



## 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.



**Join us for our annual meeting and member appreciation event on  
Wednesday, September 10, 2025. You won't want to miss it!**

### Event Highlights

- Calhoun County Cattlemen grilling
- Stay Grounded Smoothies
- Refreshments
- Games
- Bounce House
- Live Line Display
- Gifts
- Door Prize Drawings

### Additional Information

Event will be held at our office:

1015 Tonawanda Street  
Rockwell City, IA 50579

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Short business meeting at  
6:30 PM for those interested.



# Iowa Co-op Members Experience Power Generation Firsthand on 36th Annual Energy Trail Tour

More than 130 electric cooperative member-owners from western and north-central Iowa embarked on an educational adventure this summer, participating in three motorcoach tours that showcased the journey from power generation to their homes and businesses. The 36th annual Energy Trail Tour season featured three motorcoach tours departing from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) in Le Mars, with tours scheduled June 18-20, June 25-27, and July 9-11.

The three-day educational experience took participants through the Dakotas to visit key facilities operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), the primary power suppliers for local distribution cooperatives through their generation and transmission partners NIPCO and Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

## Tour Destinations and Learning Experiences

### Oahe Power Powerhouse and Dam, Pierre, South Dakota, and Big Bend Powerhouse and Dam, Fort Thompson, SD

Participants explored hydroelectric generation at Missouri River facilities Oahe Dam and Powehouse (June tours) and Big Bend Dam (July tour), learning about the engineering marvels of the earthen dams that created Lake Oahe, America's fourth-largest reservoir (Oahe), and Lake Sharpe (Big Bend). The tours highlight how hydroelectric power plays an important role in an all-of-the-above energy generation mix.

### Antelope Valley Station

Members toured Basin Electric's coal-fired power plant, including the turbine deck, control room, and boiler areas, culminating with views from the 17th-floor observation deck. The visit showcased the value of coal-fired baseload generation and Basin Electric Power Cooperative's investments in environmental control technologies to reduce emissions.

### Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine

A drive-through tour of the active surface mine demonstrated lignite coal production and land reclamation efforts. Participants witnessed massive earthmoving equipment in operation at a facility that produces approximately 15 million tons of coal annually while reclaiming about 600 acres of mined land.

### Mobile Classroom

Travel on a motorcoach provides an excellent "over-the-road" opportunity to learn about other generation sources

and operations that produce valuable byproducts from the production of synthetic natural gas.

### Wind Generation Education

Participants learned about the role of wind power in America's diverse energy portfolio and its contribution to the country's all-of-the-above energy approach to securing safe, reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy production.

### Great Plains Synfuels Plant

Passengers learned how coal is converted into synthetic natural gas as well as produce valuable byproducts including anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, and diesel exhaust fluid through Basin Electric's Dakota Gasification Company subsidiary at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

### Cooperative Values in Action

Beyond the technical education, participants gained a deeper insight into the cooperative difference, learning about the history of rural electric cooperatives, the Seven Cooperative Principles, and Touchstone Energy's four service foundations: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community.

The tours combined education with fellowship, creating lasting memories while building appreciation for the complex process of delivering reliable electricity to the communities these cooperatives serve.

### Power Supply Information

Corn Belt Power has a purchase power agreement with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, along with an allotment from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), which markets power generated from the Missouri River Dam System.

Interested in participating next year? Contact our office to find out how you can learn more about the 2026 Energy Trail Tour.



CCECA members Dennis & Karen Bruns attended the June 18th-20th energy tour!



CCECA members Scott & Carla Pitstick attended the July 9th-11th energy tour!



## IOWA STATE FAIR FUN



On August 12, 2025 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association joined in on the fun at the Iowa State Fair!

Member Account Manager Rachel Sedlacek and Administrative Assistant/Communication Specialist Menley Cates worked the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth. They handed out hard hats and suckers to the kids while teaching them the importance of safety around power lines!

## CCECA PARTICIPATES IN THE PARADE



On Saturday, August 2, Energy Services Manager Curt Batta participated in the Sweet Corn Daze parade held in Rockwell City. It is always great to be involved in events happening in our communities!

## 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:

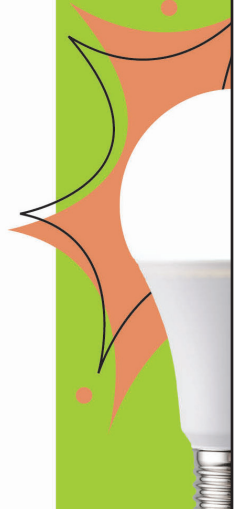
**Calhoun County Electric Cooperative**

1015 Tonawanda • PO Box 312 • Rockwell City, Iowa

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## ELECTRIC HEAT RATE

CCECA is preparing once again for the Electric Heat Rate to go into effect for its member-owners. Each October 1st to April 30th, the rate for electric heat changes from the summer rate of \$0.095/kWh to the winter rate of \$0.053/kWh. This is just another way your cooperative works for YOU during the heating months!

**SAY  
YES TO  
VOTING**

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER IN DISTRICT 4 OR DISTRICT 6 DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE IN THE 2025 CCECA DIRECTOR ELECTION.

BALLOTS WERE INCLUDED IN THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT.

TURN IN YOUR BALLOT BY  
6:15 PM ON 09/10/2025.



# The Value of Being a Cooperative Member

Being part of an electric cooperative means you're more than a customer—you're a member-owner. That difference matters. Unlike investor-owned utilities that focus on profits for shareholders, cooperatives exist solely to serve their members and their communities.

Membership gives you a voice and a vote. Each member has an equal say in electing the local board of directors, ensuring decisions are made close to home and with the community's best interests at heart. When the cooperative succeeds financially, members benefit through capital credit retirements, keeping money in the pockets of the people who helped build the co-op in the first place.

But the value goes beyond the bottom line. Cooperatives are rooted in the places they serve, living out their commitment to Concern for Community by supporting schools, local projects,

and programs that strengthen rural life. They also invest in education and innovation—offering energy-saving resources, promoting safety, and preparing for the future with new technologies.

When you're a cooperative member, you belong to something bigger. You're part of a system built on fairness, local control, and shared success. That's the cooperative difference—and it's worth celebrating.

Pictured below: CCECA's 11 dedicated employees who are here to serve you, our member-owners.



## 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 [member\\_challenge@calhounrec.coop](mailto: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](http://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 October 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:**  
**Peggy Loots, Scott Becker,**  
**& Dave Haberl**

1. Always keep equipment at least \_\_\_\_\_ feet from lines, in all directions.
2. A clean \_\_\_\_\_ means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills.
3. Membership gives you a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

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)

### CONTACT US 24/7:

**General Phone:**  
(712) 297-7112

**Toll Free:**  
(800) 821-4879

**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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Duane Beschoner,  
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Darcy Maulsby – Lake City  
Joe Parker – Lohrville  
Steve Pelz – Manson  
Keaton Hildreth, CEO



**Know what's below.**  
**Call before you dig.**

**CALL 811**  
**IOWAONECALL.COM**

### EASY WAYS TO PAY BILL:

**Online:** Access through [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop) and pay online 24/7.

**Mobile App:** Download our app

**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 Counter:**  
Rockwell City, IA

**U.S. Postal Mail**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.