

# CURRENT CONNECTION

October 2017

[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

Calhoun County REC

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Highlights from the 81st Annual Meeting of Members

Calhoun County REC held its 81st Annual Meeting of Members on September 7, 2017. There were approximately 180 people representing 93 memberships on hand to hear about the progress of their Cooperative this past year. Directors re-elected to serve a three year term were Jim Miller in District 1 and Jason McKenney in District 3. Elected to serve in District 5 was Steve Boedecker. Director John Wahl did not seek re-election. President Miller and CEO Carisch presented their Annual Meeting report to members on “Smart Choices” for the future. 6C11BA

A drawing for electric bill credits took place for members in attendance and the winners were: Sheila Cline, Gary Hildreth, Mile Lenz, Robert Beckman, Dave Hanson, Janet Eggenburger, Dennis McKenney, Perry Parker, Brian Davis and Lyle Carlson. Congratulations to these winners!

Members present received a tool box pen when registering and as they departed the business meeting were given a roll up blanket.

A re-organizational meeting was held immediately after the annual meeting and the election of officers were: Jim Miller, President; Terry Finley, Vice President; Jason McKenney, Secretary and Ron Hanson, Treasurer. Other board members present were LaVerne Arndt, Beryl Birkland and Steve Boedecker. Thank you to all members who participated in this democratic process of your annual meeting. ***We are here to serve you!***



*Thank you member-owners for attending your Annual Meeting*



*Members participated in blood pressure screenings*



*Branden Barney presented his Youth Tour report*

## You're Invited . . . Open House for Calhoun County REC's Demonstration Solar Project



**Date:** Friday, October 13th

**When:** 1:00 –3:00 pm

**Where:** Calhoun County REC Headquarters  
1015 Tonawanda, Rockwell City

***Refreshments will be served!***

## Take advantage of LIHEAP if you need help with heating bills

The 2017-2018 Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating cost for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, call your local community action agency or write to:

**LIHEAP, Iowa Dept. of Human Rights**

**Capital Complex**

**Des Moines, IA 50319**

Where to apply for temporary financial assistance:

Calhoun County Dept. of Human Resources 515 Court St. Rockwell City, IA 50579	Calhoun County Opportunities Family Development Center 412 5th St. Rockwell City IA 50579
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### Income Maximums

Household Size	1 Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$1,759	\$21,105
2	\$2,368	\$28,420
3	\$2,978	\$35,735
4	\$3,588	\$43,050
5	\$4,197	\$50,365
6	\$4,807	\$57,680
7	\$5,416	\$64,995
8	\$6,026	\$72,310

For family units with more than eight members, add \$610/\$7,315 for each additional member.

### WHEN TO APPLY

- Seniors (60 & over) and /or disabled, October 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018.
- All other households: November 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018

### WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income (for all household members age 19 and over). Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security, or 2016 tax return.)
- Social Security numbers of household members. (documentation required)
- Recent heat and electric bills.

### WAGE EARNERS

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

### FIXED INCOME

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment insurance and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from previous 30 days.

### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

### FIP RECIPIENTS

Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

*If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.*

## October is National Co-op Month

Calhoun County REC is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. "Co-ops Commit" is the theme for this year's celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

"Our cooperative delivers electricity to approximately 1,200 member-owners in our five county service area," says CEO Roxanne Carisch "Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Revenue generated by Calhoun County REC goes back to Main Street, not Wall Street."

In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, Calhoun County REC engages with the community by offering scholarships, Youth Tour, and electrical safety demonstrations to students.

Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### SLOPPY COLA JOE DOGS

#### INGREDIENTS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 medium-size red onion, thinly sliced | 1 cup spicy, fruity cola soft drink (such as Dr Pepper) |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil                | 1/2 cup jarred sliced pepperoncini salad peppers        |
| 1 1/2 pounds ground round              | Ground red pepper                                       |
| 1 (6-oz.) can tomato paste             | 8 hot dog buns or hoagie rolls                          |
| 1 garlic clove, minced                 | Store-bought coleslaw                                   |
| 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce      |   |



#### DIRECTIONS:

Sauté onion in hot oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat 4 to 5 minutes or until onions are caramel colored. Add ground beef to skillet, and cook over medium-high heat, stirring often, 5 to 6 minutes or until meat crumbles and is no longer pink; drain. Return beef mixture to skillet. Stir in tomato paste and next 2 ingredients, and cook, stirring occasionally, 3 to 4 minutes or until mixture thickens and color darkens. Stir in cola and 1/2 cup water, and cook, stirring constantly, 6 to 8 minutes or until bubbly. Remove from heat, and stir in pepperoncini peppers; add salt and red pepper to taste. Serve beef mixture immediately on buns with coleslaw.

## Pole Top Rescue

Being prepared for emergency situations is part of the ongoing safety training practiced by the Calhoun County REC line crew. The line crew rehearsed a basket and pole-top rescue on September 6. Once a month employees hold a safety training and education meeting at the REC office.

**F**irst Class Lineman **B**en **W**iederin is shown lowering the 180 pound “Res-



cue Mannequin” from the pole by a rope. If needed, CPR would then be administered after the “Rescue Mannequin” is on the ground.

## Taxes your Coop Pays

Property taxes are used to help fund such important things as education and city and county government. You might not be aware of it, but your Cooperative pays property taxes. Calhoun County REC receives a tax bill for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. Calhoun County REC pays taxes in the four different counties that we serve.

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes due for 2017 and 2018. 16C03HA

County	Taxes paid
Calhoun	\$ 28,594.00
Sac	\$ 1,277.00
Pocahontas	\$ 749.00
Webster	\$ 1,836.00

## Electric Heat Rate Begins

Electric Heat Rate is for members with electric heating systems. These systems include geothermal heat pumps, air source heat pumps, baseboard, electric boilers, an electric furnace, electric in-floor or ceiling cable. In order to take advantage of this rate, **permanently installed electric space heating equipment** must be metered separately.

**The effective rate is .0530 cents per kilowatt hour during the October – April heating season.**

This rate is offered to electric accounts with **approved**, separately metered electric space heating. (However domestic water heaters cannot be wired under the Heat Rate meter.) Metering equipment is required before the rate is issued. Accounts must comply with Rate 9 & 29.

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

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Doug Klocke and Tim Collison spotted their location numbers and will receive a **\$10** credit on their electric bills. Diane Kneller missed her 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.

# Rate Change Planned for 2018

As reported in June's newsletter your Cooperative has been working with an independent consultant on a cost of service study. After a long and diligent review of costs and the revenue needed to keep Calhoun County REC financially sound, the Cooperative's board of directors, at its August 14th meeting, approved a rate adjustment effective January 1, 2018.

Each rate class (farm/ residential, and large and small commercial) will reflect a 3.79 percent increase. As reported at the September 7th Annual Meeting of Members, this increase in revenues, for the most part, is driven by higher costs of wholesale power along with operating expenses and overall increased costs of daily operations.

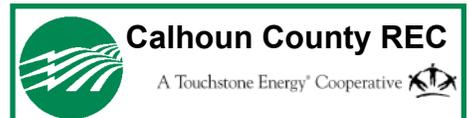
Your board and management team have been working to mitigate these rising costs through the development of a load management system, as well as implementation of a revenue deferral program. Calhoun County REC's load management program saves money not only for your Cooperative, but also for its member-owners. The program reduces demand— the total amount of electricity consumed at any one moment and that keeps the wholesale cost of power down. More than 4 years ago, Calhoun County REC fully launched its load management program with our wholesale power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. Since that time, your Cooperative has saved approximately \$238,000 in wholesale power costs.

We continue to look for all avenues to reduce costs of daily operations by sharing resources with neighboring coops to increase administrative efficiencies and lower operation costs. The FEMA Grant Awards, were completed in December 2016 which provided assistance for rebuilding and strengthening 238 miles of electrical line. This will have a positive impact to your cooperative's long term operational efficiencies for many years to come. 23S21AA

An official notice of rate change will be mailed in late November. We take our responsibility to keep you informed very seriously. We value the trust you place with us to ensure Calhoun County REC remains financially sound. We will continue to provide you with reliable energy at a reasonable rate with the quality service you expect and deserve . Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions. We value your input!



*CEO Rox Carisch (left) and Line Superintendent Mike Terwilliger review the 2017 budget.*



**-- Directors --**

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

**-- 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.



**Touchstone Energy Co-op Values**  
 Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.