

CURRENT CONNECTION

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www.calhounrec.coop

Calhoun County REC

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Calhoun County REC Scholarship Opportunities

Dependents of members of Calhoun County REC are eligible to **apply for a \$1,000 scholarship** to be provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power suppliers of Calhoun County REC.

The scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of a student living on electric cooperative lines. The scholarship must be used for educational costs and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given.

The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. This scholarship is awarded without regard to other awards, loans or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Award of the scholarship is based on the following criteria: SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining

his/her educational and career goals and a written recommendation by a third party. Applicants for the scholarship will first be screened by their cooperative. Each member cooperative may forward one finalist to Corn Belt Power Cooperative to be considered for the scholarship. **Deadline is on or before February 12th at the Calhoun County REC office. To obtain an application contact our office at 712-297-7112 or 800-821-4879 or email Lonnie at lholder@calhounrec.coop.**

State Legislators and your Cooperative discuss Co-op Issues

Representatives from electric co-ops throughout Iowa held meetings with their state legislators to keep them updated on current issues.

Calhoun County REC, Midland Power and Corn Belt Power Cooperative met with legislators in Fort Dodge on November 9, 2015. Legislators in attendance were Representative Sexton, Representative Baxter, Senator Kraayenbrink, and Senator

Guth. Legislators were presented with overviews and issues important to cooperatives and their member-owners. The legislators were also informed about the structure of electric cooperatives and how they differ from investor-owned utilities.



Back (l to r) Member Service Representative Keaton Hildreth and Senator Kraayenbrink, Front (l to r) CEO Roxanne Carisch, Staff Assistant Lonnie Holder, Representative Sexton, and Directors Jim Miller and Ron Hanson.

MEMBERS – Thank You For Your Patience!

The Thanksgiving Holiday not only brought family and good food together, it also brought freezing rain and wind, which caused power outages at substations, impacting many of our member-owners. Our linemen worked continuously to repair storm damage and restore power as quickly and as safely as possible. 08C23KA

Calhoun County REC appreciates your understanding and patience while our line crews worked to repair storm damages and restore power.



CEO Roxanne Carisch

What is the Clean Power Plan

If you've been following news of the electric industry lately, you've probably heard something about the Clean Power Plan. As part of our cooperative principle to inform and educate our member-owners, here's the latest on the Clean Power Plan and what it means for Iowa:

In August 2015, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final rules of the Clean Power Plan, which aim to reduce the nation's carbon emissions from fossil-fueled power plants 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. (The EPA is using its authority under section 111 of the Clean Air Act to issue regulations, which the Supreme Court ruled in 2011 provides the legal authority to control carbon emissions from America's fleet of fossil-fueled power plants.)

Each state must submit an initial state implementation plan (SIP) to the EPA by September 2016; states can receive extensions to complete their plan submissions by September 2018. The plans must include enforceable emission limits that plants must comply with starting in 2022 and ramping up to full strength by 2030.

The EPA set carbon emission limits for each state's power plants based on three reduction approaches, or "building blocks," and states can pick from a number of policy approaches to reduce carbon emissions in compliance with the Clean Power Plan. The three building blocks are:

1. Improved efficiency at power plants
2. Shifting generation from higher emitting steam electric generating units (GEUs) to lower-emitting natural gas power plants
3. Shifting generation to renewables

What does it mean for Iowa?

For Iowa, the final 2030 rate-based emissions limit for power plants in the state is 1,283 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour, which is a 42 percent reduction from Iowa's 2012 emission rate of 2,195 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour.

There are twenty-one 111(d) facilities owned by municipalities, investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives in Iowa. Several of Iowa's oldest and highest emitting coal plants have already been retired or are slated to be retired or converted to natural gas by 2025. The state currently generates 30 percent of its electricity from renewable sources and wind capacity is expected to increase by more than 3,200 megawatts by 2022.

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Be Prepared for Storms

Calhoun County REC outage map available

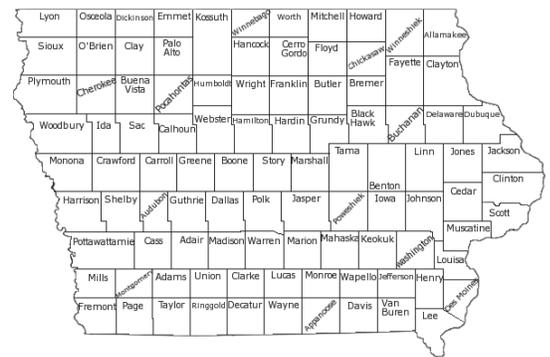
The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives supports an online power outage map for Iowa's electric coop, including Calhoun County REC. The primary purpose of this internet resource is for disseminating power outage information in the event of widespread power outages or local power outages affecting a high percentage of people. The outage map can be accessed at www.calhounrec.coop or <http://outages.iowarec.org>

During widespread or isolated power outages affecting many people, individual electric cooperatives

will update their power outages map. This map will automatically refresh every 15 minutes, based on outage data reported by individual electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives report power outage information to the state of Iowa during significant power outages according to Iowa Administrative Code 199-20.19.

Weather is a significant driver of outages in Iowa, and weather patterns can vary greatly from one location to



A map of Iowa appears when you log onto www.calhounrec.coop. You can view the information by county or by electric cooperative, including Calhoun County REC.

another. The differences in weather may impact two utility systems quite differently, even though said systems are in close proximity to one another.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

SPINACH CHEESE BALL



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 (8oz) cream cheese
- 1 (4oz) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 1 (4oz) packet dry vegetable soup mix
- 2 Tbl mayonnaise
- 1 C finely shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 C chopped walnuts

DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, mix spinach, cream cheese, water chestnuts, vegetable soup mix, mayonnaise and cheddar cheese until well blended. Form into a ball and refrigerate for about 30 minutes to set. Wrap the cheese ball in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Serve with your favorite crackers.

Carisch Honored By IAEC for 25 Years of Service

Roxanne Carisch, CEO for Calhoun County REC, was recognized for 25 years of service at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' 73rd annual meeting held in Des Moines December 3-4, 2015. Rox was



Marion Denger (r) IAEC Board President presents Rox Carisch, CEO of Calhoun County REC, with a 25 year certificate award.

among 35 other REC employees receiving this award. About 375 directors and employees attended the annual meeting for the state's electric cooperatives. This year's theme was "Charting Our Future".

What is the Clean Power Plan

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Calhoun County REC and Corn Belt Power Cooperative are concerned the Clean Power Plan regulations will increase electric bills member-owners pay each month. The EPA's regulations are especially burdensome on utilities in the Midwest that depend on coal generation.

This year, approximately 65 percent of the electricity Corn Belt Power's member co-ops will deliver to their member-owners will be generated with coal. Currently, no commercially available technology exists to control carbon emissions from fossil fuel combustion.

Iowa utilities are currently working with stakeholders to formulate a state implementation plan (SIP) to meet EPA's Clean Power Plan regulations, which will be implemented and enforced by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). 12C23FA

Iowa's electric cooperatives are committed to environmentally responsible electricity, and must also balance grid reliability and affordability for our member-owners. We are at the beginning of a multi-year process of complex regulations and we'll keep you informed along the way as events unfold.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Harold DeLong, Joan Pagel and Sheila Burger spotted their location numbers and will receive a **\$10** credit on their electric bill. 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. **

Have a Safe and Prosperous 2016!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

DIRECTORS:

LaVerne Arndt
Beryl Birkland
Terry Finley
Ron Hanson
Jason McKenney
Jim Miller
John Wahl

OFFICE:

Roxanne Carisch
Keaton Hildreth
Lonnie Holder
Lori Morse
Rob Peterson

LINEMEN:

Reid Galloway
Chad Krukow
Jared Kuhlers
Doug LeMonds
Bret McAlister
Mike Terwilliger
Ben Wiederin

2016 Momentum is Building

Calhoun County REC will join other Iowa Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to sponsor the annual “Momentum Is Building” conference February 11-12, 2016, at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

Momentum Is Building offers up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on information and new technology displays for building trades professionals – including homebuilders, electricians, heating/plumbing contractors and others involved in the construction/retrofitting industries. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across the state also attend.

Several sessions will offer CEUs, including up to six electrical and up to six for HVAC in several discipline areas. 02C25DA

Registration deadline is January 27, 2016. Any registrants after this date will need to add an additional \$25. For more information or to register as an attendee or exhibitor, contact Calhoun County REC, 712-297-7112 or email Keaton Hildreth at khildreth@calhounrec.coop. You can also find more detailed information and register online at www.momentumisbuilding.com.



Member Service
Representative
Keaton Hildreth

Tree Trimming helps with Service Reliability

Calhoun County REC will start trimming trees in our service area. Tree trimming is essential in providing safe and reliable electric service. Trees or branches that could rub against and damage a home’s electric service line must be pruned or removed to alleviate safety hazards and improve service reliability. We prune only what is necessary for electric safety and reliability. Removing healthy limbs from a tree’s opposite side to balance looks may compromise the tree’s health and make them hazardous.

Falling trees or debris from trees can cause outages and create dangerous situations when they knock down electric lines. Trees near electric lines also pose a danger to anyone who might climb them. Tall growing trees should be planted at least 20 feet away from electric lines.

Keeping tree limbs and branches away from power lines helps to prevent accidents and power outages.

Looking Out
for You

Resolve to be more energy efficient

One way to achieve that goal is to recycle your old working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner. Call Calhoun County REC to arrange for appliance pickup. Your old, inefficient appliance will be appropriately recycled and you will receive a \$25 cooperative rebate. Maximum of three appliances a year per residential/farm account.



HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2016



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.
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After 4:30 p.m. call 800-821-4879
or 712-297-7112
for outages and emergencies only.