

SAVE YOUR

town.



Nova Scotia. Photo CC by Andy Hayes

Vibrant Rural Communities

Before



Market Village

Tionesta, PA



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Tionesta, PA
Photo via Forest County IDA-IDC

After

IOWA SMALL TOWNS PROJECT

ISTP

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://smalltowns.soc.iastate.edu>

*Webster City, Iowa
Photo by Deb Brown*



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IDEA FRIENDLY

Gather Your Crowd

Build Connections

Take Small Steps

Build connections and community

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Photos by Deb Brown, Becky McCray and Forest County IDA-IDC

The Village

Washington, Iowa



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Photo by Sarah Grunewaldt

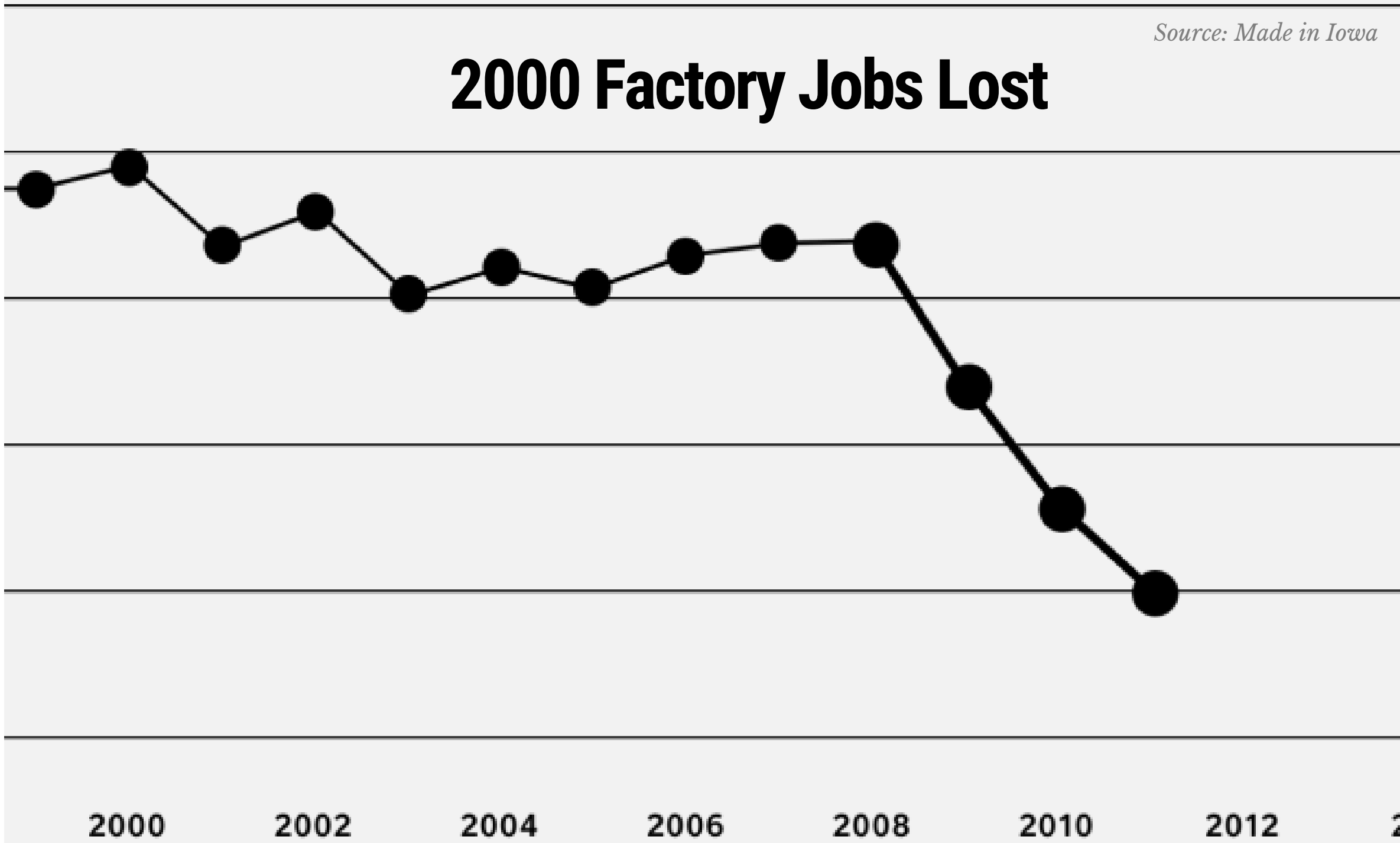
Survey of Rural **CHALLENGES**

Finding a usable building was a more common small biz challenge than finding a loan.

Top community challenge: conflict and old-way thinking.

2000 Factory Jobs Lost

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14 empty buildings

Webster City, Iowa



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Photo by Becky McCray

Tour of Empty Buildings

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Photos by Deb Brown

The Tour – Declared A Success

Small town economic development idea: The Tour of Empty Buildings

BY BECKY MCCRAY

Don't stick a fork in us yet, we're not done

Why Bring Attention to Empty Buildings?

Posted on April 2, 2013 by deb • 1 Comment

Does touring empty buildings lead to new businesses?

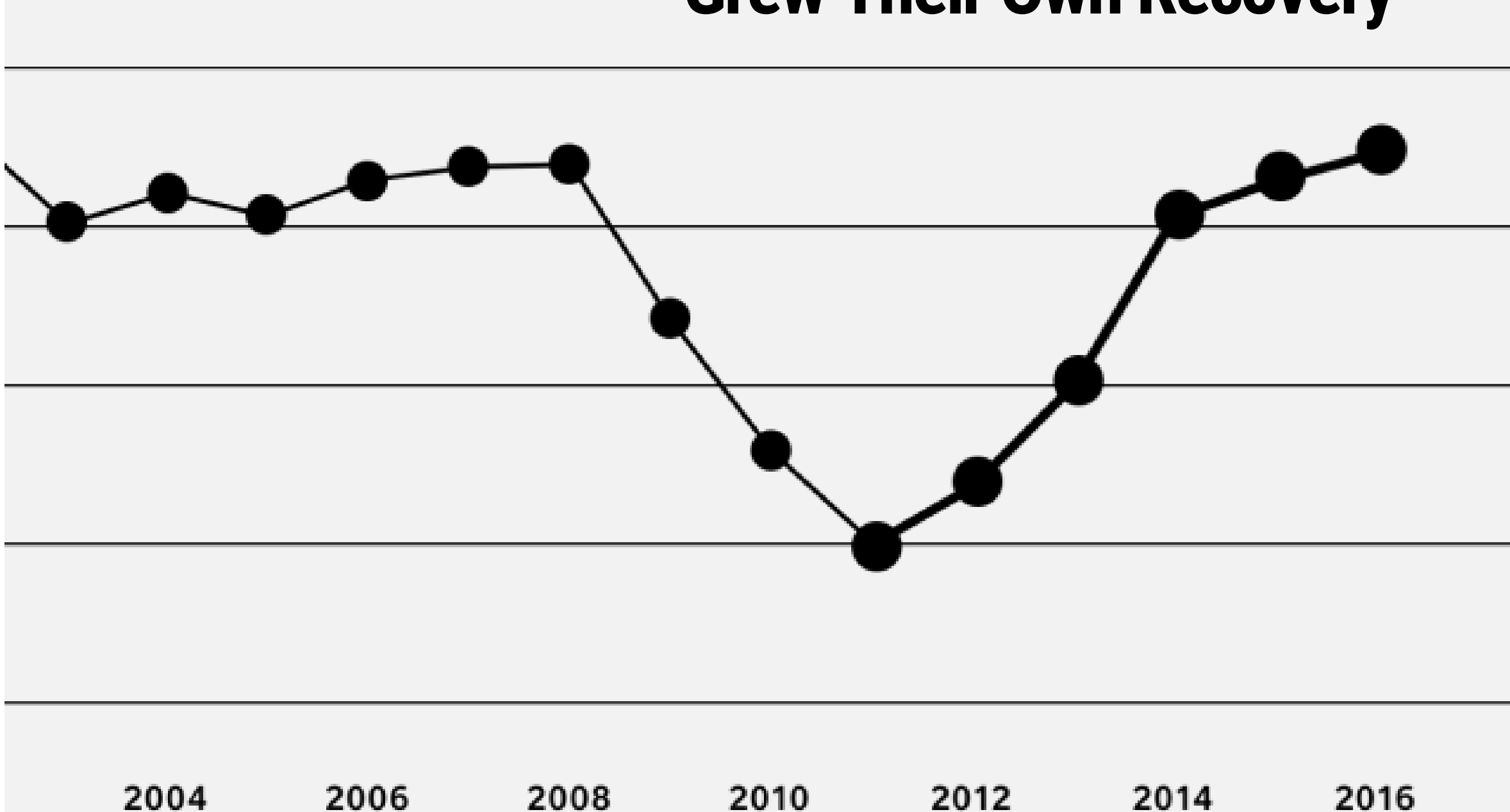
Empty buildings tour will leave your head full of great ideas!



Source: Made in Iowa

Grew Their Own Recovery

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You don't have to know all the answers



if you can be open to new ideas.

Rural Maryland, USDA-FPAC Photo by Preston Keres

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Resource links

Idea Friendly Method - article, video

Survey of Rural Challenges from 2015 to 2024

SaveYour.Town newsletter

Tour of Empty Buildings by Deb Brown

Iowa State University Small Towns Project - Why Open Leadership Matters

Tionesta Market Village, Pennsylvania (sheds)

Turn an empty lot into a market village with sheds

The Village, Washington, Iowa (divided building)

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