

2009 Annual Report

April 28, 2010

Letter from the Director

The Knox County Development Agency worked on many projects during 2009. We continued to focus our efforts on business retention and expansion, new business development, as well as youth retention and recruitment.

The economic challenges facing the nation are complex and daunting. However, many businesses in Knox County were able to conduct business to their utmost capability. The problems we are facing in the future cannot be addressed effectively by any single community, public official, or business. These challenges can be addressed successfully if we all work together.

The Knox County Development Agency will continue to work as the source for communication, cooperation, and collaboration for these entities. Our goals will remain in tact for 2010 as the projects are lining up.

I look forward to even greater success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Toni Tauber

Knox County Development Agency 2009 At a Glance

One of the major accomplishments for the KCDA in 2009 was completing the Target Industry Program through NPPD. This program consisted of three meetings over a three month period to help determine Knox County's values and attributes that would be important in selecting where to direct efforts for new business development. The group was asked to identify potential targets that would be suitable for the area of Knox County. A total of fourteen potential targets were nominated. After that was determined the members were asked to rank targeting factors such as wage level, wage growth, employment growth, and regional presence. After reviewing all of the data from the meeting, the Knox County Development Agency members selected renewable energy businesses and tourism as their economic growth targets. To enable further development of a plan to encourage retention, expansion, or recruitment of these target industries; the KCDA identified the actions and responsible organizations for these duties. We began our tourism efforts already in 2009, which will be carried over to 2010. Knox County has developed marketing materials promoting wind energy possibilities in Knox County. Our presence will be at the WindPower 2010 Conference in Dallas, TX to make contact with potential businesses for Knox County. Through diligent efforts in these two areas, we hope to see growth in years to come.

Knox County's Level of Enthusiasm for Possible Target Areas (Weighted and Totaled)

Potential Target	Knox County Fit & Interest Rankings									
	Community Fit			Would Volunteer						
	Poor=1	2	3	4	5=Great	No=1	2	3	4	5=Yes
Responses	Average Score	Rated 5	Responses	Average Score	Rated 5					
Renewables	13	3.62	4.00	13	2.77	4				
Tourism	12	3.83	5.00	12	2.83	3				
Healthcare	13	3.62	3.00	13	2.46	2				
Agriculture	13	3.92	5.00	13	2.69	2				
Food Processing	13	3.23	3.00	13	2.77	2				
Home Based	13	3.38	2.00	13	2.54	2				
Pet Products	13	2.92	0.00	13	2	1				
Manufacturing	13	3.62	4.00	13	2.69	3				
Ag Support Industries	13	3.77	5.00	13	2.69	3				
Food Processors	13	3.46	3.00	13	2.77	2				
Financial Services	12	3.08	0.00	12	2.25	1				
Motels	13	3.23	2.00	13	2.23	2				
Skill Enhancement	12	3.08	1.00	12	2.33	1				
1 Specialty crops	11	3.73	3.00	11	2.55	1				



Mission Statement

"To increase the economic base of Knox County through the use of networked resources while maintaining the quality of life"

Knox County Development Agency

What Does the Future Hold in 2010?

Completed

Destination Knox County-BECA
 Building Communications-BECA
 Money MarketPlace
 67 Business Visits
 KCDA Website
 Business Transition Counseling
 Knox County Target Survey
 Knox County Labor Study
 Knox County Trend Study
 Tax Incremental Financing
 Speaker
 REAP Business Class
 Three New Business Loans
 Tourism Marketing Materials
 Welcome Bags for Communities
 SafeRoutes Nebraska
 BREI Coordinator Certification

In Progress

Makin' Money Camp—UNL
 Nebraska Wind Impact Model
 WindPower 2010 Conference
 Administered 37 loans
 Wind Energy Marketing
 Materials
 Knox County Business Visitation
 Program
 Crofton Hills Wind Project
 Wind for Schools Projects

Coming Soon

BRE Study Update
 Tourism Target Program
 Youth Leadership Seminar
 Knox County Visitor's Guide



Thank You to Our Partners

During the past year, KCDA continued to build relationships and establish partnerships with the economic development community in Northeast Nebraska and throughout the state. The KCDA is grateful for the support and assistance shown to us by our partners in economic development.

Northeast NE Economic Development District
 Great Plains Communications, Inc.
 Nebraska Business Development Center
 Nebraska Public Power District
 NE Department of Economic Development
 SCORE
 USDA Rural Development
 Rural Enterprise Assistance Program
 Center for Rural Affairs
 Commercial State Bank
 Farmers & Merchants State Bank
 Knox County Communities

Board of Directors

Representative Name	City/County
Joe Skrivan	Bloomfield
Lyndsy Jenness	Bloomfield
Loren Hintz	Center
Michael Nutting	Creighton
Carmen Jacobs	Creighton
Allan Arens	Crofton
Al Larson	Crofton
Jim Fuchtman	Knox County Supervisor
Rayder Swanson	Knox County Supervisor
Sheila Keeler	Niobrara
Delores Ruzicka	Verdigre
Joan Vakoc	Verdigre
Brian ElDorado	Wausa
Murray Peters	Wausa
Carol Berglund	Winnetoon
Linda Kallhoff	Winnetoon
Wendell Strom	Great Plains Communications