November 2026

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Monthly publication for member-owners

CCECA NEWS

Visit us online at www.calhounrec.coop



WINTER IS COMING: Is Your Home Ready?

As temperatures begin to drop and winter approaches, now is the perfect time to make sure your home is prepared for the colder months ahead. Taking a few simple steps before winter arrives can help improve your home's comfort, reduce energy waste, and keep heating costs manageable throughout the season.

One of the easiest ways to prepare your home is by checking for drafts around windows and doors. Even small gaps can allow warm air to escape and cold air to enter, causing your heating system to work harder than necessary. Adding weatherstripping or caulking around these areas can help keep the warm air inside where it belongs.

Your heating system also plays an important role in keeping your home comfortable. Replacing furnace filters regularly and scheduling routine maintenance can help your system operate efficiently throughout the winter. A well-maintained heating system not only helps manage energy use but can also reduce the likelihood of unexpected problems during the coldest months.

Another important step is checking your home's insulation. Proper insulation in attics, walls, and other areas helps maintain a consistent indoor temperature and reduces the amount of energy needed to heat your home.

Don't forget about your thermostat! Lowering the temperature a few degrees while you're sleeping or away from home can help reduce heating costs. If you have a programmable or smart thermostat, consider setting a schedule that fits your family's daily routine.

At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA), we understand the importance of keeping your home warm and comfortable throughout Iowa's winter months. By making a few small improvements now, you can help ensure your home is ready for whatever the season brings.

A little preparation today can make a big difference when winter weather arrives.



2026 DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

DISTRICT 1



Scott Pitstick

DISTRICT 3



Jason McKenney

DISTRICT 5



Steve Boedecker

Officers elected as follows: President - Jason McKenney, Vice President - Steve Boedecker, Secretary - Darcy Maulsby, Treasurer - Duane Beschorner

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative recognizes Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

Our office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving on Nov. 26-27.



READY FOR WHATEVER WINTER BRINGS

When winter weather makes its way to Iowa, snow, ice, and freezing temperatures can create challenges for electric utilities. At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA), providing safe and reliable electric service to our member-owners remains a priority throughout every season.

While winter storms can be unpredictable, preparation plays an important role in helping our cooperative respond when severe weather arrives. Throughout the year, CCECA works to maintain and improve our electric distribution system to help reduce the risk of outages and strengthen the reliability of the service our members depend on.

Regular system maintenance, equipment inspections, and vegetation management are all important parts of preparing for challenging weather conditions. These efforts help identify potential concerns before they become larger problems, particularly when snow, ice, and strong winds put additional stress on power lines and equipment.

Our employees also understand the importance of being prepared to respond when outages occur. Winter storms can create difficult working conditions, but our linemen are trained to safely assess damage, make necessary repairs, and restore power as quickly and safely as conditions allow.

While we work hard to maintain reliable service, severe weather can still cause unexpected outages. We encourage members to prepare their households by keeping flashlights, extra batteries, blankets, bottled water, and other essential supplies readily available. Having a plan in place before an outage occurs can make a stressful situation easier to manage.

As we head into another Iowa winter, CCECA remains committed to serving our member-owners and the communities we call home. Whether it's a calm winter morning or a challenging winter storm, our employees are dedicated to keeping the power flowing.

No matter the forcast, you can count on CCECA to be working for you.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy

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CCECA LINEMEN COMPLETE POLE TOP RESCUE TRAINING

Safety is a top priority at Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA), and ongoing training plays an important role in ensuring our employees are prepared to respond in emergency situations.

Recently, CCECA linemen completed pole top rescue training led by Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) Safety Instructor Brett Hansen. This hands-on training provides linemen with an opportunity to practice the skills and procedures necessary to safely rescue a fellow lineworker in the event of an emergency while working on a utility pole.

During the training, linemen practiced rescue techniques designed to safely and efficiently lower an injured or unresponsive coworker from a pole to the ground, where additional medical assistance can be provided. These exercises help reinforce the importance of quick decision-making, proper equipment use, and teamwork in situations where every second counts.

Although pole top rescue situations are rare, being prepared is essential. Regular training allows our linemen to maintain their skills, build confidence, and ensure they are ready to respond if an emergency occurs.

This training also demonstrates our cooperative's commitment to Cooperative Principle No. 5 — Education, Training, and Information. By investing in continued education and hands-on training, CCECA helps ensure our employees have the knowledge and skills needed to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

At CCECA, our commitment to safety extends beyond the workday. We want every employee to return home safely to their family at the end of each day. Training opportunities like pole top rescue are an important part of making that goal a reality.







TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY

In celebration of National Cooperative Month, CCECA Communications Specialist/Administrative Assistant Menley Hildreth visited South Central Calhoun's TK students on October 16 to share an important lesson about electrical safety.

During the visit, Hildreth read *Cat and Duck Electric Safety*, a children's book that introduces young readers to the importance of staying safe around electricity. Through the story, students learned valuable electrical safety lessons in a fun and engaging way.

To continue the learning beyond the classroom visit, each student received a pack of crayons and an electrical safety coloring sheet to take home.

This activity was a great opportunity for CCECA to celebrate National Cooperative Month by providing educational opportunities to students at a young age. CCECA hopes to encourage safe habits and build a better understanding of electrical safety.

At CCECA, we believe that being a cooperative means more than providing reliable electricity. It also means investing in the communities we serve and helping educate the next generation. We appreciate the opportunity to visit with these young students and thank South Central Calhoun for welcoming us into their classroom!





CCECA EMPLOYEE ATTENDS NEW COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATORS ORIENTATION

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA) Administrative Assistant/ Communications Specialist Menley Hildreth recently had the opportunity to attend the New Cooperative Communicators Orientation hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The training provided attendees with a better understanding of the electric cooperative network and the important role communication plays in connecting cooperatives with their member-owners. Attendees gained valuable knowledge and resources to help effectively share their cooperative's story, communicate important information and strengthen member engagement.

The orientation also provided an opportunity to connect with fellow cooperative communicators, exchange ideas and learn about the unique challenges and opportunities involved in communicating within the electric cooperative industry.

CCECA is committed to providing employees with opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills. Trainings like this help our team continue to grow and better serve our member-owners.



November Member Challenge

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. **Send your answer to member challenge@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 December 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 September winners:
Marnie Hansch, Steve Hanson, and Alan Seil

1. Adjust your _____ heater setting to save energy.

2. Regular training allows our linemen to maintain their skills, build _____, and ensure they are ready to respond if an emergency occurs.

3. CCECA's Menley Hildreth read *Cat and Duck* _____ *Safety* to TK students.

Name _____

Reach Us

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Monday-Friday)

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-Th
7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. F
(Memorial Day-Labor Day)

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