

CURRENT CONNECTION

February 2016

www.calhounrec.coop

Calhoun County REC

Rockwell City, IA 50579 • (712) 297-7112 • (800) 821-4879

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Do You Have Plans for College?

Calhoun County REC is offering four \$500 scholarships

Any graduating high school senior, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, are eligible for the Calhoun County REC scholarship. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2016. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

How Do You Apply?

Applications are available at your area high school guidance counselor's office or at the REC office in Rockwell City. Applications can also be downloaded on Calhoun County REC's website at www.calhounrec.coop.

Return completed application to our office on or before April 8, 2016, by 4:30 p.m. with the following:

- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, advisor or counselor
- Essay (minimum 250 words) subject is: *How does Calhoun County Electric Cooperative impact your community?*

Mail to Calhoun County REC, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579.

Electric cooperatives discuss important issues at reception

Over 175 directors, managers and staff members from Iowa's electric cooperatives met with nearly 100 state legislators, on January 12 during the Welcome Back Legislative Reception at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines. Other guests of honor included: Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Secretary of State Paul Pate, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner and presidential candidate Carly Fiorina. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications Alliance and the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa, hosted the annual reception.

The reception provided an opportunity to meet with recently elected and re-elected legislators to discuss issues regarding safe, reliable and affordable energy options for all Iowans. Important issues for the rural electric cooperatives this session include:

- state programs that complement federal rural economic development programs 01C34DA
- legislation encouraging utility-owned solar
- line personnel safety
- policies supporting a skilled workforce in the state

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will come to the state capitol in the next couple of months, where they will be able to visit with their legislators once again. The annual REC Day on the Hill will be held on March 16, 2016, at the capitol.



(l to r) Member Service Rep. Keaton Hildreth, Staff Assistant Lonnie Holder, Director Terry Finley, CEO Roxanne Carisch and Senator Kraayenbrink

Watts Smart

An electric system works best when electricity use remains steady throughout the day. But because of weather, lifestyles, and schedules, your cooperative's demand for electricity varies by hour, day, month, and even year to year. This creates peaks and valleys in total electricity use. Load management balances electric supply with electrical demand.

How does load management work?

At no cost to you, a Calhoun County REC representative installs a Watts Smart load management switch to your home's electric water heater. Through these switches, your cooperative can manage the amount of electricity your water heater uses when demand is high.

During times of higher power costs or peak demand, your cooperative's power supplier sends a signal to the switch that temporarily interrupts electricity to the water heater. When the signal ends, the equipment returns to normal operation.



Load Control Switch



Early participants will receive a **free** Peak Alert in-home indicator that gives instant updates when peak demand situations are near or occurring. 05C28HA

How can you participate?

Co-op members are the key to helping Calhoun County REC keep power costs lower. The program is voluntary and you may opt out at any time should you be unsatisfied.

We offer you three easy ways to sign up for Watts Smart:

1. Call us at 712-297-7112 or 800-821-4879
2. E-mail Keaton Hildreth, Member Service Representative, at khildreth@calhounrec.coop
3. Stop by our office to sign up

RECare Members helping Members

Calhoun County REC has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

RECare Consumer Authorization Form

- I will contribute \$_____per month. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- I will make a one-time contribution of \$ _____ to RECare. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____

Return to:

Calhoun County REC

1015 Tonawanda • PO Box 312 • Rockwell City, Iowa



REMINDER

Basin Scholarships are due soon

Deadline for the two \$1,000 Basin Scholarships are due on or before February 12, 2016. Call the office at 712-297-7112 to request an application or go to www.calhounrec.coop and print off a copy of the application form.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CHOCOLATE BANANA ICE CREAM BREAD

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 ripe bananas mashed
- 2 1/2 C chocolate ice cream softened
- 2 Tbl cocoa
- 1 1/2 C flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray loaf pan with cooking spray and set aside.

Stir bananas and ice cream together. Add cocoa, flour, baking powder and salt. Stir until dry ingredients are completely incorporated.

Pour dough into prepared pan and bake for 60 minutes.

Let us know about life support

Calhoun County REC keeps a list of those members who depend on electricity for life support equipment. Those persons have priority during an outage or are notified when a planned maintenance outage is to occur.

If you, or someone in your family, is on life support just call the Calhoun County REC office and we will put you on our list.



Happy Valentine's Day!

February 14th



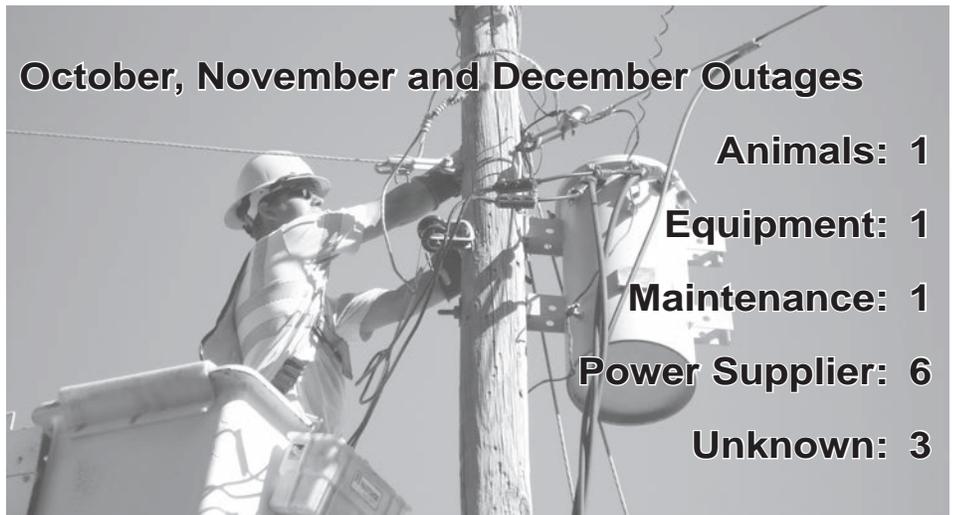
REMINDER: Momentum is Building Conference

The best informative contractors' conference will be held February 11-12, 2016 at The Sheraton West, Des Moines. There will be opportunities to earn valuable CEUs and gain insight into new techniques from top of the industry, nationally known speakers. Contact Member Service Rep. Keaton at 712-297-7112 with any questions.

NOTICE:

In February you will receive a postcard with your January statement directing you to a website for an informational database survey. By participating in this survey you have a chance to receive a \$500 electric bill credit. To complete the survey you will need your account number which you can find on your electric bill.

October, November and December Outages



Animals: 1

Equipment: 1

Maintenance: 1

Power Supplier: 6

Unknown: 3

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Matt Carlson and Don Borland spotted their location number and will receive a **\$10** credit on their electric bill. Wayne King missed his opportunity to receive a **\$10** electric bill credit. Don't forget to

read the newsletter and check for your location number. If your location number is spotted, call Calhoun County REC by the 15th of the month and receive a **\$10** credit on your next electric bill.

** Location numbers are located on billing statements. **



by CEO
Roxanne
Carisch

5 Years of Energy Efficiency Efforts

Every five years, Iowa's electric cooperatives are required to set energy efficiency goals, develop programs to achieve those goals, then file their five-year-plan with the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Attorney General's Office of Consumer Advocate. Calhoun County REC recently completed our first 5-year plan covering the years 2010-2014 and filed the results through our statewide association. Over those five years, Calhoun County REC invested \$300,559 towards energy efficiency, which will result in savings totaling 25,389,421 kWh over the lifetime of those measures installed. And we couldn't have done it without participation from our member-owners.

Collectively, Iowa's electric co-ops invested almost \$76.7 million from 2010-2014 and the energy savings are expected to total over 3.7 billion kWh over the life of the measures installed, which represents enough electricity to power more than 347,000 homes for a full year.

You may be wondering why an electric company would offer incentives for their customers to use LESS of their product. Calhoun County REC is different from most businesses; we're a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by those we serve. And you are so much more than a customer to us; as a member-owner of Calhoun County REC what's in your best interest is in our best interest. We are committed to helping you use energy wisely as we work to provide power that is affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible.

It's important to note that these energy efficiency programs only work if member-owners like you participate in them. We encourage you to visit our website at www.calhounrec.coop or contact our Member Service Representative at 712-297-7112 or khildreth@calhounrec.coop to check your eligibility. And if you've participated in our energy efficiency programs previously, thank you! You've contributed to the cooperative cause by saving energy and money for your home or business. Search through our list of current programs to see if there are more ways to save in the years ahead. 12C16AA

We like to think that the "greenest" kilowatt-hour is the one you never use. Calhoun County REC and the electric cooperatives of Iowa have a long history of commitment to energy efficiency and a solid track record of energy and cost-saving results. That's something we can all be proud of.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source: energy.gov

Looking Out for You

Use That Phone!

Remember that if a power line falls on the car you're in, you should stay put until the rescue and utility workers arrive.

But how can you get help if you're alone and there's no one around to call for assistance?

You'll be glad to know that it's safe to use a cellular phone to call for help in such situations. Don't hesitate! Call 911 immediately and get help.



Keaton
Hildreth



Calhoun County REC

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



-- Directors --

Jim Miller, President	Fonda
Terry Finley, V. President	Auburn
Jason McKenney, Secretary	Somers
John Wahl, Treasurer	Rockwell City
LaVerne Arndt	Sac City
Beryl Birkland	Gowrie
Ron Hanson	Pomeroy

-- Office Hours --

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Telephone: 712-297-7112 or
Toll Free: 800-821-4879
Fax: 712-297-7211
e-mail: info@calhounrec.coop
www.calhounrec.coop
After 4:30 p.m. call 800-821-4879
or 712-297-7112
for outages and emergencies only.