



ARKO Labs Boosts a Healthy Iowa Economy

PROFILE

ARKO Laboratories, Ltd.

JEWELL, IOWA

Employees: 18

Located in Hamilton County, Jewell is "A Gem in a Friendly Setting" for its 1,200 residents



Not unlike humans, pigs are susceptible to disease. In addition to biosecurity and other prevention efforts, veterinarians use vaccines to keep pigs healthy and well. This commitment to animal well-being drives the ARKO Labs team in Jewell to develop high-quality vaccines for pork producers nationwide. "We may not dominate the market, but we fill a niche," said Dr. Hans Koehnke, director of research at ARKO Labs. "We tailor our products to our clients' needs."

ARKO Labs specializes in swine and turkey vaccines to protect against diseases ranging from Salmonella to *E. coli*. Veterinary vaccines are modern marvels that protect animal and public health, reduce animal suffering and curtail the need for antibiotics to treat livestock, Koehnke said. "We're proud to be part of the process that produces safe food for people."

Providing proven solutions

ARKO Labs' roots run deep in north-central Iowa. The business started as a veterinary clinic that served the Jewell area for years before the company evolved into a federally-licensed vaccine production facility in the mid-1980s.

An innovator in the biologics market, ARKO Labs relies on in-house research and development to create many of its animal health products. In 2003, for example, ARKO Labs released the only federally-licensed modified-live *E. coli* vaccines for swine.

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The company provides products that are easily administered, with an emphasis on oral/waterline delivery. "This eliminates the need to inject every pig," Koehnke said. "This saves labor and also means less stress for the animals."

This is valuable to Iowa Select Farms, who first reached out to ARKO Labs in the 1990s to help manage Salmonella in its swine herd. "We're glad to work with Iowa Select Farms, because they're a great company that treats people with respect and emphasizes animal well-being," Koehnke said.

These principles also guide ARKO Labs' 18 employees, from microbiologists and lab technicians to veterinarians who offer clients value-added technical support and consultation. "We appreciate the opportunity to provide proven solutions for clients and offer employment opportunities in rural Iowa," Koehnke said.

Thriving in a small town

Being located in the heart of farm country is a key to success for ARKO Labs. "Jewell is a great community," said Koehnke, a Jewell native who is raising his family in his hometown.

ARKO Labs will continue to provide more animal health solutions that help farmers feed a hungry world by innovating and offering the best products to clients, Koehnke said. "Agriculture drives so many businesses that support Iowa's economy, including Iowa Select Farms. Like us, they believe in the future of Iowa agriculture and the people of this great state."

