



**Calhoun County Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Monthly publication for member-owners

CCECA NEWS

Visit us online at www.calhounrec.coop

A photograph of two linemen, Chad Krukow and Ben Wiederin, hanging Christmas lights on a street lamp in Rockwell City. One worker is in a bucket on a crane truck, and the other is on the ground. The scene is set at dusk with snowflake graphics overlaid on the sky.

Linemen Chad Krukow and Ben Wiederin helped hang Christmas lights on the square in Rockwell City.

COMMITTED TO A COOP CULTURE

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Hear from CEO Keaton Hildreth on co-op culture.

BASIN SCHOLARSHIP

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\$1,000 scholarship opportunity

IAEC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING HELD

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Directors and staff attended the 2020 meeting virtually.

NEW MEMBER CHALLENGE

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Find the answers within the newsletter for a chance to win a bill credit.

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

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Is your space heater safe?

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Rockwell City, IA 50579
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Committed to a Co-op Culture for All

By Keaton Hildreth



Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is different—because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

Equal access for all

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today.



Calhoun County Electric Cooperative was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in director elections every September, and we invite all members to weigh in on discussions that set co-op policies and priorities by reaching out to their local director.

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your *local* electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Calhoun County Electric Cooperative was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you—the members we proudly serve—is to promote a cooperative culture for all.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative offers Basin Scholarships



Dependents of members of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative 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 Electric Cooperative. 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, essay and an appraisal completed by a third party. Applicants for the scholarship will first be screened by their cooperative. Each member cooperative may also forward one finalist to Corn Belt Power Cooperative to be considered for the scholarship. **Deadline is on or before February 5th** at the Calhoun County Electric Cooperative office. To obtain an application contact our office at 712-297-7112 or go to www.calhounrec.coop to find the application.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov



Together We Power On

Iowa's electric cooperatives reflect on a challenging year and learn about future trends during statewide association's virtual annual meeting

With the theme of "Together We Power On," the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) conducted its 2020 annual meeting virtually with more than 400 registered attendees on Thursday, Dec. 3. Board directors and employees from Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives watched a live stream of the virtual meeting, where they received informative updates from IAEC Board President Steve Seidl and IAEC Executive Vice President and General Manager Chuck Soderberg.

The IAEC Annual Meeting is also an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the electric industry and future trends that may impact rural Iowa's economy and quality of life. IAEC presented several educational sessions in a virtual format this year.

During its virtual annual meeting, the statewide association honored several electric co-op employees and directors who celebrated 25 years of service in 2020, including Bret McAlister from Calhoun County Electric Cooperative.

Co-op board directors who earned education certifications during the year were also recognized at the virtual annual meeting for their commitment to education and training. Ron Hanson, Board Treasurer and Jim Miller, Board President were both recognized for their recent Board Leadership Certificate education.

CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



Bret McAlister

Line Foreman



Line crews begin annual line patrol

Line patrol involves line crews driving line in selected townships and taking



note of how lines, poles and equipment are holding up. Trouble areas then get marked down as potential candidates for repair during construction season. So if you see electric cooperative vehicles come into your yard, they are likely checking equipment up to the meter and transformer. Likewise, if you see line trucks driving slowly on the road, take care when you pass, your linemen are out ensuring that you have the most reliable service possible by making sure the lines, transformers and equipment on your distribution system are in working order. Line patrol is another duty performed by your electric co-op to show how they work to serve you winter, spring, summer, fall plus every day and night in between.

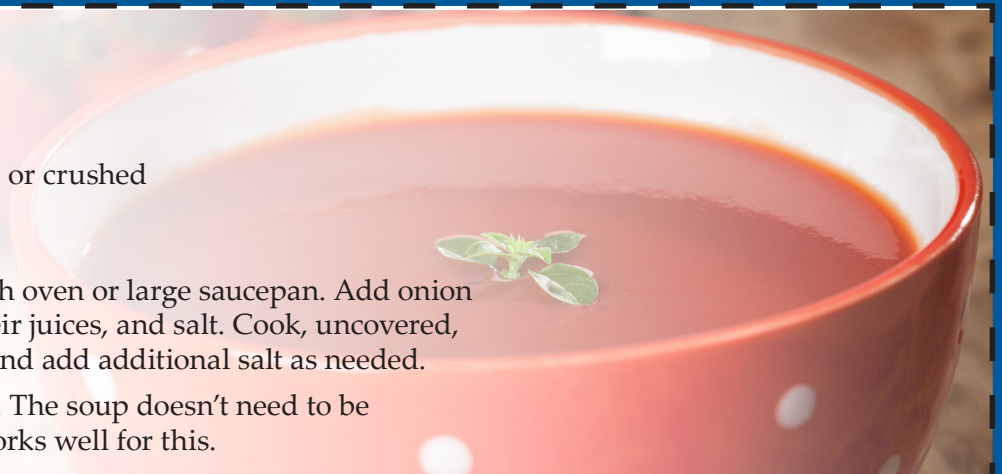
Recipe of the Month

Easy Tomato Soup

- 4 TB unsalted butter
- ½ large onion, cut into large wedges
- 1—28 ounce can tomatoes, whole peeled or crushed
- 1½ cups of water or chicken stock
- ½ tsp of salt

Melt butter over medium heat in a Dutch oven or large saucepan. Add onion wedges, water, can of tomatoes with their juices, and salt. Cook, uncovered, for about 40 minutes. Stir occasionally and add additional salt as needed.

Blend the soup and then season to taste. The soup doesn't need to be ultra-smooth. An immersion blender works well for this.



Time to ditch your old space heater?

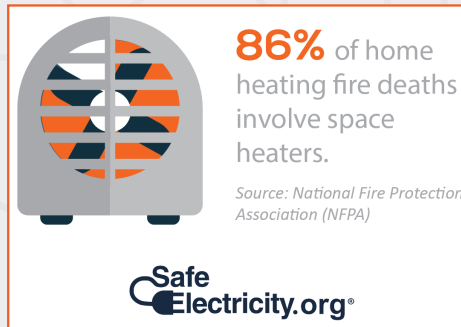
If you can't remember when you purchased your space heater, it might be time to replace it. Just like the flip phones of yesteryear have progressed into today's modern cell phone, portable space heaters have come a long way too. Most of today's models have built-in safety features, such as non-exposed coils and sensors that detect overheating or touch, as well as an automatic shut-off feature in case it gets tipped over.

Regardless of whether your space heater is fresh out of the box or several years old, it should be used safely, since most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve using one, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, right behind cooking.

Along with using a unit that is in good working order, be sure to keep clothing, papers, rugs and other flammable items at least 3 feet away from a space heater. More than half of the heating-related home fires start when items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA, including upholstered furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Safe Electricity and Calhoun County Electric Cooperative recommend these additional space heater safety tips:

1. Read all instructions and only use as recommended.
2. Do not leave a space heater unattended.
3. Plug it directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater cycling on and off.
4. Unplug any other item from the outlet you are using; also try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
5. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
6. Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
7. Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
8. Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place on furniture, counters or carpet, which can overheat.



Use a space heater with care. For additional safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Reach Us

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Mon-Fri)

Contact 24/7 with the following numbers:

General Phone:
(712) 297-7112

Toll Free:
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Fax:
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www.calhounrec.coop

Email:
info@calhounrec.coop



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**IOWA ONE-CALL
AT 811 OR
(800) 292-8989
BEFORE YOU DIG**

Member Challenge...

1. Name the employee that was recognized for 25 years of service at the 2020 IAEC Annual Meeting: _____
2. What is the deadline for the Basin Power Cooperative 2021 scholarship?

3. How many cooperative principles does Calhoun County Electric Cooperative adhere to? _____

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answer to kwiederin@calhounrec.coop or clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue **must be received by February 12**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a \$10 credit on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for a \$100 bill credit, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

EASY WAYS TO PAY BILL:

Online: Access through www.calhounrec.coop and pay online 24/7.

Auto Bill Pay (ACH):
Deduct from your bank account. Find the form on our website or stop by the office.

Call: Call the office and make a payment over the phone with a card or checking account.

**Outside Drop Box/
Front Corner:**
Rockwell City, IA

U.S. Postal Mail

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