



# Audubon County Economic Development Corporation

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## ACED Board of Directors

President  
Steve Schmitz DVM

Vice President  
Troy Wessel

Secretary  
Todd Nelsen

Treasurer  
Brett Irlmeier

Directors  
Lyle Hansen Jr.  
Mary Lee Jensen  
Sam Kauffman  
Alan Kearney  
LaVerne Lansman  
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Executive Director  
Thomas R. Nielsen

## ACT Board of Directors

President  
Pat Curtis

Vice President  
Lila Jean Jensen

WITR Representative  
LaVerne Lansman

Tourism Coordinator  
Margee Shaffer

## ACED TIDBITS

December 2008

I used to chuckle at the older folks that mentioned how much faster time goes by as you get older. No joke, they were correct. Already December has arrived and with that of course are the treasured family gathering opportunities and the not politically correct opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

This time of year also presents personal challenges, especially for those with personal and/or business conflicts and hardships. It is good to surround one with those you trust and confide in them. The business issues we usually visit this time of the year are year end P&L statements and balance sheets, taxes, tax deductions, budgets, memberships, marketing, sales, overhead/expenses, goal setting, business plan updates, mission statement review, charitable giving, and much more. Just give it your best shot.

THANK YOU to our members for your continued support. Your support is extremely important. Without you, our efforts could not happen. The 2009 ACED membership renewal letters have been sent out along with our updated brochure showing our activities. Your response has been great and is very much appreciated. Attached is a list of the 2008 ACED members and after our renewals and new member solicitation is complete, I will send out the new 2009 Member List. If by chance we missed you on our solicitation list and you have interest in supporting our efforts, let us know at [aced@iowatelecom.net](mailto:aced@iowatelecom.net) and I will send information to you. WE NEED YOU!

Audubon County Economic Development (ACED) puts forth its best effort to find ways to grow and retain the number of jobs and businesses here in Audubon County as well as enhance our quality of life.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development has encouraged regional efforts in economic development. In fact, that is a condition of state economic development funds. Audubon County is a part of the Western Iowa Advantage which has become one of the most workable and functional regions in Iowa. There are discussions of consolidating the regions and also of creating efficiencies by encouraging county clusters. Audubon County has been a progressive player in these notions and continues to pursue the most effective way to retain and gain jobs in the county and be a part of the local, state, national, and global scene.

The 2008 Audubon County Laborshed Analysis is now complete and has

been posted on our website ( [www.auduboncounty.com](http://www.auduboncounty.com)) for you to review for complete details. A Laborshed is defined as the area or region from which an employment center draws its commuting workers. To determine the approximate boundaries of the Audubon County Laborshed area, local employers supplied the ZIP code listings of where each of their employees reside. Here are some of the workforce characteristics for our county that are revealed by this report:

- Total Potential Labor Force is 25,580 (**up** from 24,776 in 2006)
- 92.6% have Health/Medical benefit (**up** from 84.9% in 2006)
- 69.4% have Pension/Retirement benefit (**down** from 80.0% in 2006)
- 41.3% have Paid Vacation benefit (**down** from 78.9% in 2006)
- 35.5% have Dental Coverage benefit (**down** from 58.4% in 2006)
- 32.2% have Paid Holidays benefit (**down** from 71.9% in 2006)
- 31.8% have Paid Sick Leave benefit (**down** from 67.6% in 2006)
- 65.3% share cost of insurance premiums (**down** from 74.7% in 2006)
- 26.6% have employers that pay 100% of insurance premiums (**up** from 20.3% in 2006)
- 16.9% work in Health Care and Social Services (**down** from 19.4% in 2006)
- 15.7% work in Agriculture, Forestry, and Mining (**up** from 13.6% in 2006)
- 15.1% work in Wholesale and Retail Trade (**up** from 12.2% in 2006)

Estimated number of individuals very likely or somewhat likely to change or accept employment is 5427 (**up** from 5340 in 2006). From this group of individuals:

- Number employed is 4250 (**up** from 4184 in 2006)
- Unemployed is 406 (**up** from 397 in 2006)
- Homemaker is 437 (**up** from 431 in 2006)
- Retired is 334 (**up** from the 329 in 2006)

The Western Iowa Advantage Region's monthly unemployment rate increased to **3.1** percent in October 2008 from 2.9 percent in October 2007, according to figures released from Iowa Workforce Development. The Iowa unemployment rate was **4.4** percent in October 2008 from a revised 3.8 percent in October 2007. The U.S. unemployment rate was **6.5** percent in October 2008. Total employment in the region increased slightly to 49,972 in October 2008 from 49,414 in October 2007.

Western Iowa Advantage (WIAD); a partnership of economic development organizations, tracks various economic indicators in Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, and Sac Counties including employment trends.

County unemployment rates in the region for October 2008:

Adair	3.2%	<i>3.0% in October 2007</i>
<b>Audubon</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b><i>3.4% in October 2007</i></b>
Carroll	2.5%	<i>2.4% in October 2007</i>
Crawford	2.9%	<i>3.0% in October 2007</i>
Greene	3.8%	<i>3.0% in October 2007</i>
Guthrie	3.9%	<i>3.4% in October 2007</i>
Ida	3.3%	<i>2.8% in October 2007</i>
Sac	2.9%	<i>3.0% in October 2007</i>

Through the Audubon County Endowment Fund you can make a positive impact for good, for Audubon County, forever. You can create a fund now or establish it through your estate plan with a variety of options. The Fund was established by local citizens to improve the quality of life in Audubon County-now and in the future-by making grants to support local nonprofit organizations and projects. It is simply a tool anyone can use to give back to the community and utilize tax deductions in doing so. There is currently on the table a \$50,000 matching fund grant for new moneys that are invested in the program by December 31, 2008. If this program is of interest to you, call the ACED office for additional information or go to [www.auduboncounty.com](http://www.auduboncounty.com) and click the Endowment Fund button.

The ACED Board continues to create a list of proposed incentives to motivate owning a home and or business in Audubon County. Other incentives may encourage the building of new homes or business buildings. We are open to all ideas you may have to share with us. Some of our ideas are: discount price on bare lots, TIF or Tax Abatement, free utility hookups, relocation package, special offering to returning alumni, match some expense/investment monies, etc.

Another of our committees that we have named Teamwork, has had several discussions regarding ways we can accomplish more coordination between our various towns and our civic groups. Success in this would allow making better decisions on workforce development, having more impact on community assistance, broaden our resources, minimize gaps and overlaps in what we do, set combined goals to retain and expand existing business. Other potential benefits would be to solve larger common problems, retain our existing identity, and find win-win solutions to problems.

It is my wish that 2009 will bring many needed changes to make Audubon County and all of its towns the best that we can be.

Thomas R Nielsen  
Executive Director

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## **Food for Thought.....**

- Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
- You don't have to win every argument. (Agree to disagree).
- Always try to help a friend in need.

# **AUDUBON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

## **"OUR IMPORTANT PEOPLE LIST" 2008 MEMBERSHIP**

Aagaard, Dolores  
ACCU-STEEL, INC  
Ace Hardware  
AMVC  
Andersen, Arch & Violet  
Anderson, Chris  
Audubon-Exira Ready Mix  
Audubon, City of  
Audubon County  
Audubon County Abstract Co.  
Audubon County Agricultural Extension District  
Audubon County Farm Bureau  
Audubon County Memorial Hospital  
Audubon Dental Center  
Audubon Family Chiropractic  
Audubon Food Pride  
Audubon Lumber Center  
Audubon Medical Center  
Audubon State Bank  
Barnes, Dr. H.T.  
Bohlmann & Sons Sanitation  
Brue, Nordahl & Suzanne  
Casey's General Stores, Inc  
Chambers, Thomas & Candice  
Charles Manett Farms  
Chatterbox Café  
Christensen, Delbert & Mary  
Christensen, Gary & Janice  
Clemmensen, Milo & Dolores  
Community Insurance Agency Co.  
Danish Countryside Vines & Wines  
Deist T.V. Sales & Service  
Elmquist Welding & Repair, Inc.  
Evan, Richard F. & Margaret  
Exchange State Bank  
Exira Family Medicine Clinic  
Exira, City of  
Exira Plumbing, Heating & Electrical  
Friendship Home

Gleason, Richard & Lela  
Grabill, Sam & Shirley  
Gronewold, Bell, Kyhnn & Co. PC  
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative  
Handlos, Cory & Wendy  
Hansen, Wayne & Norma  
Horizon Equipment  
Iowa Telecom  
Jorgensen, Dan & Elaine  
Karstens, Gene & Kathy  
Kessler Funeral Home  
KJAN Wireless Communication Corp.  
Kraft, John E & Carlene R  
Landmands Insurance Agency  
Landmands National Bank  
Lansman, LaVerne  
Madsen-Groteluschen-Tinker Law Office  
Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co.  
Mathisen Tree Service  
MidAmerican Energy  
Nelsen, Todd & Shannon  
Nielsen Automotive, Inc.  
Nishna Valley Insurance  
Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative  
Ohde Funeral Home, Inc.  
Parrott, John C  
Pat Kaiser's Christiansen Motors, Inc.  
Petersen, Merle & Norma  
Quality Machines of Iowa, Inc.  
Rasmussen & Nelson Attorneys  
Remsburg Service, Inc.  
Robinson Ruhnke, P.C.  
SEDON II  
Smith, Dan & Barb  
Southwest Iowa Real Estate Co.  
Tessman, Duane E. & Cleone  
Viking Construction, Inc.  
Wahlert Soil Conservation  
West Central Cooperative



*One of the real joys of Christmas is the opportunity to say thank you  
and to wish you the very best for the New Year*

**Audubon County Economic Development  
& Audubon County Tourism**

Audubon Chamber of Commerce

# ***New Year's Eve Bash***

## **December 31, 2008**

### **8:00 PM – 1:30 AM at the Agri Hall**

- Black Jack- Knights of Columbus from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- Music By Complete Music DJ
- Snacks all Evening – Provided by Audubon Food Pride & Lions Club
- Countdown to Midnight - Watch the Ball Drop on the Big Screen!
- Ring in the New Year – With Horns, Hats, Beads & Tiaras!
- Champagne Toast
- Breakfast – Catered by Jan's Catering – Biscuits & Gravy, Egg Casseroles, Hash Browns, Fruit Salad, Muffins, Juice & Coffee
- Cash Bar Available

**Tickets: \$20 per person ( Purchased before December 20<sup>th</sup>)**  
**\$30 Per Person at the Door**  
**Must be 21 to Attend**

**Tickets Available from: Chamber Directors, Present Company,  
Audubon State Bank, Landmands National Bank, Ace Hardware  
& Shear Illusions**

# 2009 AUDUBON COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## *Events Submission Form*

*Please fill out the form for your events. Audubon County Tourism will make sure they are added to the Audubon County website. Please mail to Audubon County Tourism at 800 Market Street, Audubon IA 50025-1050 or Email to [audubontourism@iowatelecom.net](mailto:audubontourism@iowatelecom.net) or Fax to 712-563-2537*

Name of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event (Start & Ending date) \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Event Contact Person & Phone # for Publication \_\_\_\_\_

Event Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the Event \_\_\_\_\_

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