



KAEDC

**KOSSUTH AREA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
OF SUCCESS!**

DEAR KAEDC FRIENDS,

2026 was a year of change for economic development in Kossuth County. After twenty years of representing two counties, we transitioned mid-year to a one-county organization focused exclusively on the Kossuth County Area and became the Kossuth Area Economic Development Corporation (KAEDC).

Despite these changes, KAEDC continues to provide the programs our communities and businesses have come to expect, including the Career Intern Program, quarterly City Clerks' and Human Resource Managers' meetings, and four-session Leadership Series. Our professional and experienced staff remains the same to serve.

KAEDC remains actively involved in the Kossuth Childcare Coalition, which raised and awarded over \$80,000 so far to Kossuth County daycare providers in 2026 to increase childcare availability and sustainability. The coalition also secured \$30,000 in grants for a countywide childcare study, scheduled for completion in 2027, to assess future childcare needs.

Housing has also become a growing priority. KAEDC recently brought a housing developer to Algona to meet with community officials, property owners, and employers to discuss local needs and opportunities. These productive meetings have us optimistic about establishing a long-term partnership to increase housing in the Kossuth County Area.

Another exciting initiative was our new partnership with Leisa Fox of the Made in Iowa podcast. KAEDC coordinated interviews with six Kossuth County businesses: Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Group, Snap-on Tools, Pioneer/Corteva Agriscience, Aluma Trailers, Country Maid, and Kinetic Technologies. Reflecting on her visit, Leisa shared: "Tod and the KAEDC team were phenomenal partners." These podcasts are available through KAEDC's Facebook page and website, the Made in Iowa YouTube channel, and the Business Record website under the BPC Streaming Network tab.

As we close out 2026, KAEDC is encouraged by positive employer feedback regarding strength of their businesses and employment and continued opportunities for growth. We remain committed to supporting entrepreneurs and expanding businesses throughout the county, including the utilization of financing available from our Revolving Loan Fund. With a renewed focus on the Kossuth County Area and strong momentum behind us, KAEDC looks forward to an exciting 2027!

-Tod Faris
Executive Director

MEET OUR TEAM



Tod Faris
Executive Director



Linda Knecht
Finance Officer



Callie Monson
Communications Manager



Edie Cee
Economic Development Ambassador



The Kossuth Childcare Coalition and the Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund is a collaborative effort developed by the Kossuth Area Economic Development Corporation (KAEDC), Algona Area Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), and the Algona Area Chamber of Commerce. The coalition formed after childcare was identified as an economic development priority impacting the local workforce, business growth and overall community development.

2026 AWARDEES:

Little Sprouts Daycare LLC, a licensed daycare center in Algona owned by Samantha Elbert, was awarded \$20,000 as a forgivable loan for wage enhancements.

Jeanne Berkland, a Registered Child Development Home (B) in Algona, was awarded \$8,500 as a forgivable loan for wage enhancements and a low-interest revolving loan of \$20,000 to assist with facility improvements.

Erika Bierstedt, a Registered Child Development Home (B) in Algona, was awarded \$5,750 as a forgivable loan to pursue a Level 3 quality rating through the Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) program.

We Care Childcare, Inc., a non-profit organization working on the creation of a new daycare center in Titonka, was awarded a \$20,000 grant for the continued development of a daycare center.

To learn more, contact Tod Faris, KAEDC Executive Director at 515-295-7979 or kcedc@kossuthia.com



KAEDC | Intern PROGRAM

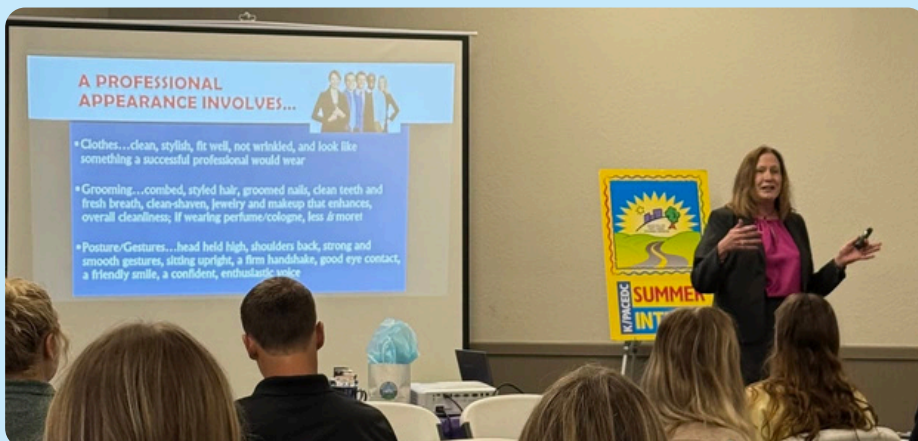
The Kossuth Area Economic Development (KAEDC) Summer Intern Program provides local college and high school students with an opportunity to gain valuable professional experience while learning more about the communities they call home. Through internships with area businesses and organizations, students gain hands-on experience in their fields of interest while developing workplace skills, building professional connections, and exploring career opportunities available right here in the region.

The program also goes beyond the individual internship experience by connecting students with local businesses, community leaders, and fellow interns. Throughout the summer, interns have opportunities to participate in professional development activities, networking events, and community experiences designed to introduce them to the many career and quality-of-life opportunities available in rural Iowa.

By bringing students and local employers together, KAEDC's Summer Intern Program helps strengthen the connection between today's students and tomorrow's workforce. The program encourages young professionals to see the value of building their careers locally while giving area businesses an opportunity to invest in and develop the next generation of talent.



Back row L to R: Ava Roethler (KAEDC), Paige Schmitt (Sudol Tax & Accounting), Cael Miller, Shelby Brosh (StateLine Cooperative), Alex Olson (Kossuth County Engineers), Faith Zeller (Camp Algona POW Museum), Marissa Ackerman (KRHC). Front Row: Aurora Peters (ISU Extension), Hannah Point, Lily Elsbecker, Macy Berte (Erpelding, Voigt & Co), and Flynn McCann (Algona Publishing).



INTERN BREAKFAST

Brenda Clark-Hamilton of Fresh Coffee; Professional Growth Programs, emphasizing her message on the do's and don'ts in the world of professionalism at the Intern Breakfast on June 9, 2026.



Alison VanOtterloo of Pharmacists Mutual led interns through an interactive session focused on the increasingly important role of emotional intelligence in the workplace. Through discussion and real-world examples, interns explored how understanding their own emotions and recognizing the emotions of others can influence communication, leadership, decision-making, and professional relationships.

Iowa State Bank hosted a financial literacy session, covering credit, saving, investing, banking, and long-term financial planning in partnership with Ameriprise. Together, these trainings provided interns with the practical tools and knowledge to navigate the workplace, manage their finances, build professional relationships, and prepare for future career opportunities.



A mock interview and resume training led by Brianna Marso of Iowa State Bank gave interns an opportunity to practice common interview questions, receive individualized feedback, and strengthen their confidence, communication, active listening, and professional presentation skills. Interns also received professional headshots, reinforcing the importance of presenting a polished professional image for their portfolio.

A social media and professional presence session with Pharmacists Mutual emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive digital reputation and using LinkedIn to showcase education, experience, career goals, and professional connections. The program also addressed important skills beyond the traditional workplace.



Over 150 non-perishable items were donated to the Kossuth County Food Pantry by our summer interns!

THANK YOU TO OUR INTERN PROGRAM SPONSORS!

ALGONA AQUATIC CENTER

ALGONA FAMILY YMCA

COUNTRY MAID

ELLIE'S ON MAIN

FAREWAY

FRIDLEY THEATERS

HYVEE

KEMNA AUTO CENTER

KOSSUTH REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER



2026 ECONOMIC IMPACT

AT A GLANCE



\$2.08 B

TOTAL EXPORTS



\$1.95 B

TOTAL IMPORTS



7,594

TOTAL JOBS



1,431

MANUFACTURING
SECTOR JOBS



\$67.7K

AVERAGE ANNUAL
WAGES



883

COMMERICAL &
INDUSTRIAL BUSINESSES

CROPS AND AGRICULTURE OVERALL FARMING



584,543

TOTAL FARMLAND
IN ACRES



\$12,414

AVERAGE LAND
VALUE PER ACRE



1,342

NUMBER OF
FARMS



436

AVERAGE FARM
SIZE IN ACRES

Sources: USDA; National Agricultural Statistics Service; U.S. Department
of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

KOSSUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS



CORN PRODUCTION

ACRES PLANTED:
306,000

ACRES HARVESTED:
303,000

YIELD OF
BUSHEL/ACRE:
204.60



SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

ACRES PLANTED:
213,000

ACRES HARVESTED:
211,500

YIELD OF
BUSHEL/ACRE:
59.9

Sources: USDA; National Agricultural Statistics Service



CHICK PRODUCTION

27.95 M

DAY-OLD CHICKS
HATCHED/PRODUCED
AT WELP'S HATCHERY

CENTURY & HERITAGE FARMS

CENTURY FARMS:
413 FARMS
OWNED BY THE SAME
FAMILY FOR 100+ YEARS

CENTURY FARMS:
12 FARMS
OWNED BY THE SAME
FAMILY FOR 150+ YEARS

Source: Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship and Welps Hatchery

RENEWABLE FUELS IN KOSSUTH CO.

39 MILLION

BUSHELS OF CORN
PROCESSED ANNUALLY

61 MILLION

GALLONS OF SOY BIO DIESEL
PRODUCED ANNUALLY

110 MILLION

GALLONS OF ETHANOL
PROCESSED ANNUALLY

Sources: Valero and AGP 2025



CATTLE PRODUCTION

OVERAL TOTAL HEAD:
21,500

TOTAL JOBS CREATED:
236

LABOR INCOME
OF PRODUCTION:
\$9.85 M

STATE RANK:
#40



PORK PRODUCTION

OVERALL TOTAL HOGS:
566,671

TOTAL JOBS CREATED:
1,256

TOTAL NUMBER OF
HOG FARMS:
130

STATE RANK:
#9

Sources: Iowa Pork Producers 2025 EI, Iowa Beef Industry Council 2024 EI

HEALTHCARE KOSSUTH REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER



515.2

TOTAL JOBS

8% OF ALL JOBS IN
KOSSUTH COUNTY
COME FROM KRHC

\$34.2 M

TOTAL WAGES

10.1% OF ALL WAGES
IN KOSSUTH COUNTY
COME FROM KRHC

\$79.4 M

TOTAL EXPENSES

7.9% OF GROSS
DOMESTIC PRODUCT
IN KOSSUTH COUNTY



1,640

TOTAL
ADMISSIONS



4,770

EMERGENCY
ROOM VISITS



136,432

TOTAL OUTPATIENT
VISITS



114

TOTAL BIRTHS



1,127

TOTAL SURGERIES



41,688

TOTAL CLINIC
VISITS

Sources: Iowa Hospital Association 2026 Data; Kossuth Regional Health Center

HEALTHCARE KOSSUTH COUNTY EMS



1,139

EMERGENCY
RESPONSES
911 CALLS



237

INTER-FACILITY
TRANSFERS



39

COMMUNITY
AND EVENT
STANDBY

Sources: Kossuth County EMS 2025

KAEDC REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The KAEDC RLF provides businesses with access to supplemental, low-interest financing that can help make growth and investment projects possible. As loans are repaid, the funds are reinvested into other local businesses, creating an ongoing resource for business development and job creation.



22

BUSINESSES
FUNDED SINCE
2004



\$770,400

TOTAL LOANED
AND INVESTED
BACK INTO
KOSSUTH COUNTY



115

JOBS CREATED
OR RETAINED

Sources: KAEDC RLF 2026

EDUCATION

IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ILCC offers specialized programs aligned with the industries that drive the regional economy, helping employers build a skilled workforce while giving students pathways to high-demand careers.

- **Agriculture & Agribusiness** – Iowa Lakes prepares students for careers in production agriculture, agribusiness, agricultural management and related industries that are central to Kossuth County's economy.
- **Farm Equipment & Diesel Technology** – Hands-on training prepares skilled technicians to service and maintain the increasingly sophisticated equipment used throughout agriculture, transportation and industry.
- **Renewable Energy & Wind Technology** – Iowa Lakes trains technicians for careers in wind energy and renewable power, supporting an industry with a significant presence throughout Northwest and North Central Iowa.

48%

OF IOWA LAKES
STUDENTS GRADUATE
DEBT-FREE

54%

OF IOWA LAKES
GRADUATES STAY
IN THE AREA

\$1.09 M

IN SCHOLARSHIPS
WERE AWARDED IN
2024-2025

ILCC TOP GRADUATING PROGRAMS:

AA/AS DEGREE, NURSING, AGRICULTURAL STUDIES,
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT, AND AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Source: ILCC FY 2025

KAEDC | Annual Meeting

Kiley Miller of Alliant Energy recently shared an inspiring message with local leaders and community members through his presentation, "Get Loud About Where You Live" at the KAEDC County Wide Breakfast on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. The presentation encouraged attendees to recognize the strengths of their communities, take pride in where they live, and become active voices in telling their community's story.

Miller emphasized that community promotion starts with the people who call a place home. Residents, business owners, volunteers, and community leaders all have a role to play in highlighting what makes their communities special. From local businesses and community events to schools, organizations, attractions, and the people who make things happen, there are countless stories worth sharing.



Kiley Miller presenting "Get Loud About Where You Live" at the KAEDC Annual Meeting

A key takeaway was the importance of talking positively and consistently about your community. When residents share their experiences, celebrate local successes, welcome newcomers, and support local businesses, they help create a stronger sense of community pride. Those positive conversations can also influence how others view the area as a place to live, work, raise a family, visit, or invest.

The presentation served as a reminder that community development isn't only about large projects or major investments. It is also about the everyday actions of individuals who choose to get involved, volunteer, attend local events, support their neighbors, and proudly tell others why their community matters.



Pictured above from left to right: Dave Rowley (State Senator), Bob Jennings, Jim Oberhelman (Rep. Randy Feenstra), Howard Haas, Tod Faris (KAEDC Executive Director), Kiley Miller, Doug Vlasman, Mathew Neisen, Kyle Stecker, Kolby DeWitt (Rep. Joni Ernst), and Carter Nath

In September, KAEDC welcomed Leisa Fox of the Made In Iowa Podcast for two days of tours and interviews highlighting the businesses, people, and innovation that contribute to our region's economic strength.

During Wednesday's business tours, Leisa and Tod Faris visited Country Maid, Kinetic Technologies, Pioneer, and Aluma Trailers. The tours provided an opportunity to learn more about each company's operations, workforce, innovation, and contributions to the local economy.

Thursday focused on interviews with leaders from Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Group, Snap-on Tools, Country Maid, Kinetic Technologies, Pioneer/Corteva Agriscience, and Aluma Trailers. The conversations highlighted each organization's approaches to innovation, workplace culture, and continued growth.

Reflecting on her time in the area, Leisa Fox shared, "Kossuth County completely exceeded my expectations. We found world-class innovation, fascinating companies and some of the most genuine, forward-thinking leaders I've had the opportunity to interview. What struck me again and again was the pride people have in their work and in their communities. Tod and the KAEDC team were phenomenal partners. They opened every door, welcomed us everywhere and helped us uncover stories I cannot wait to share. I came away convinced that more people across Iowa need to know what is happening in Kossuth County."

KAEDC appreciates Leisa for spending two days in our area and helping showcase the businesses and people who make our region a great place to live, work, and do business. These podcasts are available through KAEDC's Facebook page and website, the Made in Iowa YouTube channel, and the Business Record website.



Darin Massner, CEO of Country Maid, and Leisa Fox, touring Country Maid in West Bend



Tod Faris, Leisa Fox, and Todd Eastvold, Plant Manager, touring the Pioneer Facility in Algona



Tod Faris, Leisa Fox, and Mike Lloyd, President of Aluma, touring the Aluma facility in Bancroft



Leisa Fox interviewing Mark Barglof, Owner/CEO of Kinetic Technologies, for the Made In Iowa Podcast

CITY CLERK TRAININGS

KAEDC's City Clerk Committee provides a valuable opportunity for local city clerks to connect, share knowledge, and strengthen their skills they use every day. Meeting quarterly, the committee brings clerks together for networking and practical training on topics relevant to their roles and the needs of their communities. By creating opportunities for professional development and collaboration, KAEDC is investing in the people who help keep our local communities running effectively and efficiently.

Our Q3 presenter was Kossuth County Sheriff, Roger Fisher. Sheriff Fisher presented on how to handle nuisances in communities from a city standpoint and when to get the Sheriff's Office involved.



LEADERSHIP SERIES

KAEDC's Leadership Series provides local professionals with meaningful opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills, expand their professional knowledge, and connect with others in the community. Led by Brenda Clark-Hamilton of Fresh Coffee Professional Growth Programs, the 2026 series focused on personal and professional growth, and helping participants become more effective leaders within their organizations and communities. By investing in the development of local leaders, KAEDC is investing in the people who drive our businesses, strengthen our workforce, and help shape a stronger future for the Kossuth Area.



HUMAN RESOURCES NETWORKING

KAEDC's Human Resources Committee brings local HR professionals together quarterly to network, share ideas, and learn about topics that directly impact their businesses and employees. Through relevant training, open discussion, and collaboration, the committee helps HR professionals stay informed and better equipped to address the evolving needs of today's workforce. By investing in the people who support our local businesses and employees, KAEDC is helping strengthen the workforce and build a stronger Kossuth Area.



KAEDC BUSINESS INVESTORS

Kossuth Area Economic Development extends our sincere appreciation to the businesses and organizations who invest in KAEDC and support economic development throughout our region. Your investment helps strengthen our business community, supports local initiatives, and creates opportunities for continued growth and prosperity. We are grateful for your partnership and commitment to the future of the Kossuth Area.

\$1,000 + INVESTORS

- Algona Medical Clinic II
- Algona Municipal Utilities
- Bancroft Municipal Utility
- Bank Plus
- Bolton & Menk
- Buchanan, Bibler, Gabor & Meis
- Central Financial Group
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative
- Corteva Agriscience
- Country Maid, Inc.
- Cozzini, LLC
- Erpelding, Voigt & Company
- Farmers State Bank
- Fidelity Bank & Trust
- Greg Penning & Company
- Hormel Foods Coporation
- ITC Midwest, LLC
- Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Iowa State Bank
- Kossuth Regional Health Center
- MidAmerican Energy
- Midland Power Cooperative
- Northwest Bank
- PMC Advantage Insurance Services
- Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Group
- Security State Bank
- Smithfield Hog Production
- Snap-on
- StateLine Cooperative
- Walker Chiropractic & Wellness, PC
- West Iowa Bank

\$500 - \$999 INVESTORS

- Algona Publishing Company
- Alliant Energy
- Drs. Klepper & Trainer, ODS
- Erpelding Excavating Enterprise
- Farm & Home Services
- Gold Eagle Cooperative
- Good Samaritan Society of Algona
- Heartland Mutual Insurance Association
- Hy-Vee
- Kemna Auto Center
- Kossuth Abstract & Title Company
- Reding's Gravel & Excavating / Edwards Contracting
- Suidae Health & Production
- Titonka-Burt Communications
- Whittemore Municipal Utility
- Woodruff Construction

\$250 - \$499 INVESTORS

- Algona Area Chamber of Commerce
- Algona Floor Design
- Algona Manor Care Center
- Blacktop Service Company
- Brenda Clark-Hamilton "Professional Growth Programs"
- Carroll Implement
- Dump It Sanitation & Recycling
- East Fork Swine Veterinary Services
- EXIT Realty Home/Land Properties
- Farmers Cooperative Elevator
- Feed Mill Coffee Co. & Events
- G-Force Customs
- Glen's Green Thumb
- Grass Masters
- Henkel Construction Company
- Henry-Olson Funeral Homes
- J & J Custom Meats
- Jack's O.K. Tire Service
- K.C. Nielsen, Ltd.
- Kinetic Technologies, LLC
- KLGA/KLGZ
- North Iowa Appliance Center
- Park 'N Bark
- Protein Resources
- Roethler Electric
- Stuart Simonson, CPA
- Sudol Tax & Accounting

\$50 - \$249 INVESTORS

- Algona Hearing Center
- Algona Machine & Supply
- Kossuth County Farm Bureau
- Lone Rock Cooperative Telephone Company
- Reutzel Excavating
- Steier Ag
- Tom Eischen Sales

THANK YOU TO THE KAEDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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TAMMY EDEN
Kossuth County Auditor

KOSSUTH AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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