

BIOTECHNOLOGY

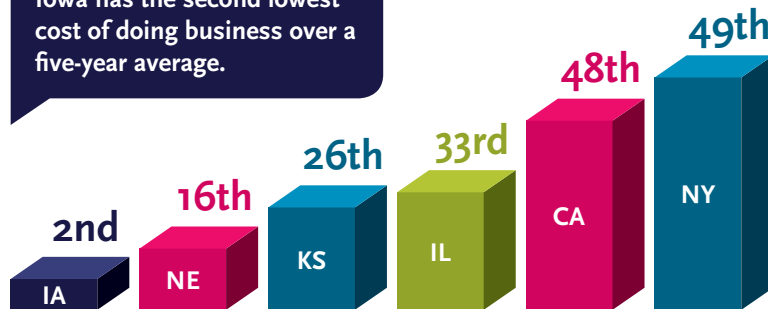
OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHWEST IOWA

Northwest Iowa, a biotechnology growth region



Biotechnology employment in Northwest Iowa has grown significantly faster than the rate of growth in the U.S. Iowa, as a leader in the production of grain, livestock and poultry, has the raw materials and expertise to support continued growth and innovation.

Iowa has the second lowest cost of doing business over a five-year average.



Five-Year Average Cost of Doing Business

Source: CNBC 50 State Comparison Reports, 2012

Northwest Iowa Biotech Companies

The percent of total workers employed in Northwest Iowa with biotechnology companies is 26% higher than the U.S. average. Some of those Northwest Iowa companies are:



Manufacturing Employment

16%

8%

NW Iowa

Nation

Skilled Workforce

Sixteen percent of the nearly 300,000 people in Northwest Iowa total labor market are employed in manufacturing, compared to a national average of eight percent.

worker labor market

300,000

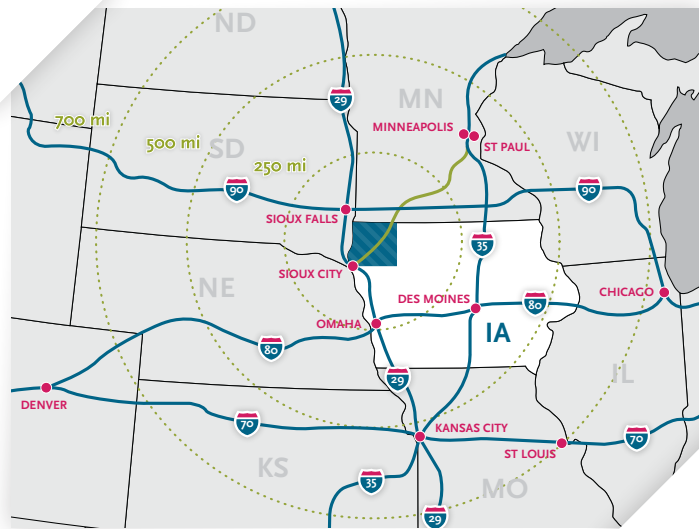
Benefits of Locating to Northwest Iowa

- Agricultural-rich region
- Available skilled workforce
- Excellent transportation systems
- Education and training programs to prepare students and workers for careers in the biotechnology industry
- Available industrial buildings and sites
- Favorable business climate
- Access to Northwest Iowa Foreign Trade Zone

Northwest Iowa workers are reliable, loyal, adaptable, and productive



Transportation



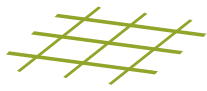
Located in the middle of the United States, Northwest Iowa offers multi-modal connections to major markets in the Midwest and throughout the U.S. The Region offers easy 4-lane access to two east-west Interstates (I-90 and I-80) and two north-south Interstates (I-29 and I-35).

Northwest Iowa is at the center of the country's railroad network. Union Pacific (UP), Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), and the Canadian National (CN) all serve the region, as do the Iowa Chicago and Eastern Railway and the regional D&I Railroad. There are several private airports in the region, and commercial air service is available in nearby Sioux City, IA and Sioux Falls, SD.

Available Buildings & Sites



46
industrial &
commercial
facilities



400k+
square feet
available



69
industrial
& business
parks

Northwest Iowa Development is a six county regional economic development partnership that represents Cherokee, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, and Sioux counties.

Business Climate

Northwest Iowa's strong business climate is reflected in its relatively **low unemployment**, which was 3.5% in February 2015 compared to 4.1% for Iowa and 5.5% nationally. Iowa is a Right-to-Work state that offers a **business-friendly regulatory environment**. Attractive local and state business incentives are available to companies locating in the state as well as Iowa companies that are expanding in state.

Education & Training

One of the key assets of Northwest Iowa is the Region's educational systems. Two of the K-12 school systems in Northwest Iowa have been named to the **Top 100 Schools** list compiled by U.S. News and World Report. Annually, the average scores of the Region's students on the **ACT and SAT college entrance examinations are significantly higher** than the national averages.

Customized job training available

Advanced Degrees

- Northwest Iowa Community College*
- Western Iowa Technical Community College**
- Dordt College
- Northwestern College

*The NCC Business and Industry Training Center offers courses in lean manufacturing, computer skills, quality assurance, and safety, plus "soft skills" training.

**WIT and NCC offer a variety of technician programs and customized industry-focused approaches.