

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.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, 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 into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. 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, still 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.



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Member Services Rep
Hall welcomes baby boy

Miller Elected to IAEC Board

Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative director elections were held in three IAEC districts during district meetings in early August. CCECA Board President, Jim Miller, ran unopposed for the District 5 seat and was elected to a three-year term on the IAEC Board. Congratulations, Jim and thank you for your dedication to the cooperative.



Help us Find

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is holding unclaimed property resulting from a patronage dividend due to the persons listed below. You may claim this property by contacting us at 712-297-7112. If deceased, we need the name and address of the executor or nearest relative.



<u>Name</u>	<u>Last Known Address</u>
Baedke, Duane or Cindy	Fort Dodge, IA
Blasey, Donald	Livermore, IA
Brannan, Kelly	Lake View, IA
Bryant, Nick	Aberdeen, SD
Cook, Gery or Dorothy	Fort Dodge, IA
Craig, Steve	Fort Dodge, IA
Fees, Deana	Rockwell City, IA
Greif, Randy	Martelle, IA
Habit 4 Farms LLC	Cherokee, IA
Holly, Peter	Rockwall, TX
Kleemeier, Jim	Apache Junction, AZ
Kraft, Ina Mae	Fonda, IA
Loftis, Jason	Rockwell City, IA
McBride, Curtis	Coralville, IA
McBride, Ellen or Mark	Fort Dodge, IA
Meyer, Nick	Auburn, IA
Minshall, Shannon or Jacquelyn	Lake City, IA
Morwitzer, Robert	Fonda, IA
Mullins, Rodney or Marcia	Fort Dodge, IA
Onnen, Gary	Manson, IA
O'tool Jennifer	Carroll, IA
Pedersen, Branden	St. Paul, MN
Pigman, Jack	Dayton, IA
Pliner, Sheila	Largo, FL
Ringgenberg, Milt	Callender, IA
RW Swine Management	Plano, TX
Schoeberlein, Roger	Polk City, IA
Segebart, Kent	Lake City, IA
Sievers, Donald	Slater, IA
Sisson, Lucy	Labelle, MO
Smith, Nile	Chariton, IA
Walter, Kim or Curt	Rockwell City, IA
Welsh, Vincent	Kingman, AZ

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

By Bret McAlister, Line Superintendent

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

- 1 cup of butter, softened
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 2 tsp of vanilla
- ½ cup of cocoa powder
- ½ tsp of salt
- 1 ½ cup of sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cup of flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3 cups of quick oats

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a mixer, cream together the butter and sugars until fluffy.
3. Add the eggs and vanilla and combine.
4. Add the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt and stir until combined.
5. Stir in the oatmeal.
6. Scoop onto prepared baking sheets and bake for 11-12 minutes, making sure not to overbake.
7. Remove to a cooling rack.



Upgrades Coming for CCECA Members

Exciting upgrades are coming to your cooperative! Beginning this fall, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative employees will begin replacing the communications modules in our meters. This is to help our current meters communicate better to our facility that will give us, as well as our members, more consistent daily reads. By giving us consistent reads, it will help us better identify when usage is high or low. Not only that, but it will help us recognize and restore outages faster and more efficiently helping us give you more reliable power and service. Stay tuned for more updates as we move towards this exciting new chapter!



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 low-income consumers. You may make a one-time 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



Baby Announcement

Member Services
Representative Richard Hall
and his wife Heidi welcomed
their first child on July 27.
Asher Scott was born at 5:31
p.m. weighing 7 pounds 5
ounces and measuring 19 ½
inches long. Congratulations
to the Hall family!



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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Steve Boedecker - Rockwell City

Scott Hicks - Lake City

Keaton Hildreth, CEO



Chad pictured with his two boys, Elliot (5) and Brecken (2)

Sweet Corn Daze Parade

Thanks to Lineman,
Chad Krukow for
participating in the
Sweet Corn Daze
parade held on
August 7, 2021 in
Rockwell City.

Member Challenge...



1. Keep equipment at least ____ feet from lines, at all times, in all directions.
2. Which director was elected to the IAEC board? _____
3. Which lineman participated in the Sweet Corn Daze parade? _____

Name _____

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, clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: www.calhounrec.coop. 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 October 1. 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.

Congratulations to July's member challenge winners:

Ron Essing, Mike Barrett, and Allen Johnson



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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

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
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