

DELAWARE COUNTY – A MODEL FOR IOWA!

Recently my wife and I made a trip to Northeast Iowa to present a Keep Iowa Beautiful check-off check to the Community of Guttenberg for beautification efforts and improvements to their beautiful lineal riverfront park. During that trip we had the opportunity to travel through Delaware County.

This route was taken largely because of comments made to me a couple of years ago by Mr. Craig Lang – President of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. Lang mentioned that per farm income tended to be higher in Delaware County than surrounding counties. He went on to say that, in his mind, a lot of it had to do with the strong sense of pride that the farmers and residents take in their property, farm sites and communities. In the past, I had noticed the difference between this region of the State and other rural areas in Iowa, but did not relate it specifically to a county.

This trip confirmed Mr. Lang's idea – at least visually. The drive took us through the rolling hills of a strikingly beautiful countryside – not unlike portions of Bavaria in Europe. Almost every farm, farm site and community was clean, well maintained and “picture postcard” attractive.

The phrase “Neat and Tidy” surely must have originated in Delaware County. The lawns, roadways and buildings showed a high degree of respect and pride by the owners. The communities were well manicured and each with an attractive new entry sign. It soon became a challenge for us to find the “unattractive or ugly side of the equation”. We never found it.

My wife and I would give Delaware County an A+++ for being one of the cleanest, well kept and attractive counties in the State. Keep Iowa Beautiful's compliments to the citizens of Delaware County. What we would like every Iowan to do is take a look at Delaware County and see if my wife and I were wrong. At the risk of offending the other counties – Delaware County is a model of what we need to strive for. If I'm wrong I will apologize, but I will need proof.

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See you in the next column.

Helping to Keep Iowa Beautiful

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