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TOP 8 ANNOUNCED IN 2026 COOLEST THING MADE IN IOWA COMPETITION

Bracket Voting Continues as Competition Narrows

DES MOINES, April 23, 2026 – The competition to crown the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Iowa continues as the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) today announced the Top 8 products advancing in the statewide contest, presented by Nicolet National Bank.

After another round of public voting, eight products remain in the bracket-style tournament. Iowans will continue to decide which products advance through head-to-head matchups.

Top 8 Matchups:

- Mi-T-M ePowerStation vs. Winnebago EKKO 23B
- Weiler D1075 Blasthole Drill vs. Butter Braid® Pastries
- Pella Steady Set™ vs. Spalding Arena Renegade Basketball Hoop
- Beer Caves (Walk-In Coolers & Freezers) vs. Ironclad Tornado Shelter & Gun Safe

Voting for the Top 8 round will be open Friday, April 24 through Wednesday, April 29. Individuals may vote in each matchup once per day (every 24 hours) per device.

Following the Top 8 round, the competition will shift from bracket-style matchups to a popular vote format. The Top 4 products will compete in a final round of public voting, where the product receiving the most votes will be named the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Iowa.

The winner will be announced June 3 during ABI's Taking Care of Business Conference, taking place in Coralville and Iowa City June 2-4.

To learn more about the competition, the Top 8 products and cast your vote, visit www.coolestthingia.com.

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The Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) has been the voice of Iowa business since 1903. Its mission is to provide a strong, unified voice to business and industry on issues affecting Iowa employers. ABI is comprised of member companies representing all industries and sizes in Iowa's 99 counties. ABI members employ more than 330,000 Iowans.