

IOWA ALLIANCE for **COOPERATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Improving rural economic conditions through business development

The Iowa Alliance for Cooperative Business Development, supported by a USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant, is committed to improving economic conditions through cooperative and producer-owned business development. The Alliance combines outreach and research programs to provide rural Iowans with viable alternatives for economic development.



Business development assistance

The Alliance provides rural Iowans with training and assistance to successfully initiate and operate rural agricultural businesses. Such businesses can play an important role in maintaining viable economies for rural Iowa by providing alternative marketing opportunities for farmers and good jobs for rural residents.

Machinery and labor sharing arrangements

The Alliance conducts workshops on cooperative strategies for machinery and labor sharing arrangements. The workshops cover owning, leasing, and renting farm equipment and strategies for sharing machinery and labor. A manual is available to help develop tailored arrangements.

Workshops for cooperative and producer-owned businesses

In partnership with the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and Nebraska Cooperative Council, the Alliance conducts workshops for directors of traditional and producer-owned agricultural processing cooperatives. The Alliance also provides financial trends analysis for the farm supply and grain elevator cooperatives industry.

Cooperatives research

The Alliance conducts applied research that supports development of rural cooperatives in the biofuels and biobased products industries, farm supply and grain elevator cooperatives, and grain and livestock industries.



Objectives

Conduct cooperative training workshops to educate directors, officers, and managers about finance, strategic management, and other issues.

Identify and evaluate cellulosic biomass marketing options.

Help educate and train the next generation of cooperative members, managers, and employers.

Work with existing cooperatives and producer groups to identify opportunities for rural and cooperative business development and growth.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Iowa Alliance for Cooperative
Business Development**

1041 Food Sciences Building
Ames, IA 50011

515 294-2342

www.extension.iastate.edu/coops