

# CURRENT CONNECTION

November 2020

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

Calhoun County REC

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Employees Receive Safety Recognition - 'No Lost Time' Award

Calhoun County REC prides itself in providing a safe workplace for its employees and safe electricity for our members. Your REC has had 556,691 hours of no lost time since the last lost time back in 1997. The 'No Lost Time' Award is presented by Federated Insurance. Our safety program emphasizes on continued education and support from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's (IAEC) Safety and Loss Control team to help get the job done, safely.

Calhoun County REC's safety program includes:

- Daily job reviews called "tailgates" which are done every morning to ensure the proper material is available, crews understand their role for the day, and that all personal protective equipment (PPE) is on their trucks, and potential hazards are identified.
- Each employee is supplied with industry-leading personal protection equipment to keep them safe while working.
- All employees meet monthly for safety meetings that address various safety topics.
- A first aid kit is readily available on each truck, as well as ensuring all employees are CPR/First Aid trained and certified.
- The Co-op now maintains 5 Automated External Defibrillators (AED). One is in the office and 4 trucks each carry a unit

With the same commitment, Calhoun County REC ensures our employees are educated and practicing safety at all times. We also strive to inform our members of all ages about electric safety in their homes, at work at school and at play. Be Safe!



Left to right - Bret McAlister, Jared Kuhlers, Doug LeMonds, Chad Krukow, Taylor Jondle, Ben Wiederin and Reid Galloway.

RELIABLE ELECTRICITY  
ISN'T SOMETHING  
WE TAKE LIGHTLY.



## Four Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes, especially during the holidays. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

**When possible, cook with smaller appliances.** Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

**Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load.** Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control. 15C25CA

**Help large appliances work less.** There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

**Use your dishwasher efficiently.** Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

**Bonus tip:** The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Contact us to learn about additional ways you can save energy and money at home.



### Calhoun County REC Will Be Closed

November 26th & 27th

to celebrate the

Thanksgiving Holiday.

For outages and emergencies

call 712-297-7112.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### LOADED SMORES BARS

#### INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup of unsalted butter,  
melted  
1 large egg  
1 cup of light brown sugar,  
packed  
1 TB of vanilla extract  
3/4 cup of all purpose flour

5 full-size graham crackers,  
roughly chopped ( about 2  
cups)  
1 heaping cup of mini  
marshmallows  
1 cup of semi-sweet chips



#### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line an 8 by 8 inch baking pan with aluminum foil, spray with cooking spray and set aside. In a large, microwave-safe bowl melt the butter. Add the egg, brown sugar, vanilla, and whisk until smooth. Add the flour and stir until just combined, don't overmix. Add the graham crackers and any crumbs, marshmallows, chocolate chips and fold to incorporate. Turn batter out into prepared pan. Bake for about 20 to 22 minutes, or until bars have firmed up in the center and edges will be set.

## Congratulations!

Darlene Thomas was the winner of a \$25 credit on her electric bill for submitting her Apple Crisp For One in the Living with Energy in Iowa magazine. Be sure to read your issue for the latest information and contests. Darlene's recipe for Apple Crisp For One can be found in the September issue. 10C24JA



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



### Pay your Calhoun County REC bill online!

You can pay by credit/debit card, check or savings.  
Also view your bill and amount due online.

Go Online to: [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

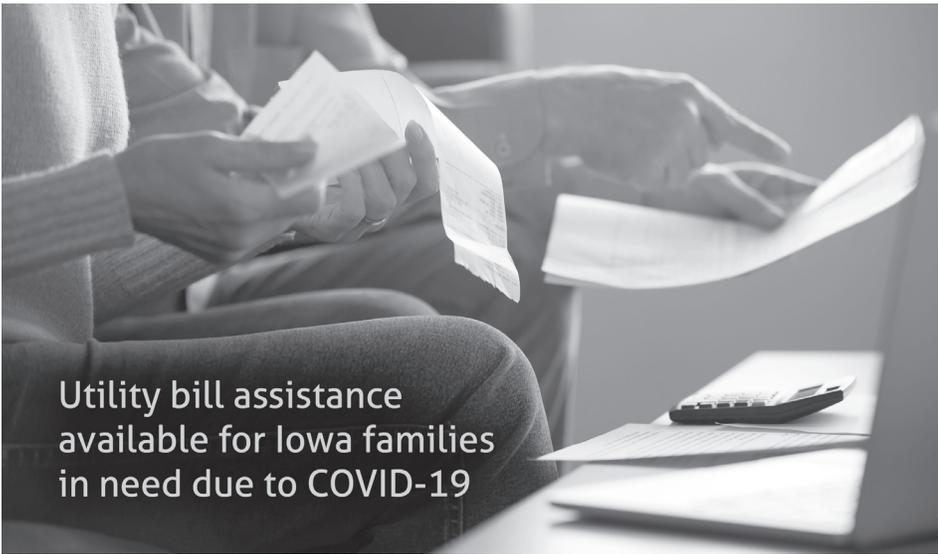
Trent Blair spotted his number and will receive a **\$10** electric bill credit.

Kevin & Kathy Moe and Dan & Shelly Schaffer missed their 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 the Calhoun County REC by the 15th of the month to receive a **\$10** credit on your electric bill.

*\* Your location number is listed on your billing statement. \**



Utility bill assistance available for Iowa families in need due to COVID-19

## Utility Bill Assistance Available for Iowa Households Financially Impacted by COVID-19

Governor Reynolds recently announced a new program designed to provide eligible Iowa households up to \$2,000 towards their electric, natural gas and water bills if they are at risk of disconnection due to an inability to pay because of a COVID-19 related loss of income.

As part of the federal CARES Act funding allocated to Iowa, the Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program is managed by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Finance Authority. Payments through the program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicants' accounts.

To be eligible to receive assistance, a residential electric, natural gas and/or water utility consumer must have:

- A primary Iowa residence with active residential utility accounts (renters may apply as long as the utility account is in the applicant's name);
- An unpaid utility bill balance or have previously entered into a payment plan with their utility provider;
- An annual income that is 80% of the median family income, based on county and household size;
- Experienced a COVID-19 loss of income (job loss, reduction in hours, reduction in pay) on or after March 17, 2020, that resulted in hardship in paying bills for electric, natural gas, and/or water utility service provided between March 17, 2020, and October 31, 2020. TL162

Applications will be accepted at [www.iowahousingrecovery.com](http://www.iowahousingrecovery.com) through November 20, 2020, or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first. Assistance will be awarded based on application completeness and eligibility in order received until all funds have been exhausted. The website includes answers to frequently asked questions and complete eligibility requirements. You can also call Iowa's Utility Recovery Hotline at 515-348-8976 or 877-463-3269 for more information about this program.

If you need assistance with documentation for your application, please contact our office at (712) 297-7112.

REMEMBER

VETERANS

DAY

NOVEMBER 11



**Calhoun County REC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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After 4:30 p.m. call 800-821-4879  
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