In his remarks to a gathering of National Federation of Independent Businesses members in June, President Bush cited Mike Baldino, president and CEO of Kelly Industries, Inc., in Fremont, Nebr., as an example of someone whose business is contributing to the country’s economic recovery.

Baldino is an unflagging supporter of economic growth and sustainability in Nebraska. As president and CEO of Kelly Industries, Inc., the manufacturer of Kelly Klosure Systems, Baldino and his company have expanded their product line from the original simple modular panels for weather protection and temporary buildings on construction sites to include expanded metal security panels and sophisticated stainless steel containment enclosures. Kelly’s current vision includes striving to dominate the small steel building market for applications like control rooms and pump/valve houses nationwide.

During the last few years, Kelly also has added to its facility and developed a new industrial mezzanine product line that complies with the more stringent new model building code that is being rapidly adopted throughout the entire U.S. The company’s products are exported throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and other countries.

A structural engineer by profession, Baldino is a founding board member and current chair of the Nebraska Industrial Competitiveness Alliance, an organization that fosters the partnership of government, education and businesses. He founded, developed and champions the Omaha Post Student Initiative Mentoring Program, which advances the engineering profession by focusing on youth. He served as an author of Nebraska’s first Science and Technology Policy, emphasizing the importance of business and educational partnerships.

Baldino also is active in the Nebraska Diplomats, Inc. Currently, he serves as Diplomats vice president. In 1994, Kelly Industries, Inc., earned the Diplomats’ 1994 Outstanding Nebraska Company award; and in 1996, Baldino was named Diplomat of the Year by the Nebraska Diplomats Board.

For information, contact Lori Shaal at 800-426-6505, 402-471-4592, or email: lshaal@neded.org
Fellow Nebraska Development Supporters:

As I began thinking about topics for this month’s newsletter, several sprang to mind that I would like to cover within my allotted space. A group of 40-plus Nebraskans traveled to China in mid June with the goal of developing and enhancing trade among our state and the rapidly expanding country. While I am still formulating my thoughts about the trip and the opportunities available to Nebraska companies, one thing is clear: China is a rapidly growing economic force with an overwhelming supply of affordable labor and a renewed sense of capitalism. Consequently, the amount of foreign investment continues to escalate. The pending 2008 Olympics in Beijing also will undoubtedly create many opportunities.

As the Chinese society becomes increasingly wealthy, Nebraska companies will have a much greater opportunity to export supplies, products and services. In addition, many Nebraska companies will have opportunities to develop Chinese operations aimed at satisfying the Chinese demand for specific new products. In addition, the eventual lift of the ban on American beef should open the doors for the export of many Nebraska value-added agricultural products.

On the flip side of the coin, China’s efforts to open its markets to free trade has created new problems. Potentially debilitating inflation, bad bank debt and significant environmental problems are major areas of concern. However, the most striking thing to me as we traveled throughout the country was the huge disparity between the rich, middle income and poor. Similarly, there appears to be a monstrous economic difference between affluent urban residents and those living in rural areas. If the Chinese cannot narrow these economic gaps, I anticipate major challenges to their planned economic reform efforts. Stay tuned during the next several years as these trends and opportunities develop.

In late June, I had the opportunity to visit folks in Grand Island, North Platte, Scottsbluff, Ainsworth, Norfolk and Nebraska City to present findings from the KPMG Comparative Analysis of Nebraska’s Tax and Incentive Climate. One thing that came to mind during these visits is that we need to do a much better job of telling our business development success stories. More importantly, we need to work with local communities to help them better understand the impact that business and industry has on their respective communities.

Before I close, I would like to extend my special thanks to Mr. Tony Raimondo of Behlen Manufacturing in Columbus and Mr. Bill Harris of Lincoln who have completed terms on the Economic Development Commission. Their leadership and input on economic development policy and strategy throughout the years is greatly appreciated.
Gov. Johanns announces agreements with China

Gov. Johanns announced that three agreements were signed during his recent trade mission to China, establishing education, research and patient care partnerships for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the Nebraska Medical Center.

“Medical research should not be limited by geographical boundaries,” Gov. Johanns said. “The three agreements signed this week help to ensure that the University of Nebraska Medical Center continues to be a leading research institution. The resulting partnerships also will likely increase diplomacy in other arenas as interest in the global market increases among Nebraska business and industry leaders.”

An agreement signed today between UNMC and the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing opens the door to discussions about establishing a joint graduate program between the two universities in biomedical-related studies, including the fields of cancer biology, genetics and neuroscience. The partnership will involve faculty exchanges and student internships as a way to develop collaborative research projects and to further the graduate training programs of both campuses.

Another agreement signed today establishes a partnership between UNMC, the Nebraska Medical Center and the Central Hospital of China National Petroleum Corporation in Beijing to exchange medical information and education among their staff and institutions. Specific areas of interest include cancer treatment, bone marrow transplantation and radiology. UNMC and the Nebraska Medical Center hope to become a referral resource for Central Hospital of China patients who seek medical care in the United States.

A third agreement signed Monday, June 14 in Shanghai will create an exchange program between UNMC and Shanghai Second Medical University. The program will allow the two institutions to collaborate on biomedical research and education. The program also will facilitate other cultural and business partnerships between the greater communities of Shanghai and Nebraska.

UNMC is Nebraska’s only public health science center. The Nebraska Medical Center, established in 1869, is a teaching hospital for UNMC.

For information, contact Joe Chapuran at 402-658-1138, or email: jchapuran@neded.org
Gov. Mike Johanns announced that the state of Nebraska and Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) signed an agreement that will place 20 or more students, academicians or business professionals in internships annually throughout Nebraska.

The objective is for interns to become immersed in business, academic and cultural opportunities in each country and for businesses and academic institutions to equally benefit from the skills and talents of interns.

The exchange of faculty members could encompass teaching, collaborative research and services.

Gov. Johanns and President, Vice Chancellor and Professor Ng Ching-fai, representing HKBU, participated in the signing ceremony. It is only the third such agreement that the university has signed with a United States partner. HKBU also has internship programs with Chicago and Atlanta.

“It is important that our diplomatic efforts increase in sync with Nebraska’s growing presence and interest in the international market,” Gov. Johanns said. “This agreement is significant both for its diplomatic implications and the learning opportunity it presents.”

The first 20 students from HKBU will arrive in early July and remain through August, with all expenses covered by HKBU. They have been matched with Omaha businesses and organizations. The program is expected to rapidly expand to include the entire state.

Representatives from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln also met with officials of HKBU’s School of Medicine to explore the possibility of cooperative educational exchanges for students who seek higher-level degrees.

For information, contact Joe Chapuran at 402-658-1138, or email: jchapuran@neded.org

Photos from China Trade Mission

Governor Mike Johanns visits the Behlen Manufacturing facility in the industrial hi-tech science park in N. W. Beijing (China) Haiden District. To the far right is Tony Raimondo, chairman and CEO of Behlen Manufacturing’s world headquarters in Columbus, Nebraska. Second from the left is Dick Casey, senior vice president and chief financial officer, Behlen Manufacturing in Columbus.

Governor Mike Johanns addresses attendees of a reception marking the end of the trade mission held in Beijing. The reception was sponsored by Nebraska’s Behlen Manufacturing, Valmont Industries, and Union Pacific.
HOME and new NAHTF training offered July 12-15 in North Platte

Grantees, prospective grantees, organizational leaders interested in applying for grants, or anyone else wanting to learn how to administer HOME and Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) projects can participate in specialized training, July 12-15, at North Platte's Holiday Inn Express.

The training will get underway on Monday afternoon, July 12, with registration and a session on Administrative Overview & Contract Requirements.

On Tuesday, July 13, participants can attend their choice of several concurrent sessions offered throughout the day, including Homebuyer Program Administrative Requirements or Homeowner Rehabilitation Program Design Decisions; Homeowner Rehabilitation Administrative Requirements or Rental Program Design Decisions; and Rental Program Administrative Requirements or Homebuyer Design Decisions.

On Wednesday and Thursday, DED staff will present sessions on Environmental Review, Program Income, Relocation, Income Verification, Avoiding Repayment, Reporting Requirements, Financial Record Keeping, Monitoring, and the Closeout Process.

The training will wrap up about 1 p.m. on Thursday.

A $100 fee covers the four-day training, materials (other than NAHTF and HOME manuals), and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday. The NAHTF and HOME manuals—a required part of training—are available for $25 each, or can be downloaded off the department's website. The 2004 NAHTF manual features new and updated information, while the HOME manual remains unchanged since last year's updates. Participants also are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing.

For training registration information, contact Greg Cecil at 800-426-6505, 402-471-2280, or email: gcecil@neded.org. To register go to: http://crd.neded.org/housing/home_training.htm, click on Registration Form (.Doc), print off and fill out form, make check payable to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and mail to:

HOME/NAHTF Training
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666

For room accommodation and reservation information, call the North Platte Holiday Inn Express at 308-532-9500.

Tourism vacation guide Wayne Hart dies

It is with sadness that the Tourism Division reports the death of Wayne Hart of Lincoln. Wayne, who was 73 when he died from cancer, worked for the division for many years as a vacation guide at I-80 rest areas near Lincoln and Milford. Wayne had also worked periodically with the Tourism Division staff helping with data entry, office duties, brochure distribution and working at travel shows. Prior to this work with the Tourism Division, Wayne worked as the Lancaster County chief administrator. He was a Korean War veteran and Nebraska National Guard Lt. Colonel. Wayne's life, and the life of his family and friends, was shaped by his enthusiasm, intelligence, generosity, sense of humor and a ready smile. Wayne will be missed very much by everyone at the Tourism Division.
Beatrice manufacturing company to expand
Husqvarna announces plans for new manufacturing facility

Husqvarna Turf Care Co., a manufacturer of commercial mowing and turf care equipment, will build a new 274,000 square foot plant on 25 acres near the Beatrice airport, off Highway 77 to replace its current facility on Park Street in Beatrice. Attending a groundbreaking ceremony in June were Lt. Gov. Dave Heineman, State Senator Dennis Byars, and Beatrice Mayor Dennis Schuster, among other dignitaries.

Tremendous growth along all of Husqvarna’s product lines has required this expansion," said Henric Andersson, president of Husqvarna Turf Co. "State-of-the-art equipment and the new floor plan in manufacturing will increase productivity and streamline processes. We designed the building with the customer in mind."

Husqvarna has been a presence in Beatrice since 1999, when it purchased Yazoo/Kees Power Equipment and the following year added the Denver-based Bluebird line of turf care equipment to the company’s expanding portfolio. BlueBird operations were transferred to Beatrice in 2002.

Husqvarna is a world-leading manufacturer of forest, lawn and garden products and also one of the oldest companies in the world. Founded in Sweden in 1689 as a weapons factory, Husqvarna is now a division of Electrolux Professional Outdoor Products, one of the world’s most respected brands of outdoor power equipment. The Beatrice plant manufactures commercial lawn mowers, seeders, sod cutters, aerators and other similar products for the professional user.

Husqvarna said it expects to be operating at its new location by late spring 2005. For information, contact Dave Gilfillan at 800-426-6505, 402-223-6654, or email: dgilfillan@neded.org.

August 2nd deadline set for showcasing your business and community at the Nebraska “possibilities” event

There are still booth spaces available for your community, business or organization to participate in the “Explore Your Possibilities” Nebraska Alumni Celebration and Career Fair, November 20, 3-8 pm, at Downtown Denver’s Adam’s Mark Hotel, 1550 Court Place.

Make a personal pitch to hundreds of people at the career fair – Nebraska’s college and university alumni living throughout Colorado’s Front Range who may be considering a move back to Nebraska, as well as, other Coloradans needing a change of pace.

The celebration also will include dinner with Governor Johanns kicking it off, and feature keynote speaker James Clifton, president and CEO of The Gallup Organization, and emcee Juli Burney, comedian, humorist, motivational speaker and communication consultant.

The deadline for submitting registration forms is August 2nd.

For a packet of information or to reserve your space today, contact Patty Wood or Kim Bastemeyer at 800-426-6505, or email: pwood@neded.org or kbmeyer@neded.org.
Blair gets $505,000 to assist with Cargill expansion

Governor Mike Johanns has awarded $505,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the city of Blair to help Cargill, Inc./Cargill Polyols LLC expand its corn milling facility located on the Cargill campus. The project is expected to create 16 new full-time jobs.

Blair will loan Cargill, Inc./Cargill Polyols LLC, $500,000 to purchase equipment that will be used to produce new low calorie, low carbohydrate polyol sweeteners, including several grades of maltitol syrup, maltitol crystals, and sorbitol, in addition to several grades of liquid maltose. The remaining $5,000 will be available to the city for loan-related administrative costs. The company is expected to create 16 full-time jobs.

The project funding is part of a program directed by DED that assists with the development of businesses and communities throughout the state. Federal funds are made available to Nebraska from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s CDBG program.

Cargill, Inc., will invest $30.618 million in the project.

Cargill, Inc., has been in the grain business for more than 130 years. Starting as a country elevator, the company has expanded its grain merchandising business into a global agricultural and food solutions company. The corn milling plant, established on Cargill’s Blair campus in 1995, has been expanded several times, including the addition of an erythritol plant in 1999. The crystalline and liquid maltitol, sorbitol and maltose will be used in the production of sugar free candy, gum and low carb products.

For information, contact Dave Honz at 800-426-6505, 402-471-3763, or email: dhonz@neded.org.

Nebraska delegation seeks business at San Francisco biotechnology conference

In a coordinated effort to identify new business and technology for Nebraska, representatives from Lincoln, Omaha, and the University of Nebraska brought a well recognized Nebraska presence to the BIO2004 Biotechnology Conference at the San Francisco Moscone Center in June. This is the fourth year that Nebraska’s booth and delegation to the Bio event has been championed by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, with support from the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Omaha Public Power District, and DED. This year, representatives of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, the University of Nebraska Technology Park, and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln joined the effort to meet with clients and identify business situations that can potentially bring benefits back to Nebraska. Attended by 18,000 individual registrants from more than 60 countries, and hosting 181 seminar and workshop sessions the annual conference is where the biotech and medical technology companies meet to discuss the industry trends and technical progress of this rapidly growing industry sector. With business cards in hand, industry representatives gather, seeking technology partnerships and future business alliances…all of which can mean new jobs and opportunities for economic development.
DED Staff Updates

Stu Miller has assumed the role of deputy director of economic development strategy and policy implementation, and also will serve as DED’s legislative liaison. His primary responsibility will be to research, review and analyze DED’s public policy, and assist DED director Richard Baier with proposing policies that strengthen Nebraska’s economic development infrastructure, strategy for the state’s entrepreneurial and small businesses, and initiatives to encourage additional tourism statewide. For information, contact Stu Miller at 402-471-3783, or email: smiller@neded.org.

Gary Hamer has assumed new duties as deputy director of operations. In his role, he oversees many daily activities and administration of the agency. Hamer also will continue to oversee the work of DED’s Community and Rural Development Division. For information, contact Gary Hamer at 402-471-4388, or email: ghamer@neded.org.

Carla Patterson has assumed Gary Hamer’s previous duties as manager of business development. Her new responsibilities include oversight and coordination of all DED business development efforts. She is involved in helping design a seamless business development strategy that incorporates the work of the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership, existing business area, one-stop business assistance office, field staff, international office, and recruitment and research areas. DED staff in these divisions now report to Patterson. For information, contact Carla Patterson at 402-471-6513, or email: carlap@neded.org.

InterAsset, Inc., to provide technical business assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program today awarded InterAsset, Inc., a $20,000 grant to work with selected rural Nebraska businesses in using new and innovative business models and technology.

InterAsset, Inc., is a private, nonprofit economic development corporation established in partnership with DED. InterAsset, Inc., partners with strategic management specialists from the private sector and universities to help businesses form strategic planning and growth objectives highlighting technology; becomes more globally interactive; and develops more strategic business alliances in order to leverage new technology and international business relationships.

The $20,000 grant will be matched by other public and private sponsors. InterAsset, Inc., encourages representatives of local governments and economic development organizations and lending institutions to recommend and help sponsor area enterprises, inventors and entrepreneurs that qualify for business assistance.

In addition, InterAsset, Inc., organizes "Strategic Growth" forums for companies and communities interested in gaining practical guidance in building strategic plans and industry-leading business alliances.

For information on the grant, or to learn more about hosting a forum in your community, contact Terry McAuliffe at 800-426-6505, 402-471-3741, or email: terrym@neded.org.
NCIP communities prepare for August 31 deadline

Twenty workshops in July and August will help communities participating in the 2004 Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) prepare for an August 31 award nomination deadline.

The free workshops will review the NCIP process and help communities prepare to submit award nominations for community and economic development accomplishments. Volunteers and professionals who are preparing nominations, or who want to learn more about NCIP are encouraged to attend.

The registration deadline is one week prior to each workshop. Sites receiving no registrations will be cancelled. Workshops are scheduled as follows:

- July 6, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MST—Ogallala, Ogallala St. Visitor Center, 220 N. Spruce
- July 6, 6-8 p.m. MST—Kimball, Public Library, 208 S. Walnut St.
- July 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. MST—Scottsbluff, City Council Chambers, 1818 Avenue A
- July 7, 5-7 p.m. MST—Alliance, Learning Center, 1750 Sweetwater St., Suite A
- July 8, 3-5 p.m. CST—Ainsworth, Public Library, 5th and Main Sts.
- July 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. CST—Atkinson, Weller Center, 206 W. 5th, Room S
- July 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CST—Grand Island, City Hall, Council Chambers, 100 E. 1st St.
- July 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m. CST—Chapman, Community Center, Main St.
- July 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CST—York County, site TBA, call for information
- July 14, 6-7:30 p.m. CST—St. Edward, site TBA, call for information
- July 19, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MST—Sidney, Western Nebraska Community College, 371 College Dr.
- July 19, 6-8 p.m. CST—McCook, Von Riesen Library, 1205 E. 3rd St.
- July 20, 1:30-3 p.m. CST—Hayes Center, Hayes Center Senior Center, Main St.
- July 20, 6-8 p.m. CST—Eustis, Village Office, 108 N. Morton St.
- July 21, 1-3 p.m. CST—Gothenburg, Public Library, Conference Room, 11th St. and Lake Ave.
- July 28, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CST—Beatrice, Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Board Rm., 226 S. 6th St.
- July 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. CST—Blue Hill, Community Center, Gage St.
- Aug. 4, 1:30-3 p.m. CST—Pawnee County, Pawnee City Historical Society & Museum, Hwys. 50 & 8-east
- Aug. 12, 3-5 p.m. CST—South Sioux City, City Hall Council Chambers, 1615 1st Ave.
- Aug. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. CST—Hartington, Public Library, 106 S. Broadway

Nebraska communities with 50,000 pop. or less, are eligible to participate in NCIP. Benefits include leadership skill development, increased community involvement, visioning and planning process assistance, greater access to community and economic development resources, and statewide recognition during an annual conference and banquet. The 2004 conference and banquet, recognizing outstanding community and economic development efforts, will be held November 12 at Lincoln’s Cornhusker Hotel.

NCIP is a partnership between DED, the University of Nebraska, and eight investor-owned utility companies that sponsor the program. NCIP sponsors providing plaques, cash awards, judging and conference expenses for 2004 NCIP are: ALLTEL, Aquila, Northern Natural Gas, Glenwood Telephone, Great Plains Communications, Inc., HunTel Systems, Kinder Morgan, Inc., and NorthWestern Energy.

To register or learn more, contact Lindsay Papenhausen at 800-426-6505, or email: ncip@neded.org. Information also can be found at: http://crd.neded.org/ncip/
Business transition workshop set for July 9

“Selling Your Business and Retiring: Benefiting Yourself and Your Community,” a free, 90-minute workshop on the business transition process, will be held July 9, 10 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 4005 N. 6th St., off Hwy. 77.

Dave Nabity with the Nabity Financial Group will lead the workshop, which will cover:
- What is at stake?
- Planning ahead
- What is my business really worth?
- Who should I sell my business to and why?

Workshop sponsors are DED and the Rural Development Commission.

Business owners attending the first few workshops in North Platte, Hastings and Scottsbluff came away with solid strategies for ensuring the continued success of their businesses after they retire.

“Nabity provided insight into the importance of structuring business deals so that owners/sellers and buyers protected themselves from the tax trap,” said a North Platte business owner. “I hadn’t given any thought to the tax consequences to the purchaser.”

“This workshop helped crystallize my thinking about selling my business and was very worth the trip,” said a Hastings workshop participant. “I’ll sell out as soon as possible.”

The remaining workshops will be held:
- September 17, 10 a.m. CST—Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center, 601 E. Benjamin Ave.
- October 22, 10 a.m. CST—Valentine, Holiday Inn Express, 803 E. Hwy. 20.

For information, or to register, contact Lisa Dominisse at 308-535-8018, or email: lisa@neded.org.

$500,000 to support Grand Island’s Heartland Event Center

A $500,000 grant has been awarded to the city of Grand Island for development of the Heartland Event Center. The grant was the first awarded through DED’s Local Civic, Cultural, and Convention Center Financing Fund.

The Heartland Event Center calls for a 6,000-seat arena with meeting rooms and other facilities to be based at Fonner Park. The project’s $35 million cost has been raised through numerous public and private sources.

The Local, Civic, Cultural, and Convention Center Financing Fund is derived from 30 percent of new state income, sales, and lodging tax revenue generated from the construction and operation of Omaha’s Qwest Center.

The next grant or grants will be awarded in February 2005 to one or more Nebraska municipalities that applied during the same application period as Grand Island. Grant amounts are based in part on the population sizes of Nebraska municipalities. The minimum grant amount is $20,000.

To inquire about the grant process, or receive more information, contact Tom Doering at 800-228-4307, 402-471-3784, or email: tdoering@neded.org.
83 communities/multi-communities enter NCIP

To date, 83 communities/multi-communities will participate in the 2004 Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP), which is celebrating more than 40 years of recognizing outstanding community and economic development efforts; and helping rural communities and areas meet challenges, and build on strengths and available resources. The entry deadline has been extended to Aug. 12. The final award nomination deadline is Aug. 31.

“NCIP has a proven track record of uniting communities and spring boarding collaborative events and projects statewide,” said Kathy McKillip, NCIP coordinator and economic development consultant with DED. “It is a thrill to review the project nominations and an honor to be working with these dedicated and committed volunteers across Nebraska.”

Communities and multi-communities with pop. 50,000 or less are eligible to participate in the program.

Signing up for NCIP in 2004 are:

**Eastern:** Alexandria, Bancroft, Beatrice, Belvidere, Cedar County, Coleridge, Cumming County, Davenport, Diller, Dodge, Hartington, Hebron, Howells, Hubbell, Ingelwood, Laurel, La Vista, Mead, Nebraska City, Oakland, Pawnee County, Pilger, Seward, Shelby, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Waco, Wayne, West Point, Western, Wisner, Wymore, York and York County.


**Western:** Alliance, Chappell, Curtis, Eustis, Farnam, Gothenburg, Grant County, Hayes County, Hemingford, Kimball, Lexington, Maywood, Minatare, Morrill, North Platte, Ogallala, Potter, Scottsbluff, Scottsbluff/Gering, Sidney, Smithfield, and Southwest RC&D.

Nominations will be accepted and judged for a number of special awards. For information on the individual awards that will be given, refer to the 2004 NCIP Award Guide, or log onto the NCIP website at: http://crd.neded.org/ncip/

Workshops detailing the award nomination forms will be held in July and August. Communities will be recognized for outstanding projects and programs at the annual NCIP Awards Banquet, Nov. 12, held this year in Lincoln.

NCIP is a partnership between DED, the University of Nebraska, and the following investor-owned utilities that sponsor the program and provide funds for judging expenses, plaques and cash awards, NCIP road signs and conference materials: ALLTEL, Aquila, Glenwood Telephone, Great Plains Communications, Inc., HunTel Systems, Kinder Morgan, Inc., Northern Natural Gas, and NorthWestern Energy.

To learn more about the workshops or how to participate in NCIP, contact Lindsay Papenhausen, NCIP assistant at 800-426-6505, or email: ncip@neded.org, or check out the NCIP website at: http://crd.neded.org/ncip/

---

**DED’s website receives makeover**

The DED website has a new look, with many added features. Thanks to the DED web team, and the work of Tim O’Brien, an intern at DED, the site now features scrolling current news, updated links and photos, and less ‘clicks’ to your desired site.

Visit the new website at: http://www.neded.org
Registration of food facilities required

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, was signed into law by President Bush on June 12, 2002. The purpose of the law is to protect the public from a threatened or actual terrorist attack on the U.S. food supply by enabling the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine the location and source of the attack. However, estimates say that an astounding 50% of the food industry are unprepared to comply with the law, which took effect December 12, 2003. To carry out provisions of the Bioterrorism Act, the FDA published the interim final regulation, “Registration of Food Facilities,” that requires food facilities to register with the FDA. It also has issued the interim final rule on Prior Notice of Imported Food Shipments. Who must register? Under the proposal “owners, operators, or agents in charge of domestic or foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States” are required to register their facilities with the FDA. Examples of “food” include dietary supplements and ingredients, infant formula, beverages, fruits and vegetables, fish and seafood, dairy products and shell eggs, raw agricultural commodities, canned and frozen foods, bakery goods, snack food, candy, chewing gum, live food animals, animal feeds and pet food. Failure to register may lead to legal consequences.

Facilities can register online via the internet, by completing a paper form, or submitting to the FDA a CD-ROM with relevant registration information. Registrants must use Form 3537 to register or update a registration. Facilities may register online at: [http://www.fda.gov/furls](http://www.fda.gov/furls). In addition to online help, registrants can call 1-800-216-7331 in the U.S. or 301-575-0156 in the U.S. and elsewhere. Questions may be faxed to 301-210-0247, or emailed to furls@fda.gov. If a facility does not have access to the internet, a copy of the form may be obtained from the FDA by calling 1-877-332-3882, or by mailing a request to: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, HFS-681, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, USA. When the form is filled out, it should be mailed to this address or faxed to 301-210-0247. The FDA is encouraging online registration. There is no fee for registering.

For information, contact: Jayne Stratton, Nebraska Food Processing Center (FPC) at 402-472-3553, email: jstratton1@unl.edu, or visit the FPC website at: [http://www.fpc.unl.edu/ProductCategories/Bioterrorism.htm](http://www.fpc.unl.edu/ProductCategories/Bioterrorism.htm). The FPC partners with the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership.