Iowa's bioscience industry advantages

Iowa puts your business in the center of a dynamic bioscience industry cluster of over 200 contributing companies that have made $11.4 billion in capital investment projects in the past 10 years. Iowa's biofuels industry has added $11.7 billion to its economy, generated $3.9 billion in new household income and created and supported almost 60,000 jobs.

Consider some of the facts that make Iowa more attractive than ever:

• Iowa’s pro-business government works to help bioscience businesses grow through a variety of programs that offer direct financial assistance, tax credit programs including a refundable, R&D tax credit program and bioscience job training funds.

• Iowa is home to three public universities – the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and University of Northern Iowa – that are world-renowned for their dynamic research capabilities in the plant, animal and human biosciences. The universities leverage over $600 million in cumulative grants, contracts and cooperative research on an annual basis.

• The 2011 Battelle Memorial Institute’s Technology Partnership Practice reported that Iowa’s bioscience industry is a significant part of the state’s economy and positioned for greater expansion.

• Iowa’s preeminent position in the development of renewable fuels industry policy is demonstrated by Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad’s position as chair of the U.S. Governor’s Biofuels Coalition.

bioeconomy platform

Iowa is focused on the use of biomass as feedstocks for the production of a broad range of industrial bio-based products including fuels, chemicals, polymers and materials. Iowa leads the nation in the availability of biomass and the most robust industrial biotechnology infrastructure available in the United States. This platform includes two primary subcomponents: advanced biofuels development and value-added biobased chemicals, polymers and materials.

Iowa Research Centers that Support Research and Commercialization:

Ames Laboratory, Center for Biorenewable Chemicals, BioCentury Research Farm, Center for Crop Utilization Research, Center for Bioprocessing and Biocatalysis, BioEconomy Institute, Biobased Industry Center, National Ag-Based Lubricants Center, Center for Biopolymers & Biocomposites

access to raw materials

Iowa provides the nation’s second largest supply of biomass with the ability to harvest 16.7 million dry tons of biomass per year (total cellulosic and crop biomass).

Annual Biomass Resources

Source: National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)
ethanol

• Iowa leads the nation in ethanol production with 40 operating ethanol plants that have a capacity of nearly 3.7 billion gallons. (Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, 2013)
• Iowa accounts for 26 percent of total U.S. ethanol production. (Renewable Fuels Association, 2013)
• Annual ethanol production increased by 740 percent from 2000 to 2011, from 440 million gallons in 2000 to 3.7 billion gallons today. (Renewable Fuels Association, 2013)
• Iowa’s ethanol industry produced approximately 1.2 billion bushels of distillers grains in 2012, the highest by any state. (Iowa Corn Growers Association)

biodiesel

• Iowa is second in the nation in biodiesel production with 13 biodiesel refineries producing a combined capacity of approximately 325 million gallons. (Energy Information Administration, Iowa Biodiesel Board, 2013)
• Iowa has production capacity to produce almost 12 percent of the total U.S. biodiesel capacity. (Energy Information Administration)
• Biodiesel production increased from 25,000 gallons to 325 million gallons annually from 2005 to 2013. (Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, 2013)
• Iowa recently enacted a new sales/use tax refund for biodiesel producers. Producers are eligible to receive a refund on the amount of sales or use tax paid during the production of biodiesel, up to three cents per gallon.