



Tama County, Iowa
Economic Development

Dysart, Iowa

The story of Dysart...

Joseph Dysart, the founder of our town, came here in 1855 and commenced to improve his land. It was 1863 before he made actual settlement. By the close of the Civil War, Joseph Dysart had his location approved by the railroad officials and laid out the town in the fall of 1872. Dysart grew rapidly and by 1879 the population had reached 600. In 1881 the town was incorporated. The first school was built in March of 1878. Even back then there was a vision for growth, with the extra wide Main Street going to the park entrance. There are four known Dysarts in the world: Scotland, Pennsylvania, Canada, and Iowa. Of them, ours is the largest. The continued efforts of volunteers, organizations, city administration and business people that have the desire to make a difference in the community ensure that "Dysart is a City on the Grow". Dysart's annual celebrations include Spring on Main, Independence Day Celebration, Old Iron Days, Wine Tasting & Fall Festival, and Christmas on Main. Dysart also hosts a Farmers Market at the park on Tuesdays from the end of May to the beginning of October.



Location: Dysart is located in east central Iowa at the intersection of state highway 21 and state highway 8. Dysart is 15 miles north of U.S. highway 30, 9 miles east of U.S. highway 63, and 5 miles west of U.S. highway 218.

Population: 1,289 (2005).

Per Capita Income: \$20,203 (2000); county average \$24,112 (2002); state average, \$28,089 (2002); median household income \$40,857 (2000).

Geography/Climate: Gently rolling mid-continent farmlands. Four seasons. A few brittle cold winter days may not rise above zero; a few sultry summer days may reach high 90's. July average temperature is 72, January average temperature is 14. Precipitation averages: 35 inches of rain, 32 inches of snow.

Employment: Corn, soybeans, cattle, & hogs anchor the agricultural economy. Larger payrolls: Elliott Brothers Truck Line, Terry's Food Center, Union Schools, Pioneer, Rowan Manufacturing, Sunnycrest Care Center, Tama-Benton Cooperative.

Financial Institutions: 2 commercial banks: Security State Bank has three statewide locations with total deposits of \$58,810,000; Dysart State Bank has one location with deposits of 8,649,000.

Newspaper: Dysart Reporter, published Thursdays. One-year subscription: \$39.00. Other regional newspapers: The Progress Review, Des Moines Register, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Waterloo Courier, El Heraldo Hispano.



Communications: Local Public Access, Cable and broadband available via Mediacom. Phone service and high speed DSL internet, cable via Farmers Co-op Telephone.

Utilities: Dysart Municipal Utilities provides electric service; Alliant Energy provides natural gas for residents of Dysart. Alliant offers a rebate for customers who build an energy-efficient home. Water & sewer are provided by the City of Dysart.

Health Care: Covenant Health System has a clinic in Dysart. One local MD in private practice. Ambulance service with full-time director. Chiropractic services and dental services.

Schools: Union Community School District: enrollment of 1237; 13.9 students per teacher, \$6,434 spending per student. State ACT average 22; SAT average 1204, graduation rate 89.4%. The Playhouse Daycare Center, 5 in-home daycares. Raggedy Ann & Andy Preschool.

Educational Level: 5% of Dysart residents have an associate's degree; 10% have a bachelor's degree; 2% have a graduate or professional degree. Dysart is 16 miles from Hawkeye Tech and 25 miles from the University of Northern Iowa.

Library: Norma Anders Public Library has 12,633 books & serial volumes, 8 public internet terminals, total circulation of 24,316. Circulation of children's materials: 10,014, children's program attendance: 790.

Recreation: 1 city park, Dysart Family Aquatic Center built in 2004. C.R. Roberts Memorial Trail, blacktop surface, runs through Dysart and continues east out of Dysart on crushed limestone to the Cedar Valley Trail at Vinton. Swimming, fishing, boating, camping at Hickory Hills Park, 5 1/2 miles north of Dysart. 18 hole rolling hills golf course & clubhouse. Museum with a one-room country school.

Housing: Median value of housing units in Tama County (2000) is \$64,200; median gross rent of units in Tama County (2000) is \$418. Housing lots are available in the Westview Housing Development.

Taxes: State sales tax rate is 5% plus Dysart's local option sales tax is 1% and school infrastructure local option tax is 1% for a total sales tax rate of 7% in Dysart. State income tax rates range from 0.36% to 8.98% plus a base rate.

Churches: Baptist, United Methodist, Lutheran, Assembly of God.

Further Information:

City Clerk's Office:
319-476-5690

Dysart Development Corporation:
dysartiowa@netins.net

Tama County Economic Development:
641-484-3108 | info@tamacountyiowa.org

What the People Say... This is Dysart, this is home . . . A safe quality of life . . . Family environment . . . A friendly, sharing community . . . People and organizations making a difference by volunteering . . . Family-owned businesses, offering the products and services needed with the personal feeling . . . City administration with long term goals and controlling budget and economical taxes and services for the homeowner and businesses . . . Beauty in town with trees, flower planters, and gardens . . . Arboritorem, Memorial Rose Garden and attractive yards and homes by proud homeowners . . . Entertainment for all ages with a variety of things to do as a family.

