



EDGE Newsletter

2024 | Quarter 3

July, August & September

Lucas Froeschl,
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Executive Board

Kevin Malone, *President*

Ray Joy, *VP*

Bart Keller, *VP*

Steve Kottich, *VP*

Ryan Larsen, *VP*

Mitch Merz, *VP*

Rod Rowland, *VP*

Directors

Kelly Bletscher

Brian Daake

Chris Halbert

Mark Harkendorff, *Mayor*

Tim Heckenlively

Derrick Leyden

Adam Morris

Kristen Poppe

Joe Rector

Samantha Scheitel

Steve Severin

David Sickel

Ex-Officio

Amber Holle

Anthony Nussbaum

Governor Pillen Announces Nebraska BioEconomy Initiative

Falls City's Mid-America Rail Campus Shares Vision

In August, at the Governor's Ag and Economic Development Summit in Kearney, an initiative "exploring how the state can feed the world and fuel the future while contributing to a cleaner environment" was announced. Julie Bushell of Global Sustainability Developers, LLC leads the initiative for what is categorized as the second generation of economic growth after ethanol.



[Link to News Article and Video](#)

The Nebraska BioEconomy is the key to elevating Nebraska's economic capability, revitalizing our rural communities, protecting our family farms and ranches, spurring investment in our rural infrastructure, and transforming the products, services, technologies, and production our country demands for a fully resilient future.

Falls City EDGE is working to position the Mid-America Rail Campus for similar, community-changing investment opportunities.

Guidelines for 2024 Asset Modernization Grant Announced

5% Rebate to Local Businesses for Investments

Falls City EDGE has established the Richardson County Asset Modernization Initiative, offering "modernization" resources to for-profit Richardson County businesses, including but not limited to manufacturers and agricultural/food product processors. The Initiative is intended to stimulate modernization of assets by County businesses.

- Offers a 5% rebate up to \$25,000 for modernizing company assets.
- Small Business Category: 5 or less full-time employees with minimum investment of \$20,000 to receive \$1,000 rebate.
- Large Business Category: 6 or more full-time employees with minimum investment of \$50,000 to receive \$2,500 rebate.
- Eligible applicants must be a member of EDGE or Chamber.
- Eligible businesses may collect an additional 1% for each full-time employee (FTE) created, up to 5% for 5 FTEs.
- Print and complete pages 14-17 in link below to apply.

[Asset Modernization Grant Link](#)

Committees

Investor & Community Relations

Bart Keller, *Chair*

Denise Daake

Rachel Froeschl

Tracie Heckenlively

Bart Keller

Sarah Morris

Joleen Stoller

Marketing & Sales

Mitch Merz, *Chair*

Kelly Bletscher

Logan Bredemeier

Brian Daake

Don Ferguson

Steve Kottich

Kevin Malone

Steve Severin

Product Development & Public Policy

Ray Joy, *Chair*

John Caverzagie

Chris Halbert

Tim Heckenlively

Jess Jordening

Ryan Larsen

Adam Morris

Anthony Nussbaum

Samantha Scheitel

Beth Sickel

Merle Veigel

Contact Us

Falls City Economic Development
and Growth Enterprise, Inc.

1705 Stone Street

Falls City, NE 68355

Office: (402) 245-2105

Cell: (402) 245-8435

Director@FallsCityEDGE.com

www.FallsCityEDGE.com

Falls City Recognized as BDO Zone

\$75,000 Rural Business Development Grant from US Dept of Agriculture Funds Study



We are pleased to announce the issue of an investment-grade Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone 'A' Rating for Falls City, Nebraska. Falls City's BDO Zone rating for 600,000 bone dry tons per year of corn stover is the first rating in the state of Nebraska and extends a 75-mi drive-distance from the center point in Falls City, NE. The 'A' rating confirms Richardson County, Nebraska as the home of consistent and productive corn yields and adds value to the agriculture industry that drives our local economy. Falls City's Mid-America Rail Campus is positioned to lead the way for bioeconomy investments to support our local family farms, create careers and prosperity for our working families, and capitalize on our land, rail, river, and air transportation assets. Nebraska is home to the agricultural resources necessary for the next chapter of bioeconomy investments.

Community & Legislative Updates

- 🌱 Nebraska minimum wage will increase on January 1, 2025 to \$13.50/hour.
- 🌱 Nebraska minimum wage will increase on January 1, 2026 to \$15.00/hour.
- 🌱 In an effort to expand overtime protections for lower-paid salary workers, the Biden-Harris administration announced increases to the salary thresholds required to exempt a salaried bona fide executive, administrative, or professional employee from federal overtime pay requirements. ([Link](#))
- 🌱 Standard salary levels will increase from \$844/week (\$43,888/year) to \$1,128/week (\$58,656/year) and highly compensated employee total annual compensation threshold will increase from \$132,964/year (at least \$844/week) to \$151,164/year (\$1,128/year).

Land Bank Website is Live

Showing 5 of 5 sites by Acres High ▾

- Add All To Folders
 Remove All From Folders
- Falls City, NE: 3.19 Acres
Falls City, NE
3.19 Acres
- Southeast Nebraska Land Bank: 820 McLean, Falls City
Falls City, NE
1 Acres
- Southeast Nebraska Land Bank: 1704 Morton, Falls City
Falls City, NE
1 Acres
- Southeast Nebraska Land Bank: 1612 Fulton, Falls City
Falls City, NE
1 Acres
- Southeast Nebraska Land Bank: 1604 Morton, Falls City
Falls City, NE
1 Acres

[Link](#)