

## Forty Years of Powering Progress

### A Legacy of Growth: 1985 - 2025

Last year, Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) was proud to celebrate its 40th Anniversary, marking four decades of unwavering commitment to economic development and community vitality across rural Iowa. Since its founding in 1985, IADG has served as the strategic economic development partner for Iowa's rural utilities, driving investment, creating jobs, and ensuring a vibrant future for the communities they serve.

This anniversary was not just a look back, but a moment to honor the collaborative nature of our members and partners—the member-owned electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and independent telecommunication companies—who make this success possible every day.

### Our Collective Impact: 40 Years in Numbers

Thanks to the dedication of our members and the strength of our partnerships, the collective impact of IADG on the Iowa landscape is significant:

#### • Projects

Over **2,785** successful business expansions and new industry locations.

#### • Total Investment

More than **\$14.5 Billion** in new capital investment.

#### • Job Creation

Supporting over **66,000** new and retained jobs across the state.

#### • Infrastructure

Facilitating the development of **95 Industrial Parks** and supporting the construction of **76 speculative buildings**, totaling over **2.26 million sq. ft.** of space.

#### • Financial Assistance

More than **\$227 million dollars** in USDA grants and zero percent interest loans. Those funds helped establish **76 revolving loan funds** totaling over **\$86 million**, which continue to be reinvested into rural Iowa.

### Looking Ahead

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to our utility members, partners, and every community leader who has worked alongside us. Your commitment to a thriving rural Iowa is the foundation of our success.

The next chapter of IADG's history will focus on continuing to connect businesses



IADG Staff

with our members and the opportunities that exist in our communities. To better serve our partners and ensure the next 40 years are even more transformative, we have been engaged in planning studies and industry sector research, focused our marketing efforts, launched an updated IADG website, and will soon be developing a site readiness assessment program. Here's to powering progress, together!



## IADG Launches New Website and Powerful Site Selection Tool for Iowa Communities

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) is pleased to announce the launch of its redesigned website at [www.iadg.com](http://www.iadg.com)—a streamlined hub connecting businesses with shovel-ready sites, utilities, and economic development resources across rural Iowa.

One of the most exciting additions to the new site is the integration of ZoomProspector, a sophisticated online property and location search tool designed to help businesses research, analyze, and evaluate the buildings and sites in our territories. With more than 98 percent of businesses conducting location research online—often before ever contacting an economic development organization—this tool

ensures rural Iowa communities are visible and competitive from the very first search.

In addition to advanced property and location search capabilities, ZoomProspector adds comprehensive data layers, thematic heat maps as well as business and competitor analysis.

*"The new IADG website and ZoomProspector tool put Iowa's rural communities on the map for businesses searching for their next location. We want site selectors to find everything they need—properties, data, and community strengths—all in one place."*

— **Bruce Nuzum, President/CEO, Iowa Area Development Group**



Visit Iowa Area Development Group's new website at [www.iadg.com](http://www.iadg.com).



The new IADG website is a powerful resource for attracting business investment and supporting community growth across rural Iowa. We encourage you to explore the site, bookmark [www.iadg.com](http://www.iadg.com), and share it with businesses and prospects looking for their next location.

## Iowa Corn Processors Secures Funding for Packaging Line



Iowa Corn Processors (ICP) specializes in high-quality dry corn milling. There's a good chance your morning cereal or favorite snack started its journey at the ICP facility west of Glidden in Carroll County. All of the corn that is processed comes from Iowa farmers within a 70-mile radius of the Glidden facility.

To keep the momentum moving, Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Raccoon Valley REC teamed up to sponsor \$2 million in USDA loans for part of the financial package to assist in purchasing and installing a new high-tech product packaging line at the ICP facility.

Raccoon Valley REC provides power to the project.

## IADG Invests in Dairy Research

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), in partnership with the IADG Community Foundation, ISU Extension and Outreach, and the ISU Dairy Team, is spearheading two vital research initiatives. These projects are designed to sharpen our recruitment strategies and fuel the expansion of Iowa's robust dairy sector.

### 2026 Iowa Dairy Producer Survey Scheduled for release in Q1 2026

Updating the foundational 2020 study, this survey offers an "under the hood" look at the modern dairy farm. By gathering direct data from producers, the report provides a granular view of the industry's current health and future trajectory.



- **Farm Intelligence**  
Deep dives into organizational structures, demographics, and industry trade participation.
- **Production Analytics**  
Precise data on milk components and herd sizes categorized by breed.
- **Operational Insights**  
A comprehensive review of facility management, breeding protocols, and the emerging challenges facing today's producers.

### Comprehensive Review of Iowa's Dairy Industry Anticipated completion: May 2026

In a powerful cross-commodity collaboration, Iowa Corn and the Iowa Soybean Association have joined IADG to update this macro-level industry scan. This report bridges the gap between local production and national economic trends.

- **Economic Impact**  
The review quantifies the "Power of One Cow," highlighting how individual

## Industrial Hardfacing, Inc. Expands in Lamoni

Industrial Hardfacing, Inc. (IHI), a third-generation, family-owned manufacturing and industrial services company is nearing completion of phase one of a multi-phase expansion plan designed to support continued growth, innovation, and customer service across North America.

Phase two of the expansion project is expected to begin this year with the construction of a new company headquarters in Lamoni. In addition to expanding the company's administrative and collaborative space, phase two will allow Industrial Hardfacing to relocate offices currently housed within the production facility into the new headquarters. This transition will create 6,000 sq. ft. of additional production space, enabling further manufacturing

expansion and improved workflow. Once the expansion is completed, IHI will employ nearly 50 people.

As part of this initiative, Industrial Hardfacing has made significant capital investments, including new equipment of a 5-axis waterjet, CNC machining equipment, and new Industry 4.0 digital systems. The company completed a 6,400 sq.ft. expansion of the facility and purchased additional semi tractors and trailers. The expansion was helped by IADG's Energy Bank as well as funding from the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan program coordinated by Lamoni Municipal Utilities who also provides power to IHI.



animals contribute to a massive **\$5.5 billion statewide output.**

- **Value-Added Reach**  
Analysis spans the entire supply chain—from fluid milk and cheese to frozen novelties and livestock sales.
- **Strategic Outlook**  
Identifies key economic development opportunities to keep Iowa competitive on the national stage.

These research projects are more than just data points; they are the roadmap for IADG's support of the Value-Added Agriculture industry. By understanding the needs of producers and the potential of the market, we can continue to foster high-value investment across the state.

Access the Research: Once finalized, both reports will be available on the IADG website.

Questions? Contact Brian Tapp, VP of Value-Added Agriculture, at [btapp@iadg.com](mailto:btapp@iadg.com).

## Louscher Family Dentistry Welcomes Two FIND Program Recipients to Algona and Emmetsburg

Louscher Family Dentistry is proud to announce that two of its newest team members, Dr. Abby Thomas and Dr. Darrian Ward, have been selected for the Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND) program. Both recent graduates of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Ward are committed to serving rural and underserved populations in North Central Iowa.

The FIND program is a collaborative effort to recruit and retain dentists in Iowa's rural communities. As program awardees, Dr. Thomas, who will primarily serve patients at Louscher's Algona location, and Dr. Ward, who will be based at the Emmetsburg office, will receive funding assistance to help offset their dental school student loan payments.

A hallmark of the FIND program is the requirement of local matching funds, demonstrating the community's commitment to supporting new dentists.



Several organizations and utility partners stepped forward to provide the necessary \$5,000 local match for each dentist. The contributing organizations included: Corn Belt Power, Iowa Lakes Electric, Iowa Area Development Group, Community Foundation, Palo Alto Hospital, Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities, Algona Municipal Utilities, Midland Power, and Kossuth Area Development Group.

FIND project partners include Delta Dental of Iowa and the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Area Development Group, Iowa Dental Association, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, as well as numerous local organizations.

## Origin Homes Breaks Ground in Panora

Community Leaders in Panora celebrated new home construction coming to town. Origin Homes broke ground on five new housing projects on the city's northwest side. Matt Daniels, President of Origin Homes said, "We are excited to start this housing project and new partnership in Panora." Panora Fiber has led the way with the development of the housing sites and side street in the community. The City

of Panora was also instrumental in assisting Panora Fiber with this effort. Andy Randol, CEO & General Manager at Panora Fiber thanked Origin Homes for their commitment to Panora. "It takes partnerships to make projects like this happen. We need more housing and people in our area. We hope to work with Origin Homes on more projects in the future," said Randol.



Origin Homes, Panora Community Leaders, and Panora Fiber broke ground on five new homes.

### FUNDING IMPACT

## IADG Partners with Delta Dental for new Revolving Loan Fund

Delta Dental of Iowa RLF announced the creation of a \$2 million low-interest financing program designed to increase dentist ownership and improve oral healthcare access across Iowa. Administered by IADG's subsidiary, Development Partners Network, the fund provides gap financing to reduce financial barriers and help overcome equity shortages, appraisal challenges or other financial barriers which make the start-up or initial expansions of private practices more difficult for dentists.

This program is designed to build upon the community development work being done as part of the scholarship assistance of the Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND) program which many of IADG's partners have contributed to in partnership with the IADG Community Foundation.

For more information about the new RLF, please visit the Delta Dental website or reach out to Ethan Pitt, VP of Community Initiatives.

# IADG Receives NREDA Organization Excellence Award

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) was honored to receive the National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA) Organization Excellence Award. This prestigious award is designed to recognize utility and economic development organizations that have successfully implemented and communicated an outstanding rural economic development program within their service area. Key criteria for selection emphasize the program’s success in improving the business climate and delivering measurable results and outcomes.

IADG President and CEO Bruce Nuzum accepted the award for the organization at the NREDA 2025 Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. In accepting the award, IADG’s President, Bruce Nuzum,

dedicated the award to the exceptional IADG team and, crucially, to the partners who enable the organization’s mission. He highlighted that this commendation is particularly meaningful as IADG commemorates its 40th anniversary.

“IADG wants to share this award and recognition with our member utilities and our local economic development partners. IADG’s mission is possible because of the long-term support for economic development and the investment that our members make on an ongoing basis. This nomination and award underscore the strong, collaborative relationships that are fundamental to our shared success.”

NREDA is the national organization of economic development professionals focused upon the issues and opportunities of rural America.



At center: Bruce Nuzum, President/CEO and Steve Benne, VP Development Finance, accept the NREDA Award from Board Officials.

## IADG WORKSHOPS

### IADG Holds RLF Workshops

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) and key partners held two Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) workshops last fall in Storm Lake and Ottumwa, IA, sharing years of experience and knowledge with attendees. In attendance were IADG utility partners and economic developers who manage revolving loan funds throughout rural Iowa. The day-long trainings were provided to educate new and experienced members on RLF best practices, developing business plans, and providing an overview of the RLF process from initial inquiry to loan closing and final reporting.

Along with IADG staff, strategic presenters included Corn Belt Power Cooperative, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC). To date, IADG has assisted in the establishment of 76 revolving loan funds throughout the state of Iowa, totaling over \$86 million of capital for investment in rural communities. RLFs continue to provide vital financing to rural communities in support of business recruitment, retention, and job creation.

### IADG Markets Iowa at FABTECH Trade Show

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) has long recognized that personal connections are the engine of economic growth. For decades, a cornerstone of our strategy has been the direct marketing of Iowa’s advantages at industry-specific trade shows—placing our state front and center where global leaders gather.

Continuing our tradition of direct industry engagement, the IADG team showcased Iowa’s advantages at a booth during FABTECH 2025 at Chicago’s McCormick Place this past September. As North America’s largest event for metal forming, fabricating,

welding, and finishing, FABTECH saw record-breaking attendance last year, providing an unparalleled stage to advocate for Iowa’s industrial sector. IADG met with existing Iowa companies as well as many companies throughout the US, Canada, and Europe.

IADG is incredibly appreciative of our utility sponsors who participate in these vital business-to-business marketing efforts. Their support allows IADG to represent the state with a unified voice, proving that Iowa isn’t just a place to build a business; it’s a place supported by robust infrastructure and a reliable energy network.

