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Chemical company to move from Albion to Ridgeway

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Helena Chemical Co. will spend about \$4 million to construct a six-building complex in Ridgeway, and is moving its Albion operations within Orleans County.

In 2009, when **Orleans Economic Development Agency** began discussions with the Ridgeway Town Board to attract more business, the group began looking for parcels to rezone and provide rail access to potential new customers. The foresight prompted executives of Helena Chemical Co. to pursue a much-needed expansion project for their growing distribution center.

Memphis-based Helena Chemical has 450 U.S. locations and employs more than 4,000. A distributor and manufacturer, Helena makes products including crop protection products, fertilizer and application services as well as specialized nutrients and seed treatments.

Helena's relocation is an estimated \$4 million project, and includes a 75,000 square-foot, six-building complex as a distribution point for chemicals, seeds and other products. The Ridgeway site gives rail access and the ability to develop a more expansive infrastructure, officials said. Construction is expected to begin this week.

"The move to Ridgeway will allow us to offer more products and services. The quality of the agriculture is what brought us here; there are good farmers growing good crops," said Helena branch manager [Mitch Wilber](#), who added that the company received support from the Orleans County EDA and Ridgeway officials as the stimulus to expand the company's New York footprint.

David Bertola covers small business, energy and marketing