dr. Johanna Pothast is planning to establish her own veterinary practice for small animals once the construction of the clinic is complete.

Utility: **North West Iowa Power Cooperative**

REDL: **\$350,000**

FUNDING IMPACT

USDA Program Changes Proposed for FY26

The Trump Administration released its recommendations on discretionary funding levels for FY2026 and is proposing major changes to USDA RD and program funding which may include Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant programs (REDLG).

Initial discussions remain speculative at this point. However, IADG staff has learned that the REDLG Grant program which aims to grow and establish rural revolving loan funds (RLFs), may be the target of cuts, while the REDL pass-through loan would remain.

IADG members are encouraged to apply to REDL&G by June 2025 in order to ensure rural communities and businesses have potential access to the program through FY25. IADG will provide an update on these discussions as congress get closer to reaching a FY26 budget agreement.

Iowa Venture Award Recipients

Phil Dornbier Trucking, Inc

Nominated by Prairie Energy Cooperative

Founded in 2004 by Phillip and Michelle Dornbier, this family-run business has grown from a home-based operation to a new 2025 facility in Garner's Touchstone Energy Park. The headquarters consolidates all operations under one roof with updated offices, an in-house repair shop, a wash bay, and amenities for drivers. Prairie Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Power helped support the project through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Program.

Fairfield by Marriott Sioux Center

Nominated by North West Rural Electric Cooperative

Founded in 2001 by Henry Byl and Randy Vreugdenhil, Summer View Partners has grown into a successful hotel management company with eight properties and 170 employees across Iowa and Minnesota. Their newest project, the Fairfield by Marriott in Sioux Center, opened in May 2024 and features 76 guest rooms, meeting space, a wellness center, and a pool. The hotel enhances local lodging options while supporting area businesses, schools, and organizations. North West REC also installed Level 2 EV charging stations as part of its infrastructure support.

Iowa Central Community College—Storm Lake

Nominated by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

Since 1966, ICCC has delivered high-quality education across Fort Dodge, Storm Lake,

and Webster City. The college received a Venture Award for Leadership following the construction of a new \$10 million, 24,000 sq. ft. learning center in Storm Lake. The facility supports nursing, high school career academies, and adult literacy programs, with future growth planned in trades training. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative helped secure \$2.3 million in low-interest funding through USDA programs.



Phil Dornbier Trucking, Inc. was honored for its new facility in Garner's Touchstone Energy Park.



Fairfield by Marriott Sioux Center was honored for its new hotel.



Iowa Central Community College was honored for building a state-of-the-art learning center in Storm Lake.

The Fallows: New Wedding and Event Center

Graettinger, IA – Amee and Kyle Norris, founders of The Fallows LLC, have secured low-interest loans from River Valley Telecom, Iowa Lakes Electric, Kossuth/Palo Alto Economic Development, and Aureon to develop a wedding barn and event center on Amee's family farmstead, that has been in her family for over 120 years. Their goal is to create a unique, rustic venue that celebrates the community and offers a full-service event experience near Graettinger.

The Fallows will help meet growing demand for wedding venues in rural Iowa, where existing centers often book out a year in advance. The venue will operate year-round and accommodate up to 350 guests indoors.

Situated on 2.5 acres, the space blends a renovated 90-year-old, two-level

barn (3,200 sq ft) with a modern, energy-efficient addition (3,800 sq ft), including balconies overlooking the ceremony site. At nearly 7,000 square feet, The Fallows will be the largest venue of its kind in the region, bringing a much-needed gathering space to northwestern Iowa.

Iowa Lakes Electric RLF: \$150,000
River Valley Telecom RLF: \$125,000
Kossuth Palo Alto EDC RLF: \$50,000
Aureon: \$50,000



RIPPLE EFFECT PROGRAM

Jefferson Receives Grant to Support Trail Repairs

The 72-mile Raccoon River Valley Trail, used by over 350,000 people annually, needs major repairs in Greene County. To support funding, Jefferson received a \$4,000 Ripple Grant, matched by Jefferson Telecom, to study the trail's economic impact. The \$9,000 will help the Iowa Bicycle Coalition include Greene County in its research, unlocking public funding. Repairing the 14-mile section from Winkelman Switch to Yale is estimated at \$5.4 million.

Jefferson Telecom: **\$5,000**
 Aureon: **\$4,000**

Grant Supports Minden Tornado Recovery

A \$5,000 Ripple Effect grant, matched by Marne Elk Horn Communications, will fund a master plan study to rebuild Minden, Iowa's Community Club and Little League ballfields, both devastated by an EF3 tornado on April 26, 2024. This close-knit town of 600 deeply feels the loss, especially since the Community Club was destroyed for the second time since 1976. The study is a crucial first step as the Community Club and Little League remain committed to restoring these vital spaces.

Marne Elk Horn: **\$5,000**
 Aureon: **\$5,000**

Kids Express Daycare Awarded Grant

Kids Express Daycare received a \$5,000 Ripple Effect grant, matched by Premier Communications, to partner with Prairie View Senior Care Center. Kids Express will relocate to Prairie View's vacant memory care unit, increasing childcare availability and creating a unique intergenerational environment. This project, inspired by post-COVID healthcare changes, aims to improve quality of life and model community collaboration.

Premier Communications: **\$5,000**
 Aureon: **\$5,000**

IADG Promotes Iowa at Key Industry Trade Shows

IADG and its partners have been actively championing Iowa on the national stage throughout early 2025, making significant connections and highlighting the business advantages the state has to offer. Here's a glimpse of the targeted trade shows IADG and its partners have engaged in so far this year:

Held in Tulare, CA, the **World Ag Expo** focused on showcasing the latest agricultural technology and equipment. The IADG team, along with representatives from Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, Grundy County REC, and North West Rural Electric Cooperative, engaged with numerous businesses, emphasizing Iowa's strong dairy industry.

Taking place in Las Vegas, the **Indoor Ag-Con** trade show centered on controlled environment agriculture. IADG and partners from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Heartland Power Cooperative, and Western Iowa Power Cooperative, were able to connect with key players in this industry. Discussions highlighted Iowa's agricultural sector showcased Iowa's commitment to new technology and the opportunities available for businesses in this emerging field.

This year marked our 25th anniversary of proudly exhibiting at the **PEAK Powered by Midwest Poultry Federation** trade show. As the largest trade show in the United States dedicated solely to the poultry industry, PEAK is an important event for our organization. Thank you to our valued partners from Iowa Lakes Electric

Cooperative and Midland Power Cooperative for attending with us.

Our team was also on-site in Orlando for the **Site Selectors Guild Annual Conference**. This exclusive, high-level conference gave us the valuable opportunity to network with top professional site selection consultants.

ProMat, held in Chicago provided another crucial platform for IADG to promote Iowa's strengths. Working alongside partners from Butler County REC and Iowa Lakes Cooperative, IADG representatives underscored Iowa's business friendly manufacturing environment. They shared information about available sites and buildings, as well as the comprehensive support services offered by IADG and its statewide network.

Building on a strong start to 2025, the Iowa Area Development Group and its partners continued their proactive engagement across a diverse range of key industry events. This included showcasing Iowa's growing prominence in the renewable energy sector at the **Accelerate Clean Fuels Conference** and the **Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit**, while also actively supporting the state's vital agricultural industries through participation in the **Iowa Meat Processors Convention**, **Central Plains Dairy Expo**, and **CheeseCon**.

By participating in national events, IADG and its partners build connections, highlight Iowa's advantages, and lay the groundwork for future growth.



Indoor Ag-Con



PEAK Powered by Midwest Poultry Federation



Site Selectors Guild



ProMat



Central Plains

EMPLOYEE NEWS



Susie Wilhite Named Director of Operations at IADG

We are excited to announce that Susie Wilhite has been promoted to Director of Operations at IADG! For the past five years, Susie has brought exceptional accounting and financial expertise to our team. Her dedication and attention to detail have made a lasting impact on our organization and we are so thankful to have her at IADG. Congrats Susie!