

## Pole Top Rescues

For many of us, the mere thought of climbing anything higher than a simple two-step ladder is simply terrifying. Whether it be the risk of falling or the fear of heights that gets to us, we know that heights aren't meant for the faint at heart.

Recently, our linemen took part in their yearly "Pole Top Rescue" training. Each lineman was responsible for climbing, securing, and lowering a practice dummy weighing 180lbs to the ground from an electrical pole standing 40 ft in the air. The purpose of this training was to provide our linemen with the opportunity to practice their rescue techniques, provide feedback, and answer any questions or concerns that pertain to pole top rescues. Congratulations to each of our linemen for successfully completing this training.



*Lineman, Jared Kuhlers, lays out his pole climbing gear.*



*Lead Lineman, Doug LeMonds, mounts the practice dummy to the training pole.*



*Line Foreman, Reid Galloway, attempts the first Pole Top Rescue of the day.*

## Farm Safety Day



Farms everywhere are unique in that they serve a dual purpose. For adults, they are where heavy machinery is used to yield crops, raise livestock, and earn a modest living. For children, it's a playground where imaginations can run wild, clothes can get dirty, and childhood memories can be made. What children might not realize is that there are hazards that come with living on or being around a farm. Farm safety day is an opportunity to provide hands on learning experiences that teach our youth about the dangers and hazards that surround them each and every day. CCECA's Manager of Member Services & IT, Richard Hall, demonstrated how electricity works with the "Neon Leon" demonstration.



Did you know that there are currently 16.5 million U.S. Veterans? Of this 16.5 million, 325,000 of these veterans are alive today. Thank you for the sacrifices and contributions of those who have served and who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



In observance of the holiday, our office will be closed  
Nov. 23 & 24



# Playing it Safe Online

*Brought to you by: Richard Hall, Manager of Member Services & IT*

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identity, banking and health records and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to crisper air and Fall festivities, now is the time of year we recognize cybersecurity awareness. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, at Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, we use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders for our members-owners and across our team of employees.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, this month, I'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

1. **Implement multi-factor authentication** (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.
2. **Update your software.** This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.
3. **Think before you click.** Most successful cyber-attacks start with phishing emails. Don't take the bait when

cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

4. **Create strong passwords,** using long, unique, and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

## For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know early on, that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

## Keeping the electric grid and your data secure

We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues.

We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure. For example, we participate in NRECA's RC3 program, where co-ops in Iowa and around the country come together to share best practices and work to become as secure as possible.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone.



# Prepare Your Home for Old Man Winter

With the chill in the air, and fall in full swing, CCECA would like to remind its member-owners that Old Man Winter is just around the corner. As YOUR Electric Cooperative, we are devoted to restoring your power as quickly as we can. However, in the winter months, snow, ice, wind, and bitter cold conditions can affect our line crew's ability to restore your power as timely as they would like. To stay ahead of Old Man Winter,

we want to share some tips and tricks that you can do now that will help you this winter in the event that the power goes out.

1. Make sure your home is properly insulated.
2. Windows and doors should have weather-stripping around them



3. Caulk any gaps or cracks you might see while weather-stripping these areas.
4. Look at your tree limbs. If you have low laying branches, hire a professional to trim these branches so they don't become a potential source for a power outage this winter.
5. You should also have an emergency kit ready to go. The kit should include flashlights, a radio, batteries, nonperishable food, water, medicines, and extra blankets.

Preparing now will make a winter power outage less stressful to encounter and can ensure you will have what you need before the power goes out.

**Name: Doug LeMonds**

**Title: Lead Lineman**

**Years of Service: 16**

**Tell us about your family -**

I'm married to my wife, Amber and we have three children - Brenley, Kysen, & Kennan.

**Most Memorable Coop Memory -**

Ice Storm of 2010

**Where did you grow up?**

Doon, Iowa

**What Food could you eat Every Day?**

Pizza or Burgers



## Employee Spotlight

**Thank you for your Service & Commitment to the Cooperative!**



## Unclaimed Patronage – Help us find them!

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative needs your help! Our Cooperative is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividends. Below is a list of persons we are looking to locate. Those listed below may claim their property by contacting us at 712-297-7112. If a name is recognized but the person is now deceased, we need the name and address of the executor or nearest relative so we may contact them about this dividend. Thank you for your help!

Last, First Name	Last Known Address	Last, First Name	Last Known Address	Last, First Name	Last Known Address
American Tower Corp	Woburn, MA	Greif, Randy	Martelle, IA	Minnehan, Jason	Churdan, IA
AT&T	San Diego, CA	Gustofson, Graydon	Callender, IA	Minshall, Shannon	Lake City, IA
Austin, Phyllis	Rockwell City, IA	Habit 4 Farms LLC	Cherokee, IA	Moen, Jerry	Clive, IA
Baedke, Duane	Fort Dodge, IA	Hanssen, Michael D	Pomeroy, IA	Monroe, Nathan	Rockwell City, IA
Beck, Theresa	Eagle Grove, IA	Hickman, Alvin	Rockwell City, IA	Morwitzer, Robert	Fonda, IA
Blasey, Elaine	Waukee, IA	Hidden Valley Farms, Inc	Iowa Falls, IA	Olson, Josephine	Lake City, IA
Brend, James	Manson, IA	Hockemeier, Tracy	Winterset, IA	O'Tool, Jennifer	Carroll, IA
Brooklyn Farms, LLC	Iowa Falls, IA	Holly, Peter J	Rockwell, TX	Paredes, Onix	Fonda, IA
Bullock, Eric	Madison, WI	Holm, Wendy	Farnhamville, IA	Pedersen, Branden	St. Paul, MN
C & B Henn Family Farm	Manson, IA	Huschen, Roger	Humboldt, IA	Pliner, Sheila	Fort Dodge, IA
Clarken, John	Fort Dodge, IA	James Oil Co.	Altoona, IA	Porter, Tom	Auburn, IA
Combs, Jason	Hamstead, NC	Johnson, Jeff	Fort Dodge, IA	Potts, Rod	Lytton, IA
Cook, Gery D & Dorothy M	Fort Dodge, IA	Johnson, Matthew M	Gowrie, IA	Powell, Daniel & Angie	Lohrville, IA
Crown Farm Partners I, Inc	Iowa Falls, IA	Johnson, Rick	Sun City West, AZ	R.W. Swine Mgmt, Inc	Plano, TX
Crown Farm Partners III, INC	Iowa Falls, IA	Judy Ellis Trust	Rockwell City, IA	Richter, Bob	Sherril, IA
Crown Farms II INC	Iowa Falls, IA	Kime, Chris	Fayette, IA	Scott, Douglas R	Longmont, CO
Dewitt, Charles	Fort Dodge, IA	Krepela, Barbara K	Norfolk, NE	Sharn, Edward	Lytton, IA
Dfs	Nemaha, IA	Kruger, Kelly	Fort Dodge, IA	Sievers, Donald W	Slater, IA
Doster, Anthony C	Rockwell City, IA	Kuker, Jacob	Arcadia, IA	Smith, Nile J	Chariton, IA
Dytri, Bryn J	Surprize, AZ	Lange, Kenneth L	Fonda, IA	Spangler, Jerry	Eagle Grove, IA
Edythe Cavanaugh Estate	Solvang, CA	Lash, Michael	Humboldt, IA	Stickrod, David	Farnhamville, IA
Ellis, Anthony C	Ames, IA	Leflore, Carole G & Barry D	Sioux City, IA	Stringer, David	Fort Dodge, IA
Engeldinger, Roni	Fort Dodge, IA	Legrand, Kevin	Peru, IL	Underwood, Everett	Lehigh, IA
Estate, Randy Krug	Cedar Falls	Lh Ag Investments, Inc	Lagrange Pk, IL	Walter, Curt	Rockwell City, IA
Four Square Farms	Rockwell City, IA	Lois Dawson Estate	Rockwell City, IA	Walters, James L	Omaha, NE
Fredricksen, Bobbie	Armour, SD	Lynch, Daniel	Corona Del Mar, CA	Watkins, Vicki	Fonda, IA
Freiler Farms Partnership	Carroll, IA	Mcbride, Curtis	Coralville, IA	Welch's Clearview Acres	Fort Dodge, IA
Froisland, Floyd	Manson, IA	Mccartan, Travis	Rockwell City, IA	Welsh, Vincent	Kingman, AZ
Galaxy Farms, LLC	Iowa Falls, IA	Mcsherry, Val	Callender, IA	Wolter, Regina	Boone, IA
George, David	Pomeroy, IA	Mercia, Douglas & Shelley	Fort Morgan, CO	Zander, Jason	Dayton, IA
Gordon Erritt Estate	Manson, IA	Miller, Pat J	Rockwell City, IA	Zandt, John Van	Rockwell City, IA

# Meter Replacement Project Nears Completion

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that the meter replacement project that began last August is almost complete. It's been a long process but when it's all said and done, we will have replaced every one of the nearly 1,900 meters across our system. These new meters do more than just record kilowatt hours. They also monitor voltage levels, current, power quality, and can detect excess heat, which helps initiate preventative maintenance and can prevent a future outage. They differ from the traditional Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) units in that they provide a two-way communication between the meter and the Cooperative that will become more and more useful in the future.

The new meters provide regular reporting through short intervals throughout the day. This is a benefit to our members because it provides a better picture of how the members' home consumes energy throughout the day, and it offers members a tool to help manage their energy usage,

and if, for example, a member is noticing higher than average usage, they would be able to better correlate the usage to a time of day when they were home, entertaining, or perhaps charging an electric vehicle.

The benefits to our members are endless when it comes to the new metering technology, but the benefits don't stop here. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative also benefits from the implementation of the advanced meters in a big way. Unlike the previous meters, the new meters allow us to detect system disruptions more quickly due to the near real-time reports sent to us from the new meters. Detecting these disruptions early can help us to take corrective action before the member is impacted.

It's our goal as your Electric Cooperative to keep the lights on. We can do this by providing our member-owners with a safe, reliable, and responsible electric service at a fair price. Upgrading each meter to new technology is just one way we add value and show our commitment to each of our member-owners.



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

### Email:

[info@calhounrec.coop](mailto:info@calhounrec.coop)

### DIRECTORS:

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Vice President – Rockwell City  
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**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**

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## November Member Challenge

1. Who was required to participate in Pole Top Rescue training? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name one way to keep your family safe online. \_\_\_\_\_

3. What project is CCECA just about ready to complete? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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](http://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 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 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 September member challenge winners:  
Stephen Kral, Steve Albrecht, and Gerald & Marnie Hansch*