

SBA Coronavirus Relief					
	Existing SBA 7(a) Loans	Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)	SBA Express Loans	SBA Express Bridge Loans	Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)
Maximum loan size	\$5 million	\$10 million	\$1 million (temporarily)	\$25 thousand	\$2 million. \$10 thousand advance
Deferment	Through December 31, 2020	6 months to 1 year	Through December 31, 2020	Through December 31, 2020	May be deferred up to 4 years, currently through December 31, 2020
Maximum guaranty	85% for loans up to \$150,000 and 75% for loans greater than \$150,000	100%	50%	50%	N/A
Maximum interest rates	Prime + 2.75%	0.5%	Prime + 6.5%	Prime + 6.5%	3.75% for businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits
Size Eligibility	Based on SBA's size standards	500 or fewer employees	Based on SBA's size standards	Based on SBA's size standards	Based on SBA's size standards
SBA Turnaround Time	5-10 business days	"Same day"	36 hours	36 hours	2-3 weeks for disbursement
Collateral	For loans over \$350,000, collateralize the loan to the maximum extent possible	No personal guaranty or collateral	Lenders' existing collateral policy for loans over \$25,000	No collateral requirement	Personal guarantees have been modified and/or eliminated
Forgiveness	Yes	Yes	No	May be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from an SBA EIDL loan	Does not need to be repaid if used for payroll

Economic downturn brings return of lot in Luverne industrial park

By Lori Sorenson

Members of the Luverne Economic Development Authority addressed a number of coronavirus-related business items during their Monday morning conference call.

With the economic downturn, a lost opportunity in the industrial park prompted the return of a commercial lot to the LEDA.

Luverne Surgical and Dental

Due to the impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having in the health care industry, Dr. Denis Miller is requesting an extension to the timeline of the surgical and dental business planned for South Highway 75.

The business, a subsidiary of Siouxland Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Sioux Falls, purchased the 2.69-acre lot between the hotel and Ed Elbers office on the east side of Highway 75.

The purchase price was \$70,000 and construction

was set to start in fall of 2019 with the business operational by spring of 2021.

Plans call for a \$2 million single-story L-shaped building, possibly built in two phases or as two separate buildings, up to 24,000 square feet total.

The new facility would include office space for an oral surgery office with build-to-suit spaces for other tenants — possibly a restaurant, coffee shop or other professional businesses and offices.

The purchase agreement stipulated that construction must start within 12 months. However, the coronavirus has affected health care labor markets and Miller asked the city of Luverne for more time in launching his business.

The LEDA approved a 12-month extension Monday and will revisit the situation as time progresses.

Industrial park lot

John Beck originally purchased Lot 3 in the Wal-

nut Industrial Subdivision with the intent of building a facility to lease out — possibly as a meal kitchen for workers — during the construction phase of the proposed tru-Shrimp project.

After the scope of that project has changed, Beck sought other ways to utilize the property, possibly leasing to other tenants. However, he has decided to forgo the project as planned within the given time frame and convey the \$25,000 lot back to the LEDA.

Coronavirus guidance

"We recognize the impact the COVID-19 virus is having on our local and regional economy, as well as the national economy," Sammons wrote in her report.

"Since the new laws and programs can be overwhelming at this point, there are some simple suggestions to local businesses during this time of uncertainty."

•First, check with your insurance company.

•Next, call your bank. Your banker will have advice for you on your personal situation, the resources they have available, any SBA programs they have access to, or other lending programs available from the state or federal government.

•If you've been denied credit by a bank or the SBA, call any of the approved lenders for the Small Business Emergency Loan Program.

•All businesses are recommended to visit the COVID-19 Information for Employers and Business page on the DEED website for more resources related to business assistance, unemployment insurance, etc.

•It is also suggested to follow the City of Luverne on Facebook for additional updates and announcements.

•Also during Monday's meeting, the LEDA approved a Stop Gap Utility Deferred Loan Program to give Luverne businesses a break on their utility bills (see related story on page 1).

Farming/continued from page 1

because most swine barns operate on finely tuned biosecurity for animal health. When it's compromised, Barnhart said, there's more risk for disease.

The other alternative, which he said local plants haven't opted for, is to euthanize piglets and cull weaker animals to cut production.

The hope, Barnhart said, is to maintain production flow (rather than stop altogether), because disruption takes time to overcome, and inefficiencies cost money. And most pork producers can't survive any more losses.

"I hope we don't lose any independent producers because of this," Barnhart said. "It's not one thing. It's a buildup of things. And it's not just hogs. ... When our farmers don't do well, we don't do well in Rock County. We live and die on the backs of our farmers."

Coronavirus impact hits all sectors of farm economy

The Smithfield plant closure and closures of large processors in the United States have all livestock producers — not just pork producers — nervous.

Beaver Creek cattle farmer Peter Bakken said the coronavirus effect on the farm economy is already disastrous in terms of decrease demand due to closed restaurants and school kitchens.

But he said the nail in the coffin for livestock growers would be the closure of meat plants.

"While everyone else is sheltering in place, we're still calving, and we're going ahead with spring planting. ... And we're telling people the food supply is safe," Bakken said.

"But if you take away the processors... It's not like I can deliver a steer to your front yard and say, 'Here's your beef.' You're going to see a disruption in the supply chain.

As president of Rock County Farm Bureau, Bakken was interviewed in an April 3 national press call with a dairy farmer from Idaho and a produce grower in Florida.

The 25-percent crash in the cattle market after coronavirus closures resulted in a million dollar loss to his family's operation in a few weeks' time.

"It's very frustrating that we've worked so hard, yet we have no control over whether we can recover from this loss," Bakken told the national press. "I consider myself to be a well-established farmer and even for me this is going to be a major hit. It would be that much tougher if you were just getting started."

He said the interview was an opportunity to give voice to agriculture.

"It was a perspective for consumer awareness," he said. "You don't miss the water until the well runs dry. ... To a certain extent the country is now aware, 'Our food doesn't come from the grocery store.'"

And he said people are learning about the interconnectedness of economies.

"The consumer is pleased about gas prices, but the trickle down of that is that

'Everybody's working at staying safe.'

— Dan Paquin, CEO, Premium Minnesota Pork

the ethanol people aren't employed anymore and the farmer can't move his grain anymore because there's no demand," Bakken said.

"It's business as usual on my farm from a health standpoint, but the health of my business is more impacted than the health of my respiratory system."

The \$2.2 trillion CARES Act stimulus law provides \$9.5 billion to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to provide financial support to farmers and ranchers, as well as \$14 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The aid package includes help for food banks, which farmers would like to supply, but Bakken said just getting product out of the field and onto the shelves may cost more than some can afford.

"If I'm a produce grower, just to donate it, I have to pick it, package it, put it on the truck and pay my employees," he said. "I have to pay to go to work. If I don't do anything with it, at least I get zero."

Premium Minnesota Pork still on track for May startup

Meanwhile, Premium Minnesota is still on track to start processing 2,500 hogs per day at the Luverne plant that's undergoing a \$30 million retrofit and expansion.

May 4 was the planned start date, but CEO Dan Paquin said it will open when it's safe to do so.

The parent company, Lynch Livestock, operates Premium Iowa Pork in Hesperia, Iowa, where workers are prepared to accept Luverne's antibiotic-free pork if need be.

Those employees are temperature-checked at the start of their shifts and regularly cleaning their work areas — in addition to taking hand sanitizer home to their families. "Everybody's working on staying safe," Paquin said.

In addition, he said the Hesperia plant has been diligent about not allowing visitors or vendors in the building and employee temperatures are taken as they show up for their shifts.

He said the Smithfield Foods coronavirus spread is taken seriously in his industry, but for smaller operations, prevention is more manageable.

"We have 400 employees — not 3,700 — that's a huge difference. Our groups are pretty intimate, so we are better able to visit with our employees," he said. "If you don't feel well, don't come to work."

He said coronavirus measures may delay the start of processing in Luverne, but the plant will be ready the first week in May, and many management employees are already hired.

He also said he's not worried about hiring 200 employees on short notice. "There will be plenty of people looking for jobs," he said. "And we have good-paying jobs."

City offers utility relief/continued from page 1

includes restaurants, bars, gyms, theaters, bowling alleys, coffee shops and more.

"The LEDA recognizes the adverse impact these orders may have on small businesses within our community while still waiting for state and federal programs to become available," Sammons said.

She and Luverne Finance Director Barb Berghorst have

identified qualifying accounts, determined their average utility bills from the past 12 months and calculated their loans based on 50 percent of three months of average bills.

The total amount the city will defer comes to roughly \$89,000.

"We want to make sure every single business in Luverne is open for business when this

economic downturn is past," Mayor Pat Baustian said during the meeting. "A little shot in the arm with financial utility help is a great thing that we can do."

The EDA also determined that if an executive order is made at the state or federal level indicating the closure of certain business operations extending past

May 4, or the review committee determines the local business climate remains unimproved, the deferred loans may be forgiven.

A review committee will consider applications from other businesses inadvertently missed or not originally selected to be eligible to determine if they should qualify for the deferred loan.

Area veterans can apply for emergency grants

Governor Tim Walz and the Minnesota Legislature recently approved \$6.2 million to provide \$1,000 emergency grants to Minnesota veterans financially affected by COVID-19.

Veterans can apply for a Disaster Relief Grant, administered from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). In addition to

the Disaster Relief Grant, veterans who have experienced a more significant impact may also apply for an MDVA COVID-19 Special Needs Grant.

Rock County Veterans should contact Dave Haugom at 507-283-1770 or dave.haugom@co.rock.mn.us for eligibility requirements and assistance with the grant application process.

How to apply: As one of the main points of contact for grant applications, County Veterans Service officers also have access to a specially created portal to submit required documents and expedite the grant process.

The Special Needs Grant must be filed through County Veteran Service Officer or MDVA, but the Disaster Re-

lief Grant may be submitted directly by the veteran or surviving spouse. Application materials will be made available at www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief.

To be eligible for the Special Needs or Disaster Relief Grants, Minnesota veterans or surviving spouses, fined by Minnesota Statute 197.447, must meet **ONE** criteria.

Wenninger/continued from page 6

their high school careers.

The event called for schools to turn on the stadium lights to their sports facilities for 20 minutes, 20 seconds at 8:20 p.m. The weekly stadium lighting will continue through the end of May.

Wenninger captured each vacant sports venue in aerial drone shots that included the track and field, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields.

In this CEO business plan, Wenninger takes aerial pictures of anything including vehicles, homes, farmsteads, commercial properties, activities, etc., as well as video.

Wenninger will display his Skygenix business with 14 other CEO students on June 17 during a showcase that was originally planned for May.

About CEO

This is the second year of the CEO program that immerses students in real-life learning experiences via part-



Mavis Fodness photo/0416 CEO Wenninger Pics

The drone takes pictures using a small camera mounted under the main body. The drone is steered with a hand-held control.

nerships with area businesses including partnering with a mentor. The yearlong program culminates with students developing their own businesses.

The program is open to senior and junior students from Luverne, Hills-Beaver Creek, Ellsworth, Adrian,

Southwest Minnesota Christian, Pipestone and Edgerton. Students apply to the program each year.

Wenninger, 17, plans to attend college and keep building his aerial photography business. "It will be a good way to make money," he said.

City of Luverne

Fire Hydrant Flushing

will begin

Monday, April 20- Friday, April 24

(All week long)

Residents should check for signs of discoloration before using water. If discoloration appears, run tap water until it is clear.

Luverne

MINNESOTA

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For more information contact Al Lais at 449-5030