

Vilsack announces millions in federal funds for solar, fertilizer projects

By Kyle Dunphey  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced millions in funding on Monday for renewable energy and domestic fertilizer projects. Vilsack spoke during the American Farm Bureau Federation’s annual convention and trade show, which was in downtown Salt Lake City this year. He touted the Inflation Reduction Act while sounding the alarm over the loss of small operations and wealth consolidation in the agricultural industry. Since 1981, Vilsack said the country has lost 437,300 farms and over 141

million acres of farmland. “Those are farm families that are no longer in the farming business, which means that in all likelihood their families are no longer in those small communities,” Vilsack said. “The question I ask all of you today is whether we’re OK with that?” And despite what Vilsack called the best three years in net farm cash income ever in the U.S., small and midsize operations are not seeing the success of their large, industrialized counterparts. About 7.5% of American farms received 89% of the income last year; which means the remaining farms, which Vilsack estimated at about 2 million, had to share

11% of income generated by agriculture. “What we’re doing here is creating opportunities for that 92% of farmers to be able to have multiple revenue streams,” Vilsack said as he announced the new round of funding. The federal dollars are coming through the Rural Energy for America and the Fertilizer Production Expansion programs, which direct about \$207 million to projects in 42 states, according to the department. Roughly \$94 million of that comes from the Inflation Reduction Act. The funds announced Monday will support 682 projects, most of them aimed at reducing emissions and renewable energy.

More than 80 Iowa projects have been awarded nearly \$18 million. Among them: Red Lion Knoxville Waterworks Solar LLC, an electric generation company, was awarded \$800,000 to install solar arrays at six locations in Knoxville. The project is expected to generate enough electricity to power 123 homes, amounting to \$81,499 per year. Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy LLC was awarded \$1 million to help install a slurry heating and reduced backset system at its dry-mill ethanol production facility in rural Pottawattamie County. Red Lion Creston Schools Solar LLC was awarded \$1 million to help install solar

arrays in Creston expected to generate enough electricity to power 216 homes, amounting to \$151,822 per year. The program provides grants and loans to farmers and rural small businesses to expand the use of wind, solar and other clean energy sources, which according to the USDA helps them “increase their income, grow their businesses, address climate change and lower energy costs.” Vilsack called it “a voluntary, incentive-based market-driven system” that has become popular among farmers. “I know that farmers and ranchers and producers are taking advantage of this because the programs



Tom Vilsack

are oversubscribed. The demand is great,” he said. “Farmers are now going to be paid, encouraged, incented, rewarded, for taking those steps to become more sustainable.”

16 GOP governors pen letter to Biden pushing back on call for battery powered cars

By McKenzie Romero  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds is among a group of 16 Republican governors who wrote to President Joe Biden urging a change to his administration’s push to put more battery powered vehicles on the road, citing concerns for U.S. consumers and infrastructure. In their letter issued Monday, the governors asked that in lieu of a federal mandate that 2 out of every 3 vehicles be battery electrics by 2032, consumers be left to make their own decisions. “While we are not opposed to the electric vehicle marketplace, we do have concerns with federal government mandates that penalize retailers and do not reflect the will of the consumer. Even with deep price cuts, manufacturers’ incentives, and generous government funding, federal mandates on electric vehicles are unrealistic,” the letter states. The governors also pointed to the need for capable and reliable energy grids and ample charging stations to support EV drivers, as well as a call for more domestic EV battery production. “Bolstering the domestic critical minerals industry is an essential step to realizing any long-term, responsible electric vehicle battery production. Given China’s current action atop the global electric vehicle production, mandating electric vehicle use too quickly can also present a national security risk,” the governors wrote. According to a December 2023 fact sheet released by the White House, under Biden “EV sales have tripled and the number of publicly available charging ports has grown by nearly 70%.” Joining Reynolds in the letter were: Arkansas Gov. Sarah SandersIdaho Gov. Brad LittleLouisiana Gov. Jeff LandryMissouri Gov. Mike ParsonMontana Gov. Greg GianforteNebraska Gov. Jim PillenNevada Gov. Joe LombardoNew Hampshire Gov. Chris SununuNorth Dakota Gov. Doug BurgumOkla-



(Photo via Getty Images)

(Photo via Getty Images) Electric car charging station

homa Gov. Kevin StittSouth Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem-Texas Gov. Greg AbbottUtah Gov. Spencer CoxVirginia Gov. Glenn YoungkinWyoming Gov. Mark Gordon Iowa Capital Dispatch is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Iowa Capital Dispatch maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Kathie Obradovich for questions: info@iowacapitaldispatch.com. Follow Iowa Capital Dispatch on Facebook and Twitter.

Legal Notice

CITY OF AUDUBON IA  
City Council Special Meeting  
December 27, 2023 12:15 PM  
City Hall  
OPENING BUSINESS  
Approval of agenda  
Mayor Jacobsen opened the meeting at 12:11pm. Council in attendance: Murray, Richardson, Wegner, and Grabill via phone. Richardson moved, Murray seconded, to approve the agenda. ALL AYED.  
NEW BUSINESS  
Clerk appointment  
Wegner moved, Murray seconded, to hire Janell Remsburg as City Clerk. ALL AYED  
Public Works personnel  
Richardson moved, Grabill seconded, to hire a full-time public works employee. ALL AYED.  
Resolution 23-41 to hire police officer  
Richardson moved, Murray seconded, to hire Ethan Bearley as a full-time police officer starting Monday, January 8, 2024. ALL AYED.  
City Hall moving schedule  
Mayor stated the Clerk’s office will be moving within a week. Grabill spoke with Riesberg Audio in Carroll and is a quote from them for a sound system in the new office.  
ADJOURNMENT  
Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.  
Barb Jacobsen, Mayor Attest Jennifer Stetzel, Clerk  
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, January 26, 2024)

Legal Notice

AUDUBON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
515 Pacific Ave  
Audubon, Iowa  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
2023 Payroll  
Administrative & Fiscal Services .....\$1,689,175.68  
Ancillary Departments .....\$1,111,431.92  
General Services .....\$494,481.98  
Physician/ Physician Extenders .....\$1,841,150.73  
Nursing Department.....\$1,842,022.64  
.....TOTAL \$6,978,262.95  
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, January 26, 2024)

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
Audubon County  
Probate No. ESPR009314  
NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL  
WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION,  
in the matter of the Estate of  
GEORGE L. SORESENSEN, Deceased.  
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of George L. Sorensen, Deceased, who died on or about January 10, 2024.  
You are hereby notified that on January 22, 2024, the last will and testament of George L. Sorensen, deceased, bearing date of June 1, 2009, was admitted to probate in the above named court and there will be no present administration of the estate.  
Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.  
Dated this 22nd day of January, 2024  
Douglas Sorensen,  
Proponent  
James M. Tinker, ICIS#: AT0007948  
401 S. Park Pl., P.O. Box 263, Audubon, IA 50025  
mgt\_law@iowatelecom.net  
Attorney for Estate  
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal Friday, January 26, 2024 and February 2, 2024)

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE  
ACMH audit report released  
For public record, the accounting firm of Eide Bailly LLP released an audit report for Audubon County Memorial Hospital & Clinics, Audubon, Iowa on Dec. 11, 2023.  
The Hospital’s operating revenue totaled \$15,778,524 for the year ended June 30, 2023 which included \$13,963,396 in net patient service revenue and \$1,815,128 in other operating revenue. Net non-operating revenue was \$2,499,720 which was comprised of \$253,981 in investment income, \$1,317,475 in property tax revenue, \$9,664 in interest expense, \$340,928 in capital and noncapital grants and contributions, and \$597,000 in capital contributions.  
Operating expenses for the year totaled \$17,298,280 and included \$9,010,804 for salaries and employee benefits; \$5,402,151 for supplies and other expenses; \$1,791,741 for professional fees and purchased services; and \$1,093,584 for depreciation and amortization.  
A copy of the audit report is available for review in the Hospital Administrator’s Office, in the Office of the Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State’s web site at https://auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports.  
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, January 26, 2024)

Legal Notice

E-FILED 2022 Jan. 10. 11:33 AM AUDUBON  
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT  
IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR  
AUDUBON COUNTY  
(JUVENILE DIVISION)  
In the Interest(s) of:  
O.J. A Child/The Children  
NOTICE OF HEARING AND SUMMONS TO APPEAR  
TO: ROBERT JOENS  
Address Unknown  
You are hereby notified that there is presently on file in the office of the clerk of the above court, a petition in the above-entitled action, a copy of which is attached hereto, which prays for a termination of the parent-child(ren) relationship with the above-named child(ren) pursuant to Division IV of Iowa Code Chapter 232. The Petitioner is the State of Iowa whose attorney is Christopher R. Swensen, Audubon County Attorney, and whose address is 318 Leroy Street, Suite 11, Audubon, IA 50025.  
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a hearing to determine whether your parental rights should be terminated to the child(ren) in interest pursuant to Iowa Code Section 232.117 shall be held before the Juvenile Court on the 29th day of February, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. in the courtroom of the Audu-

bun County Courthouse in Audubon, Iowa. If you fail to appear and defend at said time and place, judgement by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.  
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Court at the time and place immediately above stated. You shall bring the child(ren) named above with you at that time. If you fail without reasonable cause to appear or to bring the child(ren), you may be proceeded against for contempt of court or the Court may issue an order for your arrest, or both your arrest and the taking into custody of the child(ren).  
YOUR ARE FUTRHER NOTIFIED that the child(ren) must be represented by an attorney and guardian ad litem, which may be the same person. The court has appointed an attorney and guardian ad litem to represnet the child(ren). If the parent has or will retain an attorney to represent the child(ren) as attorney as guardian ad litem, that attorney should be notified immediately. If the child(ren) is then represented by counsel retained by the parents and the Court determines there is a conflict of interest between the child(ren) and his or her parent, guardian or custodian and that retained counsel could not properly represent the child(ren) as a result of the conflict, the Court shall appoint other counsel to represent the child(ren) and set a hearing to determine payment for attorney fees to be assessed to the parent.  
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a parent, guardian, or custodian

in a termination of parental right rights proceeding has the right to be represented by counsel at all hearings subsequent to the filing of a Petition. If you wish to privately retain counsel, you should immediately notify the attorney of these proceedings. If you desire representation but you cannot afford to hire an attorney, you should immediately contact the Clerk of the above-named court and request from and file with the Clerk an Application for Appointment of Counsel and Financial Statement. If you are determined to be indigent, the Court may appoint counsel for you at minimal or no cost to you.  
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that upon your request, the Clerk shall issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of papers at the termination hearing.  
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the hearing may take place without your presence if you fail to appear after reasonable notification. If you wish to state your views to the Court, you must appear in person or by attorney or the Court may rule against you.  
If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in court because of a disability immediately call your district ADA at (712) 328-5883. If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa at TTY at 1-800-735-2942  
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