



**Calhoun County Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Monthly publication for member-owners

CCECA NEWS

Visit us online at www.calhounrec.coop

Members to see decreased power bill in month of January

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association's power provider, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, passed a \$159,829 bill credit on to your cooperative in the month of December.

Corn Belt Power received a bill credit from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and immediately passed that along to its member-cooperatives. Basin's year-end margins are projected to be more than their original budget which led to their decision to return a portion of those margins to members now, as opposed to returning them in the future.

As a member-owner of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association, you will benefit from this bill credit. The bill credit from Corn Belt Power decreased our total cost of power in December. Because of this, Calhoun County Electric members will see a

substantial credit from the monthly Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) on bills for December usage.

"The bill credit was something we advocated for based on our power providers' current financial position," said Keaton Hildreth, chief executive officer. "Our board and management felt it necessary to pass this back to the membership. Any time we have excess margins, our goal is to get those back in our member-owners' hands as quickly as possible. That's part of the cooperative difference."

So far in 2022, the ECA has collected an average of \$0.0111 per kWh. This month the ECA will reflect a \$0.0468 credit per kWh. That means a home that uses 1,200 kWh's will receive a \$56.16 credit. If you have questions concerning your power bill, please contact our office.

In the Community

Parkside Flowers - Revolving Loan Fund

Hannah Taylor recently purchased Parkside Flowers located in Rockwell City with assistance from our Revolving Loan Fund program. This purchase included the full-service floral shop and seasonally utilized greenhouses.

CCECA is committed to enhancing the communities we serve and are proud to support growth and development by partnering with Parkside Flowers.



From L to R: Keaton Hildreth, CCECA CEO, and Hannah Taylor, Owner of Parkside Flowers

Holiday Decorating

At the end of November, our linemen helped decorate the Rockwell City square with lighted snowflakes. The square looks great at night!

Pictured is Ben Wiederin - lineman hanging the holiday decorations



Decreased Power Bill

Front

Bill Credit

In the Community

Front

RLF & Holiday Decor

Youth Opportunities

Page 2

Scholarships & Youth Tour

5 Ways to Fight the Winter Chill & Save Energy

Page 3

Increase Energy Efficiency

Energy Trail Tour

Page 4

3-day adventure

Member Challenge

Page 4

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

Calhoun County Electric
Cooperative Association
Rockwell City, IA 50579
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www.calhounrec.coop

Youth Opportunities



Two Scholarship Opportunities

Seniors and college students can now apply for two scholarship opportunities, courtesy of Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Calhoun County Electric Cooperative. Applications can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/3HlqrN1> and <https://bit.ly/3iFRzvI>.

Contact Communications Manager, Kayla Wiederin, at kwiederin@calhounrec.coop for an application or with any questions. *Applications are due by Friday, February 3, 2023 by 4 p.m.*

Accepting Applications for High School Leadership Trip to D.C.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative will send one student on an all-expenses Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school sophomores and juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital.

One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2023 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 17-23 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications until March 1, 2023. High school students from our service territory are eligible to apply; the student must be a current sophomore or junior high school student. The application process consists of completing our application form which includes essay questions. We will conduct in-person interviews with finalists. The top applicant will represent CCECA on the trip and will receive a \$500 scholarship. The 2nd and 3rd place applications will receive a \$250 scholarship. You can download our form at <https://www.calhounrec.coop/youth-tour-washington-dc> or stop by our office for a printed copy. Contact Kayla Wiederin, Communications Manager at kwiederin@calhounrec.coop or 712-297-7112 for more information.

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2023 by March 1, 2023.

WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP
TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy



We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

- 1. Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
- 2. Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.
- 3. Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
- 4. Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if

you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

- 5. Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 712-297-7112 or take advantage of our free home energy audits. Richard Hall, Member Services Representative, can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.



HOMEMADE HOT CHOCOLATE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 cups half and half
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- Toppings of choice (marshmallows, whipped cream, peppermint crumbs, or chocolate chips)

DIRECTIONS:

In a small saucepan on low to medium heat, add the whole milk and half and half. (Make sure to keep the milk from simmering or boiling.)

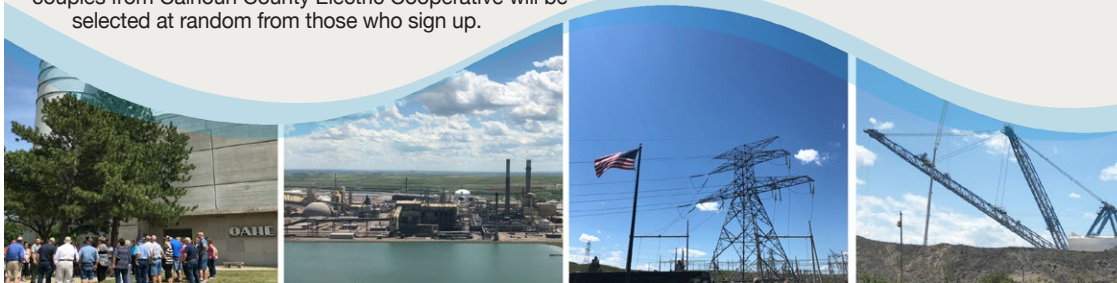
Once milk is hot, add the chocolate chips and stir until the chocolate is melted and mixed with the milks.

Add the salt and stir again. Ladle into mugs and top with your favorite things. Enjoy!

Energy Trail Tour 2023

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view,

first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Calhoun County Electric Cooperative. Two lucky couples from Calhoun County Electric Cooperative will be selected at random from those who sign up.



☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 28-30 1st 2nd (please circle)
July 26-28 1st 2nd

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by May 15, 2023.

Reach Us

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Mon-Fri)

Contact 24/7 with the following numbers:

General Phone:

(712) 297-7112

Toll Free:

(800) 821-4879

Fax:

(712) 297-7211

Visit us online:

www.calhounrec.coop

Email:

info@calhounrec.coop

DIRECTORS:

Jim Miller, President – Fonda

Steve Boedecker,
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Ron Hanson,
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Keaton Hildreth, CEO



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AT 811 OR
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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.

Phone: 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

January Member Challenge

1. True or False: CCECA is offering two scholarship opportunities.
2. Corn Belt Power passed a \$_____ bill credit on to CCECA.
3. Where does the Energy Trail Tour visit? _____

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 February 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 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 the October member challenge winners:
Marlene Glasnapp, Doyle & Donna Lott and Mike & Sally Stumpf