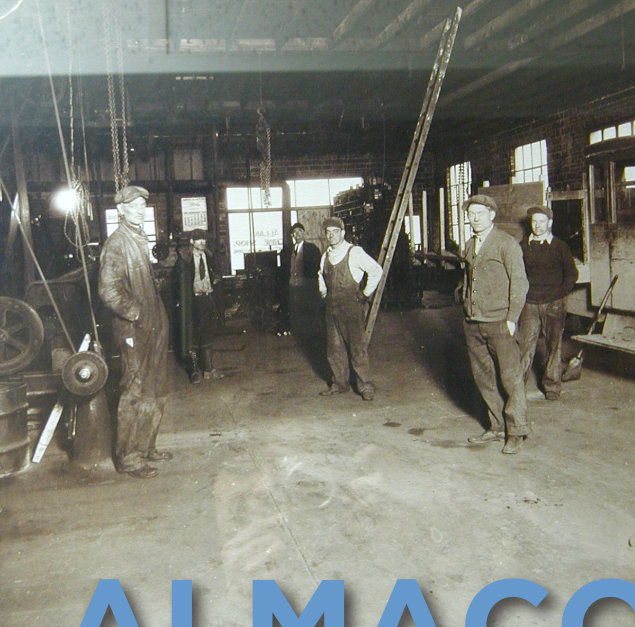




ALMACO

150 Years of Craftsmanship, Innovation, and Purpose

In 1876, a small blacksmith shop opened in Ames, Iowa.

What began as forge-welding and horseshoeing laid the foundation for a company that, 150 years later, would design and build highly specialized equipment used by researchers around the world. That commitment to skilled craftsmanship has never changed — making ALMACO the oldest business in Story County and one of its most enduring.

A Turning Point: Seed Research and a New Era of Ownership

Gary Clem worked for Allan Machine Company for a summer in 1961 and went on to learn tool and die making, product management, and served in the Army.

In 1972, Gary returned to the Ames area and joined Allan Machine Company, working alongside Wendell Allan. At the time, they were doing primarily repair work, but the Allan family had established themselves with the agronomists at Washington State University. The plant breeders were working to develop new seeds to gain higher yields, improved nutrient density, and greater resilience. They learned of a bid for a thresher, which was needed to gather better data on their test plots. Allan Machine Company built the machine and delivered it to Washington.

In 1973, Iowa State University approached Allan and Clem with an idea: to collaborate on manufacturing a self-propelled combine for use in seed research. At the time, this type of equipment was not widely available, and the project required innovation, precision, and persistence.

Through close collaboration and dedication, the team successfully designed and manufactured the prototype. The result

quickly gained attention within the research community. As word spread, it became clear there was strong market demand — and that they had the capability to meet it.

The company name evolved into ALMACO, reflecting both its heritage as Allan Machine Company and its increasingly specialized focus. While ownership transitioned from the Allan family to the Clem family, the company remained family-owned and family-driven. Many employees have come to consider ALMACO not just a workplace, but a second home — strengthening the culture of loyalty, trust, and shared pride.

By the early 1980s, demand for seed research equipment had outgrown the company's original facilities, so the company moved to a new location in Nevada, Iowa. There were about 25 employees that made the move.

Today, ALMACO is led by Chief Executive Officer Patrick Clem, who has continued that strong legacy with 150 employees working at ALMACO's headquarters. "Our employees are the heart of ALMACO. Their long-term commitment, attention to detail, and sense of ownership have carried this company from blacksmithing roots to global manufacturing leadership," said Patrick. "They will continue to shape our future, and we couldn't be more thankful."

Over a third of current ALMACO employees have stayed for 10 years or more, building relationships and sustaining ALMACO's family values. Flexibility and support are integrated into the business culture in ways that other manufacturing companies are starting to emulate as employees look for more family-friendly workplaces.

ALMACO has also remained deeply connected to the Nevada community, supporting local fundraisers, civic organizations,

and the school district over the years. The company is proud to call Nevada home and remains grateful for the support the community has shown throughout its growth.

Advancing the Future of Global Agriculture

ALMACO continues to design, build, and service plot planters, plot combines, threshers, shellers, seed processing systems, and other highly specialized solutions for seed researchers around the world. The equipment is smaller than commercial-use agricultural equipment and is focused on gathering clean data to develop seeds that will support the growing world.

“The seed produced using ALMACO equipment contributes directly to feeding the world,” said Patrick. “When you drive down the road past a field of crops, ALMACO was a part in developing the seed for those farmers. It’s an incredible feeling.”

From the beginning, ALMACO sold equipment all over the world. One of its first deliveries was to Egypt, but many of ALMACO’s clients had plots in South America, in the countries of Brazil, Chile, and Argentina.

Over time, ALMACO has expanded its footprint beyond Iowa, establishing satellite partners in Europe, Asia, and most recently adding business entities in South America. Machines that ALMACO builds are shipped and serviced on every continent except Antarctica.

Global service is achieved for ALMACO through field service professionals who travel to client locations, on-site service at ALMACO locations, and their 24/7 call center. Wherever the client is, ALMACO is there to support them.

Contract Manufacturing and Engineering

ALMACO has built on its own equipment expertise by offering contract manufacturing and engineering services. For decades, ALMACO has designed and manufactured highly specialized machines, understanding products from the ground up. They know how designs become reality, how tolerances matter, and how machines perform in real-world environments. That depth of experience makes the company uniquely positioned to help other businesses at every stage of their product lifecycle.

“Whether supporting prototype development, small custom

runs, or full-scale production, ALMACO meets customers where they are,” said Patrick. “Having lived through product lifecycles ourselves, we understand the challenges that emerge at each phase and the right way to solve them.”

ALMACO is both a full-service manufacturing partner as well as an expert engineering firm all in one. Modern ALMACO manufacturing operations often include laser cutting, forming and bending, CNC machining, fabrication and welding, mechanical assembly, and electrical assembly. The experienced team at ALMACO supports goals from fabricating a single replacement part to a complete build-out of a new machine.

Engineering is also a core pillar of the organization. Mechanical, electrical, and software engineers collaborate to move products from concept to production under one roof, using tools such as 3D CAD, rapid prototyping, automation systems, and scalable software solutions.

ALMACO supports organizations ranging from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies, serving both domestic and international customers across industries ranging from agriculture to construction to even car-wash equipment. The company is actively seeking additional clients for large-scale complete builds or sub-assemblies.

What began at the forge has become a comprehensive, advanced manufacturing and engineering enterprise—built on the same commitment to quality that defined its earliest days.

Looking Ahead

As ALMACO celebrates its 150th anniversary, it does so with gratitude — for its founders, owners, employees, partners, and the community that has supported it for generations.

“As a family-owned business, ALMACO remains guided by values of integrity, diligence, and reputation,” said Patrick. “Those principles have guided our success, and we are excited to see ALMACO evolve into new industries, embrace new technologies, and expand in every part of the world while keeping our Nevada roots.”

Success at ALMACO has never been measured by machines alone — but by people, purpose, and the way the work is done.

