



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA, CITY OF SIOUX CITY, IOWA AND
THE SIOUXLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES
“THE ORGANIC MARKET PROJECT” DECLARING WOODBURY COUNTY AS THE
MIDWEST CAPITAL OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION & PROCESSING**

*A Community Partnership Designed to Support The Region's Growing Industry In
Organic Food Production And Processing.*

*A New Website, www.woodburyorganics.com, Details An Irresistible Benefits Package, Including
Financial Incentives, Transportation, Packaging, Storage, Infrastructure, Labor, and Land*

SIOUX CITY, IA – October 2, 2007 – The Siouxland Initiative will unveil a historic partnership, “The Organic Market Project”, with Woodbury County, Iowa, and the City of Sioux City to promote the Iowa region as the leader in organic food production and processing. The partners have prepared a comprehensive benefits & services plan to attract companies from around the world to locate in the Woodbury County area. “Our region has been the center of food production for over 150 years, and we embrace the growing organic food industry as a necessary means to promote an alternative and healthy food supply for the nation,” said Debi Durham, President of The Siouxland Initiative.

The Organic Market Project builds upon nationally recognized local government policies to promote the development of sustainable organic farming practice. On June 28, 2005, Woodbury County adopted its “Organics Conversion Policy” that provides 100% rebate of all real property taxes for 5 years for those farmers converting from conventional to organic farming practices. “Woodbury County today confirmed its commitment to promote the organic food industry by entering into this historic partnership – creating a community-wide effort to rebuild its rural communities,” said Doug

Walish, Chairman of the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors. “Family farmers and large organic food processing firms can mutually benefit by the program outlined here today,” said Walish.

The City of Sioux City supports the further development of organic food processing, packaging, storage and transportation businesses because it is the logical choice for the entire area. "Sioux City

has traditionally been a leader in the food processing industry and embraces the organic food industry because we understand its mission to create safe, healthy and dependable local food sources and provide a market for small farmers," said Marty Dougherty, Director of Economic Development for the City of Sioux City, Iowa. "We are pleased that the firm of Jacobson-Bekins has an available location with over 300,000 square-feet of certified cold storage, packaging and transportation services and anticipate other development opportunities will occur as well," said Dougherty.

The public-private partnership has developed a new Website, www.woodburyorganics.com, to promote the area as the preferred location for new organic businesses. Visitors to the site may order a free DVD that lays out all the details businesses need to make the decision to expand or locate in the Woodbury County area. "The new Website also will contain all information regarding programs initiated by Woodbury County promoting the development of organic farming practices," said Rob Marqusee, Director of Rural Economic Development for Woodbury County.

The Organic Market Project, method for obtaining the Organic Market DVD, and supporting community programs & services, may be found at: www.woodburyorganics.com.

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