

## Milk Made These Memories

By: Meagan Seele

Living in Northeast Iowa makes it easy to gain first hand knowledge of the extremes in the dairy industry. Take a short journey to the Amish community in northern Howard County and get a living history lesson in “the way it was.” Log-on to the Northeast Iowa Community College “web-cam” and instantly you are an eyewitness to the most modern dairy techniques in the mid-west. But if you would prefer a “real-time” education in how the dairy industry has evolved over the last 75 years, I would suggest a visit with Art and Leona Aegler of rural Cresco.

Long time Hawkeye REC members and family dairy farmers, Art and Leona can vividly describe what it was like to milk by hand with light provided by a kerosene lantern. In fact, Art, now 84, remembers details as precise as the name of the first cow he milked at the age of six. That was his start in a commitment to dairy production that lasted 60 years. Even so, Art was merely carrying on the tradition of dairying, which his grandparents brought with them to America from Switzerland. Art’s eyes twinkle as he remembers listening to his elders singing the old songs of their heritage to pass the long hours of early morning and late evening milkings.

“Bach” was the name of the first cow Art milked. Art and Leona married in 1939. They developed a herd of dairy cows as they began raising their family. Their diversified farm included about 20 Holstein cows. Art, Leona and Art’s parents would all milk to-

gether. The milkings took about 1 ½ hours with an additional ½ hour to separate the cream from the milk. Each individual cow produced about 50 pounds of milk per day. The feed ration for the cows was determined in relation to what each cow produced. The Aeglers first sold the cream to the Cresco Creamery. In later years, the milk was hauled to the Schley Cheese Factory.

What a glorious day it was in 1948 when electricity finally arrived at the Aegler dairy farm. Suddenly the routine of milking became quite different. Instead of sitting on a stool holding a stainless steel pail between his knees, “We could just sit and watch!” Art recalls with a smile. “But we also had to stay on our toes. If you left the machine on too long, it would hurt the cow and that in turn would hurt us.”

Another of Art and Leona’s favorite memories of getting electricity is the fact that they no longer had to carry a lantern everywhere, they could just flip a switch!

Whole milk was pasteurized and always plentiful at the Aegler’s meals. An interesting memory to Leona is the difference in the flavor of that milk as the seasons changed. “You could definitely tell the difference in



Art and Leona Aegler with Art holding a “very old friend,” his milk stool.



“We could just sit and watch!”  
Art recalls with a smile.

### Inside this issue...

<b>PAGE 2</b>
Manager’s Message
<b>PAGE 3</b>
Scholarships
<b>PAGE 4</b>
Electric Co-ops
<b>PAGE 5</b>
Get Charged
<b>PAGE 6</b>
Capital Credit/Website
<b>PAGE 7</b>
Recipes
<b>PAGE 8</b>
Dates to Remember

(Continued on page 4)

*"Our vision is to provide access to safe, dependable and affordable electric services."*



Tom Miller  
General Manager

## Commitment to Community Smoldering Overalls and Smoking Boot Soles

*Following is an editorial by Larry Wilkins, General Manager of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, concerning rural communities and economic development which I would like to share with the members.*

Grant Teaff, the legendary football coach of Baylor University in Texas, tells one of my favorite stories.

A west Texas oil well had caught fire. The resulting inferno threatened surrounding wells and a small rural community.

The owner of the well had flown world-famous oil field fire fighters in from Houston. However, all their expertise and technology failed to put out the fire.

About that time, the local volunteer fire department came roaring up the dirt road trailed by a huge dust cloud. The fire engine was an old hay truck with some makeshift wooden sideboards. They had brush-painted the whole thing a bright red and hung shovels, rakes, ladders and wet burlap bags all over it.

Much to everyone's surprise, that bunch of country boys never slowed down, but whizzed wide eyed and screaming like banshees right on through the crowd into the heart of the inferno.

Seconds later, amidst a whirlwind of furious shoveling and flying wet burlap sacks, the fire was out. The valiant fire fighters came high stepping through the smoke with bib overalls smoldering and boot soles smoking. The grateful owner immediately presented them with a \$20,000 contribution to the volunteer fire department. After appropriate back slapping and praising of their courage, the owner asked them what they were going to do with all that money.

The fire chief responded, "We're going to get the brakes fixed on that dadgum truck!"

Our rural communities continue to be threatened, not by fire, but by lack of economic opportunity along with a declining job base and population. Instead of expecting some distant hero to fly in and fix what's broke, we ought to use the tools we have available to us and fix it ourselves. The responsibility for all economic development begins and ends at home. If our communities are worth saving, it's up to you and me to do it.

The answers do not lie in Washington, D.C., the Iowa Legislature or the Governor's office. Government, universities and other like entities can provide us tools, but you and I must be willing to pick them up and use them.

There are genuine hometown heroes being created all over Iowa today simply because individuals have been willing to step forward and say, "I care and I will do those things necessary to make my community a better place." Good citizenship requires willing and able volunteerism.

Amazing things happen when enough people are willing to work together for mutual benefit...absent any concern about who gets the credit. If one whines that "nobody cares" then, by definition, it means you don't. If, on the other hand, you're the only one who cares...by definition, you will have to provide better leadership.

Fires don't get put out by people who refuse to jump on the truck. Communities don't get built or rebuilt by disinterested residents who stand around muttering, "somebody ought to do something."

I'd rather be standing among the folks with smoldering overalls and smoking boot soles. Wouldn't you?

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

There seems to be an ongoing concern regarding the rural communities in Iowa. From the regionalizing of airports to the closing of smaller community schools, legislators are always looking for answers. There will be no one solution to the problem. It needs to be a joint effort from everyone, you, me and Hawkeye REC!

Hawkeye strives in their commitment to rural communities and finding ways to improve the quality of life in the rural areas. These efforts have been through economic development, support of school and community activities, volunteering services and Hawkeye's latest venture, to provide affordable housing.

# Three \$500 scholarships awarded to area students

In a joint effort, Iowa State Senator Mark Ziemann and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives worked to allocate unclaimed patronage funds from electric cooperatives back to their communities. The funds are to be designated for area scholarships and for the promotion of economic development. Hawkeye REC realizes that our future is in the hands of our youth and strives in its efforts regarding commitment to community involvement and education.

The judges involved in the Hawkeye REC scholarship program started with a field of 30 applicants and faced the tough job of selecting the three winners. The scholarship judges are in no way connected with the Cooperative and chose winners from areas outside their own localities.

The 2003 scholarship winners included David Voves, Cassie Christensen and Angie George. Each received a \$500 one-year college scholarship.

David Voves is the son of Linus and Linda Voves of Ionia and attended New Hampton High School. Cassie Christensen is the daughter of Chris and Cindy Christensen of Riceville. She attended Riceville High School. Angie George is the daughter of Gerald and Susan George of Lime Springs and attended Crestwood High School.

The 2003 scholarship winners mark the first recipients of the Cooperative scholarship program.



Cassie Christensen



Angie George



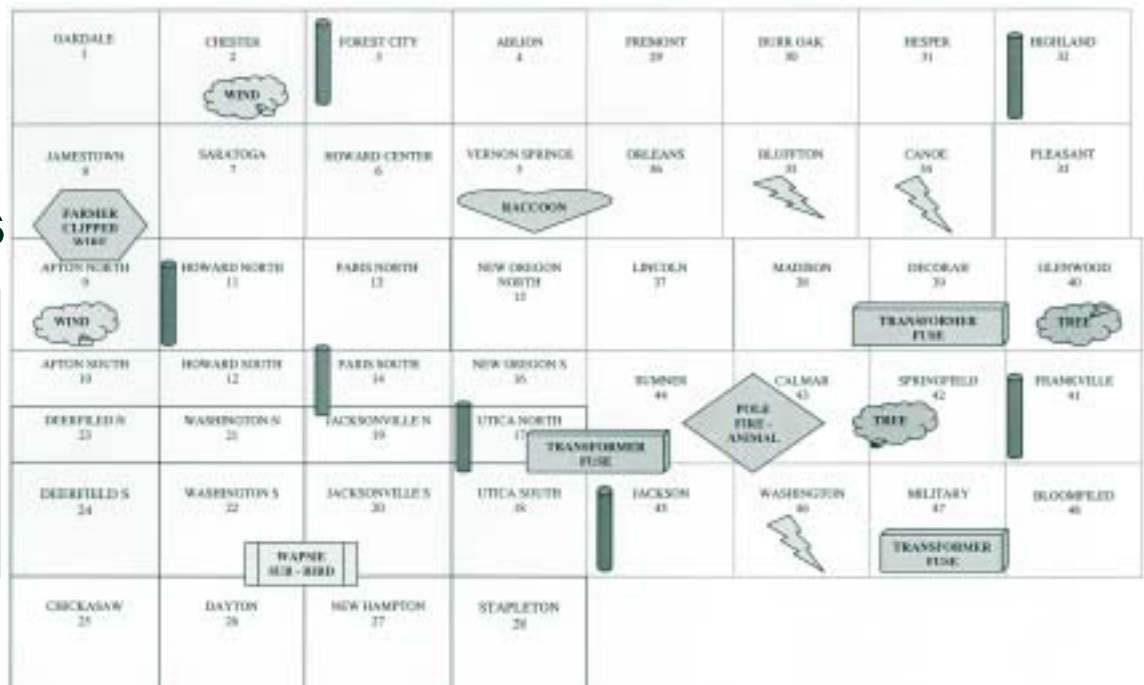
David Voves

## Operations Department...


### Map of Outages

Have you experienced an outage?

Shown here is a map of all outage causes for the month of May.



# What do 4<sup>th</sup> of July and electric cooperatives have in common?



**W**hen Benjamin Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence, he is credited with saying, “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

No wonder Franklin was also the founder of the first successful cooperative formed in the United States. He organized the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire in 1752.

The principles behind the Declaration of Independence that form the basis of American democracy are also the beliefs that form the basis of cooperatives.

A cooperative is owned and democratically controlled by the people who use its services. Each consumer-owner has one vote regardless of their equity in the company; that is, wealthy members can't buy more control and everyone has an equal say.

This is in contrast to investor-owned busi-

nesses where only shareholders have a vote in how the business is run; and even among shareholders, some have more votes than others depending on their shares of stock.

The Declaration of Independence also declared the equality of rights of its citizens and that people had the right to organize to secure their futures when their rights were infringed upon.

At the time the Declaration was written, democracy was a pretty untested idea-but the founders of our country were determined to make it work.

So when you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with your families and friends next month, think about those principles that inspired our Founding Fathers.

They also inspired the founders of rural electric cooperatives, who were determined to provide reliable, affordable power to secure the futures of their rural communities.

## Milk Made These Memories...

*(continued from cover)*

the taste when the ration for the cows changed with the seasons, but you soon grew accustomed to the subtle new flavor.”

Art quit farming when he was 74, but still enjoys watching and advising his grandson David as he farms the land and stays busy growing more than 1 ½ acres of sweet corn to share with his family and friends!

And should he get tired, he still has his old milk stool to sit on and recall “the way it was!”



*Since 1937, the dairy industry has set aside June as a time to pay tribute to the vital role milk and dairy products play in the American diet and the outstanding contribution of America's dairy farmers.*

# Hawkeye REC Provides Educational Resources to Local Schools

**H**awkeye REC is making it easier for area schools to teach about electricity and electric cooperatives. Through a partnership between Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Discovery Channel School, the co-op embarked on a campaign to ensure that middle and junior high school students in Hawkeye's territory in Howard, Winneshiek, and Chickasaw counties receive a quality education on electricity--its beginnings to its importance in today's world. By streamlining the vast amounts of information on electricity and the important role cooperatives played in bringing this commodity to rural America, students are able to easily digest the lesson plans in this educational campaign.

Through this community outreach program--called *Get Charged! Electricity and You--* Hawkeye provides middle and junior high schools with a comprehensive kit of educational materials focusing on electricity, a component of the National Academy of Science's National Science Education Standards (NSES). While individual states differ in their implementation and assessment of standards, they often base those for science topics on the NSES. Developed by teachers, scientists, science educators, and other experts, the standards for grades K-12 describe what students should understand and be able to do in various science categories.

"Providing our local schools with an effective educational resource on electricity and the vital efforts rural electric co-ops put forth in bringing power to the people all across America exemplifies our commitment to community," said Tom Miller, General Manager. "By investing in our local students' education, we ensure that our customers, both households and businesses, can continue to

count on us to provide them with more than just electricity," he said.

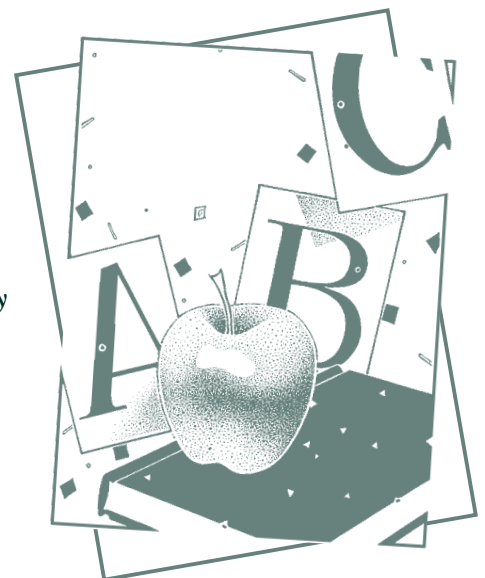
Each *Get Charged!* kit contains the following educational materials:

- ◆ Poster for classroom use
- ◆ Two Videos:
- ◆ *Understanding: Electricity*
- ◆ Touchstone Energy's *Our Story*
- ◆ Interactive CD-ROM featuring electricity
- ◆ Lesson Plan: *Get Power - The Cooperative Way*
- ◆ 10-Student Activity Books
- ◆ Electricity Teachers Resource Guide
- ◆ Customizable letter to parents and schools explaining the educational program



*"Our involvement in Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' partnership with Discovery Channel School allows us to participate with the many other electric co-ops committing educational resources to the schools co-ops serve."*

**--TOM MILLER**



# Notice of Estate Capital Credit Changes

**H**awkeye REC's Board of Directors recently adopted some changes concerning capital credits. We are now able to settle estates on a discounted basis.

We will be paying out estates on a first come, first serve basis up to an amount set by Hawkeye's Board of Directors. Once the limit has been met for the current year, we will keep a list of members and they will be reviewed for settlement the following year

with the newly allocated funds set by our board.

If you are in the process of closing an estate you may want to take advantage of the new policy in order to get all of their affairs settled.

The process requires some paperwork along with proof that you are the executor of the estate. If you have any questions or concerns about the adopted change, please call Hawkeye REC at 1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801 and ask for Ruth.

## Check out our Website



Hawkeye REC has added more informative links to our website to give our visitors a wealth of resource information about services and issues that are most pertinent to our members.

**Online Energy Audit** - Find out how many kilowatts your home appliances use per month and find out how much it costs to run those appliances. *New*

**Upcoming Events** - Information concerning future events and activities at Hawkeye REC. *New*

**Member Profiles** - Find out more about other Hawkeye REC members and what makes them and their businesses unique. Upcoming profiles include LeRoy Iron & Metal and the 'Summer' birds, Francis and Ardelle Myran.

**E-Bill** - Get signed up today for this free service and we'll give you a secure password you can use to log on and look at your current or past bills, compare usage history month by month or even pay your bill and enter meter readings. Call our office or sign up online.

**Visit us today!**  
[www.hawkeyerec.com](http://www.hawkeyerec.com)

**HTEC News** - Log on to view our latest issue of the REC News and our Inside Wire. The website also includes past recipes and other noteworthy articles of interest for our members.

**Energy Briefs** - Weekly energy saving tips.



Father's Day, June 15  
Don't forget to call Dad.

# Recipes...

## Marshmallow Cream Cheese Dip

8 oz. Cream Cheese, softened  
7 oz. Marshmallow cream

Fresh, large whole strawberries  
Whip cream cheese and marshmallow cream on medium speed with electric mixer until fluffy.  
Serve as dip for strawberries

Julie Kipp  
Ossian, IA

## Diabetic Fresh Strawberry Sherbet

1/3-cup Apple juice concentrate OR fruit and berry concentrate  
1-teaspoon Lemon juice  
1/2 cup Water  
5 cups Fresh strawberries

Wash and stem berries. In a blender or food processor combine concentrate, water and lemon juice. Add half the berries. Cover and blend until smooth. Add remaining berries and continue blending until smooth. Put in freezer container and freeze.



## Rhubarb Strawberry Cobbler

A delicious comfort desert. You can also use frozen fruit- thaw before using.

### Filling:

1 ¼ cups white sugar  
3 tablespoons flour  
1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon

6 cups coarsely chopped fresh rhubarb  
3 cups sliced fresh strawberries

### Topping:

1 ½ cups flour  
3 tablespoons white sugar  
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder  
½ teaspoon baking soda

¼ teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons butter  
1 cup buttermilk

### Directions:

Filling: In a large bowl combine sugar, flour and cinnamon. Add rhubarb and strawberries and toss to coat. Spread in a 9 X 13-inch baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees F for 10 minutes.

### Topping:

In medium bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles small peas. With a fork, stir in the buttermilk to form a soft dough. Drop dough by tablespoon over the hot filling. Make 12 mounds. Bake at 400 degrees F for about 25 minutes, until topping is golden brown and has risen.

Send us your favorite recipe. If we print your recipe in our newsletter you'll receive \$5 off your next electric bill.

July- Picnic/Potluck  
August- Fresh from the Garden Recipes



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### BILLING CYCLE DATES

- June 21** Hawkeye REC processes bills for members electing to pay their electric bill automatically with credit card.
- June 28** Hawkeye REC processes bills for members electing to pay their electric bill automatically through electronic transfer from their bank account.
- June 30** Member reads meter and mails meter card to Hawkeye REC
- July 1** Bills become delinquent.
- July 10** Hawkeye REC prints bills based on May 31 meter card reading.
- July 11** Bills are mailed to members from Dairyland in LaCrosse.

### OTHER EVENTS

- June 27** Hawkeye REC Board Meeting

## Hawkeye REC

Box 90 - Cresco, Iowa 52136  
1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801  
www.hawkeyerec.com

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(Closed Sat., Sun., & Holidays)

### OUTAGES

**1-800-927-5265**

### IOWA STATE ONE CALL

**1-800-292-8989**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Fisher, President - Lawler  
Dean Nierling, Vice President - Burr Oak  
Dennis Ptacek, Secretary/Treasurer - Elma  
Francis Massman - Decorah  
Norman Dickman - Decorah  
John Hockspeier - Alta Vista  
Janelle Mahr - Lime Springs  
Roger Nibaur - Elma  
Charles Frana, Calmar

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Pat Boyle, Business Dev./Mbr. Serv. Manager  
Dolores Donlan, Electric Billing Supervisor  
Peggy Berg, Chief Financial Officer  
Jim Murphy, Information Tech. Manager

### EDITOR

Cindy Christensen



*The Power Is Yours*

*How A Co-op Works For You.*



## CRIME FIGHTER. ROADSIDE MECHANIC. TRAFFIC DIRECTOR. TOURISM PROMOTER. OH, AND ELECTRIC CO-OP LINE WORKER.

You'd think our line crews would have enough to do. With storms and lightning strikes. Downed power lines. Equipment repair. And delivering service to new customers. But line crews have never been the kind of people who let their job description describe all of what they do. That's why they've been known to report crimes in progress. Repair tires for senior

citizens. Direct traffic around accidents. Even guide visitors to hotels and local attractions. You see, our line crews are committed to bringing you the best electric service possible. But they're also committed to this community. And to doing whatever it takes to make life here just a little better. The result is often someone we can all look up to.



*The Power Is Yours*

Hawkeye REC  
Box 90  
Cresco, Iowa 52136

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