

● AUGUST 2023

Iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

New SmartHub look
coming in August

2023 Shine the Light
nominees announced

Delicious dessert recipes

Dividend checks for Access Energy Cooperative members ▶ See Page 4

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Caleb and Logan Sinnwell, Butler County REC member-consumers, for supplying this month's cover image of their pig Sunflower Jr. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

YOUTH TOUR INVESTS IN YOUNG LEADERS

BY SHELLY YORK



In June, 38 Iowa students punched their tickets to the once-in-a-lifetime, whirlwind tour of our nation's capital that's known as Iowa Youth Tour!

The program is

designed for students to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government and walk away with a greater understanding of their roles as American citizens.

Since its beginnings in 1958, Youth Tour has become a longstanding tradition of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives. It's a living example of the cooperative difference – which includes giving back to communities and investing in the next generation of leaders.

We put the “tour” in Youth Tour

When the Iowa Youth Tour group arrived in D.C. on June 18, we hit the ground running. Moving as efficiently as a group of students and co-op chaperones can, we boarded and unloaded the bus at Washington's top stops to see everything possible during our time in the district. Our stops included the National Mall, various memorials and monuments, The White House, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theatre, the U.S. Capitol and many more.

Cooperative business model at work

Students also ran their own cooperative called the D.C. Munchie Cooperative, which sold reasonably priced snacks to its members. All students and chaperones became members of the cooperative. As members, they elected a board of directors, and the directors hired a co-op CEO/manager. The board and CEO met every morning over breakfast to discuss and plan activities related to the co-op.

Prior to the trip, students were asked about what type of snacks they would

like to see the cooperative sell. Based on their feedback, the inventory for the cooperative was determined.

At the end of the week, the cooperative held an annual meeting and reported there was a margin. The membership fee and patronage were returned to each member.

Honoring our heroes

Another highlight of the trip is the opportunity for some of our students to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year, Tristan Blair (Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association), Owen Bell (Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative), Veronica Schechinger (Nishnabotna Valley REC) and Lizzy Kremer (East-Central Iowa REC) represented the Iowa Youth Tour at this ceremony.

Thankful for the memories

As the trip came to its inevitable end, the group reflected on the fact that we started our adventure as strangers but ended as one Iowa Youth Tour family. We are thankful for our time together and especially for the cooperatives that invested in these young leaders.



Our world is a much better place because we had this experience together!

You can see highlights from the 2023 Iowa Youth Tour by searching for “Iowa Youth Tour” on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and Twitter. We also posted daily updates on www.iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.

Shelly York is the Youth Tour director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an Amazon Fire TV!

This Amazon Fire 32-inch Smart TV with Fire TV Alexa Voice Remote allows you to stream live TV without cable. Bring movies and shows to life in HD 720p resolution, with support for HDR 10, HLG and Dolby Digital Audio.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Aug. 31. 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 LED String Lights from the June issue was Jennifer Kohorst, Access Energy Cooperative.



ENTER ONLINE BY AUG. 31

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG. 17	Board meeting
SEPT. 4	Office closed for Labor Day
SEPT. 21	Board Meeting

You can access your account information 24/7, year-round on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com or by using our SmartHub app for mobile devices. You can also call our office to report service interruptions and request account information at 866-242-4232.

Access Energy is a sponsor of the Drive a Tractor event at the Midwest Old Threshers event

Aug. 31–Sept. 4

See Page 15 for details.



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

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

UNDERSTANDING DEMAND

BY KEVIN WHEELER



At Access Energy Cooperative, we understand that electric bills can be complicated, but understanding your bill can help you learn how to control it. Generally, utilities

charge a basic fee for service, which for Access Energy Cooperative members is called the “Base Charge.” Most people understand that the “Energy Charge” on your bill is the charge for how many kilowatt-hours or the amount of electricity you used for the month. Understanding the “Demand Charge” of an energy bill is more complicated and requires more education to understand.

What is electric demand?

Electric demand is the rate at which electricity is used at a given time and is measured in kilowatts (kW). Even though there are no fees associated with it for residential accounts, all members can see their monthly demand as a line item on the monthly electric bill called “Demand Charge.”

We provide this information to help you understand how you are using energy. The “Demand Charge” listed on your bill represents the 15-minute interval where you used the highest amount of electricity during that billing period. Beginning soon, you will notice

a date next to it, that will indicate when you set that demand. To put this into context, your dishwasher and washing machine both use electricity. The amount of electricity they use is the same regardless of when you use them. However, if you use them at the same time, you demand more electricity at that time.

An everyday example of managing demand

When your washing machine runs, it uses 0.7 kW, which would be your demand on our system for power. When your dishwasher runs, it uses 1.8 kW. If you run both of them at the same time, your demand is 2.5 kW. Your demand becomes the total of the two added together because you need that much power at the same time.

If you could change your habits and run only one of them at a time, your highest demand would be 1.8 kW. This is because it is the most demand you required at one time. The highest demand you set in one month is what you would be billed for demand if the cooperative had a fee for demand. The best way to reduce demand is by spreading your electric usage over time.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill, or questions about demand, please contact us at 866-242-4232

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

DIVIDENDS ARE COMING

As an Access Energy Cooperative member, you are an owner of the cooperative. Unlike other electric utilities, we exist to make sure your needs are met – not to make a profit. We work hard every day to keep your rates as low as possible. We also strive to earn your trust and excel at providing you with reliable service.

As a member-owner, you share in the margins earned by receiving dividends. Dividend payments for 2023 are being mailed this month to those who were not able to pick them

up at the Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 1. Accounts with payments of less than \$5 will continue to accumulate and will be paid in the year they reach or exceed \$5.

Bill credit options

Members also have the option to receive dividend payments as a bill credit. Contact our office if you are interested in setting this up for future dividend payments.

To learn more about dividends, visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com.

PREPARING TO SERVE YOU BETTER

BY DANIEL PHILIPS



Providing safe, reliable, efficient service to our members is what Access Energy Cooperative is all about. We strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas.

A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables the cooperative to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines.

The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, overgrown vegetation can account for significant outages on an electrical system if not kept in control.

Modernizing vegetation management

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability.

Traditional vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Although this approach has worked for decades, advances and improvements in technology have allowed us to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.

Drones can capture images of power lines and vegetation so we can accurately monitor the health of trees and pinpoint problems along the lines. Drone data will be incorporated into our maintenance and inspection programs in the future.

An essential tool for reliability

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment. If Access Energy Cooperative makes plans to cut vegetation or spray for brush control in your area, we will send you a postcard or email notification in advance.

Daniel Philips is the director of operations for Access Energy Cooperative.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you - our members!



CO-OP STAFF MEMBER COMPLETES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Tyler Thein, PE, director of engineering for Access Energy Cooperative, recently graduated from the Management Internship Program. This program is an intense management training program in Madison, Wisconsin, operated through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Congratulations, Tyler!

WELCOME NEW CO-OP EMPLOYEES



Parker LaFoe



Trever Durst

Access Energy Cooperative welcomes two new employees: Parker LaFoe and Trever Durst. Parker and Trever joined the cooperative in July as apprentice linemen. Parker graduated from the Lineworkers program at State Technical College of Missouri. He is from Palmyra and previously worked at Scobee Powerline Constructon. Trever graduated from the Lineworkers program at State Technical College of Missouri. He is from Canton and previously worked at United Utility Solutions.

PRACTICE SAFETY WITH GASOLINE DISPENSING FACILITIES NEAR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

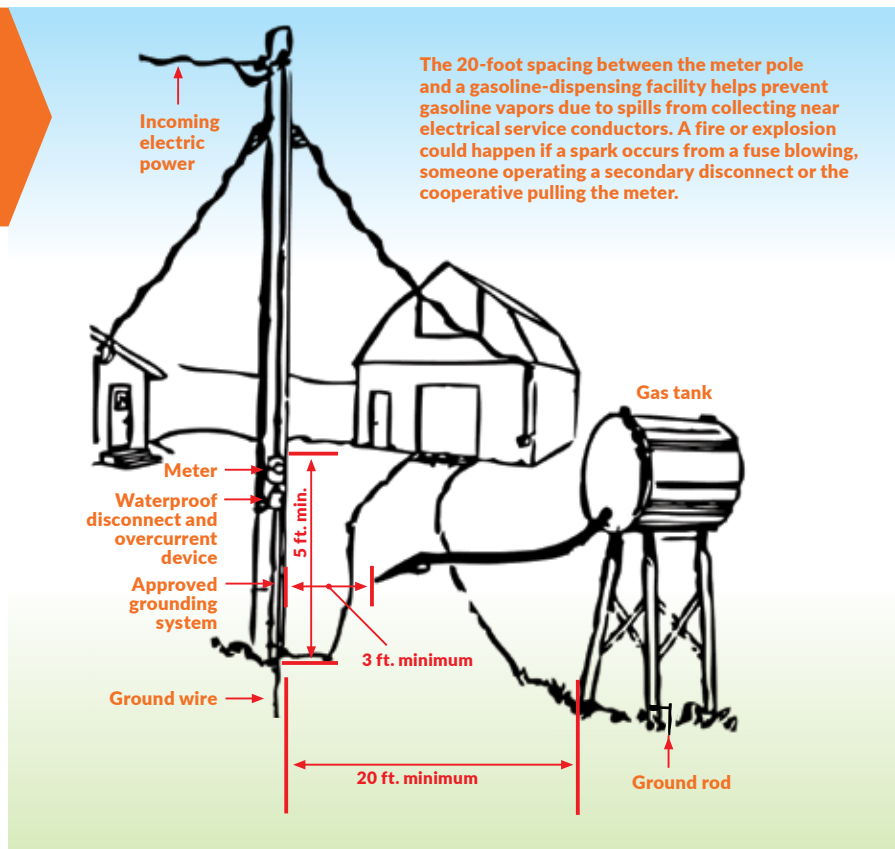
One of the most common safety violations found near electricity lines is the location of the gasoline dispensing facilities on the farmstead in relation to the meter pole or farm buildings.

The National Electrical Code (NEC) shows the requirements farm wiring systems should follow. One section of the wiring code covers the requirements for electrical equipment and wiring for all voltages in locations where fire or explosion hazards may exist due to flammable gases or vapors, flammable liquids, etc.

The National Electric Safety Code (NESC) outlines the standards that utilities follow. Because of the hazards that exist in the vicinity of gasoline dispensing facilities, and especially for Access Energy Cooperative personnel working with electricity, the NESC suggests that electric utilities not permit the installation of meter poles or service entrances within 20 feet of a gasoline dispensing barrel or tank, or within 3 feet of any point that could be reached by a gasoline dispensing nozzle. In addition, it is recommended that existing installations with less than required clearances be modified to provide the required clearances.

It is costly for Access Energy Cooperative to change the location of existing meter poles. Therefore, we ask every member to check to make sure their gasoline dispensing facilities are located at least 20 feet from the meter pole. The end of the dispensing nozzle should not be within 3 feet of the meter pole.

If Access Energy Cooperative discovers a violation of this requirement near our equipment, we have no choice but to disconnect the



The 20-foot spacing between the meter pole and a gasoline-dispensing facility helps prevent gasoline vapors due to spills from collecting near electrical service conductors. A fire or explosion could happen if a spark occurs from a fuse blowing, someone operating a secondary disconnect or the cooperative pulling the meter.

electric service at the site until the hazard is corrected.

In addition to these location requirements, please make sure your gasoline dispensing facilities are

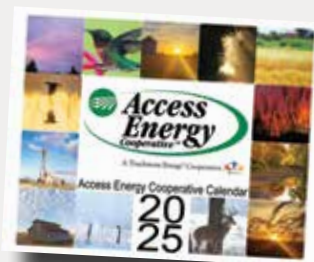
electrically bonded to the electrical ground of the farm wiring system. Install a ground rod at your gasoline tank and connect the tank to the ground rod and the farm wiring ground.

PHOTO CONTEST: WIN UP TO \$100!

We are now accepting photos for the 2025 Access Energy Cooperative calendar! Horizontal, color photos work best for calendar entries, and we are looking for all seasons of the year. Submissions can be sent to mktg@accessenergycoop.com before March 31, 2024.

Thirteen photos will be chosen as featured photos and winners will be awarded \$75, plus an additional \$25 bill credit if they are a member of the cooperative.

Visit www.accessenergycoop.com for complete rules.



WIN A \$50 BILL CREDIT

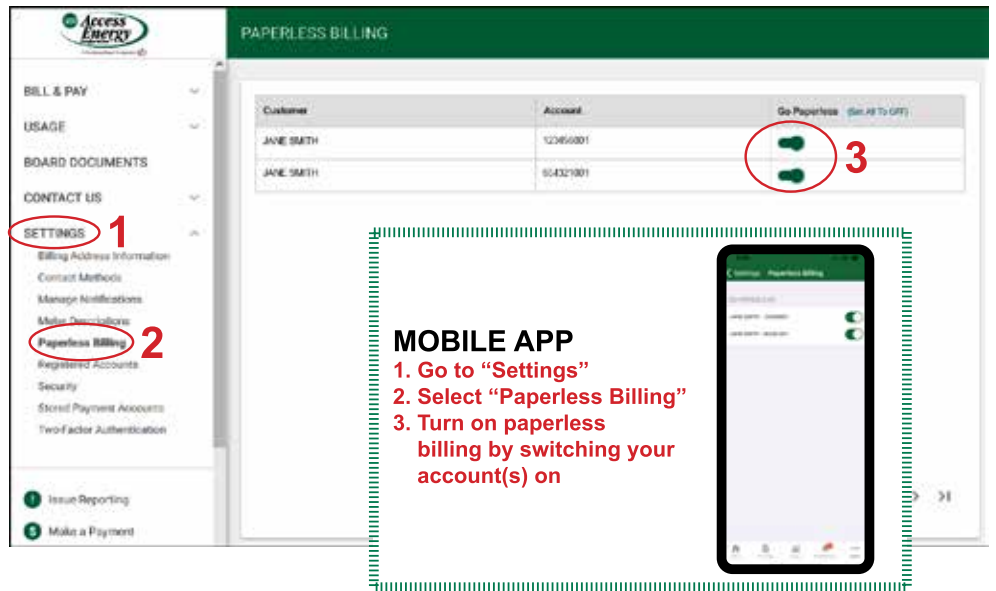
Sign up for paperless billing by Sept. 15, 2023, to enter the drawing

To sign up for paperless billing, you must first have a SmartHub account. SmartHub is a web and mobile app, that can be used to view and pay your bill. To create an account, visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com or download the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Once you sign up for paperless billing in SmartHub, you will be notified by email when your bill is available for viewing. This email will include the amount due and the due date. You can pay securely online or in the app, anytime, anywhere, as long as you have an internet connection.

We are happy to answer any questions you have. Call us at 866-242-4232. Or you can email our billing department at billing@accessenergycoop.com.

1. From the home screen, click on “Settings” on the left navigation.
2. Select “Paperless Billing” from the drop-down menu.
3. Turn on paperless billing by switching your account(s) on.



SMARTHUB REDESIGN

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web and mobile app. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze.

SmartHub redesign coming in August!



New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.



DELICIOUS Dessert RECIPES

TASTY CHERRY PIE

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 9-inch pie crust
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- ½ cup flaked coconut

Place cherry pie filling in unbaked 9-inch pie crust. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes and remove from oven. Combine remaining ingredients and pour evenly over pie. Return to oven and bake 25-30 minutes until topping is golden brown.

**Dee Ann Paulsrud • Danbury
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

BANANA CREAM DESSERT

- 16 graham cracker squares, crushed finely
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup cold milk
- 1 3.4-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
- 1 12-ounce container whipped topping, thawed
- 3 medium bananas, sliced

In medium bowl, mix graham cracker crumbs, melted butter and sugar. Pat into bottom of an 8- or 9-inch square dish. Whisk sour cream and milk together. Sour cream can be substituted with plain Greek yogurt. Add pudding mix and whisk until pudding is dissolved. Fold in whipped topping. Spread half the pudding mixture over graham cracker crust. Cover with sliced bananas and spread remaining pudding mixture on top of bananas. Chill. Serves 9

**Richard Claeys • Belle Plaine
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative**

FIVE-MINUTE BROWNIE

- ⅓ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ cup cocoa
- 4 tablespoons hot chocolate mix frosting, optional
- vanilla ice cream

Place butter in glass pan and microwave until melted. Mix sugar, eggs, vanilla, baking powder, cocoa and hot chocolate mix together, then pour into glass pan. Microwave for 5 minutes. Cool and frost, if desired, and serve with ice cream.

**Shirley Mattson • Tama
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative**

GOOSEBERRY OR RHUBARB COBLER

- 3-4 cups gooseberries or rhubarb, cut
- 1¾ cups sugar, divided
- 3 tablespoons butter
- ½ cup milk
- 1 cup flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon corn starch
- 1 cup boiling water

Place cut gooseberries or rhubarb in a greased 9x12-inch baking pan. Cream ¾ cup sugar and butter. Add milk, flour, baking powder and salt to make a batter. Pour over fruit. Combine 1 cup sugar and corn starch. Sprinkle over batter. Pour boiling water over all. Bake at 375 degrees F for 1 hour.

**Janice Shepherd • Lenox
Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative**

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE TRIFLE

- 1 package brownie mix for 8x8-inch pan
- 1 5.1-ounce package chocolate instant pudding mix
- 2 cups milk
- 1 16-ounce container whipped topping, divided
- 1 chocolate bar, optional for garnish

Prepare brownies according to package directions (you can substitute brownies made from scratch). Cool completely. Split the prepared brownies into thirds. Cut one third into little squares and set aside. Crumble the remaining two thirds but keep separate for the layers.

Mix instant pudding according to package directions using only 2 cups milk. Carefully fold in half of the whipped topping into prepared pudding. Layer a third of the crumbled brownie into the bottom of a trifle dish. Next, layer half of the pudding mixture over the brownie. Then, layer half of the remaining cool whip over the pudding mixture. Repeat the layers once more. Top the trifle with the little brownie squares.

Using a vegetable peeler, peel chocolate shavings over the top of the trifle. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.
Serves 15-20

Joyce Maassen • Boyden
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

FRESH STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM CAKE

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups sugar, divided
- 3 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon lemon juice, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cake flour
- 2 tablespoons strawberry Jell-O mix
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fresh strawberries, chopped, divided
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups heavy cream

Beat butter and 2 cups sugar together for 4-5 minutes, until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Add 1 teaspoon lemon juice and vanilla. Beat together and set aside. Mix cake flour, Jell-O, baking soda and salt. Mix the flour mixture into the butter and egg mixture, alternating with the buttermilk. Begin and end with flour. Beat on low until blended. Stir in $\frac{2}{3}$ cup strawberries. Pour into a greased and floured 9x13-inch cake pan (or 2 10-inch cake pans lined with sprayed parchment paper). Bake at 350 degrees F for 30-40 minutes until done and let cool.

Make a frosting by beating cream cheese and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar until smooth. Add $\frac{2}{3}$ cup strawberries and set aside. Beat heavy cream and 3 tablespoons lemon juice. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture and frost cake. Refrigerate cake.

Dode Westendorf • Waverly
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

SUPER MOIST RHUBARB SPICE CAKE

- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 4 cups rhubarb, cut
- sugar cinnamon mixture ($\frac{3}{4}$ sugar to $\frac{1}{4}$ cinnamon)

Mix sour cream, sugar and eggs. Add flour and baking soda. Mix well, then stir in rhubarb. Spread mixture into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle sugar cinnamon over top. Bake at 350 degrees F for 25 minutes or until done.

Marilyn Halbur • Carroll
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

MIXED FRUIT COBBLER

- 4 medium ripe apricots
- 2 large ripe nectarines
- 2 large ripe peaches
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar, divided
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- 1 tablespoon cold butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable oil

Peel and slice apricots, nectarines and peaches. In bowl, combine fruit with $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar and cornstarch. Spoon into a greased 8-inch square baking dish and dot with butter. In another bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and remaining sugar. Stir in milk and oil just until moistened. Spread over fruit mixture. Bake at 375 degrees F for 35-40 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown.

Morgan Lyon • Garwin
Consumers Energy

WANTED:

HOLIDAY DINNER RECIPES

THE REWARD:
\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!

Deadline is Aug. 31

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



SHINE THE LIGHT CONTEST NOMINEES ANNOUNCED



The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa are driven by our commitment to community.

To celebrate local volunteers, the Shine the Light contest returned for a third year and received 126 volunteer nominations during June, an 85% increase from last year! Employees and member-consumers of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community.

Three winners will be awarded a \$2,500 donation to their charity or community organization of choice and will be featured in next month's issue. Please join us in celebrating these nominees for their outstanding commitment to community. Learn more at www.IowaShineTheLight.com.

2023 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

Rodney Anderson from New Sharon was nominated by **Susan Anderson of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for his work with **Friends of Mahaska County Conservation**.

Marcia Bachmann from Denison was nominated by **Richard Meyer and Clayton Ullerich of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **CCHappycats, Inc.**

Darron Baker from Eagle Grove was nominated by **Donavon Baker of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with **Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight**.

Diane Bales from Bloomfield was nominated by **Joye Lore-Lawson of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Davis County Tourism Corporation**.

Sherry Bousk from Decorah was nominated by **Holly Kanengietter of MiEnergy Cooperative** for her work with **WinnMed Foundation**.

Shirley Bowman from Webster City was nominated by **Joe Sherman of Webster City Municipal** for her work with **Christians in Action**.

Caroline Bredekamp from Spragueville was nominated by **Don Wentworth of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Northbend Community Center**.

Dale Breuer from Estherville was nominated by **Brooke Henriksen of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Kiwanis Club of Estherville**.

The Butler County Fair Board from Allison was nominated by **Rhonda Marshall of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Butler County Fair Association**.

Raejean Chapman from Clarion was nominated by **Erin Baker and Heather Evje of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Dirt Diggers**.

Kirby Christensen from McCallsburg was nominated by **Kathy Nelson of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **American Legion Post #334**.

Greg Christianson from Baxter was nominated by **Natalie Moorman of Consumers Energy** for his work with **Baxter American Legion**.

Larry Daft from Colfax was nominated by **Kevin Williams of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Colfax Historical Society**.

Jim Danzl from Humboldt was nominated by **Jaclyn Lerdal of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry**.

Michele Dettmann from Sac City was nominated by **Pat Laursen of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Swaddling Clothes**.

Randy Dunfee from Murray was nominated by **Venita Escher of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for his work with **Murray Church of Christ**.

Gail Eischeid from Lake View was nominated by **Rhonda McQuigg of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **East Sac County Food Pantry**.

Megan Farrell from Grinnell was nominated by **Lindsey Starrett of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for her work with **Read 2 Lead**.

Jarrod Fischer from Wallingford was nominated by **Connie Hopper of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Wallingford Fire and Ambulance**.

Ann Gemberling from Lohrville was nominated by **Linda Schmitt of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Sue Gradoville from Boone was nominated by **Joann Utth of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with **Boone Hope Foundation**.

Ron Halbur from Manning was nominated by **Karen Kienast of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for his work with **Manning Community Foundation**.

Jane Hasek from Harpers Ferry was nominated by **Marita Clark of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Harpers Ferry Area Heritage Society**.

Nancy Hering from Oakland was nominated by **Doris Bane, Layna Bentley, Julie Hering Kent and Brenda Windmuller of Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Bidwell Riverside Food Pantry**.

Theresa Hildreth from Rockwell City was nominated by **Julie Clayton of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Stewart Memorial Community Hospital Foundation**.

Samantha Holm from Sumner was nominated by **Amanda Petersen of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Royal Family Kids' Camp Northeast Iowa**.

Betty Hoogendoorn from Rock Valley was nominated by **Jody Folkens of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative and by Mike Haverhals, Tamara Haverhals, Darwin Hoogendoorn, Kyle Hoogendoorn, Cierra Overweg and Kristi Tiedeman of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Hope Haven**.

Joyce Hornstein from Huxley was nominated by **Jean Saveraid of Greenfield Municipal Utilities** for her work with **Ballard Community Performing Arts Association**.

Ruth Jennings from Williamsburg was nominated by **Michelle Jennings of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Mount Mercy Dance Marathon**.

Angie Johnson from Rockford was nominated by **Larry Hicok of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Grow Rockford Together Association**.

Geri Johnson from Onawa was nominated by **Arthur Weston of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **Food 4 You, Inc.**

Judith Johnson from Estherville was nominated by **Elizabeth Harris of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **VFW Post 3388**.

Kathryn Johnson from Afton was nominated by **Retta Ripperger of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Afton Development Corporation**.

Jerry Jors from Ricketts was nominated by **Randy Bohlmann of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for his work with **Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight**.

Bonnie Kauzlarich from Centerville was nominated by **Mary Sue Zaputil of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **The Lord's Cupboard**.

Danielle Kruse from Hartley was nominated by **Jamie Stoll of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Kids Kampus**.

Katie Kruse from Carroll was nominated by **David Onken of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Carroll High School Foundation**.

Sally Kuhrts from Galva was nominated by **Cindy Glienke of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Orphan Grain Train**.

Jim Langhus from Monona was nominated by **Mildred Stewart of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Monona Butterfly Gardens & Trails**.

Bobbie Lieser from Tipton was nominated by **Alice Whitlatch of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative** for her work with **Big Creek Missions**.

Erica Lindaman from Clarion was nominated by **Troy and Jenny Askelsen, Emily Bernhardt, Mark Bernhardt, Janet Blackman, Mitchell Brandt, Chad Chapman, Tim and Becky Chipman, Gina Cleveland, Mary Davis, Kathy Deimerly, Robert Deimerly, Belva German, Brittany Howieson, Mary Kallem, Roger Kallem, Mary Lager, Dennis Mraz, Jo Olson, Sarah Olson, Brian Ring, Knuton Severson, Darla Tweeten and Kathy Whitver of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Gift of Giving**; and by **Matthew Cook of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Riding for a Reason in memory of Brandon Lee**.

Charlotte Lungsford from Spirit Lake was nominated by **Nola Jensen of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Cherished Again**.

Lisa and Mike McCarty from Ames were nominated by **Sean Dowling and Frederick Gulden of Midland Power Cooperative** for their work with **All Aboard for Kids**.

Mike McCarty from Carroll was nominated by **Brian and Tricia Wolterman of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Mission Honduras**.

Jeriann McLaughlin from Huxley was nominated by **Steve Quick of Consumers Energy** for her work with **Ballard Community Clothing and Food Pantry**.

Elizabeth McOllough from Clarion was nominated by **Barbara Moore of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **CGD Community Corral**.

Bill Meyer from Fredericksburg was nominated by **Nancy Meyer of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Fredericksburg Lions Club**.

Caleb Meyer from Aplington was nominated by **Katie LaBree of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Feed My Starving Children**.

Carolyn Mohlis from Tripoli was nominated by **Anita Destival, Jodi Risse, Barb Schwake, Ken Shonka, Sandy Tagtow & Joanna VanDeBerg of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**.

Mike Moran from Churdan was nominated by **Wade Gemberling of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for his work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Leon Muhlbauer from Glidden was nominated by **Denise Muhlbauer of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Carroll Lions Club**.

Cindy Murphy from Pocahontas was nominated by **JoAnn Poduska of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Pocahontas Community Foundation**.

Shannon Neff-Muell from Guthrie Center was nominated by **Laura Robson of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with **Little Charger Early Learning Center**.

Bev Nielsen from Columbus Junction was nominated by **Ken Purdy of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative** for her work with **Columbus United Fund**.

Sandra Olesen from Graettinger was nominated by **Barbara Brennan of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Unity Lutheran Ministries Food Pantry**.

Ruth Pickle from Moorhead was nominated by **ToNetta Englehardt of Onawa Municipal** for her work with **Moorhead Cultural Center**.

Teresa Poland from Clarksville was nominated by **Paula Hoodjer of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Clarksville Food Pantry**.

Linda Price was nominated by **Brett Fuelberth of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Food Bank of Iowa**.

Mike and Sandy Ralya from Afton were nominated by **Laura Tallmon of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for their work with **Afton Development Corporation**.

Mady Reed from Sumner was nominated by **Sumner Dental Care of Sumner Municipal** for her work with **Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc.**

Matt Riedell from Carroll was nominated by **Sean Kleespies of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Lake View Blackhawk Men's Club**.

Dianne Riley from Osceola was nominated by **Joan Peterson of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Toys for Christmas**.

Mary Sauter from Albia was nominated by **Brian Lindberg of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Pay It Forward Christmas Charity**.

Lana Schaefer from Rockwell was nominated by **Bev Peters of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Rockwell Public Library**.

Heather Schmidt from Webster was nominated by **Heather Fischer of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Tri-County Food Bank**.

Caleb Sinnwell from Nashua was nominated by **Heather Sinnwell of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Nashua VFW Post 6792**.

(Continued on Page 14)

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Educating kids on energy use and costs can help engage them in your family's goal to use less electricity. They can be electric conservation champions if you ask them to help. Here are some ways you can teach kids to use less electricity.

A real-life math lesson

Show your kids how to read the electric bill. Focus on what you can control: kilowatt-hour use. If they are old enough, teach them how to do the math. You can calculate (kWh) use by multiplying wattage by hours used and dividing by 1,000. Multiply this by the kWh rate on your electric bill to estimate how much you spend on power for each household appliance.

For example, if you have a space heater that uses 1,500 watts and is on for four hours a day for a month, it uses 180 kWh. With an average kWh rate of \$0.137 in the U.S., the space heater costs about \$25 a month to operate. That same space heater costs about \$74 a month if it is on for 12 hours per day. Your kWh rate may be lower or higher depending on where you live.

For household appliance wattage, look for the amount stamped on the bottom, back or nameplate. If the nameplate does not include wattage, it can be calculated by multiplying the voltage by the amperage.

Behavior changes add up

To teach children the impact of saving energy, have them help you conserve with the household's most significant energy-consuming appliances: heating and cooling. Teach kids to dress appropriately for the seasons, even indoors, which allows you to set the thermostat to balance comfort and savings.

You can also leave the house during the hottest times of the day to go for a swim or play outside. Before you go, nudge the thermostat up a few degrees to avoid wasted energy



Teach kids to dress appropriately for the seasons, even when they are indoors, which allows you to set the thermostat to balance comfort and savings.
Photo Source: Mike Teegarden, Pioneer Utility Resources



Teach kids to take a quick peek and shut the refrigerator door while they think about their snack options.
Photo Source: PNW Production

cooling an empty house. Turn off fans when you leave a room.

The second-highest use of electricity is typically the electric water heater. Use a shower timer so kids can monitor how long they are in the shower. Teach them to wash their clothes with cold water.

Other ways to save include turning off the lights when you leave the room. Powering down gaming stations and computers is another way to save. In the kitchen, keep the refrigerator door shut. Teach kids to take a quick peek and shut the door while they think about their snack options.



The second-highest use of electricity in your home is typically the electric water heater. Use a shower timer so kids can monitor how long they are in the shower.
Photo Credit: AM Conservation

A family conservation challenge

After teaching your kids about electric bills and showing them how to save electricity, make a game out of your family's energy conservation efforts. Challenge the family to use less energy than last month or the same month the previous year. Use the savings to reward them with a treat or let the winner pick the game night activity or film for family movie night.

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

EV CHARGING SAFETY TIPS

BY JENNAH DENNEY

Charging is a concern among new electric vehicle (EV) owners, whether plug-in hybrid or full electric. Fear of inconvenience is one of the biggest barriers to widespread adoption of EVs. You might be concerned that there aren't enough public charging stations in the area.

An EV charging station at home can solve this challenge of inconvenience. EV charging systems at home are safe as long as they're installed correctly.

Evaluating EV charging options

The first thing EV owners should consider is how they will charge their vehicles. A licensed electrician can evaluate your home's EV charging situation, as well as:

- The vehicle's charging capabilities and requirements, which vary depending on the make, model, and type.
- The potential location of the panel and vehicle, including the distance from the panel to the garage, the degree of difficulty to access and whether the garage is attached or detached.
- The capacity and overall condition of your home electrical system to identify any concerns or additional work.

There are two common types of home charging options. Level 1 charging is a

straightforward plug-in of the EV into any standard 120V electrical outlet. This requires no electrical modification, and it normally takes around 14 to 20 hours to fully charge the EV.

Level 2 charging units are sold separately from the vehicle. A licensed electrician must install these units because they plug into a 240V outlet and charge much more quickly, typically in four to eight hours.

Safety considerations

EV chargers are thought to be extremely safe, but we recommend following these fundamental guidelines to reduce potential hazards.

- 1 Select charging equipment that is certified to meet safety standards. Plug Level 1 EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multi-plug adapter or extension cord. Charging cables are a tripping hazard, so be aware of the cable's location.
- 2 Purchase a Level 2 charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. This means the device has gone through rigorous testing and certification by a third-party company with extensive knowledge and pedigree in certifying EV technologies.

3 Check with your electric co-op and a licensed electrician before modifying your electrical system or installing a charging station. An electrician will need to make sure your home's wiring complies with local, state and national codes, and may need to obtain a permit before installation.

4 Place all charging components out of reach of children when not in use.

5 Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

6 Cover the EV charging station outlet to prevent water exposure. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

7 Most charging stations are equipped with safety devices, such as GFCIs, which will identify electrical shorts and stop power to the charger to minimize risks.

Remember to contact your electric co-op before installation. They can answer any questions you have and provide additional information on EV programs and rates.

Jennah Denney writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



2023 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES (CONT.)

(Continued from Page 11)

Dennis Slota from Remsen was nominated by **Judy Bunkers of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Remsen St. Mary's Parish**.

Marsha and John Smeltzer from Spirit Lake were nominated by **Rosie Lundquist of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Spirit Lake Protective Association**.

Jeff and Tracy Spear from Hampton were nominated by **Madison Alert of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Bridge of Hope North Central Iowa**.

Jan Stadtlander from Manning was nominated by **Tim and Joni Kienast of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **IKM-Manning Community School Foundation**.

Jim Stiles (in Memoriam) was nominated by **Ann Williams of Access Energy Cooperative** for his work with **Beyond Limits**.

Kathy Struck from Denison was nominated by **Rita Eggers of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **Goodfellows**.

Steve Supple (in Memoriam) from Cascade was nominated by **Al Reiter of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Camp Courageous of Iowa**.

Betty Thronson from New Hampton was nominated by **Shirley Hoffman of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Project Flo**.

Vicki Tronchetti from Jefferson was nominated by **Danille Curtis of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with **Midwest Mission Distribution Center**.

Elsie Van Beek from Maurice was nominated by **Chris Van Beek of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Midwest Honor Flight**.

Dirk van der Linden from Belmond was nominated by **Linda Loux of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with **New Lyric Theater**.

Jackie Wallace from Mount Vernon was nominated by **Sherry Moffit of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center**.

Andrew Webb from Roland was nominated by **James Hassebrock of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **Roland IA Kiwanis**.

Heather Weers from Center Junction was nominated by **Megan Ruley of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**.

Teresa Westcott from Cherokee was nominated by **Susan Bakker of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Christian Action, Inc.**

Kimberly Whitaker from Glidden was nominated by **Jeremiah Johnson of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Lil' Wildcat Education Center**.

Jena Wiley from Chariton was nominated by **Tami Adams of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Almost Home Iowa (Humane Society of North Central Iowa)**.

Diane Wills from Hampton was nominated by **Alice Greimann of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **West Fork Food Pantry**.

Bobbie Wise from Newell was nominated by **Chris Crotty of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Newell Food Pantry**.

Multiple volunteers from Sheldon were nominated by **Sandra Voss of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Village Treasure Chest**.



LOCAL TEEN TOURS NATION'S CAPITAL ON YOUTH TOUR TRIP

Alexis Wagner of Mount Pleasant recently participated in the national electric cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative. She spent June 18-23 in Washington, D.C., with 37 other student leaders from Iowa.

Each year in June, this weeklong leadership development program provides high school students opportunities to learn about government, the electric cooperative business model and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students met their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, toured historic sites and ran their very own Snack Cooperative.

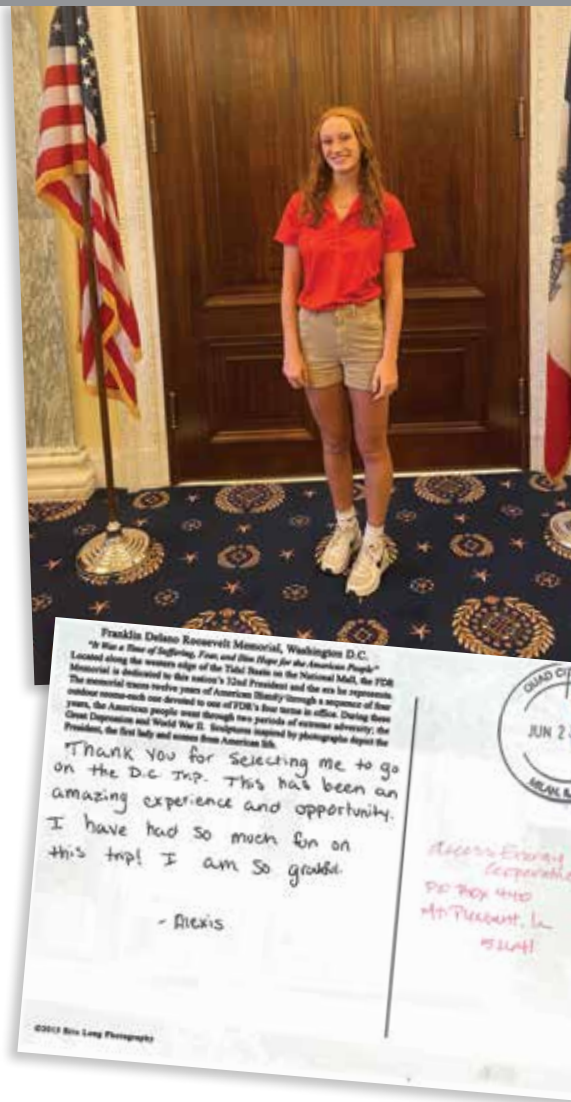
The electric cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of locally owned electric cooperatives, such as Access Energy Cooperative, their statewide trade associations, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for 65 years.

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for the Rural Electric Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world Wheelchair Basketball champion. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

For information on how you can participate in Access Energy Cooperative's 2024 Youth Tour program, go to our website.

www.accessenergycoop.com

Applications will be available in December 2023. Search for "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to see the group's recent adventures.



PROUD SPONSOR OF DRIVE A TRACTOR AT MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS

Many people who visit the Midwest Old Threshers in Mount Pleasant over Labor Day weekend have never experienced life on a farm. And what was once a common way of life is now a memory to only many of the older visitors.



Access Energy Cooperative has sponsored the event's Drive A Tractor attraction since making its debut at the 2001 reunion. It has become a very popular event, where visitors of all ages can feel what it is like behind the wheel of a tractor.

The exhibit features antique tractors that have been modified with a kill switch and low-throttle speed and gears. The safety person riding with each visitor can easily reach the kill switch, master clutch and handbrake making it a fun and safe experience.



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IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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for members of
Iowa's electric
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