

NOVEMBER 2022

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**Update your account information
for a chance to win \$50**

**Winterization tips
for energy savings**

Thanksgiving side dishes

Do we owe you money? ▶ See Pages 6-7

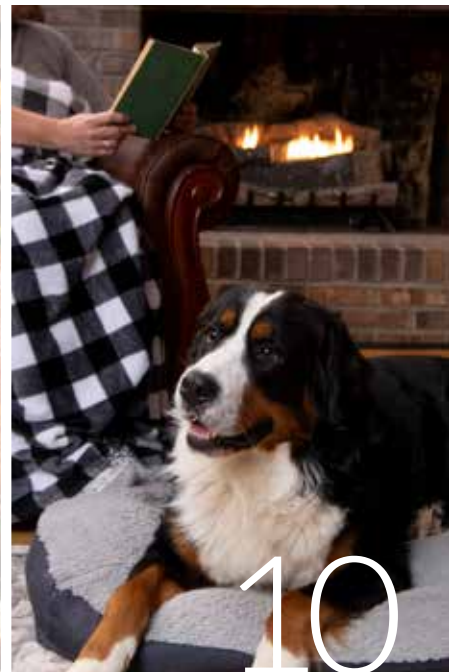
CONTENTS



6



8



10

VOLUME 75 • ISSUE 11

3

STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

Commitment to learning is critical

3

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a \$100 gift card

10

EFFICIENCY MATTERS

Winterization tips for energy savings

14

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

Co-ops discuss industry issues with policymakers

EDITOR
Ann Foster Thelen

ART DIRECTOR
Joel Clifton

IAEC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Chuck Soderberg

IAEC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Erin Campbell

IAEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Roger Solomonson, District 3 – President
Gordon Greimann, District 6 – Vice President
Kenneth VandenBerg, District 1 – Secretary/Treasurer
Neal Heldt, District 7 – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Tony Lem, District 2
Jim Miller, District 5
Deena Moore, District 4
Marion Denger, Prairie Energy Cooperative – NRECA Representative
Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy Cooperative – Managers' Representative

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine (ISSN: 2770-8683) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

Editorial Office
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350.

Email Address
editor@ieclmagazine.com. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

Website
www.ieclmagazine.com

Postmaster
Send address changes to *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

Change of Address
Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

© Copyright 2022, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. No portion of the editorial, photographic or other content of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine or its website may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.



ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Renae Wolter, an Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc. member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could win \$100!

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING IS CRITICAL TO COOPERATIVE SUCCESS

BY KATRINA DAVIS



Some people think education and learning end at graduation. For Iowa's electric cooperatives, that philosophy just doesn't hold up. We

strongly believe in keeping our co-op employees, board directors and member-consumers informed on industry trends, new technologies and best practices to ensure local cooperatives will continue to power lives and empower communities for years to come.

Investing in education and training has been a core cooperative principle since the beginning. This year alone, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the statewide trade association that provides many services for Iowa's locally owned electric co-ops, hosted more than 50 conferences, workshops and events for employees and board directors. Collaborating face-to-face with peers is essential for improving our cooperative mission to enhance member-consumers' quality of life.

And that same cooperative commitment to education, information and training explains why your local electric co-op sends a member newsletter to you, connects with you at events and subscribes to this magazine. A cooperative is more successful when its members are informed and engaged.

Information is critical for longevity

The electric industry is experiencing an unprecedented era of rapid change today. We're facing incredible challenges and opportunities in the years ahead as we adapt to a clean energy economy, the mass adoption of electric vehicles and advancements

in storage capabilities. Keeping co-op staff, leaders and member-consumers informed is critical to the longevity of the cooperative business model as we rely more and more on electricity to power our lives.

New cooperative leadership program coming in 2023

My passion is training, and I am excited to share a new leadership program we are offering to Iowa's electric cooperatives in 2023. Called the Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP), this new initiative will provide valuable leadership knowledge and skills for co-op employees in all roles. CLIP is a yearlong learning experience incorporating in-person, virtual and on-demand sessions. We'll cover several aspects in our sessions, including strengths assessments and strategic financial planning, along with other cooperative business

topics like regulatory affairs, board relations, legal considerations and communications. Our goal is to identify emerging leaders at all local co-op levels and equip them for successful cooperative careers as they serve their local communities.

And at the end of the day, that's really why I'm committed to education and training – to help people achieve their fullest potential. Statewide and national associations provide your co-op staff and board directors with indispensable learning opportunities as they make important business decisions that will serve your best interests for years to come. You can do your part as a member-consumer by staying informed about your local co-op. Never stop learning!

Katrina Davis is the director of education and training for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a \$100 gift card

Just in time for holiday shopping, we're giving away a \$100 gift card to your choice of a hometown business. It will be good for a restaurant, hardware store, gift shop, grocery store, beauty salon or other local business that's vital to your community.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Nov. 30. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the GreenPan™ Ultimate Gourmet Grill from the September issue was Galen Eisentrager, Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative.



ENTER ONLINE BY NOV. 30!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 24- 25	Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving
DEC. 5	Member Advisory Committee meeting
DEC. 7	Fall legislative summit
DEC. 23	Office closed in observance of Christmas
DEC. 26	Office closed in observance of Christmas
DEC. 28	\$50 drawing for member account updates
JAN. 2	Office closed in observance of New Year's Day

You can access your account information 24/7 on our website or through our SmartHub app for mobile devices. You can also call our office to report service interruptions and request account information at 866-242-4232.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

BY KEVIN WHEELER



How is your bill calculated? That is a good question that I hope to answer in this article. Most of our members have a two-part rate structure: fixed

facilities charge and kilowatt-hour usage.

Fixed Facilities Charge

The fixed facilities charge is a flat fee designed so that all Access Energy Cooperative members are paying a share of the cost of service. This includes investment in poles, wires, transformers and equipment needed to provide you with electric service. It also supports required services such as line maintenance, right-of-way clearing, fleet maintenance and general administrative responsibilities. Regardless of how frequently or infrequently you flip on the light switch or turn on the TV, these costs are part of bringing power to you.

KWH Usage – Energy Charge

The kilowatt-hour (kWh) energy charge on your bill is based on the amount of electricity you used during the billing period. The energy used is recorded by your meter and is shown on your bill as kilowatt-hour (kWh) used. This charge reflects the cost to purchase the energy delivered to you.

Kilowatt (kW) – Demand Charge

Members with larger energy demands have a third component to their bill, a demand charge. The demand

charge reflects a portion of the cost of transmitting and distributing electrical energy to their farm or business and is based on their peak usage during the billing period. It is shown on the bill as kW.

Access Energy Cooperative serves about four members per mile of distribution power line. Utilities like Alliant Energy and MidAmerican Energy serve around 35 customers per mile, while municipalities like Mount Pleasant Utilities serve around 50 customers per mile. It costs a rural electricity provider like Access Energy Cooperative more money to serve members than other utilities because of our demographics and geography.

Electric bills can be confusing, but your board of directors strives to be transparent with your bill by providing information to help you understand what you are paying for. If you have questions, please contact the Access Energy Cooperative office. We are happy to assist you.

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.



Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.

Office: Access Energy Cooperative
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641
Phone: 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232
Fax: 319-385-6873
Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call): 8-1-1
Website: www.accessenergycoop.com
Facebook: facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop
Twitter: twitter.com/AccessEnergyC
Email: contactus@accessenergycoop.com
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Call our office 24/7: 319-385-1577

Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

General Manager/CEO: Kevin Wheeler

Editor: Kimberly Davis

Assistant Editor: Cherity Wibben

Officers and Directors:

Marvin Newton, District 3, President
mnewton@accessenergycoop.com

Marvin Larson, District 1, Vice President
mlarson@accessenergycoop.com

Robert Chesnut III, District 3, Secretary
rchesnut@accessenergycoop.com

David Hollingsworth, District 1, Treasurer
dhollingsworth@accessenergycoop.com

Fred Hickenbottom, District 1, Director
fhickenbottom@accessenergycoop.com

Jerry Barker, District 2, Director
jbarker@accessenergycoop.com

Robert P. Smith, District 2, Director
rsmith@accessenergycoop.com

Larry White, District 2, Director
lwhite@accessenergycoop.com

Michael Holtkamp, District 3, Director
maholtkamp@accessenergycoop.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WHAT IS DEMAND?

Demand is the amount of electricity drawn from the system at a given time, measured in kW (kilowatts)

Compare it to other familiar measurements based on time:

gallons per minute $\frac{g}{m}$	miles per hour $\frac{m}{h}$	kilowatt-hours per hour $\frac{kWh}{h} = kW$
---	---	---

Demand

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR SAFE DECORATING THIS SEASON

BY KURT LOWENBERG



Sparkling lights and dazzling decorations are hallmarks of the season. Make sure your holiday decorating is done with safety in mind.

Only use holiday lights that have

been safety tested and have the UL label. Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs. Always be sure to unplug the lights when replacing a bulb. Don't string together more light strands than recommended by the manufacturer.

When decorating outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.

Take extra care not to throw strings of lights over tree branches that are near power lines and service connections.

Additional tips

Follow these additional tips for safe holiday decorating:

- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources such as heat registers, fireplaces and radiators. Water fresh-cut trees frequently.

- Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord or remove the third prong.
- Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Do not run electric cords through doorways or under carpets. Do not staple, nail or tack them to the wall.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition and are UL-approved and rated to carry the correct electrical load.
- Don't let children or pets play with light strands.

Overloaded circuits are a major cause of fires. Flickering or dimming lights, sparks from appliances or outlets, and wall plates, plugs or cords that are warm to the touch are warning signs that demand immediate action.

If you spot an electrical danger, make sure to unplug the malfunctioning appliance or device immediately and replace with one that works properly.

Access Energy Cooperative wishes you a bright, safe holiday season!

Kurt Lowenberg is the safety director/assistant operations manager for Access Energy Cooperative.



PHOTO CONTEST

WIN UP TO \$100 IN THE ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE PHOTO CONTEST

Thirteen photos will be chosen as featured photos in the 2024 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. Winners will be awarded \$75, plus an additional \$25 bill credit if they are a member of the cooperative.

Color photos are preferred in a horizontal layout. Submissions will be accepted until March 31, 2023. Send entries to mktg@accessenergycoop.com.

Visit www.accessenergycoop.com for complete rules.

HELP OTHERS BY CONTRIBUTING TO RECare

RECare is a program where members help other members in need. You may make a one-time contribution to the RECare program, or you may enclose an amount each month with your monthly electric bill. Just one dollar a month will help others. The amount collected for contributions July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, was \$4,065.01. We thank those who have given to help others. This program is administered by the Iowa Community Action Program, and recipients must meet their guidelines.



You can use SmartHub to enroll in RECare!

To have a monthly amount added to your electric bill:

1. Log in to your SmartHub account. Go to the Billing & Payments tab. Select RECare, and follow instructions; or
2. Send the form below to:

RECare
c/o Access Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

MEMBER AUTHORIZATION FORM

I would like to make a (check one):

One-time contribution of
\$ _____

Monthly contribution of
\$ _____
(That will be added to my bill)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Account # (if known) _____

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE CO-OP MEMBERS?

We are searching for members whose dividend checks did not reach them. If you know the whereabouts of any of these people, please contact our accounting department at finance@accessenergycoop.com or by calling 866-242-4232.

Adam, Tyler/Sonya	Fairfield IA	Dill, George P/Lindsay	Fairfield IA	Iskra, Veronica	Saint Helena CA
Alexander, Betty J	Burlington IA	Discount City	Wever IA	Jackson, Holly	Mt Pleasant IA
Allen, Douglas G	Riverside IA	Dowell, Mindy (Estate)	Wever IA	Johnston, Don G	Mt Pleasant IA
Allison, Tammy/Roger	Burlington IA	Ebert, Betty J	San Tan Valley AZ	Johnston, George L	Arlington TX
Anderson, April L/Waddle, William	Burlington IA	Edminster, Julie L	Chillicothe IL	Johnston, Gregg/Jana	Lucas IA
Anderson, Art/Annie	Bigelow AR	Eisentraut, Jeff F/Julie D	Hillsboro IA	Jones, Dale/Patricia A	Hawkeye IA
Andrews Pallet Company Inc	Story City IA	Ellinger, Christopher	Douds IA	Katz, David E/Joann	Fairfield IA
Attwood, Janet	Fairfield IA	Elmore, Beverly	Ottumwa IA	Kelley, Britton (Estate)	Mt Pleasant IA
Baccam, Toan	Mt Pleasant IA	Entsminger, Tim/Vicki	Brighton IA	Kern, Phillip H/Jean	Fairfield IA
Baker, Keith	Hedrick IA	Etka, Terry/Doris	West Burlington IA	Kerr, Richard V/Lynn	Douds IA
Baker, V Lorean	Ft Madison IA	Experian	Long Island City NY	Ketterer, John J	Ft Madison IA
Beauchamp, Hal R	Mt Pleasant IA	Fariss, Kevin/Angela R	Batavia IA	Kevin Inc	Clinton IA
Becker, John	Mt Pleasant IA	Farm Credit/New London Dairy	New London IA	Knotts, Amber R	Wever IA
Biggs, Bryan J	Fairfield IA	Fetzer, Jamie	North Liberty IA	Krabill, Todd/Cinnamon	Cadiz KY
Bittner, Tracie E	Mt Pleasant IA	Fleming, Robert	Burlington IA	Krekel, Gene R	Burlington IA
BJ's Four Corners	Morrison IL	Foreman, Rodger W	Albia IA	Lambert, Darrell	Mt Pleasant IA
Blow, Scott L	Burlington IA	Fox, Thelma M	Riverside IA	Lamborn, Ty	Donnellson IA
Blunk, Michael R/Susan D	Winfield IA	Frisbee, Brian D	Fairfield IA	Lampe, Kim/Douglas, Tracy	Thayer MO
Blythe, Cindy L (Estate)	Mt Pleasant IA	Fritz, Wanda	Brighton IA	Larkin, Robert	Burlington IA
Boeding, Mark E/Beverly	Wellington CO	Gardner, Jay/Karlin	Colorado Springs CO	LeMaster, Jody G	Reeds Spring MO
Boyd, Erin	New London IA	Garner, Kevin W/Haley	Wayland MO	Ledger, Mark	Washington IA
Boyer's Machine Works	Ankeny IA	Garretson Equipment Co	Huntley IL	Leffler, Ira/Jacqueline	Lockridge IA
Brendel, Peter/Celesta	Riverside IA	Gillispie, Kenneth L	Mt Pleasant IA	Lieberg, Robert (Estate)	Galesburg IL
Brokken Lois (Estate)	Lockridge IA	Gonterman, Greg/Monita	Burlington IA	Livestock Placement	Salix IA
Brown, Clifford F (Estate)	Birmingham IA	Gordon, Glenn/Dorothy	Lockridge IA	Longview Cable & Data LLC	Reston VA
Brown, Kevin V/Margie S	Newton MO	Gore, Susan	New York NY	Lopez, Byron	Mt Pleasant IA
Bueker, William B/Tammy	Donnellson IA	Greiner, Joseph B	Richland IA	Lopez, Jessie J JR/Rebecca	Overland Park KS
Bugg, Patricia L/Henry D (Estates)	South Jacksonville IL	Gridley, Robert/Stephanie	Fairfield IA	Lustgraff, Phillip D/Kathy Furman	New London IA
Butler, Amber/Mark	Mt Pleasant IA	Grochowski, Donald J	Danville IA	Marlin, William C	Mt Pleasant IA
Carr, Linda	Batavia IA	Grochowski, Kenneth R	Cape Coral FL	Marsh, Byron/Nichole	Renton WA
Carson, Raymond/June	Wever IA	Groenewald, Otto/Collette	West Point IA	Martin, Gary/Vicki	Burlington IA
Carter, Debra D	Burlington IA	GTE Mobil Net	Schaumburg IL	McAllister, Marcille (Estate)	Mt Pleasant IA
Casteel, Dennis L/Hachey, Carol C	Birmingham IA	GTE Telephone Operations	Irving TX	McAtee, Ann	Ames IA
Celestica Inc	North York Ontario	Gudex, Christopher A/Judith J	Des Moines IA	McBride, Chester	Des Moines IA
Chaladoff, David/Cathy	Carmel CA	Gunther, Kenneth W	West Point IA	McComb, John H	Fox Lake IL
Chance, Jason/Deb	Ottumwa IA	Gunn, Jacki K	Bonaparte IA	McConnell, Lawrence W	Burlington IA
Chorpening, Dave	Wayland IA	Hall, Charriet	Walford IA	McCurren, Debra K	Washington DC
Church, Samantha/Juhl, Dave	Mt Pleasant IA	Hammer, William D/Teresa L	Brainerd MN	McDowell, Deryl D/Marcella	Vancouver WA
Clark, Ruth M	Danville IA	Hammes, Jeffrey J/Brenda	Fairfield IA	McElhinney, Terry R/Jennifer	Mt Union IA
Clarke, Jonathan/Allison	Mt Pleasant IA	Harkers Distribution Inc	Le Mars IA	Meardon, Kathleen W	Ft Madison IA
Clear Channel Communications	Burlington IA	Harryman, Nancy L	Keosauqua IA	Melloy, Michael/Kayla	Mt Pleasant IA
Companions of St Luke	Shreveport LA	Hayward, Frank E/Janet	American Fork UT	Mertens, Joseph P	Ft Madison IA
Conrad, Constance	Ft Madison IA	Henderson, Robert G/Susan	New London IA	Meyer, Karry D	Cullman AL
Contreras, David/Dorene	Oconomowoc WI	Henry, Kevin/Mary Diane	Farmington IA	Meyer, Ryan	Mt Pleasant IA
Cook, Jon L/Helen L	Fort Dodge IA	Henry, Rodney	Burlington IA	Miller, Jeff/Kith	Jerome ID
Cooke, Jeff	Fairfield IA	Herdrich, Harold E	Denmark IA	Miller, Kiley/Carry	Arnolds Park IA
Copeland, Randy D	Batavia IA	Heston, Leonard/Garnet	Agency IA	Moeller, Ray/Kathy (Estates)	Cotopaxi CO
Coulter, John/Janet	Burlington IA	Higdon, Stephen M/DeAnna M	North Liberty IA	Moore, Mrs. J Brown (Helen)	Mt Union IA
Crouse, Bryan	West Point IA	Hill, Leo W (Estate)	Mt Pleasant IA	Morris, Allen (Estate)	Batavia IA
Daggs, Betty A	Keokuk IA	Holden, Tom	Keosauqua IA	Morrison, Joyce	Ft Madison IA
Dalarna Farms	New London IA	Holmes, Donald R (Estate)	Ruthven IA	Mott, Michael C	Muscataine IA
Davis, D Jean	Fairfield IA	Holmes, Kathleen	Ft Madison IA	Murray, Raymond B/Diana	Palmyra MO
Davis, Deborah S	Batavia IA	Hookom, Elizabeth A	Mt Pleasant IA	Nady, Xavier W (Trust)	Genoa NV
Davis, Donald A	Santa Barbara CA	Hughes, Ron	Williamstown MO	New London Dairy LLC	New London IA
Dawson, Kelly	Mt Pleasant IA	Humphrey, Marine (Estate)	Independence MO	Newpath Communications	Des Moines IA
DeVore, Clint L	Jay FL	Hunter, Melissa	Mt Pleasant IA	Newton, Dale/Linda	Borger TX
Degen, Robert/Ila Jane	Ft Madison IA	IES Utilities	Burlington IA	Niggemeyer, Scott E	Ft Madison IA
Dickinson, Nancy J	Brighton IA	Iris Motel Von LTD	New Paltz NY	North, Susan	Fairfield IA

REVERSE THE SPIN AND SAVE

Ceiling fans can help to reduce your electric bills year-round, but before you run out and buy one for every room, it's important to understand how fans can help you save energy. If you install a ceiling fan and don't adjust your thermostat settings accordingly, you may be more comfortable – but you also could be increasing your monthly electric bills!

During the winter, flip the small switch on the side of the ceiling fan housing to reverse the blade rotation to spin clockwise. Run the fan on low speed so it creates a gentle upward breeze away from people in the room. This will push warm air at the ceiling back down into the room, where it's needed. Then, set your furnace a few degrees lower to save more.



Oakview Construction
 Olomon, Max L (Estate)
 Osborn, Mike H (Estate)
 Otto, Nathan/Malak
 Palmer, Stephen P/Pamela
 Parcel, April/Phillip
 Peters, Thomas K/Debra
 Phillips Pallets Inc
 Pilcher, Brian/Melinda
 Piper, Charles
 Polton, Edward M (Estate)
 Porter, Ricky L/Rebecca
 Porter, Tom/Annette M
 Poss, Ronald
 Prechtel, John H
 Pumphrey, Steve/Scott, Jodi
 Quinton, Carmen M
 Rains, Lewis/Reena
 Ran/Kel Farms LLC
 Ravey, Tom/Diane
 Reifslager, Matthew/Alessandra
 Reitz, Barbara
 Richers, Roger D/Janice
 Riffel, Barbara E
 Riley, Richard/Shannon
 Riley, Richard D/Rose A
 Riverside Paper
 Ross, Katherine R
 Rowe, Troy E/Parker, Cherish
 Rube, Sheryl
 Rubison, Gary
 Russell, James L
 Samir Corp
 Sanders, William H
 Sandoval, Jose
 Schaffer, Kevin/Melinda
 Schilb, Jeff L/Kim
 Schlag, Dana/Yvonne
 Schneider, Otto/Lorene
 Schnicker, Jodi/John W Sino
 Schwartz, Keith J/Connie
 Schwendinger, Anthony

Red Oak IA
 West Point IA
 Burlington IA
 Boulder CO
 Newton IA
 Batavia IA
 Ft Madison IA
 Chuluota FL
 Owatonna MN
 Wever IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Chestnut Ridge MO
 Keokuk IA

Fairfield IA
 Fairfield IA
 Fairfield IA
 Aledo IL
 Wayland IA
 Fairfield IA
 Austin TX
 Burlington IA
 Winfield IA
 Burlington IA
 Packwood IA
 Wever IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Quincy IL
 Winfield IA
 Ft Madison IA
 Springfield IL
 Burlington IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Donnellson IA
 Wever IA
 Quincy IL
 Manchester IA
 Burlington IA
 Aurora CO
 West Point IA
 Sperry IA
 Clinton IA

Shull, Delores S
 Skopec, Paul A/Holly
 Slaney, William/Susan
 Smith, Charles A
 Smith, Kristina
 Smith, Matthew J/Christina
 Smith, Robert D/Nancy
 Sp Grove Mobile Homes
 Stark, Thomas E
 Steve's Rome Tap
 Stoermer, Larry G (Estate)
 Sweeney, Peder/Kelly
 Taylor, Melody (Estate)
 Telegroup
 Templeton, Scott/Eleanor K
 Thomas, Josephine
 Thompson, Dan R/Susan M
 Thompson, Lee/Nancy
 Underwood, Virginia F (Estate)
 VanNiewaal, Randy/Chi
 Vantiger, LaVon J
 Vela, John R/Charlotte
 Wade, Todd/Jennie
 Wagler, E Jean
 Walrod, Bob E/Leona
 Warner, Dawn N
 Watson, Linda
 Waymack, Bill/Denise
 Weber, David L
 Wenig, Rev N
 Whaley Waste Systems
 White, Betty J (Estate)
 White, Cathy A (Estate)
 White, John/Cathy S
 Williams, Jim
 Williams, Larry W/Maranna
 Winfrey, Jeff J
 Wittmer, Alie J (Estate)
 Womack, Floyd/Raelyn
 Woodruff, Stephen W/Rita L
 Y B Service
 Young, Mark L

Hedrick IA
 Arnolds Park IA
 Hedrick IA
 LaGrange NC
 Fairfield IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Coon Rapids IA
 Burlington IA
 Burlington IA
 Davenport IA
 Asheville NC
 Rome IA
 Fairfield IA
 Donnellson IA
 Fairfield IA
 Batavia IA
 Burlington IA
 Keosauqua IA
 Burlington IA
 Burlington IA
 Burlington IA
 Danbury TX
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Savannah MO
 Keosauqua IA
 Stockport IA
 New London IA
 Clive IA
 Plano IA
 Des Moines IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Ft Myers FL
 Pershing IN
 Gainesville MO
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Burlington IA
 Milton IA
 Mt Pleasant IA
 Kalona IA

IMPORTANCE NOTICE: ACCOUNT ACCESS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE NOV. 15

We will be experiencing downtime for availability to access member accounts online and through SmartHub as we generate updates to our system. During this time, we also will not be able to take payments over the phone. Please be advised that account information will not be available Nov. 15 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Any outages that might occur during this time need to be reported by calling 866-242-4232.

UPDATE

YOUR INFORMATION
 FOR A CHANCE TO

WIN A \$50 BILL CREDIT
 DRAWING ON
 DEC. 28

Account # _____

Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Home Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____

Return this form with your bill, or

- **Mail it to:**
 Access Energy Cooperative
 Info Update
 P.O. Box 440
 Mount Pleasant, IA 52641
- **Email it to:**
 contactus@accessenergycoop.com
- **Use the SmartHub app:**
 Click on *Contact Us* to request to update your personal information
- **Call our office:**
 1-866-242-4232

For more details, visit
www.accessenergycoop.com

Ben Smith and Kaleb Storts promoted to Journeyman Linemen!

CONGRATULATIONS

Access Energy Cooperative
 A Trademark Energy Cooperative



THANKSGIVING

SIDE DISH

RECIPES

EASY HASHBROWN POTATOES

- 1 30-ounce package frozen shredded hashbrowns, thawed
- ½ cup butter
- salt
- pepper
- 1 pint whipping cream
- 2 cups cheese, shredded

Spread hashbrowns in greased 9x13-inch pan. Slice butter and add on top of hashbrowns. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour whipping cream over top and sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees F for 1-1.5 hours. Serves 20

Bethany Van Wyhe • Lester
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

AUNT NANCY'S SLOW COOKER BUTTERY BACON GREEN BEANS

- 4 14.5-ounce cans green beans, drained
- 8 slices bacon, chopped
- ½ cup onion, diced
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 4 tablespoons butter, cut into slivers
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ - ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

Place green beans in 4- or 6-quart slow cooker (either grease slow cooker or use a cooking bag). Cook bacon in a large nonstick skillet until crispy, adding onion when the bacon is almost fully cooked. Continue to cook until onion soaks bacon flavor and softens. Remove bacon and onion with a slotted spoon and add to slow cooker. Drizzle about 1 tablespoon of the bacon grease into the slow cooker. Add remaining ingredients and stir. Cover and cook on low for 4-6 hours, stirring occasionally.

Tamara Kramer • Le Mars
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

OUR FAVORITE BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

- 2 10-ounce packages frozen chopped broccoli
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 10.75-ounce can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 cups buttery crackers, crushed
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Cook and drain broccoli. In a large mixing bowl, combine broccoli, mayonnaise, cheese, soup and eggs. Mix well. Place mixture in a greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Top with crushed crackers and pour melted butter evenly over top. Bake at 350 degrees F for 35 minutes or until set and browned. You can substitute a can of cream of chicken soup.

Susan Harrison • Le Mars
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

CHEDDAR BACON BISCUIT STUFFING

- 8 cups biscuits, cubed
- 8 slices bacon, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 stalks celery, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced or ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon chicken seasoning blend
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 4 ounces cheddar cheese, shredded
- chives, optional

Dry cubed biscuits overnight or in an oven at 300 degrees F for 20 minutes. Cook bacon until crisp and remove from pan. Cook onion, celery, garlic and seasonings in bacon drippings over medium-high heat until vegetables are tender. Turn off heat. Add biscuits and broth and stir gently to combine. Fold in bacon and cheese. Put stuffing in a greased 9x13-inch dish and bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes. You can adjust baking time if you like moist or crispy edges. Garnish with chives if desired. *Serves 10*

Chris Daniels • Casey
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association

MAPLE CRANBERRY SAUCE

- 1 cup real maple syrup
- ½ cup water
- 1 bag fresh cranberries
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 1 teaspoon orange rind, finely grated

Combine maple syrup, water, cranberries and orange juice in medium saucepan, bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, stir in orange rind. Store in refrigerator, but best served at room temperature. *Serves 10-12*

Lorna Easton • Hawarden
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

MOM'S CRANBERRY SALAD

- 1 pound package raw cranberries
- 4-5 apples, quartered, with peel
- 2 small cans crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup English walnuts, chopped
- 2 small packages lemon Jell-O
- 2 cups hot water

Grind cranberries and apples through a food chopper or food processor. Place in a bowl and add pineapple, sugar and walnuts. Mix well. Dissolve Jell-O in hot water then stir in cranberry mixture. Pour into a ring mold or bowl. Refrigerate until solid and the flavors meld. *Serves 12-20*

Kathie Anderson • Blockton
United Electric Cooperative

PILGRIM PIE

- 1 cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup Karo syrup (dark or light)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup chopped pecans, optional
- pie shell

Cream sugar and margarine, then add eggs. Add remaining ingredients and put in an unbaked pie shell. Bake at 375 degrees F for 10 minutes. Lower heat to 350 degrees and bake for 35 minutes.

Cynthia Snider • Seymour
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative

BAKED PINEAPPLE

- ½ cup butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten
- dash salt
- 1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple
- 5 slices white bread, cubed

Cream butter and sugar, then add eggs and beat. Add remaining ingredients. Mixture will look curdled. Place in 1½ quart casserole dish and bake 40-50 minutes at 325 degrees F. Serve hot alongside your favorite Thanksgiving meal. *Serves 6*

Jennine C. Maas • Casey
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association

WANTED:

IRISH-INSPIRED RECIPES

THE REWARD:

\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!

Deadline is Nov. 30

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. Also provide the number of servings per recipe.

EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com

(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992



WINTERIZATION TIPS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE



Windows can be a source of drafts and wasted energy. Weatherstrip and close windows tightly to prevent warm air from escaping your home.



Your fireplace adds ambiance to your home but isn't necessarily effective at heating it. If you have a wood-burning fireplace, close the damper when your fire is extinguished.



Insulating your water heater can save 7% to 16% on water heating costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Winterizing is an important step to keep your home cozy and your bills low. These tried-and-true methods and essential tips will ensure your home is sealed tight and ready for colder weather.

TIP 1 **Insulate pipes and the water heater**

You can raise the water temperature inside your home's water pipes by 2 to 4 degrees simply by insulating them, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Insulating allows you to turn down the heat on your water heater, saving energy and money.

Start by insulating the pipes coming out of your water heater. If you have a gas water heater, keep pipe insulation at least 6 inches away from the flue. Insulate hot and cold water lines. The latter can prevent condensation and freezing pipes. Insulating your water heater can save 7% to 16% on water heating costs, according to the DOE. Insulation kits are available at hardware stores, but remember – don't obstruct the pressure relief valve, thermostats or access valves.

TIP 2 **Seal air leaks**

Air sealing and insulation are an excellent combination for minimizing home energy use. Insulation is like

a warm sweater for your home, and air sealing is the windbreaker. All the cracks, gaps and holes in a typical home can be like having a window open year-round. Air sealing eliminates those leaks. It can be done as a do-it-yourself project or by a professional.

TIP 3 **Keep windows tight and add layers**

Windows can be a source of drafts and wasted energy, so close windows tightly.

Add weatherstripping around windows to prevent warm air from escaping your home and caulk the gaps where the window trim meets the wall and the window frame. Add curtains to make the room feel warmer.

Storm windows are a lower-cost option for upgrading single-pane windows. They are available with low-emissivity coatings, which insulate better, and are available for installation either from the inside or outside of the window.

TIP 4 **Use dampers effectively**

When I was little, my dad told me it was too cold to have a fire. I remember thinking that made no sense, but he was right.

We had an open, wood-burning fireplace – not a wood stove. A fireplace can draw the warm air out of the house, cooling it down or causing your heating system to use more energy.

Your fireplace adds ambiance to your home but isn't necessarily effective at heating it. If you have a wood-burning fireplace, close the damper when your fire is extinguished. An open damper in the winter is an easy exit for the air you paid to heat.

Adding tempered glass doors to a wood-burning fireplace can create an extra buffer between the cold outside and a cozy living space.

Some gas fireplaces require a damper to remain permanently open so that gas can vent out of the home. Check the specifications of your unit to ensure safe operation.

TIP 5 **Check your filters**

Maintaining a clean filter in your furnace is one of the best ways to keep it running efficiently and prevent costly repairs. Check your furnace or ductless heat pump filter monthly during peak heating season.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

ARE YOU CLOSING OFF PART OF YOUR HOME DURING THE WINTER?

FOLLOW THESE BEST PRACTICES

There is often a lot of debate about the best way to close off rooms or parts of the home in the winter to save energy.

Best practices come down to the type of heat source. If you have a zonal heating system, where individual areas are controlled separately, you can close doors and only heat the areas you use. Examples of zonal systems are wall heaters, baseboard heat, hydronic radiant heat, radiators and ductless heat pumps, also called mini-splits.

Keep areas with plumbing or water lines warm enough so pipes do not freeze.

If you have a central forced-air heating system, leave doors open to all heated areas. Closing doors and register dampers force the system to work harder, use more energy and can shorten the life of heating equipment.



APPLIANCES THAT USE THE MOST ENERGY

BY TOLU OMOTOSO

Have you ever received your energy bill and wondered which appliances use the most energy? Don't worry – you're not alone. A few years ago, after being away for a somewhat lengthy trip, I arrived home to a typical energy bill. I was surprised because I expected a lower bill after being away from home, so I began a search for some answers.

Home heating and cooling adds up

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), a typical U.S. home spends more than \$2,000 annually on energy bills, and on average, more than half of household energy consumption is for just two energy end uses: space heating and air conditioning. This shows the importance of adjusting the thermostat when you're away because it truly makes a difference on monthly bills.

Water heaters tend to be the third-largest energy user at 13%, followed by lighting, which usually accounts for about 12.5% of the average energy bill.

These insights can help you better understand and control your energy consumption. I've been able to save money by using helpful devices like smart thermostats, water heater controllers and smart power strips to control my energy consumption.

Factors affecting energy use

Several factors affect the amount of energy a household uses, including geographic location and climate, the number of people in the home,



Photo Source: Steven Ungermann

If your major appliances are more than 10 years old, they're likely operating inefficiently. Consider purchasing newer, more efficient models to save more energy over the long run.

the type of home and its physical characteristics. The efficiency of energy-consuming devices and the amount of time they are used also impact home energy consumption.

Six tips to save energy and money

- 1 Use ENERGY STAR®-rated appliances and devices.**
- 2 Replace old, inefficient equipment.** If your air conditioner, furnace or water heater is more than 10 years old, it is likely using a lot more energy than necessary. A newer model will save you money in the long run.
- 3 Use appliances with efficiency in mind.** Only wash full loads of clothes or dishes, and cook with smaller, countertop appliances instead of the oven when possible.
- 4 Set your thermostat.** When you're in the home and active, the Department of Energy recommends setting it to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter.

- 5 Use energy-efficient LED bulbs.** They use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer.

- 6 Plug electronics into a smart power strip.** This allows you to designate "always on" for devices that need to maintain network connection, while cutting power from devices like speakers and TVs when they are not in use.

In addition to the tips shared above, consider using real-time energy monitors to help identify faulty appliances or other problems that might run unnoticed for extended periods of time, leading to high energy bills.

With a little extra attention to how you use energy in your home, you'll be well on your way to a path of energy savings and lower energy bills.

Tolu Omotoso is the director of energy solutions at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



A smart or programmable thermostat can help you manage energy used to heat or cool your home.

4 STEPS FOR FOOD SAFETY WHEN COOKING WITH TURKEY

Food safety is a top priority when you're in the kitchen. A few simple steps will help make sure your Thanksgiving turkey is ready for the table and you and your loved ones stay healthy.

When cooking with turkey, as with all fresh products, consumers should wash their hands, surfaces and cooking utensils, avoid cross-contamination with other foods, cook food to a proper internal temperature and refrigerate leftovers promptly to eliminate food safety risks.

When in doubt, following the Core Four Food Safety Practices will help protect you from foodborne illnesses.

STEP 1

Clean – Hands and surfaces

In the kitchen, handwashing is a critical step in preparing healthy, safe meals and preventing foodborne illnesses. Wash hands with soap vigorously before and after handling raw poultry.

Wash used cutting boards, dishes, utensils and countertops with hot, soapy water after preparing each food item.

Consider using paper towels to clean kitchen surfaces and dry your hands. If you use cloth towels, wash them often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.

STEP 2

Separate – Prevent cross-contamination in the kitchen

Use separate cutting boards for raw poultry and any other food that does not require cooking. Carefully clean all cutting boards, countertops and utensils with soap and hot water before and after preparing raw poultry. Don't rinse your turkey!

Rinsing your turkey can spread harmful germs and bacteria around the kitchen and increases the risk of cross-contamination.



STEP 3

Cook – Cook turkey to proper internal temperature

Use a meat thermometer to verify your turkey has reached the safest internal temperature of 165 degrees F. For a whole turkey, the temperature should be checked in at least three places: the innermost part of the thigh, the innermost part of the wing and the thickest part of the breast. If stuffed, the innermost part of the stuffing should also reach 165 degrees F.

Never place cooked turkey on an unwashed plate that was used to hold raw meat. Sanitize meat thermometers in-between tests.

Leftover foods or ready-to-eat foods should be cooked until steaming hot. You can also use your meat thermometer to make sure they reach 165 degrees F.

STEP 4

Chill – Refrigerate promptly and properly

Refrigerate perishable foods as soon as possible. Freeze raw turkey that will not be cooked before the “use-by date” on the packaging or within two days of purchase. Thaw turkey in the refrigerator, ideally in a bowl or other dish on the lowest shelf. Never thaw or marinate foods on the counter.

Once cooked, slice turkey off the bone (you can leave the leg and thigh intact), cover and refrigerate promptly. According to USDA guidelines, discard any uneaten food if left out for more than two hours. Leftovers can be kept in the refrigerator for 3-4 days or frozen for 3-4 months.

Source: National Turkey Federation

IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DISCUSS INDUSTRY ISSUES WITH NATIONAL POLICYMAKERS

Earlier this fall, two dozen Iowa Rural Power advocates participated in the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' (IAEC) annual fall fly-in to Washington, D.C.

Iowa electric cooperative board directors and staff attended meetings and events coordinated by IAEC along with other Midwest electric cooperatives and statewide associations as part of our annual Congressional advocacy work. In consultation with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Iowa's electric co-ops highlighted issues of concern related to permitting reform, the 2023 Farm Bill, land use policy for renewable energy projects and supply chain uncertainty.

Over two days in D.C., co-op advocates met with all six members of Iowa's Congressional delegation to continue the dialogue about policy issues that impact Iowa's electric cooperatives and the rural communities we serve. The group also visited with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute to learn more about the group's national perspective and the potential of small modular reactor technology.

"We appreciate the service of Iowa's elected officials and the tireless work of their staff who help look out for Iowans in the halls of Congress," says Kevin Condon, IAEC director of government relations. "These meetings are important to provide electric cooperatives and elected officials the opportunity to discuss topics that have the potential to impact member-consumers in all of Iowa's 99 counties."

The next planned trip for Iowa Rural Power advocates will be in the spring of 2023 as part of the NRECA's annual Legislative Conference. If you have questions about policy issues impacting the energy industry, feel free to contact your local electric cooperative.



LONG LIVE THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

In this month of Thanksgiving, there's so much to be grateful for – including good roads.

I've been thinking a lot about roads the past few years as I wrote "The Lincoln Highway in Iowa – A History." I've traveled the Lincoln Highway countless times during my more than 20 years as an ag journalist. The more I learned about this storied route, the more I knew this history needed to be preserved.

If you've ever traveled on an interstate (or any paved road, for that matter) you owe a debt of gratitude to the visionaries who promoted the Lincoln Highway. In 1913, the Lincoln Highway became the first coast-to-coast highway, connecting New York City to San Francisco. It passed right through Iowa, from Clinton to Council Bluffs.

Paving a grand idea

The Lincoln Highway is what we know as Highway 30. As much as 85% of the original highway is still drivable in Iowa, according to the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA).

While it's hard to imagine now, there were almost no good roads to speak of in the U.S., especially in Iowa, as late as 1912. Most roads were just dirt: bumpy and dusty in dry weather, muddy and impassable in wet weather. It was much easier to take the train – or just stay home.

Still, Iowans were restless, especially after Henry Ford introduced the Model T in 1908. As automobile fever spread, an entrepreneur named Carl Fisher took note. His Indianapolis Motor Speedway proved successful, especially after he paved it with brick. By 1912, Fisher dreamed of another grand idea: a highway spanning the continent.

Pieces of the past remain

It was a long, hard road (pun intended) to make this dream a reality, but by Oct. 31, 1913, the LHA dedicated the route of the Lincoln Highway. I'm convinced no state today can compare



to Iowa when it comes to getting a sense of what it might have been like for earlier generations of motorists on the Lincoln Highway.

We can check into some of the same places travelers did decades ago, like the Lincoln Hotel in Lowden. We can eat in the same restaurants, like the Lincoln Café in Belle Plaine, Taylor's Maid-Rite in Marshalltown or the Pink Poodle Steakhouse in Crescent.

There are countless pieces of the past just waiting to be discovered along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa. This reminds me of the late Charles Kuralt. After retiring from CBS News, he hit the road to explore America. He valued good

food, neighborliness, craftsmanship, quaintness and quirkiness, all linked to the good, decent people who live in America's cities, small towns and farms.

Experiencing the real America

Here in Iowa, in the spirit of Kuralt, you can still find inspiring stories of dynamic entrepreneurs, people who care about their community, and rural revitalization, mixed with historic preservation, along the Lincoln Highway. This is the ultimate Iowa road trip, especially if you want to experience the real America. For that, I am thankful.

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

November 2022

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

WE NEVER STOP.

Not everyone starts their day at the same time, or in the same way. But no matter when or how, your local Touchstone Energy cooperative is there to help you power every moment of it.

To learn more, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com

**YOUR SOURCE OF POWER.
AND INFORMATION.**

