

John Deere Announcement Caps a Year of Business Investment in Ankeny

[Deere and Company confirmed plans](#) in December to construct a new 300,000 square foot building for product assembly in Ankeny. The project also retains 400 jobs in Ankeny. The company currently employs about 1,900 people at the John Deere Des Moines Works in Ankeny and has added nearly 500 positions here in the last 24 months.

The City Council's approval of a development agreement with Deere and Company was the eighth business that the City has supported to invest and create jobs in Ankeny since August 2010. Other projects include:

Accumold held a ribbon cutting in November for their expansion which doubled the size of their Ankeny facility to about 80,000 square feet and added over 40 new jobs.

SYSCO Iowa's new 20,000 square foot corporate office and customer support facility is on track for occupancy this year.

QA Graphics continues to announce good news about more hires at their growing creative design firm based in the first office building in the Vintage Business Park at Prairie Trail.

Perishable Distributors of Iowa invested over \$7 million in their facility at Oralabor and Delaware. The company employs over 500 people and serves eight states in the Midwest.

The **Lauridsen Group Incorporated's** new 21,000 square foot office and laboratory facility is taking shape on SE Oralabor Road. The expansion also means the creation of 16 new high quality jobs in the community.

CJM Financial has chosen to grow in Ankeny, investing in their facility to accommodate business growth and employees.

In addition to these growing local businesses, the community also welcomed the establishment of **New Horizon Cuisine**. This food company has invested over \$2 million in a new 6,000 square foot building and plans to create 15 jobs in Ankeny.

36th Street Interchange on Track for Fall 2012 Opening

The first phase of Ankeny's fourth and northern-most interchange is complete. Pending favorable conditions for construction, the 36th Street interchange is expected to open in

November of this year. The grading and bridge construction were completed in late 2011. Work will start soon on interchange on- and off-ramps and paving of new interstate lanes.

The interchange will open new opportunities for businesses in [Ankeny's targeted industries](#) as well as office, services and residential development. In addition to accommodating new growth, the interchange will also serve to relieve the significant congestion at the First Street interchange.

New Office Building for Prairie Trail

Construction is underway for mid-2012 occupancy of a new 11,000 square foot office building in Vintage Business Park at Prairie Trail. [DRA Properties](#) is constructing the building immediately north of an existing office building that fronts on State Street. Suite sizes range from 1,228 square feet to 3,000 square feet, with opportunities to combine for larger space needs.

[Prairie Trail](#) is Ankeny's thousand acre new urbanist development that mixes business, residential, civic and recreational uses. The new office building will be located at 1200 SW State Street.

Ankeny Business Fast Fact

This month's business moved into its new headquarters location in Ankeny's Prairie Trail development in September 2009. The 60 employees of this organization help Iowa farmers realize more profit from their crops and encourage environmentally sensitive agricultural production. The company was named one of the 2011 "[Best Places to Work](#)" by the *Des Moines Register*.

This month's business is [Iowa Soybean Association](#).

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