



BUENA VISTA, CLAY, DICKINSON & EMMET COUNTIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 2, 2011

**For more information, contact:**  
Samantha Miller, 712-264-3474

**Iowa Protein Solutions honored with Venture Award**

ESTHERVILLE – Iowa Area Development Group on behalf of Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives and member municipal electric systems has honored nine distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award. The Iowa Venture Award business recognition event began in 1988 and has honored over 190 of Iowa’s finest business leaders and companies.

Iowa Protein Solutions found a niche serving the food processing industry and helping their parent company, Dakota Pack, utilize waste stream by-products. Today, the waste management company produces bone meal, blood meal and yellow grease for animal feed and other purposes. Doug Skinner, the company’s founder and CEO, bought a vacated feed mill site south of Estherville to establish the protein operation. IPS employs 14 people and is providing a vital service for Dakota Pack and others in the food processing and livestock industries.

Iowa Protein Solutions was nominated for the Iowa Venture Award by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.



Iowa Protein Solutions of Estherville received the 2011 Venture Award recognizing the company for its expansion and contribution to Iowa’s economy. Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham presented the award on behalf of the Iowa Area Development Group L.C. Pictured left to right are Lyle Hevern, City of Estherville; Larry Walthart, Energy Advisor-Estherville, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Tresa Hussong, Vice President of Customer and Corporate Relations of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Terry Bruns, President/CEO of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Doug Skinner, CEO of Iowa Protein Solutions; Debi Durham, Director of IEDA; Alan Madden, Vice Chair of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Jed Skogerboe, Manager Business and Community Development, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; and Rand Fisher, President, IADG.

“The Iowa Venture Award honors the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals and organizations. The luncheon ceremony is a celebration of the courage, contribution, innovation, social responsibility and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs,” said IADG president Rand Fisher. “IADG has recognized Iowa’s leading companies large and small and it has become evident that our honorees are among the most accomplished and successful companies in the state. Together they help sustain and grow Iowa’s economy. Iowa Area Development Group, on behalf of our sponsors, is grateful to have the opportunity to honor and recognize these outstanding Iowa companies.” Since 1985 the Powerful Partnerships and economic development efforts of IADG and their sponsoring rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities have helped generate over \$6 billion of capital investment and create or retain nearly 40,000 jobs for Iowa.

The 2011 “Outstanding Business of the Year” Venture Award was presented to Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc. and Aviagen Turkeys, Inc., a global market leader in poultry genetics, for locating Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults in Osceola, Iowa. The new 87,000 sq.ft. single-stage hatchery, with capacity to incubate over 50 million eggs per year and provide poults throughout the U.S., is the largest turkey hatchery in world.

The Iowa Venture Award was also presented to Delta Dental of Iowa for “Distinguished Leadership.” Delta Dental of Iowa has provided leadership and resources to help attract and retain dentists in rural Iowa. Since 2003 Delta Dental of Iowa has assisted 18 dentists and rural Iowa Communities by providing over \$1 million dollars in debt reimbursement for dentists. The program called FIND (Fulfilling Iowa’s Need for Dentists) is serving as a national model for helping communities address dental healthcare shortages.

Iowa Venture Awards were also presented to six other businesses for their significant contributions in diversifying and strengthening Iowa’s economy. The 2011 Iowa Venture Award recipients include: Clickstop, Inc, Urbana; Golden Eagle Distributing Co., Mount Pleasant; Icon Ag & Turf, Le Mars; Interpower Corporation, Lamoni; Iowa Cage-free, L.L.P., Goldfield; and Royal Oaks Development Corporation, Peosta and Bellevue. Iowa Economic Development Authority director Debi Durham assisted IADG in presenting the Iowa Venture Awards and honoring the Iowa companies and their leaders.

IADG is the business and community development leader for Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives and member municipal electric utilities. The 2011 Iowa Venture Awards luncheon ceremony was held at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives’ annual meeting in West Des Moines on Dec. 1.

# # #

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation is the regional economic development agency for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson and Emmet counties. Its mission is to foster, encourage, aid, promote or otherwise assist in the economic growth and development of the region. For more information about the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, call 712-264-3474 or visit [www.lakescorridor.com](http://www.lakescorridor.com).