

## National Electrical Safety Month May is Our Month

**F**or your electric cooperative, May is National Electrical Safety Month. That's why we put safety messages on area radio stations, in our newsletter and website. And just because electrical safety is observed during the month of May, it is important to use these precautions all year long.

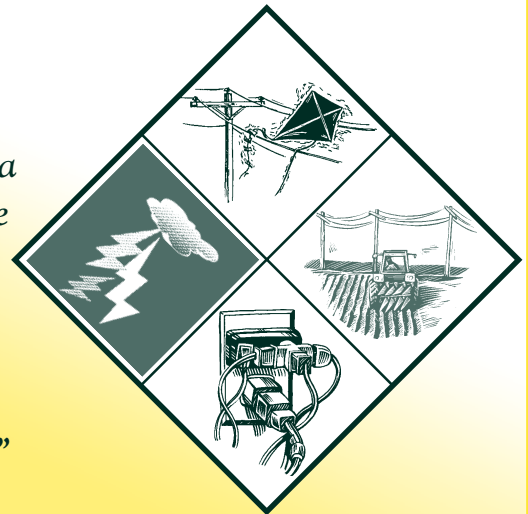
### Take Time to Think

#### What to do when making contact with a power line

If farm machinery or moving equipment comes in contact with a power line, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to de-energize the line.

If this is not possible, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.

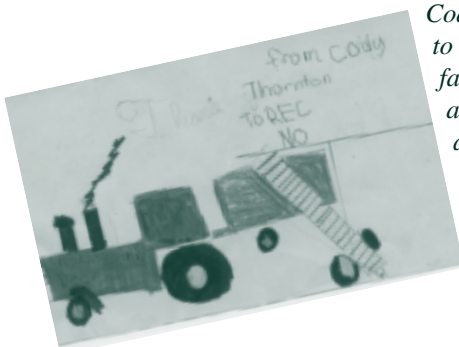
*“Please be careful, it only takes a few extra minutes to make sure your environment—at home, at work, outdoors—is electrically safe.”*



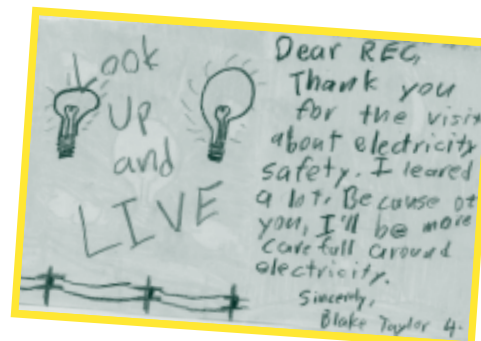
*Hawkeye employees Brad Dull and Mike Girolamo conducting an electrical safety presentation for ‘Safety Day’ at the Decorah Fairgrounds for more than 250 students.*

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*Cody Thornton knows to be careful with farm equipment around power lines after participating in the electrical safety presentation at his school.*



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



*Tom Miller  
General Manager*

## **Railroad Surcharge** **Captive Rail Service**

**W**e have been receiving notes from some of our members regarding the railroad surcharge on the electric bill. Recently, we (a delegation of Iowa REC leaders) went to Washington, D.C. lobbying our Iowa legislators for help on the captive rail issue. We presented Congressman Latham and Senators Grassley and Harkin with letters from our membership and the notes sent in with your monthly payments asking for legislative relief.

One particular note expressed a member's concern about Hawkeye REC passing this cost on to the membership and the member has to bear the burden. It is notes like this that have the greatest impact on our legislators. We were able to place our members faces front and center as the legislators constituents.

Until recently, our legislators viewed this issue as a business to business issue, not a constitu-

ents issue. We were able to use your letters to make this a constituents issue.

It appears that the legislators have been apprehensive to take any action. The rail roads are a very powerful business. As a legislator, being stuck between the rail roads and the utilities presents a no win situation for them. We have found the agricultural and chemical industries to be key allies in this debate as things heat up.

Senator Harkin's staff seemed the most interested in the captive rail issue. Not only does the captive rail issue affect the delivery of coal, but it will also hamper the delivery of ethanol to market as well. Senator Harkin is championing ethanol expansion and does not want product delivery to squelch the current momentum. The ethanol industry may be another favorable ally.

We were told that there will not be a quick fix to this issue. This means we need your continued support through letters, emails, and faxes to our legislators asking for relief. Please speak to the urgency of this matter as time is money, your money.



*Member letters being hand delivered to Senator Grassley.*

### **These are your Legislators:**

#### **Federal Senator**

Senator Charles Grassley (Republican-IA)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
Phone: (202) 224-3744  
Fax: (202) 224-6020  
WebSite: <http://grassley.senate.gov/>  
E-Mail : <http://grassley.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Home>

#### **Senator Tom Harkin (Democrat-IA)**

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
Phone: (202) 224-3254  
Fax: (202) 224-9369  
WebSite: <http://harkin.senate.gov>  
E-Mail : <http://harkin.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

#### **Federal Representative**

Representative Tom Latham (Republican-04)  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5476  
Fax: (202) 225-3301  
WebSite: <http://www.house.gov/latham/>  
E-Mail : [tom.latham@mail.house.gov](mailto:tom.latham@mail.house.gov)



*Members at Annual Meeting signing letters to legislators.*

*Together, we have the power to make a difference*

## **Electric Cooperatives Join Together at Capitol Hill**

**E**lectric cooperatives from across the nation met in Washington D.C. to discuss pending federal issues affecting electric cooperatives and their members. High rail charges affecting coal delivery and the need to extend incentives for clean renewable energy were key topics.

Electric cooperatives make an impact on legislative outcomes when they pull together like this. Certainly, the presence of over 3,000 cooperative representatives on Capitol Hill all calling for the same thing can make a difference.

The Iowa delegation had considerable discussion with lawmakers about clean renewable energy bonds and the captive rail issue. With the Clean Energy Bonds legislation before Congress, the cooperatives are seeking expansion and extension of existing renewable energy incentives to help finance qualified renewable and clean coal energy projects. Senator Grassley has led the way for Iowans on this issue, by sponsoring legis-

lation on clean energy bonds.

The Iowa cooperatives met at length with Senators Grassley and Harkin; Congressmen Latham, King, Boswell and Leach; Joe Wheeler with Con-



*Senator Harkin with REC delegation.*

gressman Nussle's office and Lloyd Ritter and Richard Bender from Senator Harkin's office.

The Iowa delegation has always been very supportive of the co-ops and seemed to respond well to this year's messages.



*Congressman Leach discussing the captive rail issue.*

**“Certainly, the presence of over 3,000 cooperative representatives on Capitol Hill all calling for the same thing can make a difference.”**





# Katy Praska wins trip to Washington D.C.



Katy Praska

**K**aty Praska, a junior from New Hampton High School, won an exciting and educational fun filled week of adventure at Hawkeye REC's Youth Tour. Katy is the daughter of Hawkeye members Chris and Pat Praska of New Hampton. She will join 40 students from Iowa along with 1,200 students from all over America June 10-15. These students are sponsored by their local rural electric cooperatives. Shilo

leaders and see our government in action. They will also tour historic sites, cruise the Potomac, explore the Smithsonian museums, and make new friends from Iowa and across the nation. The students will learn first hand about our government and its history, their responsibilities as citizens, and how they work together. Upon returning from the Youth Tour, students are filled with inspiration and better understand how cooperative efforts keep our country great.

Katy will have a chance to apply for the Youth Leadership Council that helps plan various rural electric meetings and activities. One student from among Iowa's ambassadors will be selected to serve on the Youth Leadership Council. It's a perfect opportunity to travel, work with REC leaders from across the country and enhance leadership skills.

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Des Moines based service organization for the state's RECs, coordinates the Youth Tour.



Leff, a sophomore from Riceville High School was chosen as the runner-up. She is the daughter of Dallas and Evelyn Leff.

The students will explore Washington, D.C., spend a day on Capitol Hill, meet our congressional

Youth Tour finalists from left: Justine Kuboushek from South Winneshiek High School, 2006 Youth Tour winner Katy Praska from New Hampton High School, Justin Gardner from Crestwood High School and Runner-up Shilo Leff from Riceville High School.

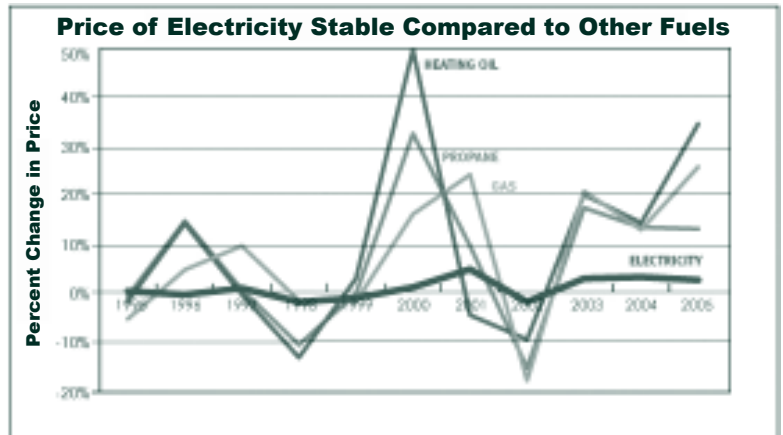
# Welcome

## Hawkeye REC welcomes New Members

Carol Nicol .....	Decorah	NE IA Contractor Supply .....	Decorah
Jenney L Esterby .....	Lime Springs	Steve Dahl Sr. ....	Decorah
Nancy Josephson .....	New Hampton	Lee & Angie Lindstrom .....	Cresco
Pat W Wilson .....	Cresco	Ernest Thompson .....	Cresco
Rodney Rovang .....	Marquette	Kelly & Daniel Liddle .....	Calmar
Kory J Courtney .....	Decorah	Carlton & Karla Bakken .....	Decorah
Crystal Leff .....	Lime Springs	Mark Swancutt .....	Chester
Linus Kuhn .....	Waucoma	Maria & Brian Roethler .....	New Hampton
Eric Westlund .....	Decorah	Randy & Dawn Lukes .....	Fort Atkinson
Chad Bushkofsky .....	Lawler	Kurt & Joan Oakes .....	Decorah
Llyod White .....	Decorah	Jennifer Willis & Nathan Stee .....	Decorah
Bernard Olson .....	Lime Springs	James & Amy Tweten .....	Mabel, MN
Brian Malaise .....	Decorah	Junior A Jacobson .....	Decorah
Arkadi Puhov .....	Decorah	Kyle Anderson .....	Decorah
Kristi Erdahl .....	Lawler		

# Electricity, still a great value

Throughout the last decade, the price of electricity for residential use has been the most stable when compared to the swings of heating oil, propane and natural gas, according to data compiled in this chart. The chart shows that those fuels, vulnerable to shifts in the market and infrastructure, saw surging prices in 2000-2001, followed by steep declines in 2002. For example, the average price of heating oil in 1999 was 87 cents and in a single year soared to \$1.31. The story was similar for propane, which climbed nearly 33 percent between 1999-2000. It then fell dramatically until 2002 and has been steadily increasing by about 13 percent since then. Meanwhile, electricity prices have remained stable, increasing on average just over one percent per year.



The price of electricity has remained stable while the price of other heating fuels has been volatile.

Source: Energy Information Administration, 2005 preliminary data

Source: NRECA Strategic Analysis

## Power Surge Protection



**Security for your lifestyle.**



### Why invest in surge protection?

A surge protector is simply a power diverter. It directs harmful power spikes and disturbances safely into the outlet's grounding wire, preventing it from flowing through your electronics. Reliable surge protection for your equipment is important. Here's why:

- Small, fast chips used in current technology are easily damaged and very costly to replace
- Even small power spikes can scramble data, cause wear on components and affect performance
- Surges can enter the home through electrical wiring, the phone lines or through cable TV wiring
- Surges and spikes can be caused by lightning, car accidents, animals, the operation of heavy equipment on a circuit or any number of other reasons
- Repairing damaged computers or equipment could take weeks of your valuable time

## Security for your lifestyle.

Hawkeye REC can help you protect your lifestyle from interruptions and your investments from damage with reliable, effective surge protection. Check out our website or stop in to purchase surge protection equipment today!

## Support a program



that supports your community.

When you choose long distance service from Hawkeye REC, you are supporting the community you live in. Hawkeye REC's long distance partnership produces additional revenues for the cooperative that can be used for Hawkeye REC sponsored community programs.

State-to-state long distance as low as **6.7¢** per minute

State-to-State	In-State	Toll-Free	Calling Card
6.7¢	7.9¢	7.9¢	9.9¢

**Call today!**  
1-888-834-1011

Hawkeye  
**REC**  
The Power Is Yours

\*\*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions or early termination fees may apply. Please call for details. © 2006 Hawkeye, Inc.

## Services

- ◆ Beam Central Vacuum Systems
- ◆ Electric Grills
- ◆ First Call Emergency Response System
- ◆ Generators
- ◆ Home Heating Systems
- ◆ Incentives & Rebates
- ◆ Long Distance Services
- ◆ Security Lights
- ◆ Security Systems
- ◆ Water Heater Program
- ◆ Water Conditioners/ Softeners
- ◆ Electric Usage Audits
- ◆ New Home Consultations

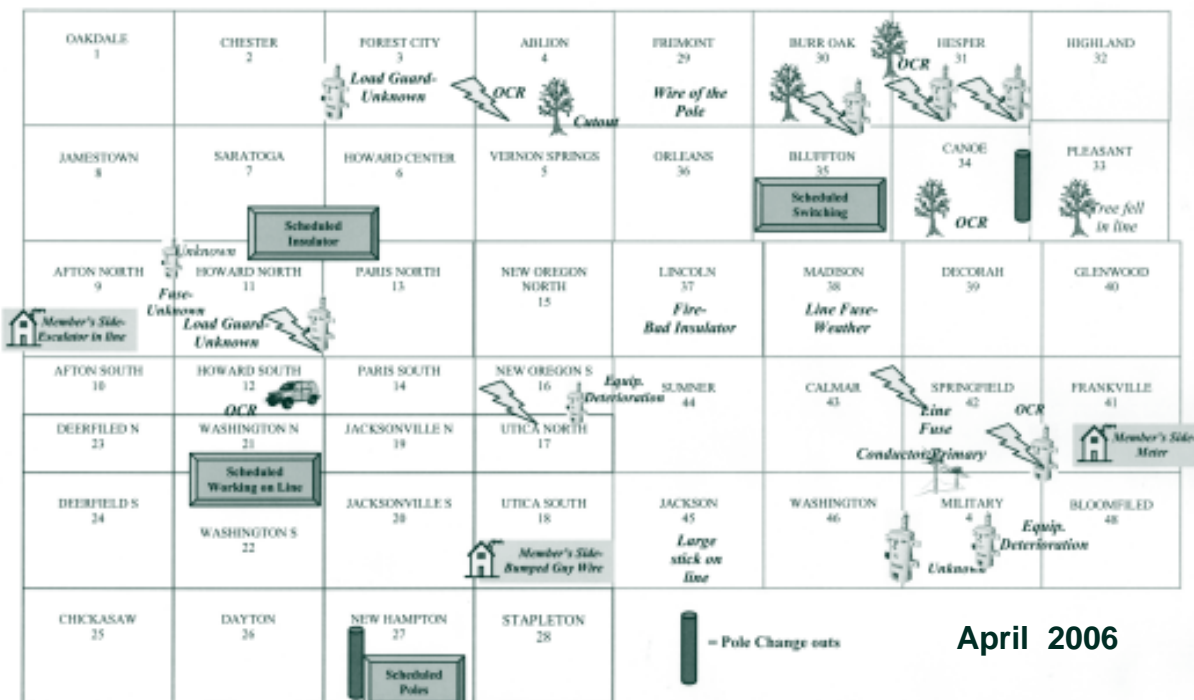


**Please contact us for more information.**

**1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801**

**www.hawkeyerec.com**

## Map of Outages



Have you experienced an outage lately?

April 2006

# Spring Sprouts Progress

**W**ith Spring comes the sound of hammers and nail guns in the REC Industrial Park and Housing Development. The Cooperative considers this to be music to their ears! Developing the housing and industrial areas is an important part of economic development for our area.

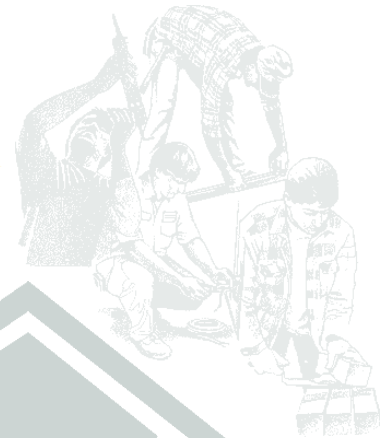


*Masonry Technology Incorporated, known as MTI, is adding a 21,000 square foot expansion to their current 13,000 square foot building. MTI manufactures plastic moisture control devices for the building industry.*

## Upper Iowa Construction & Lynn Wemark Construction



**See these homes at an Open House to be held in June!**



*Upper Iowa Construction and Lynn Wemark Construction are putting the finishing touches on two new all electric-homes in the Webster's Subdivision. They plan on holding an open house in June. If you would like a tour of the home before that time you can contact the contractors.*

*Butch and Carmen Thompson's home is springing up fast. They have just started construction on their new home located at the entrance of Webster's subdivision.*

*Becky and Roger Halverson moved into their new home last October and enjoy the country side view of their location.*



*The Thompson home.*



*The Halverson home.*



## Secret Safety Message

Write every other letter in blanks to find the secret message.

The solution can be found on Hawkeye's website at [www.hawkeyerec.com](http://www.hawkeyerec.com)

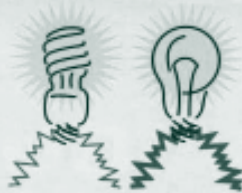


1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



### Fact:

Compact Fluorescent Lamps use far less electricity, helping increase home security so you can leave the lights on and still save on your electric bill!

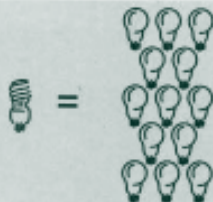


Available at your local electric cooperative.

### Fact:

Compact Fluorescent Lamps last far longer than ordinary bulbs... **no replacing for 9 years!**

\* based on a 23 watt compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulb, ballast not included.  
\* based on 3 hours usage per day



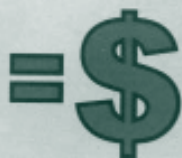
### Fact:

Compact Fluorescent Lamps produce low heat, so it takes less energy to cool your home. **You save on air conditioning too!**



### Conclusion:

You'll be amazed how fast real energy savings add up every time you open your electric bill. **Compact Fluorescent Lamps do make a difference!**



**\$3 each**

# Mississippi Falcons

**A** nesting box placed 375 feet up the side of a stack at the Genoa Wisconsin Generating Plant is now home to four new Peregrine falcons. The father of the brood, Iowa, is a four-year-old male from Des Moines (thus the name).

In 1993, the Raptor Resource Project, a non-profit group based in Ridgeway, approached Dairyland Power Cooperative about restoring the Midwest population of peregrine falcons and other raptors. Nesting boxes were placed on the Alma and Genoa generating plant stacks where falcons have set up house. The first offspring were born in 1997. Since those initial offspring, 47 chicks have hatched at these nesting sites. Many of the falcons have been banded for research and tracking.

Katrina, from the 2003 hatch, is nesting on the Great Spirit Bluff near Dresbach, Minnesota. It is rewarding to see the ultimate goal of the program realized by having falcons settling Cliffside is their native Mississippi Valley habitat.

You can watch the falcons on a live web cam at [www.dairynet.com](http://www.dairynet.com)!

## Falcon Facts

Peregrine falcons migrate to the Gulf of Mexico or South America for the winter and are expected to return to our region each spring.

Courtship behavior takes place in March with egg laying occurring in early April. Hatching of the clutch of eggs (usually 3-5) normally occurs in early May with the young falcons fledging in early July. Falcons prey mostly on pigeons which are found in abundance near Dairyland's generating stations.

**Scientific Name:** Falco peregrinus (meaning wanderer)

**Status in Wisconsin:** endangered

**Number of State Breeding Pairs:** 11

**Length:** female 18-21 inches, male 15-18 inches

**Wingspan:** female 45 inches, male 40 inches

**Weight:** female 32-40 ounces, male 20-25 ounces

**Clutch Size:** Usually 3-5 eggs

**Incubation Period:** 34 days

**Age at fledging:** 40-45 days

**Identification:** Crow size bird with pointed wings, blue-gray upperparts, black or blue-gray cap, Black stripe below eye, white chin, buff breast barred with brown, bright yellow legs and feet. Crossbow-like silhouette while in flight.



*“It is rewarding to see the ultimate goal of the program realized by having falcons settling Cliffside is their native Mississippi Valley habitat.”*

# Prepare Your Central Air Conditioner for Summer

**S**pring is a good time for maintaining your air conditioner. If you keep the coils of your air conditioner clean, it will improve your comfort and reduce your electricity costs this summer.

- ▶ Inspect the outdoor condensing unit.
- ▶ The large outdoor coil – it looks like a car radiator – is where heat is dissipated from your home. The fan in the condensing unit has to move a whole lot of air through the coil, so make sure that there are no airflow restrictions around the condensing unit.



- ▶ Cut nearby grass, shrubs, and tree branches so they are at least 3 feet away at the sides and 5 feet away overhead.
- ▶ Most condenser coils are loaded with pollen and dust even when you can't see it. The longest a condenser should go without cleaning is 2 or 3 years, depending on how much it operates during the summer. If your cooling season is 4 months or more, annual cleaning is an excellent idea. Turn off

the power to the unit, and remove any visible grass and lint from the fins and/or louvers with an old hairbrush or whisk broom. Then put on a pair of rubber gloves and spray biodegradable outdoor coil cleaner into the coil. Wait five or ten minutes and flush the coil with a gentle water spray.

- ▶ Your indoor coil might also need cleaning, even though you can't easily see it. If your air conditioner's filter or blower is dirty, then your indoor coil is probably dirty, too. Cleaning the indoor coil is usually a job for professionals, unless you have easy access, as with a central heat pump. To help keep your indoor coil clean, make sure your filter fits well, is easy to change, and that you change it regularly. Have your air conditioning contractor make improvements to the filter, if needed, so it is easy to get to. Change the filter often to help keep your indoor air conditioner coil clean and reduce energy consumption.

**Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management, [www.residential-energy.com](http://www.residential-energy.com)**



## Day-Care in Lawler?

A board has been formed to explore the possibility of opening a not-for-profit daycare center in Lawler. The Board is required to assess the needs for the area and your input would be greatly appreciated. If you feel there is a need or you would use a daycare center in Lawler please contact Renea Huinker (563) 238-7361.



# Recipes...

## Picnic Favorites

Send or e-mail your favorite recipe. If we print your recipe in our newsletter you'll receive \$5 off your next electric bill. E-mail to: [mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com](mailto:mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com)  
June – Dad's favorites  
July – Cool and refreshing



### Smore Dip...

Unwrapped Hershey's chocolate bars  
Miniature marshmallows  
Graham cracker sticks

Great  
for Kids!

Place unwrapped chocolate bars in a covered container such as Gladware or Tupperware. Do not stack the bars more than 2 high. Place one layer of miniature marshmallows on top of the chocolate. Set the container in the sun to melt. When the chocolate is melted, use graham sticks to scoop out the dip.

Nancy Kriener – New Hampton

### Idaho Potato Cake

1 c. butter, softened	2 c. flour
2 c. sugar	¼ c. baking cocoa
2 eggs	1 t. soda
1 c. cold mashed potatoes	1 c. milk
1 t. vanilla	1 c. chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well. Blend in potatoes and vanilla. Combine flour, cocoa and soda. Add alternately with milk, blending well. Stir in nuts. Pour into greased 9X13 pan. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes.

Geraldine Otto – Lime Springs

### Scalloped Corn

4 cups whole kernel corn	1/2 t. paprika
½ c. chopped onion	1/4 t. dry mustard
1/2 sm. green bell pepper, chopped	dash of pepper
2 T. butter	3/4 c. of milk
2 T. flour	1 egg slightly beaten
1 t. salt	1/3 c. cracker crumbs
	1 T. butter melted

#### Instructions:

Cook and stir onion and green pepper in 2 T. butter until onion is tender, remove from heat. Stir in flour, salt, paprika, mustard and pepper. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is bubbly; remove from heat. Stir in milk gradually. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Stir in corn and egg. Pour into ungreased 1-quart casserole. Mix crumbs and 1 T. melted butter; sprinkle over corn. Cook uncovered in 350 degree oven until bubbly, 30 to 35 minutes.

### Southern Fried Chicken

3 cups buttermilk  
1 broiler-fryer chicken (2-1/2 lb.), cut up  
25 RITZ Crackers, finely crushed (about 1 cup)  
2/3 c. flour  
1 t. salt  
1/2 t. ground red pepper  
2 c. vegetable oil

**POUR** buttermilk over chicken in shallow dish or resealable plastic bag; cover and refrigerate 1 hour to marinate. Remove chicken from marinade; discard marinade. **ADD** chicken to combined cracker crumbs, flour, salt and red pepper in shallow dish, turning to evenly coat all sides. **HEAT** oil in large saucepan to 350°F. Add half of the chicken; cook 15 minutes or until chicken is golden brown and cooked through. Remove from oil; drain on paper towels. Repeat with remaining chicken.

#### Use Your Oven

Omit oil. Marinate and coat chicken as directed. Place in foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan sprayed with cooking spray. Drizzle evenly with 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) melted butter or margarine. Bake at 375°F for 40 to 50 minutes or until chicken is golden brown and cooked through.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### BILLING CYCLE DATES

- May 25** Member reads meter and records on payment voucher. Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.
- May 29** Automated payments from checking accounts and credit cards are processed.
- June 1** Bills become delinquent.
- June 12** Hawkeye REC prints bills based on May meter reading.
- June 13** Bills are mailed to members from Dairyland in LaCrosse.



Can you  
Wait 'til 8  
to do your  
laundry?

### Energy Saving Tips

- ▶ Use a washing machine timer (if available)
- ▶ Wash lightly soiled clothes in cold water
- ▶ Wait until you have a full load



You can help minimize power costs by using energy wisely.

Please wait until after 8 p.m. before using major appliances.



Hawkeye  
**REC**

*The Power Is Yours*

Box 90 - Cresco, Iowa 52136  
1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801  
[www.hawkeyerec.com](http://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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