

NOVEMBER 2022

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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this holiday season**

**Winterization tips
for energy savings**

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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!

ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE APPROACH

A balanced strategy combines traditional and renewable resources

BY TIM MARIENAU

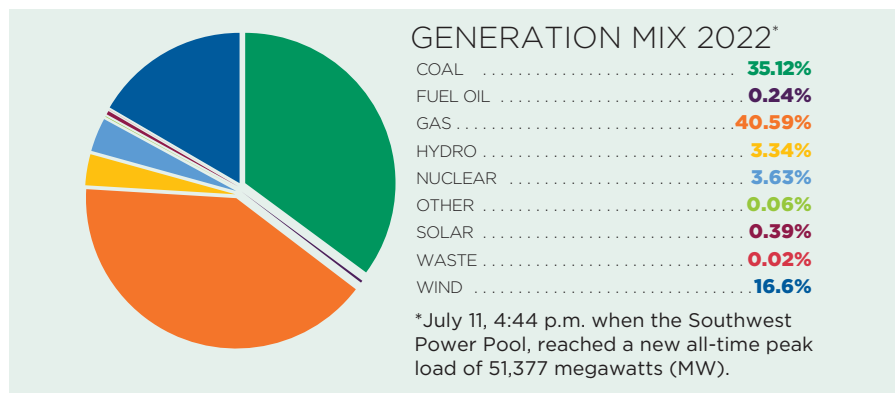


The energy industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation as more renewable energy comes online and innovation and technology continue to advance.

In our June newsletter, I addressed the North American Reliability Assessment and the need for an all-of-the-above energy approach. This month, I want to delve deeper into what an all-of-the-above energy strategy means and how renewable energy growth has contributed to the shuttering of many baseload power plants across the country, potentially impacting the reliability of electric service.

Exponential renewable energy growth

Green energy is certainly not new. Solar and wind power have been around for decades. Thanks to government-provided tax incentives that make



renewable generation sources affordable, we have seen exponential growth in renewable energy across the country, including in Iowa.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable technology have led to sharp decreases in cost, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Corn Belt Power, Prairie Energy Cooperative's (PECO) power supplier, has adjusted our fuel mix by utilizing more renewables in our generation portfolio. Last year, 25.8% of the energy delivered to Corn Belt Power's member cooperatives included renewable energy resources, such as wind and hydropower, up from 17% in 2015. This is a remarkable transition to a cleaner and greener generation mix when you consider the national average electricity cost has only increased a little over 2% in the same time period.

An all-of-the-above energy approach favors the incorporation of renewable resources like wind and solar to work alongside traditional reliable sources of energy like oil and natural gas. For PECO, adopting a strategy incorporating renewable energy sources must be done in a way that protects our members financially and does not impede their power supply.

It takes a methodical approach to transition electric generation away from fossil fuels in to maintain the affordability and reliability of your power supply.

Intermittent power impacts reliability

While renewable generation, such as wind and solar, remains an affordable supplemental generation resource to an overall energy mix, these resources are considered "intermittent" power



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MARKER 126 RECEIVES REVOLVING LOAN FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Prairie Energy Cooperative, along with Midland Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, recently partnered in providing financing to the new Marker 126 travel center through the revolving loan fund program.

Marker 126 is a family-owned business owned by Kevin and Sheila Stumpf. The more than 9,400-square-foot facility is a

full-service location that provides diesel, gas, a convenience store, coffee shop and restaurant for travelers and truckers. There will also be a fenced-in dog park next spring.

It was built to fill a gap in goods and services provided along the Highway 20 corridor, where there are limited fuel and food options for a 150 mile stretch between Parkersburg and Holstein.

since the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Often, there is minimal wind or solar generation on the coldest days of the year or the hottest.

Proponents of these resources are correct in their position that renewable energy will provide a path forward to an energy future that will be more carbon-constrained. However, the intermittency of these resources alone will not sustain the increasing energy demands of our growing economy.

Battery storage remains costly, and its long-term storage capacity has not kept up with the growth of renewable energy across the country, nor the increasing demands for energy to power our economy. Until battery storage technology advances, we must rely on dependable baseload fossil fuel power plants to keep the lights on all the time.

Maintaining a baseload power supply

At the same time, the economics behind tax-subsidized green energy has contributed to the closure of many fossil-fueled, baseload power plants. Reliance on a generation mix that depends heavily on renewables will impact the overall affordability of your power. When the wind is blowing and the sun is shining, energy generation is abundant and power is inexpensive.



On Aug. 23, PECO CEO Tim Marienau toured a couple of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's generation plants. Pictured above are Antelope Valley Station's two coal units, each rated at 450 megawatts (900 MW total). They began commercial operation in 1984 and 1986, respectively, and the power plant was built for \$1.9 billion.

Because of its location next to a lignite coal mine (The Coteau Properties Company's Freedom Mine) from which it receives its fuel, Antelope Valley Station is referred to as a "mine-mouth" facility.

Antelope Valley Station is part of an energy complex that includes the Great Plains Synfuels Plant and the Freedom Mine. A majority of Antelope Valley Station's fuel supply is provided by the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in the form of lignite fines – particles of coal too small for use in the gasification process.

However, severe weather events can also negatively impact renewable generation resources, inhibiting their operation, thus driving up costs to purchase energy from the markets at a premium.

That was evident in July, as the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), our regional transmission organization, set peak load records five times. July 19 hit a record of 53,243 megawatts. The previous record was on July 11, when SPP hit a peak load of 51,377 megawatts. During that time, almost 80% of power generated to meet the load consisted of either coal, natural gas and nuclear (see chart on Page 4).

I don't mention these statistics to scare you. Instead, it demonstrates the value of our abundant baseload

generation sources in an all-of-the-above energy mix. If not for reliable baseload generation, predominately made up of fossil fuels, many of us would be in the dark during times of peak electric demand.

Our goal is to provide our members with safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable forms of energy in a way that moves us toward a cleaner energy future. It all boils down to having reliable baseload generation for when renewables aren't available. It's why we call it "all-of-the-above."

PECO will continue to advocate on your behalf for an all-of-the-above energy strategy on state and federal levels.

Tim Marienau is the CEO of Prairie Energy Cooperative.



Pictured from left: Norm Fandel and Andy Kreiger, Midland Power Cooperative; Sheila Stumpf, Marker 126; Todd Foss, Prairie Energy Cooperative; Kevin Stumpf, Marker 126; and Stacy Cirks and Brittany Dickey, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.



SHOP CO-OP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

BY ANN FOSTER THELEN

Ho, ho, ho! It's time to deck the halls, turn on the holiday music, roll out the wrapping paper and start this year's holiday shopping.

Electric cooperatives are committed to the communities we serve, and it shows with the way member-consumers, employees and directors rally around to support one another. During the holiday season, shopping local is one of the easiest ways to support your friends and neighbors who are also business owners.

To help your holiday gift-giving or list-making, we've combined a list of electric cooperative-served businesses that offer unique gifts to place under the Christmas tree or in a stocking. As you embark on Santa Claus duties this year, keep in mind that this list is just a sampling of local businesses. Take a walk along your community's Main Street or explore all that your local area offers for additional inspiration to shop local this holiday season!



BLOOM AND BARK FARM

bloomandbark.com

Facebook: [bloomandbarkfarm](https://www.facebook.com/bloomandbarkfarm)

Bloom and Bark is a glass-blowing studio, local artisan market and natural farm. They offer glass-blowing classes and demonstrations along with an artisan market filled with local art and fine crafts.



BOERNSEN BEES

boernsenbees.com

Facebook: [BoernsenBeesHoney](https://www.facebook.com/BoernsenBeesHoney)

A family-owned business that sells premium raw honey and raw honey products. Customers can shop for delicious raw honey, flavored creamed honey, comb honey, beeswax hand lotion bars in five fragrances and beeswax lip balm, all crafted from the Boernsen's honey bees.



BRITCHES 'N' BOWS

britchesnbowscountrystore.com

Facebook: [shopbnnb](https://www.facebook.com/shopbnnb)

Britches 'N' Bows is a rustic country gift shop in Panora offering modern farmhouse décor, boutique-style clothing and trendy accessories. The shop also offers rustic wedding rentals, styling services and fresh wedding florals.



To find more local businesses in your area, check with your local chamber of commerce or electric cooperative. Happy shopping!



EBERT HONEY

eberthoney.com

Facebook: EbertHoney

Ebert Honey produces 100,000 pounds of Iowa honey per year. Most of the Iowa honey is sold directly to grocery stores, bakeries, breweries and restaurants throughout central and eastern Iowa.



GARRETT LAND AND CATTLE BEEF

glcbeef.com

Facebook: glcbeef

From the Garrett's sixth-generation family farm in western Iowa to customers' kitchen tables, the business is committed to providing the highest quality, home-raised beef.



GREAT RIVER MAPLE

greatrivermaple.com

Facebook: greatrivermaple

Great River Maple is a family business producing 100% natural maple syrup. They offer a variety of additional maple products, including cream, sugar, bratwurst, granola and gift baskets.



HARVEST BARN MARKETPLACE

harvestbarnmarketplace.com

Facebook: HarvestBarnMarketplace

A barn doubles as a gift shop, and the family sells frozen and fresh pre-made meals, their locally raised beef and homegrown produce. They offer a variety of amazing, custom gift boxes with a variety of Iowa foods. Make it a holiday destination every year; September through December. Online shopping is available and products can be found at the Des Moines' Downtown Farmers' Market.



HEAVEN BOUTIQUE WINERY

heavenwinery.com

Facebook: HeavenWinery

Heaven Winery is a beautiful place to discover your new favorite Iowa wine or craft beer, pick up the perfect gift and unwind with friends. They feature more than 110 different native Iowa wines and craft beers, wine slushes, art and gifts by Iowa artists, and two unique, one-of-a-kind lodging options.



INSPIREU ALL THINGS GOOD

stylebyinspireu.com

A boutique offering a wide variety of home decor, unique clothing, coffee and delicious baked goods. A variety of the store's clothing items are also available online.



IRISH MEADOWS YARN BARN AND BOUTIQUE

Facebook:

irishmeadowsyarnbarnandboutique

Irish Meadows is an Alpaca farm featuring the Yarn Barn and Boutique in a beautifully restored red barn. Shoppers can peruse a selection of scarves, hats and gloves handmade with fleece from Alpaca. The boutique also features other women's fashion, home décor and alpaca-themed items.



J&J CANDLES

www.jjcandlesmanson.com

Facebook: jjcandlesmanson

J&J Candles is a family-owned business that has been offering handcrafted, scented products for more than 25 years. They feature nearly 200 scents. In addition to individual sales, they offer wholesale pricing with minimum orders and do fundraisers. All the scented products are made at its facility south of Manson.



KRYSTAL'S HONEY

Facebook: busybee.beekeeper

A local beekeeper sells raw honey made from wildflowers.



THE PIE LADY

iowapielady.com

Facebook: iowapielady

The Pie Lady offers made-from-scratch pies, cheesecakes, and rolls and cinnamon rolls during holidays. There are no preservatives or additives added to any of her pies.



RECREATION UNLIMITED

recreationunlimited.net

Facebook: recreationunlimited04

A family-owned and operated business in Traer offering top notch outdoor equipment and accessories, including Green Mountain Grills.



RED ROCK SIGNWORKS

redrocksignworks.com

Facebook: RedRockSignworks

Red Rock Signworks is a full-service, family-owned sign shop providing everything from the original concept to the creation and installation of the sign. The facility has a complete fabrication and production shop, using the most current equipment and technologies to build, fabricate and produce signage. In addition to signs, they also offer promotional printed items.



THE RED SHED

Hwy. 63, Bloomfield

The Red Shed has a wide variety of gifts, including their handmade chocolates, a large selection of farm toys, games, dolls, craft kits, home décor, Amish-made rugs and baskets, soaps and candles. The Red Shed serves lunch daily and also carries kitchenware and outdoor merchandise.

Ann Foster Thelen is the editor of Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine.



THANKSGIVING

SIDE DISH

RECIPES

EASY HASHBROWN POTATOES

- 1 30-ounce package frozen shredded hashbrowns, thawed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ 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
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup onion, diced
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 4 tablespoons butter, cut into slivers
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon black pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ 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

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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.





STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Wright County third graders learned valuable lessons about keeping themselves and others safe during the 14th-annual Safety Day Camp held at the Wright County Fairgrounds in September. The event is organized by Wright County Farm Bureau and Wright County ISU Extension.

The entire day of activities was made up of nine different safety sessions. Presenters used hands-on, interactive learning to keep the third graders engaged in learning valuable safety practices. The 20-minute sessions included fire safety, first aid, weather safety, boating, electrical and more.

Prairie Energy Cooperative's Member Service Representatives Darren Johnson and Chad Chapman presented Neon Leon, a program that teaches electrical safety and the associated hazards. Electric safety is extremely important, and early childhood training is essential.

To learn more about the Neon Leon safety demonstration, or to schedule an electric safety demonstration, please contact our office at 515-532-2805.

CORN BELT POWER INSTALLS BATTERY STORAGE

Thanks to the cooperative principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," Corn Belt Power Cooperative's service territory now has a battery energy storage system. Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) is a member cooperative of Corn Belt Power.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which provides power to electric co-ops across the Midwest including Corn Belt Power, introduced a member-owned Trial Battery Rate into its rate book in 2019. The rate allocates up to 150 kilowatts per distribution cooperative.

Corn Belt Power collaborated with its membership, including PECO, to develop a plan that allowed each member-cooperative to pool its individual allocation and create one large battery energy storage system. This system is a 1.425-megawatt Tesla® Megapack that Corn Belt Power integrated into the Hampton Substation. The total project cost is near \$3.5 million, which includes the battery storage system, engineering, site preparation and labor.

Harnessing and understanding new technology

The stored power from the battery will allow Corn Belt Power to avoid purchasing 1.425 megawatts of power during peak usage times for up to six hours. This is enough energy to power roughly 145 homes for six hours at a time. Once the battery's energy is depleted, it will recharge during off-



peak times in preparation for its next disbursement.

"We want to learn more about battery technology. From the process of procuring and installing the batteries to operation and how the batteries can benefit Prairie Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Power," says Jacob Olberding, vice president of power supply for Corn Belt Power. "We will also use the battery project as a load management resource. By doing so, we hope the batteries pay for themselves in 12 years."

Corn Belt Power plans to share ongoing performance data with PECO and the rest of its membership to highlight the battery's ability to reduce member-cooperative power costs. This sharing of operational information will provide the membership with education and insights to support future use of battery storage technology.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Seniors and college students can now apply for a \$1,000 scholarship, courtesy of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Contact Sarah Olson-McLaughlin at solson@prairieenergy.coop for an application or with any questions. Applications are due by Feb. 17, 2023.



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.



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