

## **Technical Assistance Note #2: Des Moines, Iowa Brownfield Pilot Site, December 98, Vernon P. Deines**

### **II. Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Programs**

The Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation is the largest and most influential business-related membership organization in Iowa. The mission of this organization is to foster economic and community development by helping existing companies grow, retaining and attracting targeted industries, building the necessary infrastructure to support growth, and telling the globe about their world-class metro. Key information on staff specialists, publications and other services is listed on the internet ([www.dmchamber.com](http://www.dmchamber.com)). Specific agribusiness programs, publications and services are described below.

The Chamber serves more than 2,000 businesses, 5,000 executives and 150,000 workers in Central Iowa in the 21 county area, which accounts for one third of Iowa's population and labor force. A major economic development initiative is Project 21, aimed at creating and retaining thousands of jobs to preserve and enhance the prosperity of Central Iowa into the next century. Since 1994, 25 companies have added 9,242 jobs, with a net economic impact of \$425.96 million. Targeted industries include agribusiness and biotechnology. Another major focus is the Food and Agricultural Council, which addresses the concerns and needs of Iowa's producers, agribusiness professionals and those interested in agricultural issues. The contact person is Billi Hunt (515-286-4965).

Publications available from the Chamber include the Greater Des Moines Area Economic Review (Dallas, Polk, Story and Warren counties) with data on population, income, retail sales, employment, industry projects, real estate and more, available for \$25 (member) or \$30 (non-member); the Polk County Labor Survey; the Greater Des Moines Area Profile; a Nine-County Statistical Review; plus many other informative guides, directories, videos, and pamphlets. Call 515-286-4950 for inquiries on available publications.

The Chamber offers assistance on site selection to businesses and industries interested in relocating to Greater Des Moines, including financing, human resources, education, marketing, real estate, transportation/communication, utilities, and special assistance on development tools and incentives, interagency liaison with local and state government officials, site inspection tours, presentations/materials/meetings and interviews with developers, agents, and contractors. The contact persons are Dory Briles or Chuck Seel (515-286-4975 or 515-286-4978).