

A large, faceted crystal trophy with a circular gold-colored plaque in the center. The plaque features the text "IOWA VENTURE AWARD" and a small outline of the state of Iowa. The trophy sits on a dark wooden base. The background is decorated with red poinsettias, green pine branches, and red berries.

IOWA  
VENTURE  
AWARD

**Presented Annually by**

**Iowa Area  
Development Group**

**for**

**Entrepreneurial  
Achievement**

Presented by

**IADG**  
Iowa Area Development Group

# ***The 2014 Iowa Venture Award***

*was presented to*

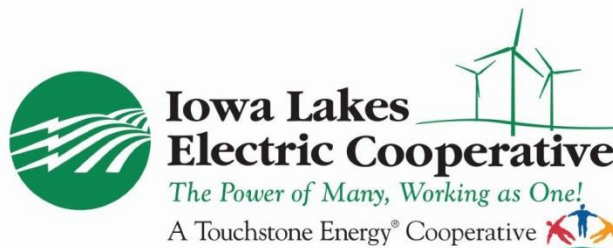
***Pro Cooperative***



*in recognition of Entrepreneurial Achievement*

*Nominated by*

**Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative**





**T**he Iowa Area Development Group established the Iowa Venture Award to honor entrepreneurial achievement, innovation and leadership. Our organization and its member-owned electric utility sponsors take great pride in presenting our **2014 Iowa Venture Award recipients**. Each of these companies have made a profound contribution to their community, our state and the economy of Iowa.



# 2014

## IOWA VENTURE AWARD RECIPIENTS

AGRELIANT GENETICS, LLC

AMERICAN NATURAL PROCESSORS

C&L COMPANIES, INC.

GLOBAL FABRICATION INC.

LOESS HILLS LAVENDER FARM

PRO COOPERATIVE

VALENT BIOSCIENCES CORPORATION

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## **Pro Cooperative Honored with Iowa Venture Award**

**West Des Moines, IA** - The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies, honored eight distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines.

**Pro Cooperative** is a full service coop with grain, agronomy, feed, petroleum, and fuel services; along with car care facilities that services 2,200 member patrons. Pro Cooperative began in 1922 and has grown and merged with other coops over the years to now serve 12 counties in Northwest Iowa. The most recent expansion was the construction of a greenfield feed mill and grain facility near the city of Ayrshire. Pro Cooperative has a licensed grain capacity of 24.6 million bushel; total yearend sales of \$335 million; and 160 full-time and 50 part-time employees. Pro Cooperative ranks as one of the top 100 agriculture cooperatives in the United States. Pro Cooperative was nominated for the Iowa Venture Award by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.

"IADG, on behalf of our sponsors, is proud to recognize these outstanding companies," said Rand Fisher, president of Iowa Area Development Group. "Their demonstrated innovation, vision, courage, social responsibility, and contribution have made had an impressive impact on their communities, regions and the State of Iowa."

Six additional businesses were recognized with an Iowa Venture Award for their significant contributions in diversifying and strengthening Iowa's economy. These 2014 Iowa Venture Award Recipients include: AgReliant Genetics LLC of Ogden; American Natural Processors of Galva; C&L Companies, Inc. of Indianola; Global Fabrication Inc. of Hampton; Loess Hills Lavender Farm of Missouri Valley; and Zinpro Corporation of Shell Rock. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, assisted in presenting the Iowa Venture Awards and honoring the Iowa companies and their leaders.

The 2014 "**Outstanding Business of the Year**" Iowa Venture Award was presented to Valent BioSciences Corporation (VBC) of Osage, IA. VBC, a subsidiary of Japan-based Sumitomo Chemical Company, opened a \$150 million biorational manufacturing facility in June of 2014. VBC is the global leader in the discovery, development, manufacturing, and commercialization of biorational products for agriculture, public health, and forestry. Located on an expansive 73-acre site, the new 130,000 square foot plant is the largest purpose-built biorational facility in the world and will serve as the manufacturing and quality control center for VBC's broad portfolio of fermentation products. VBC brought an estimated 400 temporary and 89 permanent jobs to Osage. They also use locally grown raw materials, such as corn and soybeans, to support the Osage plant. VBC was nominated for a Venture Award by Heartland Power Cooperative.

IADG is the business and community development leader for Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies. Since 1985, the Powerful Partnerships and economic development efforts of IADG and their sponsors have helped to generate over \$10 billion of capital investment and created or retained nearly 50,000 jobs for Iowa.





**Pro Cooperative** of Pocahontas, Iowa, received the 2014 Venture Award recognizing the company for its expansion and contribution to Iowa's economy. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Bill Northey, presented the award on behalf of the Iowa Area Development Group L.C., (IADG). Pictured left to right: Rand Fisher, President, IADG; Jed Skogerboe, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Rick Olesen, President/CEO, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; David Engstrom, Feed Department Manager, Pro Cooperative; Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Jerry Beck, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Maureen Elbert, Kossuth/Palo Alto County Economic Development Corporation; Tresa Hussong, and Doug Vlasman, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.



The Venture Awards luncheon is held during the Iowa Association of Electrical Cooperative's annual meeting, with nearly 350 attendees from the Generation and Transmission utilities, Rural Electrical Cooperatives, award recipients and economic development partners.



**Iowa Venture Award recognizing Pro Cooperative for their leadership, innovation and accomplishment.**



## ***Iowa Venture Award*** ***“A Rich History of Recognition”***

Iowa Area Development Group established the Iowa Venture Award in 1988 to recognize and honor entrepreneurial leadership and accomplishment in rural Iowa. Venture Awards are presented annually in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting.

The Iowa Venture Award honors the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals and organizations. Our ceremony is a celebration and recognition of the courage, contribution, innovation, social responsibility and vision of those we honor.

Recipients of the Iowa Venture Award are nominated by the members and sponsors of the Iowa Area Development Group. Companies and organizations, both large and small, are evaluated and selected based upon the contribution they have made to their community and the State of Iowa. Factors of selection include capital investment, job creation, and leadership.

In the 27 years that have passed since the first Iowa Venture Awards were bestowed, it has become evident that our honorees are among the most accomplished and successful companies in all of Iowa. Today's recipients continue that tradition and symbolize the integrity, quality and values of Iowa's business and industry leaders.

Thank you for joining us today to honor our 2014 Iowa Venture Award recipients.





