

## Prestige Foods of Iowa honored with Iowa Venture Award

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies, recently honored several distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award.

IADG established the Iowa Venture Award in 1988 to recognize and honor entrepreneurial leadership and accomplishment in rural Iowa. Recipients of the Iowa Venture Award are nominated by the members and sponsors of IADG. Companies and organizations are evaluated and

selected based on the contribution they have made to their community and the State of Iowa. Factors include capital investment, job creation and leadership.

This year, eight companies were honored at the awards ceremony. Of these eight companies, seven are from towns with populations of less than 1,000 and six are family-owned. These eight companies have invested a cumulative \$425 million in Iowa economic development and have created more than 1,500 jobs in Iowa.

Prestige Farms of Iowa was among one of the family-owned companies

honored and was presented with the 2018 Outstanding Business of the Year award. The \$325 million state-of-the-art processing plant is one of the most advanced in the world. The plant will create an estimated 1,000 jobs in rural Iowa, with capability of processing up to 10,000 hogs per day.

Dr. Ron Prestage was presented with the prestigious award by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, and was joined by his parents who founded Prestige Farms in 1960, Bill and Marsha Prestage.



*(Left to right): Prairie Energy Director of Operations/Engineering Butch Norem, CEO Tim Marienau, Manager of Economic Development Todd Foss; Prestige Plant Engineer Tim Schelle, CEO Jere Null, Dr. Ron Prestage; Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig; Marsha Prestage; Bill Prestage; Prestige Plant Manager Terry O'Rourke; Corn Belt Development Finance Director Brittany Dickey; Corn Belt VP of Business Development Jim Vermeer; IADG President Rand Fisher.*

## Seeking candidates

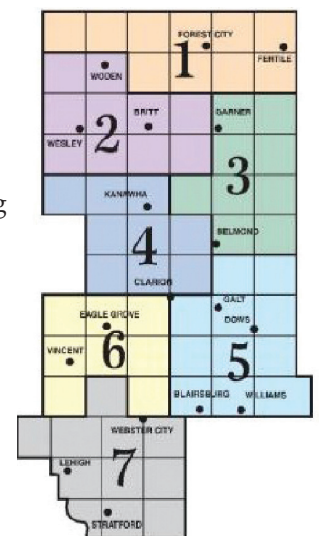
At the June 5, 2019, annual meeting of the members, director terms in Districts 3 and 7 will expire. To be considered eligible for election, members must reside or receive electric service from Prairie Energy at a location within the district in which they are seeking election. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, contact or send information to one of the following nominating committee members:

**District 3:** Leroy Cooper  
1575 130th St.  
Goodell, IA 50439  
641-762-3542

Gary Steenblock  
1465 130th St.  
Kanawha, IA 50447  
641-762-3238

**District 7:** Darrell Moenck  
2809 270th St.  
Lehigh, IA 50557  
515-570-6005

Sharon Mitchell  
2496 Swallow Ave.  
Duncombe, IA 50532  
515-351-7281



# Electric cooperatives' post-election priorities

With the midterm elections in the rearview mirror, your electric cooperative is looking ahead at the impact and opportunities for rural America and electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives across the nation played an active role in the midterm election and worked to get to know each candidate running for federal office. This was particularly important since more than 60 members of Congress retired or ran for another office.

As we continue getting to know our new elected officials, we will continue advocating for policies that protect local business interests and advance the quality of life in our communities.

There are several opportunities for our elected leaders to find common ground and advance legislation to benefit our community.

Improving our nation's aging infrastructure is a great place to start. Congress and the White House should explore an infrastructure package that benefits all Americans, especially those at risk of being left behind in rural America. Congress should leverage an infrastructure package to help maintain and modernize the electric grid and connect rural communities to the modern economy.

A second area of possible bipartisan agreement lies in the need to produce a new farm bill. The farm bill, which authorizes numerous rural economic development programs, traditionally has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. Although the House and Senate have passed very different versions of a farm bill, we're hopeful that lawmakers can come to an agreement on a compromise bill that promotes rural economic development and protects Rural Utilities Service electric loan funding on which electric co-ops depend.

Electric cooperatives are engines of economic development. And we are proud to continue working toward a brighter and more prosperous rural America.



## Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

## Sign up for Smart Choices

Are you interested in reading more about energy efficiency? Electrical safety? Family finances?

You'll receive information on those topics and more in our monthly e-newsletter Smart Choices!

Contact us today to sign up.

smart choices 

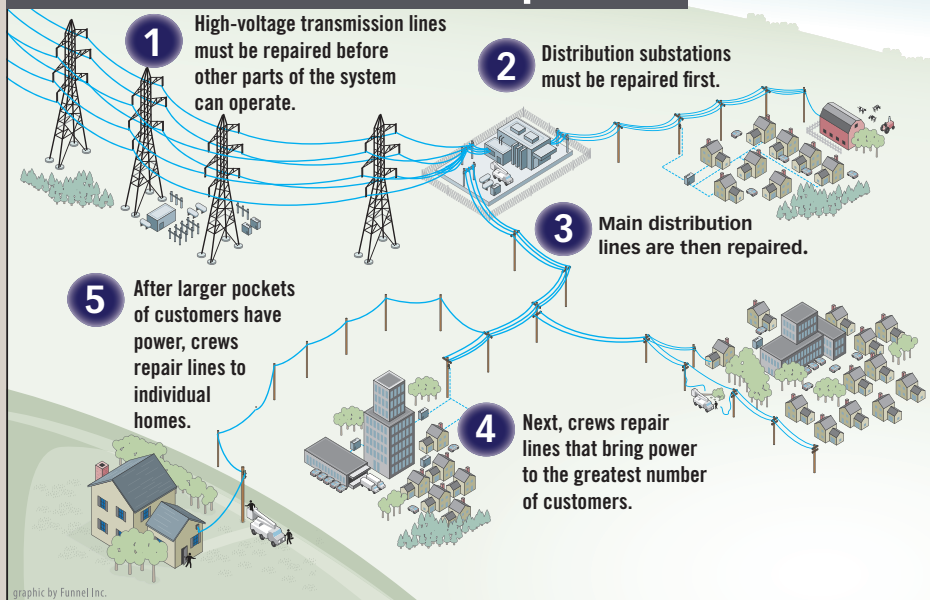
Scholarships available

We have information about scholarship opportunities for those planning to attend college or technical school next year!

Contact us soon as deadlines vary.

  
A Touchstone Energy  
Cooperative

## How line crews restore power



When a widespread outage occurs, line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Working from substations to homes results in faster repairs for the most members.

### POWER OUTAGE MAP

Information about power outages affecting electric cooperative members in Iowa is available online. To see a statewide map of power outages, go to your local electric cooperative's website:

- [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop)
- [www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop)
- [www.grundycountyrecia.org](http://www.grundycountyrecia.org)
- [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop)

## Beware of cheap chargers

The chargers that come with our electronics seem to disappear as often as a sock mate. Many people then reach for low-cost, generic chargers and charging cables.

But along with being a potential fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can also cause electrocution and may cost you more in the long run since they can cause damage to whatever's on the other end of the charging cable.

To keep safe around electrical devices and charging gear:

- Do not leave items unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable objects, and do not take them to bed with you.
- Do not touch charging electronics with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables (those made or certified by the manufacturer).

TIPS TO **SAFELY** CHARGE YOUR ELECTRONICS

**Sale** Don't buy cheaply made, off-brand charging cubes and cables. They can be **potential fire hazards**, cause electrocution, or damage the device.

Throw away charger blocks and cords that are worn or damaged and **make sure they are not hot** when charging devices.

**NOT IN BED** Only charge devices on a **hard, flat, noncombustible surface** to allow for adequate ventilation.

**Do not touch** any electronic devices that are charging **when you are wet** or standing in water.

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## Check out our rebates!

- **Appliances (Energy-Star Rated):** Clothes dryer, clothes washer, dishwasher, freezer, refrigerator
- **Central Air Conditioning**
- **Heat Pumps:** Air source and geothermal
- **Insulation & Weatherization:** Ceiling, foundation and wall insulation; duct insulation; weatherization
- **Lighting:** Bulbs, fixtures, security lights, holiday lights
- **New Homes**
- **Water Heaters:** Electric, heat pump, solar

**Small changes can mean big energy savings. Contact your electric cooperative to learn more about rebates.**





(Left to right): IAEC Board President Steve Seidl, recipient Don Kammrad and IAEC Executive Vice President/General Manager Chuck Soderberg.

## Celebrating 25 years

Don Kammrad, member service manager, was honored at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) annual meeting last month for his 25 years of service.

Kammrad started his career with Prairie Energy Cooperative, then Hancock County REC, in 1993. Hired by Duane Cummings, Kammrad has worn many hats over the years including utility and building maintenance, salesman at the Hancock REC retail store and appliance delivery. In 2004, Kammrad took on the role of member services manager. "I like the satisfaction of working with people to help them be as energy efficient as possible to save kilowatts," says Kammrad, who enjoys the close-knit group he works with. When asked what the best thing about his job is, Kammrad replied: "Knowing that no matter what the task is at hand, that people are going to work together to get the job done for the member."

Congratulations, Don, and thank you for 25 years of service!

## Scholarship deadlines approaching

Dependents of co-op members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship. Contact Sarah Olson at Prairie Energy for an application. **Applications are due by March 15, 2019.**

Corn Belt Power Cooperative is partnering with Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships to students currently enrolled in the Electrical Technology, Powerline or Powerline Technology programs. Contact Sheila Van Engen for more information at 800-352-4907 ext. 246.

Corn Belt is also partnering with Iowa Lakes Community College to offer one \$500 scholarship to a student currently enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program. Contact Alison Mason for more information at 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or [amason@iowalakes.edu](mailto:amason@iowalakes.edu).

**Applications for both Corn Belt scholarships are due by March 1, 2019.**

## Win a week in Washington D.C.!

High school sophomores and juniors whose parents are members of Prairie Energy have the chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. this summer, June 14–20, 2019.

### What is this trip all about?

Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending high school students on the annual Youth Tour trip since 1958! Participants will learn about electric co-ops, American history and our U.S. government; participate in National Youth Day; visit with their elected legislators and explore our nation's great capital.

### What do I have to do?

Apply! The application process lets our judges get to know you, and also requires answering the following question: What moment in American history do you wish you had taken part of, and what would you have contributed? The deadline to request an application is March 27, 2019. Interviews for applicants will be held the week of April 8th.

### Sounds great! How do I apply?

Contact Member Service Manager Don Kammrad at Prairie Energy, and he'll be happy to answer any questions and send application materials your way.



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**smart choices** 

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