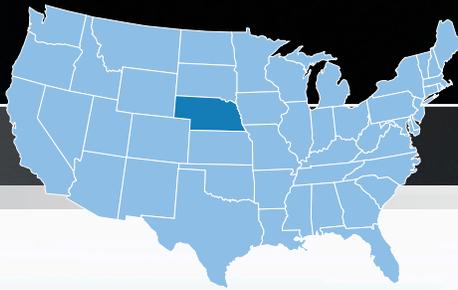


# Nebraska Overview

Economic Development

Economic News from  
Nebraska Public Power District

Fall 2013



## York, Nebraska A Prospering Community

York, Nebraska, a Certified Economic Development Community, is thriving with an expansion and new businesses. Growth in the manufacturing, agricultural, and tourism industries include Cyclonaire Corporation, DuPont Pioneer, and the Holthus Convention Center.

**“The City of York is committed to sustaining and building our vibrant local economy. Established businesses in York are growing, new businesses are moving to town, and the consumer confidence in York based commerce is strong,”** said Tara Vasicek. **“York is a great place to work, live, and raise a family; we have a high standard of living, a wide variety of amenities, and a strong and growing labor market. The community wants to see York grow and thrive and the city government will continue to take the necessary steps to make that a reality. The future is bright!”** Vasicek was recently named the new city administrator in York after having served as the city’s project manager.

**Cyclonaire Corporation**, celebrating 40 years in the industry, is expanding their facility in York. Cyclonaire is a recognized leader in the engineering and manufacturing of pneumatic conveying of dry bulk material handling systems and process control automation.

The York City Council agreed to loan Cyclonaire \$450,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding. The entire project is estimated to be a \$2.5-million investment for the Cyclonaire Corporation.

The existing facility is approximately 60,000 square feet. Jerry Elfring, president of Cyclonaire, indicated the addition will add another 23,000 square feet and an anticipated 11–15 jobs.

**DuPont Pioneer** - A new 250,000-square-foot warehouse/distribution center in the York Industrial Park is being constructed for use by Pioneer Hybrids. This \$9-million facility will be used for storage and distribution of their products. Pioneer will employ 6–10 and will be ready for business this fall.

**“York’s central location, BNSF rail and truck access for businesses at the intersection of Interstate 80, and 4-lane Highway 81 gives us a unique advantage from a logistics point of view. This allows ease of movement of goods from York County to the rest of the nation,”** said Lisa Hurley, the new executive director at York County Development Corporation (YCDC). **“Our location has been a winning contributor in the past, and YCDC plans to use this as a competitive advantage. The current industrial park is at near capacity and together YCDC and the City of York are exploring options for the next industrial park. The current level of activity, combined with planning for the future, makes an exciting time for York.”**

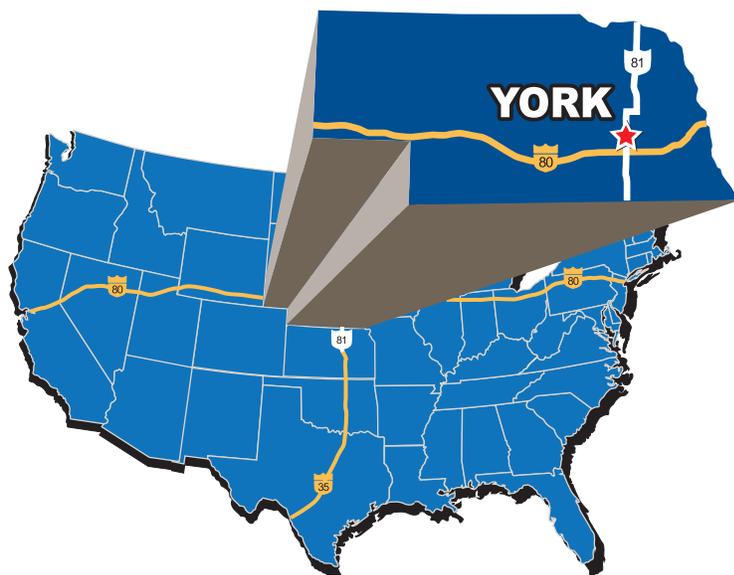
**Holthus Convention Center** - Earlier this spring several Nebraska communities were awarded Civic and Community Center Financing Funding from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for projects relating to renovation and development of cultural and convention centers. The



city of York's \$250,000 award will go toward building a 40,000-square-foot convention center. The Holthus Convention Center, located just off Interstate 80, will have a large, front-covered portico and an impressive foyer. Other features will include a large ballroom accommodating 1,200 people, a board room, and several meeting rooms.

**"It's a very exciting time in York,"** said Todd Kirshenbaum, executive director of York Area Chamber of Commerce. **"We have new businesses downtown plus a new hotel being built near the interstate and of course the exciting new Holthus Convention Center. The Convention Center will allow us to go head-to-head with other cities around the region in attracting large meetings and trade shows. We've already started booking events beginning October 2014."**

The city of York is served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District.



## Agriculture "Grows" Laurel's Economy

The agriculture industry is alive and well in Laurel, Nebraska, as evidenced by the Agrex Inc. groundbreaking and Laurel BioComposite's Phase Two Investment. A community of 951, Laurel's efforts in economic development are paying dividends.

**Agrex Inc.**, an Overland Park, Kansas-based grain merchandising company and leading U.S. grain exporter, broke ground this summer in Laurel on a 110-railcar shuttle-loader facility for corn and soybeans. This facility will have 1.6 million bushels of upright grain storage and 1.0 million bushels of bunker storage. Agrex will provide local producers additional market access to export markets, as well as to domestic feed markets.

A leading U.S. grain exporter, Agrex has sales to international markets including Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, South East Asia, and Mexico.

**"Agrex hopes to bring additional value to the local producer through the construction of this facility,"** said Shu Kobayashi, President/CEO of Agrex Inc.

The city of Laurel will utilize \$1.45 million from Tax Increment Financing to complete the installation of specific infrastructure needs.

The Laurel facility plans to handle grain in September 2014. Agrex Inc. plans to employ 6–8 full-time employees.

**Laurel BioComposite, LLC**, was formed to commercialize a new product for use in the plastics industry.

The first production facility located in Laurel, Nebraska, converts distillers grain, a by-product of the ethanol process, into a



product that can replace traditional petroleum based resins in a variety of plastics manufacturing processes.

It all began with a pilot plant in 2012 when Laurel BioComposite bought its first commercial-scale extrusion line. The Entek twin-screw extrusion line has a capacity of 8 million pounds. This line has allowed the firm to add two more production jobs in its 15,000-square-foot plant. It's being used to make Laurel's Bio-Res-brand corn-based resin which is 80 percent bio-based. The bio-material is available in pellet form, which blends easily with polyethylene, polypropylene, or other plastics.

**"Phase one of the production is expected to deliver an annual commercial production rate of about 7 million pounds,"** says Tim Bearnes, CEO of Laurel BioComposite. **"Phase two will take Bio-Res™ PE production to 48 million pounds and is projected for completion late in the fourth quarter of this year."**

Laurel BioComposite's second major capital equipment investment was the purchase of an Amtek Microwave system.

The system offers the capacity to dry up to 1,000 pounds of Bio-Res™ PE per hour. It also has the flexibility to adjust moisture levels from 35 percent to 5 percent.

Laurel BioComposite is located within the community's industrial park and employs seven. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for September.

**"Laurel has been fortunate to have Laurel BioComposite locate in the Industrial Park and become a part of our community,"** said Luke Virgil, Laurel economic development coordinator. **"Laurel BioComposite has a new dynamic product with great potential, plus it is a 'green' product. It**

**has been exciting to watch them develop and I look forward to seeing their company grow."**

Dan Leise, general manager of Cedar Knox Public Power District, said, **"We're proud of the small part that we've played to help develop the Laurel Industrial Park and bring more jobs to the community. We've partnered with them on projects in the past and I've always admired how they roll up their sleeves and get things done."**

Agrex and Laurel BioComposite are served electrically by the city of Laurel through Cedar Knox Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District.

## Software Companies "Phynd" Kearney Attractive

**Phynd Technologies**, a new innovative software firm, has developed a break-through provider data management solution for health care systems. This new technology-based business will be based in Kearney, Nebraska, bringing 18 new technology jobs over the next two years, averaging an annual salary of \$71,000. Phynd Technologies will be co-located with Xpanxion, an existing software engineering services company.

Phynd software is a cloud-based technology which helps large hospital systems manage a vast amount of provider information. The technology supports efficient managing and sharing of provider data, helping providers make better and faster clinical decisions. In September, Phynd is expected to announce signing up its first customer, a prestigious northeastern health system.

Tom White, Phynd founder and CEO, is a Texas-based serial entrepreneur. **"I like the idea of starting a company in a small market that's linked with the University system and has high-tech expertise in the workforce,"** White said.

White first learned of Nebraska's talent pool when he partnered with Xpanxion, a global software consulting firm with offices in Kearney. Xpanxion helped White develop the software that powered his previous startup software company, the first technology-based solution for critical test result management (CTRM). It is now used by large hospitals across the United States.

Phynd Technologies has received a matching \$500,000 seed investment from Invest Nebraska, as part of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Innovation Fund. An additional investment of \$1.4 million came from angel investors in Nebraska and Texas.

**"The launch of Phynd is a significant milestone for Xpanxion, as we grow our rural presence and help bring other technology companies to the state,"** said Paul Eurek, CEO of



Xpanxion. **"We are excited for the opportunity to partner with Tom White on his latest entrepreneurial venture."**

**Xpanxion**, a global software engineering services firm, built its first rural office in Kearney in 2006. When the rural model resulted in exponential success, additional rural centers were built in Loup City, Nebraska, and Ames, Iowa. A second Kearney location is now in the works to address the company outgrowing its current facility. Since first opening in Kearney, Xpanxion's Nebraska workforce has grown over 40 times larger.

**"Kearney's information technology workforce is really growing at an impressive rate. Thanks to Xpanxion and Phynd we have programming opportunities not commonly found in central Nebraska, not at this scale,"** said Darren Robinson, president of Economic Development Council of Buffalo County. **"Forecasts for Buffalo County, which includes Cabela's programming department, reflect demand of at least 60 new programming positions by 2016."**

Both companies are served electrically by Nebraska Public Power District.



**Nebraska Public Power District**  
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# Nebraska to Exhibit at FABTECH 2013

Chicago, Illinois, will be the location of FABTECH 2013, North America's largest metal forming, fabricating, welding, and finishing event. This trade show will be held at the North and South Halls of McCormick Place, Chicago, November 18–21, 2013. The upcoming event is expected to cover more than 550,000 square feet and anticipates over 35,000 attendees and 1,500 exhibiting companies. Nebraska Public Power District will exhibit at the tradeshow in partnership with the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. Visit Nebraska representatives at **Booth #S2272** at FABTECH 2013.

For more information, visit: [www.fabtechexpo.com](http://www.fabtechexpo.com).



## **N-fact** Nebraska Economic Fact

Nebraska ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> as one of America's ten most business-friendly states for 2013 by Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc., a national leader in corporate site selection based in Park Ridge, Illinois.