

Special points of interest:

Nebraska's BIT Mobile—pg 2
Primary jobs defined—pg 3



THE ANSWER IS BLOWING IN THE WIND



Nebraska is taking advantage of one of its many natural resources—wind—to produce renewable energy.

You can find the Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility about six miles south of Ainsworth, NE. Participants contracting for the output include Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), JEA of Jacksonville, FL, Grand Island Utilities and the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN).

According to information received from NPPD, the facility is anticipated to be in generation about 40 percent of the time based on wind predictions. The Ainsworth location was chosen because it produces some of the most consistent wind in the state. It is estimated the facility will generate enough electricity to serve approximately 19,000 homes.

While the turbines are easily visible for miles, less visible are the steps, such as the underground electrical collection system, taken to minimize any impact to birds and wildlife.

Another wind-based project is a joint venture between OPPD and Valmont on a wind turbine to produce electricity.



Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

It's time for the holidays and a great time for me to say "thank you" to all of you who have helped with the Commission work this past year. We could not have done it without your support.

As the Unicameral reconvenes, we will be grateful for your continuing support of the work of the Commission and the Building Entrepreneurial Communities and Value-Added Ag grant programs.

Our Commission meetings are open to the public and we invite you to attend. Information about upcoming meetings

can be found in the calendar on the back page and also on our website www.ruralnebraska.info. We have new and exciting things planned in 2007 to make our website more inviting and resource rich so visit us often as the changes take place.

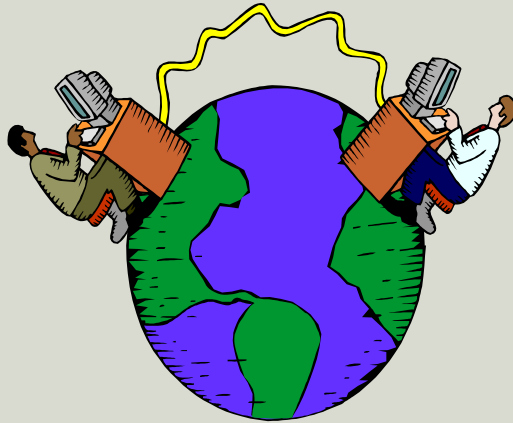
It's also time for us to say good-bye to our intern, Casey McMann, as she moves on with her education. She has been a valuable and cheerful asset to the RDC office.

Linda

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MEET THE RESOURCES



Nebraska on the Web

Enjoy a virtual tour of the state capitol, view the public meeting calendar or track a bill through the legislative process at www.Nebraska.gov

Are you a public entity wondering about records management and retention requirements? Check www.sos.ne.gov for retention schedules.

Ever wondered where your community, local government, or business could find out a little “bit “ more about technology? eBusiness, eGovernment, eAgriculture and eKnowledge expertise is available statewide through the Nebraska BIT (Business Information Technology) Mobile. The BIT Mobile is the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension self-contained mobile computer classroom. For more information on the BIT Mobile or the various programs and class offerings, contact the BIT Mobile representative at 1-800-328-2851 or visit their website at extension.unl.edu/bitmobile.

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

On behalf of the Rural Development Commission, Linda is involved in the Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA), Mid-Plains Community College Center for Enterprise advisory board, Partnership for Rural America (PRA) board (representing a six-state region), National Rural Development Partners (NRDP), GROW Nebraska advisory board, Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) community committee, Partnership for Rural Nebraska (PRN), Nebraska Value-Added Partnership (NEVAP), and the UNL advisory committee to the Textiles Department.



LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

The State of Nebraska, through the Department of Economic Development (DED), strives to create community and economic growth that continually makes Nebraska a better place to live, work and raise a family.

DED uses the following criteria when evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of both existing and new programs and services. Successful economic development initiatives should:

1. Grow stronger communities by supporting solid public infrastructure and high quality, affordable housing options that stimulate long-term community sustainability and future economic growth
2. Stimulate the creation and retention of high quality, primary, employment opportunities that improve the per capita incomes and lead to a better quality of life for Nebraska residents
3. Generate additional wealth creation potential for Nebraska residents
4. Attract human and financial capital from outside of the State
5. Grow a readily available, top quality, workforce to meet the ever-changing needs of business and industry, thereby retaining Nebraska's best and brightest youth and attracting additional workforce and population to Nebraska's communities.

DEFINING PROJECTS FOR INVESTMENT

The only reason government invests in, or assists with, private business, industrial and entrepreneurial activities is because it expects to increase the public welfare as a results.

PRIMARY JOBS are those where the goods or services manufactured or processed by Nebraska workers are exported (sold) outside of the state. In addition, primary jobs include research and development jobs that are funded by non-Nebraska financial resources, e.g., the federal government or an international company. Retail seldom falls into this category since retail sales are almost exclusively local or regional. Primary jobs are also called export or basic industry jobs. New primary jobs create **SECONDARY JOBS**. The goods or services manufactured or processed by Nebraska workers in these jobs are sold locally to individuals and to export and non-export businesses.

COMMISSION CORNER



The Commission regretfully accepted the resignation of Heidi Phillips who has chosen to be a full time mom to twins Emma and Ella. We wish Heidi, Jeff, and family the best.



Remember if you have represented the RDC or have been highlighted at some public function, please share the information with the commission.

RDC VISION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission seeks, through advocacy and action, to improve the quality of life in rural Nebraska.

RDC MISSION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission is a voice for rural Nebraska communities in the creation of laws, policies, and other initiatives that affect their economic, civic, and social conditions, and foster cooperation and understanding among all agencies and organizations, public and private.

The duties of the Commission are to:

- Focus attention on and increase awareness of opportunities and needs of rural Nebraskans
- Strengthen community sustainability and growth in rural Nebraska through increased community-based wealth creation, expanded economic opportunity and improved quality of life
- Stimulate rural development innovation and foster information transfer to, from and within rural Nebraska
- Ensure that rural Nebraskans are afforded the opportunity to determine rural Nebraska's development agenda
- Foster community-based development initiatives through multi-community partnerships

CALENDAR CORNER

Dec 6—DED Briefing—Lincoln

Dec 25-29—RDC office closed

Jan 8—UNL Recipe to Reality seminar

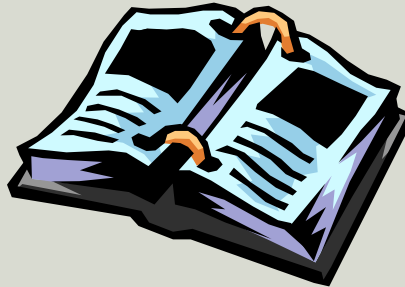
Jan 9—satellite downlink training for BECA, Nebraska Rural Advantage and New Market Tax Credits

Jan 18—RDC MEETING—LINCOLN

Feb 6-7—Governor's Agri/Eco-tourism workshop—Kearney

Feb 9—BECA deadline (noon)

**NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:
JANUARY 18, 2007—LINCOLN**



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Our new web address is official—look for us at:

www.ruralnebraska.info