

Storm Safety Awareness

Commitment to Community

In a continued effort to promote the safety of our area communities, Hawkeye recently distributed weather radios to Hruska's Canoe Livery in Kendallville and Harvest Farm Campground in Harmony, MN. The weather radios monitor all U.S. emergency hazards and EAS weather bulletins, warnings and forecasts, offer 24-hour NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather forecasts and warnings including tornado and storm alerts for local areas.

These weather radios were received through a statewide grant program. This is one way Hawkeye REC can help ensure our members and their families safety in the event of an emergency while enjoying outdoor activities during the spring and summer months.



Hawkeye REC employee Karen Pecinovsky distributes a weather radio to Duane Hruska of Hruska's Canoe Livery in Kendallville.



Employee Karen Pecinovsky gives David A. Ferrie, manager of Harvest Farm Campground, a weather radio as a safety incentive.

For more safety tips and how to report an electrical outage turn to pages 4 and 5...

Notice to Area Landlords

Hawkeye is updating all electric accounts by including the landlord's address and phone number. If you rent property with electric service to someone please call our office and we will add your name and information to the account.



Inside this issue...

PAGE 2
Manager's Message
PAGE 3
Pole Testing Program
PAGE 4
Electrical Safety Month
Iowa One Call
Welcome New Members
PAGE 5
Reporting an Outage
PAGE 6
Youth Tour
C-Band Notice
Outage Map
PAGE 7
Recipes
PAGE 8
Students Tour Hawkeye
Dates to Remember

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



*Tom Miller
General Manager*

An Apple a Day

You have heard the old adage, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." We've made applesauce of this saying at Hawkeye REC. Our saying goes, "An apple a day keeps the Outages away!"

Since the early 1990's, we have been testing our utility poles. This annual expense costs about \$55,000 to \$80,000 per year depending on the amount of poles tested. We have found about 2,100 rotten poles throughout our entire system. And since, we have

replaced these poles at a cost of nearly \$1,230,000 or about \$600 per pole. "We think this is better than having to replace a whole line section after the poles have broken off and the members have experienced an outage," says Board Chairman Dean Fisher. Fisher added jokingly, "Our staff recommended a wellness program several years ago but I didn't realize we were talking about utility poles." Below is our story about our pole testing program and keeping the outages away.

Pole Testing Program

Ameripole working in Howard County

The utility pole is the backbone of the above-ground electric distribution system. Every year this backbone gets a checkup to make sure the poles are in good condition.

Ameripole Inspection Company of Marshalltown, IA is hired to check, evaluate and treat utility poles in Hawkeye's service territory. This process can extend the service life of a pole by 10 to 12 years. The inspection is done on poles that are currently in service and is designed to locate poles that have deteriorated to the point where they no longer have the strength to support the wires or load they have to bear.

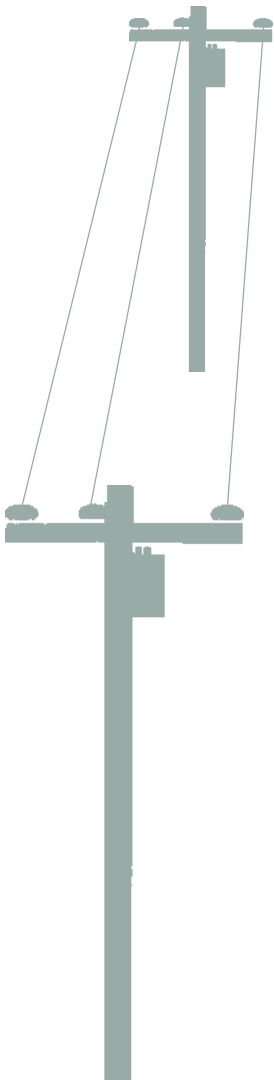
The major benefits of pole inspections are:

- ▼ Increased safety: Replacement of hazardous poles
- ▼ Service & Reliability: Reduces unplanned outages
- ▼ Economics: Treatment increases service life of poles



Izaak Parker of Winona, MN is responsible for inspecting and treating poles in Hawkeye's service territory. The procedure includes many steps in order to properly check each utility pole. See page three to see some of the steps that Izaak goes through to inspect and treat poles.

Ameripole Inspection Company was started in 1999 and provides pole inspection services to electric co-ops in Iowa and Southern Minnesota.



The Pole Testing Process



First Izaak visually checks the poles for external damage caused by woodpeckers, lightning or weathering.



Then he removes the soil around the pole to a depth of 18 inches to inspect the pole's base and check the exposed wood for rot or fungal disease, which is scraped away.



If the pole is in good condition, Izaak plugs the drilled hole with a dowel treated with wood preservative.



Next, Izaak taps the pole with a hammer both above and below ground to "sound" the pole. The quality of sound indicates whether the pole is solid or might have a soft center caused by internal decay. This determines whether the pole should remain in service or be replaced.



If needed, he treats the exposed pole's base with a wood preservative and wraps it with a moisture-proof barrier before replacing the soil.



He then uses an 18-inch drill bit to drill a three-eighths-inch hole into the center of each pole to access areas of possible damage or weakness.



A small, round aluminum date tag is attached to each pole that passes inspection located at eye level indicating the year of inspection and treatment. Any pole that needs to be replaced is marked with a square, red tag.

May is Electrical Safety Month Keep your family safe!

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN: When children play outside, make sure they know they should never fly a kite in the rain or near power lines, use metal on a kite or climb a utility pole.



STORM ALERT: Remember that during spring storm season, wind, rain and lightning can bring down trees and power lines. If you see a fallen power line, don't touch it, call your local electric cooperative immediately.

OUTAGE STEPS: If you lose power to your home during a spring storm, check your fuses or circuit breakers first, and then call your local electric cooperative if necessary. Use caution stepping outside your home during a power outage. A fallen power line may be just outside your door or may be hidden by brush or debris. Use extra caution picking up metal debris.

gas, water and cable lines are located on your property. Build time into your plans and call at least 48 hours before you dig.

AVOID WATER: Never use electric mowers or power tools in rainy or wet weather or use an electric mower on wet grass. Keep outdoor outlets and electrical products covered and dry between uses and store power tools away from water. Make sure electrical appliances do not come into contact with water - such as falling into a bathtub, sink, pool or pet dish. If an appliance does fall into water, unplug it before reaching to retrieve it.

INSTALL GFCIs: Any outlet, appliance or electrical circuit that can come into contact with water should have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which will stop the flow of electricity if a short circuit occurs. GFCIs are inexpensive and are available in several forms, including portable plug-ins that can be attached to any appliance.

WORK OUT FROM OUTLET: When using electrical mowers, hedge trimmers or other tools, begin work near the outlet and work away from it so the cord will always be behind you. Keep the cord out of the tool's path by draping it over your shoulder. Make sure the extension cord is approved for outdoor use.

Breaking The Law In Your Own Backyard?

If you're planning any digging or excavating, Iowa law requires that you contact Iowa One Call 48 hours in advance. We'll see to it that your underground utilities are marked first - so you can dig safely!

Using Iowa One Call is fast, it's free, it's the law!

IOWA ONE CALL

Call Before You Dig!
1-800-292-8989
www.iowaonecall.com

A Public Service Announcement of Iowa One Call

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG: Spring is a time for gardening, landscaping and other construction projects and no one can ever be certain where or if underground electrical, natural

Welcome

Hawkeye REC welcomes New Members

Sam Sadler	Ossian, IA	Clint Hayen	New Hampton, IA
Lee & Brenda Pecinovskiy	Cresco, IA	Sherry Schrick	Decorah, IA
Sunny Ridge RLLP	Lime Springs, IA	Marilyn Freidhod	Decorah, IA
Ricky & JoAnn Wangen ...	Lime Springs, IA	Lynette Storkey	Cresco, IA
Van G. Miller		Lauren Storla	Decorah, IA
& Associates, Inc.	New Hampton, IA	William Holland	Ridgeway, IA
Kyle Wedel	Chester, IA	Holly Halverson	Decorah, IA
Decorah Properties	Decorah, IA	Tara Kleiner	Decorah, IA
Amber Larson	Lime Springs, IA	David Clark	Decorah, IA
Craig Borlaug	Lawler, IA	Robert Burrichter	Ossian, IA

Reporting an Electrical Outage

With springtime, we can often expect a storm or two headed our way. Even though we can't prevent a storm from coming, we can be prepared. If your power goes out, you can refer to these simple tips.

- ◆ Check your fuse or breaker box for blown fuses or tripped circuits. If they are okay, check to see if your neighbors are without power.
- ◆ Call Hawkeye immediately to report the outage. If it is not during regular business hours, call 1-800-927-5265. It would be helpful if you can provide the following information when you call.
 - What is your service location number?
 - Is a power line down?
 - Did a tree limb fall on a power line?
 - Is there any damage to the utility pole?
- ◆ Turn off all electrical equipment, including your water heater, electric furnace or heaters, stove, washer and dryer, stereo, TV and computer to help prevent overloading the system when the power is restored. Major appliances can be turned off at the breaker box. Leave one light on so you and Hawkeye crews know when service is restored.
- ◆ Listen to the radio (battery-powered) for updates on major storm outages. Make sure you have a flashlight and fresh batteries.
- ◆ If your neighbor's power comes back on but yours does not, call the Cooperative again.
- ◆ If your lights are very dim or bright once power is restored, turn off the power at the breaker or fuse box and call the Cooperative.
- ◆ If you or a family member require life support equipment such as a respirator, make sure Hawkeye knows about these needs. Have a backup source of power ready if the power does go out. Keep your backup generator in good condition and test it periodically.

Check my Breaker?

For those of you who are wondering what a breaker is and where you can find it, here is a brief explanation with photos.

A circuit breaker or fuse is a device located in the disconnect box, usually located on the meter pole. This device is designed to interrupt the flow of power for safety reasons, usually due to power surges or short circuits. The breaker protects the members' and the cooperatives' equipment from damages.

If you are not sure where your breaker or disconnect switch is located please contact the Cooperative and when we are in your area, we would be glad to stop and show you. Knowing where your switch is could save someone's life in an emergency situation!

The power of human connections

Below are photos of the different locations and types of disconnect switches.



Hawkeye Marketing Representative Wayne Kirkeby pointing out the disconnect switch. On this type of device you reset it by pushing the switch to opposite position (off) and back again (on).



Remote switch for a pole top disconnect device. To reset, pull the lever down to the off position and push back up to the on position.



This is a fuse block device where you pull the handle which removes the block where you may need to replace the cartridge type fuses.

John Karels to represent Hawkeye on 2004 Youth Tour



John Karels, Ionia.

John Karels, a sophomore from Nashua-Plainfield High School, was named the 2004 Youth Tour winner. John will join nearly 1,300 other students from across the nation for a week, June 12-17 in Washington D.C. John will have the opportunity to visit several national monuments, visit with local legislators and learn about electric cooperatives.

John is the son of Hawkeye members Steven and Jane Karels of Ionia.

Hawkeye would like to thank all the students who entered the contest. The Youth Tour program is a great opportunity for local youth and Hawkeye is proud to sponsor this program.

NOTICE: C-Band TV Subscribers

The following channels have gone digital and are no longer available on c-band.



Disney – West G1-7
 Lifetime – West F3-4
 Discovery Channel – West G5-12
 The Travel Channel - F4-13
 Fox : Movies from Fox W7-07

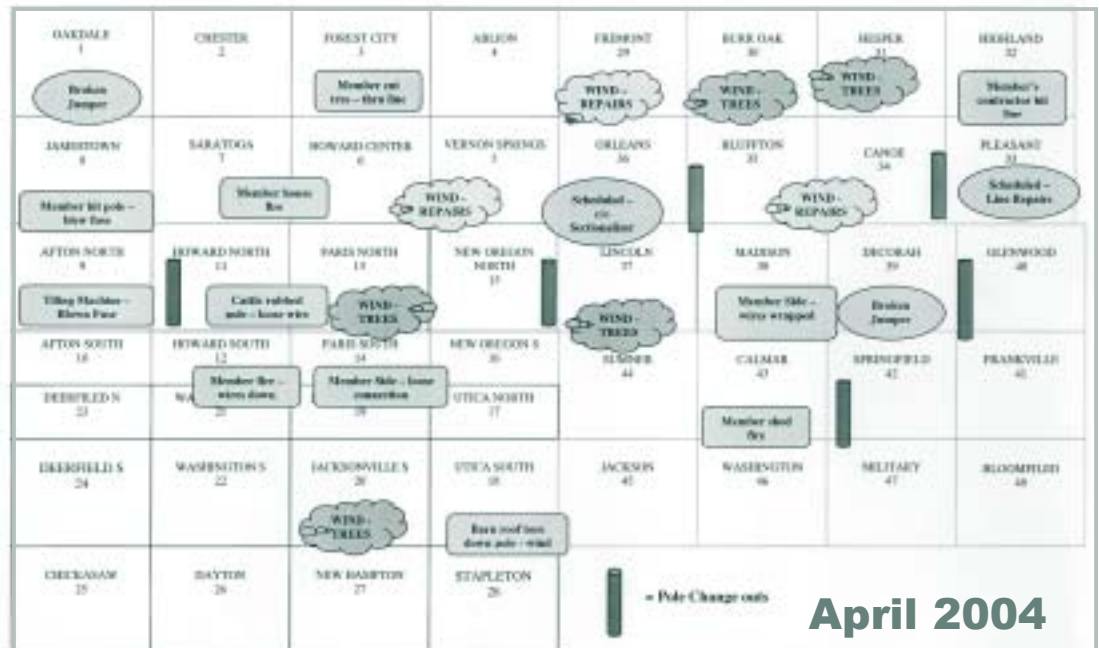
ESPN News G0-21
 A&E West G9-23
 Animal Plant F4-15
 History Channel West F4-6
 Game Show Network G7-6

HBO East 2
 HBO West 2
 HBO Signature East
 and MoreMax East
 CNBC (moved to W3-22)

Map of Outages

Have you experienced an outage?

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



April 2004

Recipes...

Start the summer off right with fresh asparagus, spinach and rhubarb!

Rhubarb Strawberry Crunch

1 cup all-purpose flour	1 pint fresh strawberries, halved
1 cup packed brown sugar	1 cup sugar
¾ cup quick-cooking oats	2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	1 cup water
½ cup butter or margarine	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 cups sliced fresh <i>or</i> frozen rhubarb	Vanilla ice cream, optional

In a bowl, combine the first four ingredients; cut in butter until crumbly. Press half into an ungreased 9 in. square baking pan. Combine rhubarb and strawberries; spoon over crust. In a saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch. Stir in the water and vanilla; bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Pour over fruit. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Serve with ice cream if desired.

Yield: 9 servings



Spinach Casserole

5 cups of chopped spinach
¼ lb. grated cheddar cheese
3 eggs, beaten
1 (8 oz.) carton cottage cheese
½ stick butter
3 tbsp. flour

Cook spinach and drain. Melt butter, add cheese and flour. Beat eggs separately. Add butter mixture, then egg mixture to cooled, drained spinach. Bread crumb mixture may be put on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Michelle Reicks - Charles City, IA

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



June- Early Garden Recipes
July - Cool and Refreshing Recipes



Asparagus Quiche

1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed	1 ½ cups milk
1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)	4 eggs, beaten
3 tablespoons butter or margarine	½ cup shredded Swiss cheese
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour	¼ cup dry bread crumbs
½ teaspoon salt	

Cut eight asparagus spears into 4-in. pieces; cut remaining spears into ½-in. pieces. Cook all of the asparagus in a small amount of water until crisp-tender; drain and set aside. Line the unpricked pastry shell with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Bake at 450 degrees for 5 minutes. Remove foil; bake 5 minutes longer. Remove from the oven and set aside. In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter; stir in flour and salt. Gradually add milk; cook and stir until thickened. Stir in a small amount into eggs; return all to pan. Stir in cheese and the ½-in. asparagus pieces. Pour into crust. Sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake at 400 degrees for 35 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Arrange the 4-in. asparagus pieces in a spoke pattern on top.

Yield: 6-8 servings

DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- May 21** Automated payments by credit cards are processed.
- May 23** Member reads meter and records on payment voucher. Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of June.
- May 28** Automated payments from checking accounts are processed.
- June 1** Bills become delinquent.
- June 10** Hawkeye REC prints bills based on May meter reading.
- June 11** Bills are mailed to members from Dairyland in LaCrosse.

OTHER EVENTS

- May 28** Hawkeye REC Board Meeting
- May 31** Memorial Day Holiday-office closed

Students Tour Hawkeye

Eighteen students from the NICC Animal Production Class from Crestwood High School toured Hawkeye on April 30th as part of their Northeast Iowa Tour of Cooperatives. The coop tour is a program funded by a grant from Crestwood High School Cooperative Education Foundation and by the Iowa Farmers Union Education Foundation.

The students spent the day traveling around Northeast Iowa touring and learning about different cooperatives. They started the day at Swiss Valley Dairy Co-op processing plant in Luana followed by the Northeast Iowa Farmers Co-op in Elgin. During lunch in Decorah the students listened to speaker Michael Nash, coordinator of Grown Locally community farming cooperative. The students ended the day at Hawkeye where they were presented information about the history of the cooperative, the advantages and challenges of the cooperative form of business, elec-

tric industry careers, followed by a tour of Hawkeye's facilities.

This was a great opportunity for these high school students to gain a better understanding of how cooperatives work.



The Power Is Yours

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

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