



LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS THE IOWA YOUTH TOUR

Declan Spencer of Rockwell City recently participated in the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA). He joined 34 other student delegates from Iowa for the trip in June.

For more than 6 decades, electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students for Youth Tour, a leadership development program that helps young people discover their voice, build confidence and expand their understanding of civic engagement. While in Washington, D.C., students met with elected officials, explored historic landmarks and even operated their own student-led snack cooperative, gaining hands-on experience in teamwork, responsibility and leadership.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is a collaborative effort supported by locally owned electric cooperatives like Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, statewide trade associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Declan Spencer described the experience as unforgettable. "The Youth Tour was so amazing," Spencer said. "It was really cool to meet our elected officials and learn about politics up close. I also made new friends and experienced history firsthand. It made me think about what it means to be an American and showed me that people my age care about this country."

In addition to touring the nation's capital, 2,100 students from across the country gathered for National Youth Day, hosted by NRECA, where they heard from inspiring speakers and public figures. This year's program featured Mike Schlappi, a 4-time paralympic medalist and 2-time world wheelchair basketball champion, who shared a powerful message about perseverance and leadership: "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored students through Youth Tour with opportunities to meet members of their U.S. congressional delegation, participate in leadership and advocacy sessions and explore our nation's capital.

For more information about how to apply for CCECA's 2027 Youth Tour program, contact 712-297-7112 or visit www.iowaYouthTour.com. You can also find "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook or Instagram to see highlights from the 2026 trip.





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.



CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SUMMER OFFICE HOURS ARE ENDING

CCECA's summer office hours will end on Friday, September 4. Beginning Tuesday, September 8, our regular office hours will resume. We appreciate your cooperation with our summer hours and look forward to serving you during our regular schedule.

Regular Office Hours (Labor Day-Memorial Day)

8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday-Friday

Summer Office Hours (Memorial Day-Labor Day)

7:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday-Thursday

7:30 AM-11:00 AM, Friday

Our office will be closed on Labor Day, September 7, 2026.

ELECTRIC HEAT RATE SWITCHES TO WINTER SEASON

PROVIDED BY: CURT BATTA



The Electric Heat Rate season begins again with energy used starting on October 1, 2026. The rate will adjust from the current summer rate of \$0.0894/kWh to \$0.0594/kWh. This rate will be applied until April 30,

2027. The winter heat rate is just another way your cooperative works for YOU during the heating months. If you have questions about the Electric Heating Rate or are thinking about installing electric heat, contact our Energy Services Manager, Curt Batta for qualifications and available rebates.

IOWA CO-OP MEMBERS EXPERIENCE ENERGY TRAIL TOUR

More than 120 electric cooperative member-owners from western and north-central Iowa participated in this year's Energy Trail Tour, a three-day educational experience exploring how electricity is generated and delivered. The 2026 tours, departing from NIPCO's headquarters in Le Mars in late June and July, took participants through the Dakotas to visit key facilities operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). 2026 marks the 37th anniversary of the Energy Trail Tour as a three-day experience offered to members of the NIPCO and Corn Belt Power Cooperative systems.

Along the route, members explored a diverse energy mix, from hydroelectric generation at Big Bend Dam in Fort Thompson, South Dakota, to coal-based generation at Antelope Valley Station and lignite coal production at the Freedom Mine near Beulah, North Dakota. They also learned about wind energy and the production of synthetic natural gas and valuable byproducts at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in Beulah.

Beyond the technical learning, the tour reinforced the cooperative difference—highlighting the history, principles, and community focus that set electric cooperatives apart from other utilities.

Participants also enjoyed educational and entertaining stops that showcased non-energy points of interest throughout the Dakotas.

Sponsored by Iowa generation and transmission power cooperatives Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, the Energy Trail Tour connects members with the people, resources, and partnerships that power their homes, farms, businesses, and communities, offering a firsthand look at what it takes to keep the lights on. Interested in participating next year? Contact our office to find out how you can learn more about the 2027 Energy Trail Tour.



Pictured top to bottom: CCECA members Robert & Mic Peiffer, CCECA members Kent & Lou Ann Sandburg.

CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FINALIZES RLF LOAN

Congratulations to Bauer-Oswald, LLC on the recent closing of their Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan!

CCECA provided Bauer-Oswald, LLC with a \$50,000 loan to assist Steven Oswald and Warren Bauer as they purchase Manson Auto Parts and begin a new business venture together as father-in-law and son-in-law. Through their ownership, Steven and Warren look forward to continuing to serve Manson and the surrounding area while building upon an established local business.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association's Revolving Loan Fund is designed to support economic and community development by providing financing opportunities for local businesses and projects. Investments made through the RLF help encourage business growth, support local jobs, and strengthen the communities we serve.

CCECA is proud to support local entrepreneurs like Steven and Warren as they take this exciting step into business ownership. Keeping locally owned businesses strong plays an important role in the vitality of our rural communities, and we are pleased to be a part of their new venture.

We congratulate Steven, Warren, and their families and wish Bauer-Oswald, LLC continued success as they begin this next chapter at Manson Auto Parts!



Pictured L to R: Keaton Hildreth (CCECA), Steven Oswald, Nicole Oswald, Debra Bauer, Warren Bauer, and Stacy Cirks (CBPC).

CCECA NEWS

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, electric cooperatives exist to serve their members and the communities they call home.

As a member-owner, you have a voice and a vote in electing your local board of directors, helping ensure decisions are made locally and with members' best interests in mind. Members may also benefit from capital credit retirements when the cooperative is financially able, returning money to the people who helped build and support the cooperative.

But the cooperative difference goes beyond providing reliable electricity. CCECA is committed to strengthening the communities we serve by supporting local programs and projects, promoting safety and education, and investing in the future. It's all part of what makes the cooperative model unique—a system built on local control, shared success, and a commitment to the people we serve.

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



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 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/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:
Marie Kaufman, Becky Green,
and Scott Rasty

1. Declan Spencer joined _____ other students from Iowa on the Youth Tour trip.
2. Always keep equipment at least _____ feet from power lines, in all directions.
3. CCECA provided an RLF loan to assist Steven Oswald and Warren Bauer with the purchase of Manson _____ Parts.

Name _____

Reach Us

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

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7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. F
(Memorial Day-Labor Day)

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