

CCECA Members Participate in 35th Energy Trail Tour

This summer marked the 35th annual Energy Trail Tour season. Over 120 electric cooperative member-owners from western and north-central Iowa participated in three motorcoach excursions in June and July to learn about electric generation and meet the people responsible for delivering electric power to their homes, farms, and businesses. The tours, which departed from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) in Le Mars, Iowa, led passengers through the Dakotas to learn about and see, first-hand, where their energy comes from and have some fun along the journey.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, through its generation and transmission cooperative Corn Belt Power Cooperative, receives power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). The three motorcoach tours, which embarked on June 26, July 10, and July 24, included four CCECA members who participated in tours of electric generation facilities and subsidiaries operated by both Basin Electric and WAPA.

In addition to the educational portion of the tour, members enjoyed good food, great fellowship, and a few surprise stops along the way.

Highlights of the tours include:

OAHE POWER PLANT AND DAM

The first electric-generation stop on the three-day journey brought tour guests to Pierre, South Dakota,

to understand the process of hydroelectric generation and the innovation of the rolled-earth dam that created Lake Oahe, the fourth largest reservoir in the United States. Water generated from the Missouri River Dam system served as the original power source for homes and farms in the region until electric demand surpassed generation capacity in the 1970s, leading to the need to source other generation resources.

ANTELOPE VALLEY STATION

The tour included an overview of the model room and a guided walking tour of the coal-fired power plant owned and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The walking tour included stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler, and observation deck on the 17th floor. Participants learned the process of electric generation from coal resources and the investments made by Basin Electric in environmental control technologies to reduce emissions at their facilities.

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY FREEDOM MINE

Tour guests learned how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is returned to its original state. A guided drive-through tour took members through active mining areas where they witnessed giant earthmoving equipment in action. The Freedom Mine delivers approximately 16 million tons of coal and reclaims about 600 acres of mined land annually.

The trip also offered insight into operations at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant and how coal can be refined into synthetic natural gas and a variety of other products, including anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, and diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). Basin Electric owns and operates the Great Plains Synfuels Plant through its for-profit subsidiary, Dakota Gasification Company.

Energy Trail Tour participants also learn about wind generation and renewable energy resources in America's energy mix. The tour provides a "mobile classroom" on the process of wind generation and how it contributes to an all-of-the-above generation mix that provides reliable and affordable energy to cooperative members.

Over three educational and fun-filled days, members gain a deeper understanding of the cooperative difference, the history of rural electric cooperatives, the Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all cooperatives, and the Touchstone Energy® brand's four foundations of service: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community. Memories and friendships were made while gaining a deeper and more insightful appreciation for how reliable power is generated and delivered to the light switch.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's 2024 tour members included: Dale & Nancy Bruns and Mike & Laurie Barrett



"Thank you for the Energy Trail Tour Trip we won. The stops at the Oahe Power Plant and Dam, the Antelope Valley Generating Station, and the Freedom Mine were interesting and educational."

– Dale & Nancy Bruns



"Mike and I were very thankful and excited to have our name drawn to go on one of the Energy Trail Tours this summer. It was a fun and educational trip!"

– Mike & Laurie Barrett

Harvest Safety Tips

For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.

- If your equipment does hit a power line do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come in contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

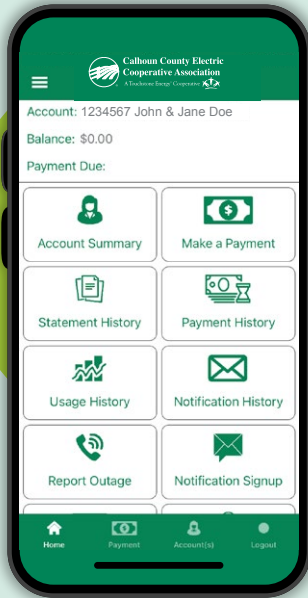
To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first.



Shine the Light 2024 Contest Winner

On August 6, 2024, CEO Keaton Hildreth presented the contest prize of \$3,000 to Judy Hess and other members of MAGS 4 Fonda. Judy Hess was nominated by CCECA member Kerry Noethe. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative was honored to have one of our members' nominations selected as a 2024 contest winner. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's contest!

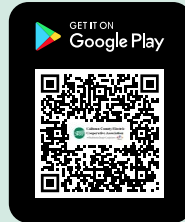
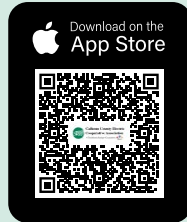




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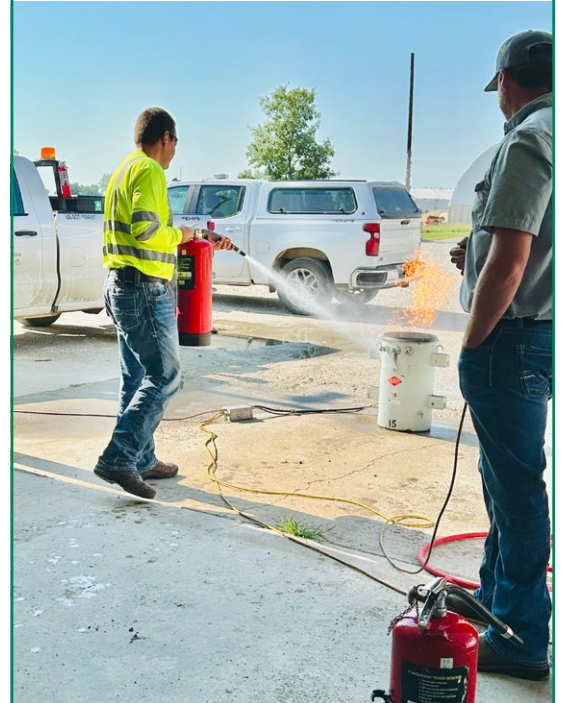


If you aren't already utilizing our CCECA mobile app, now is the time to do so! It has been our mission to provide multiple ways for our members to connect with us. Our mobile app is an easy and convenient way to accomplish that. You can view and pay your bill electronically, monitor your usage, and make decisions on how you'd like us to communicate with you plus it gives you the ability to report outages from your phone!

Available for Apple or Android phones – take a picture of the QR code to download.

July Safety Training

At July's monthly safety meeting all CCECA employees reviewed how to properly use a fire extinguisher!



KIDS COLORING CONTEST

Learn about electrical farm safety with us by entering into our 2024 Farm Safety coloring contest!

Stop into our office to grab a coloring sheet or find it on our website. Once completed return your artwork back to the office in person or by mail!

September 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

Enter for a chance to win a back to school prize bag!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.



RECare Members Helping Members



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 lowincome consumers. You may make a onetime contribution or a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.

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 Electric Cooperative
1015 Tonawanda • PO Box 312 • Rockwell City, Iowa

Sweet Corn Daze

On August 3, Member Account Manager, Rachel Sedlacek and Admin. Assistant/ Communications Specialist, Menley Cates participated in the Sweet Corn Days parade in Rockwell City. It is always fun to be involved with events happening in our communities!



September Member Challenge

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. **Send your answer to memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop, clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: www.calhounrec.coop/member-challenge-submission.** 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 Oct. 1st.** 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 4 times throughout the year, will be eligible for a \$100 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

Congratulations July winners:

Randy Hildreth, Evan Hecht, and Dave Haberl

1. Highlights of the trip included stops at the Oahe Power Plant and Dam, Antelope Valley Station, and the Coteau _____ Company Freedom Mine.
2. Always keep equipment at least _____ feet from lines, in all directions.
3. Using our CCECA _____ is an easy and convenient way for our members to connect with us.

Name _____

Reach Us

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(Monday-Friday)

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-Th
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