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"Part of Your Co-op" Series

Seasons Greetings!

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The "Warmth" of Family Traditions

Five Daughters Follow their Mother's Love of Quilting

By: Meagan Moellers

Sewing was an inevitable fact of everyday life for the Moellers family. Raising nine children on a farm near Ridgeway meant patching or mending worn farm clothes and making new children's clothes. Needle and thread or a sewing machine was in almost constant use during those good old days. It only makes sense that the skills acquired would lead into quilting. In fact, it has become the favorite pastime for most of the women in this "close-knit" family.

Catherine Moellers has made an estimated 100+ quilts, table runners and wall hangings since she started 25 years ago. Add to that the countless quilts that her daughters Karen, Connie, Cindy, Janine and Mary have made. Let's just say that there wouldn't be enough room in a castle to hold all the quilts that this family has made over the past two decades. The sixth daughter, Audrey, prefers spending her time 'horsing around' on their family horse ranch near Ridgeway rather than quilting.

"I have made a quilt for all my children (9), the grandchildren as they graduate high school (31), the births of my great grandchildren (20), and my sisters when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries. Catherine says with a proud grin. "That doesn't include all the others that I have displayed around the house or stacked in my quilt armoire."

So what's their secret? Most of them

spend at least a few minutes each day quilting. It provides a feeling of relaxation, joy, accomplishment, personal therapy and quiet time. Many of them have a number of different projects going at all times throughout the year, but more quilting gets done during the long, blustery winter months. "Winter is for fabric, summer is for flowers," Janine explains.

Catherine and her daughters all have a room in their houses dedicated specifically for quilting and sewing. This not only helps organize the quilting process, but also gives them their daily "alone time". Connie states, "I try to quilt at least a few minutes each day whether at 5:30 am or 10:00 p.m. I always tell my husband Jim that when my machine turns on, it drops my blood pressure ten points!"

How did they learn to master the hobby?

"I think sewing and the courage to try different crafts is one of the most precious gifts that Mom passed on," Mary explains. "Growing up, I remember Mom frequently taking different classes through adult education including ceramics, candle making, and cake decorating along with several sewing classes."

Many of the daughters took quilting classes, but also learned by observing, reading books or magazines and even downloading video tutorials on YouTube via the Internet.



Catherine Moellers with a small portion of her quilts. At 84, Catherine considers herself fortunate to be able to continue to use her long arm quilting machine to machine quilt many of her family's quilting projects.

Shop Hops

"We have some days that we set aside on an annual basis where we go out for the day, have lunch and hit a number of different quilt shops along the way," Cindy explains. "I find that each shop has its own theme and the fabrics to go along with it. One may be into big prints,

More on page 3...

Straight talk about... We're Different, We're Looking Out for You

Electric cooperatives, like Hawkeye REC, are different from other businesses you deal with. We're different because *We're Looking Out for You*. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. However, in January the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin regulating greenhouse gasses. This is because of an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements will very likely lead to higher energy costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment continue to rise. The economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room. However, the installation of additional environmental controls at power plants and the construction of natural gas peaking plants

to balance the increased wind energy resources, will require a significant, long-term investment of time and money.

Hawkeye REC is committed to keeping you informed about matters that will impact your electric bill through channels like our website (www.hawkeyerec.coop) and this newsletter. We continue to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable. We're getting closer to offering a time of day pricing structure, which will give you another tool to manage your energy costs. We have programs with incentives for purchasing energy efficient appliances and a host of tools on our website ranging from links to online energy audits to an eLibrary with tips and ideas for saving energy. And a visit to www.TogetherWeSave.com will show you how the little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated meter infrastructure system and our outage management system both help us control operating costs and improve service reliability. Regionally, our power supplier Dairyland Power Cooperative is meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy.

While we're affordable and innovative,

Brian Krambeer, CEO
(563) 547-3801 or (800) 658-2243
bkrambeer@tec.coop



above all else we're focused on you. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first. Hawkeye REC is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. At our annual meeting each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of directors to represent your best interests.

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve and are dedicated to assisting our communities. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, we give money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that in 2010 we returned \$400,000 dollars to our members in the form of capital credits in October. The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain, *We're Looking Out for You* and I'm looking forward to another exciting year in 2011.

Happy Holidays!

Affordable. Innovative. Member Focused.

It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain—new government regulations will increase the cost of electricity.

We want to work with you to keep your electric bills **AFFORDABLE**. We're controlling costs through **INNOVATION**, and no matter what the future holds we'll continue to put you, our members, **FIRST**.

Hawkeye REC
The Power Is Yours

Find out how we're Looking Out for You at www.hawkeyerec.coop

BOARD *Report*

Hawkeye's Board of Directors conducted the monthly board meeting on November 29.

Highlights of the meeting:

- ▶ The Board approved a staking contract for FEMA 404 Hazard Mitigation Project #1688, accepting the low bid of three submitted bids.
- ▶ Management provided a progress report and budget review on the Cooperative's new headquarters project.
- ▶ The Board reviewed and approved an amended Employee and Director Service Award Policy.
- ▶ The Board approved a 2.0 mill (.002) credit EAC which will be credited on member's December electric bill.



November Outage Report

Planned – 5
Weather – 1
Other/Unknown – 10
Power Supplier – 7
Small Animals/Birds – 5
Individuals – 10
Affected Members – 1148
Total Outages – 28

When the lights go out, so do we

Love of Quilting... *Continued from cover...*

another rendition fabrics, another may be into country. It's fun to see how people and shops have different interests."

Since so many in this family quilt the chance of choosing the same quilt or material is quite likely. The sisters claim that they have purchased the same fabric or patterns more than once. Most often, however, a project is duplicated because of admiration for what another family member has created.

Talent passed on over the years

This common thread of quilting has traveled through the hands of three generations in all of the families. Whether it was a 4-H project, to continue a family tradition or simply for pleasure, all of Catherine's

granddaughters have made a quilt at one time or another. In fact quilting has become a favorite hobby of many in this third generation. What a great gift to share as a family.

The hands that keep the family threads together

As you enjoy the warmth of a quilt this winter, consider the time, the talent, and the love that goes into making one. For the women of the Moellers family, quilting is a special thread that not only connects them to each other but also brings true warmth to their family and friends!



Describing Their Favorite Quilts

Catherine –

(Doesn't have a favorite but really likes making seasonal quilts to decorate with)

Cindy –

"Trip Around the World" (was her first quilt which is quite worn and ragged but is her favorite because of the sense of accomplishment that it gave her)

Connie –

"Spinning Star" (beautiful quilt and quite challenging)

Janine –

"Thimbleberry Block of the Month" (it turned out really nice)

Karen –

"Double Wedding Ring" ("It is very hard to pick out one quilt because there have been so many," Karen explains. "It wasn't always fun making this one, but it was a quilt I always wanted to make and it was the sense of accomplishment when it was done that is so special!")

Mary –

"Eureka" (a combination of several different blocks including some log cabin blocks which are her favorite style)



Front row, L to R: Mary Reicks, Catherine Moellers, Janine Sebastian. Back row, L to R: Karen Braden, Connie Zahasky, Cindy Grube and Audrey Nosbisch.

Capital Credit Check Search

Please contact our office if you have a forwarding address for any of the following names.



Reuben Adam Estate	Dennis M Gilbert	Steve Kolaas	Rolling Hills Feedlot	Richard Thompson Estate
Antenna Farms Inc	Lowell Halweg	Luke Kollasch	Alan D Rosendahl	Randy Timp
Durwin Bakken	Kenneth Heimerdinger Estate	Allison Koster	Donald Rosonke Estate	Russell Titch
Jim Becker	Steve Henning	Erma Kyle	Helen Rovang Estate	Dean Tjernagel
Tom E Benson	David Hillesland	David Larson	Dean Rowson Estate	Randy Tlusty
Roger Bjergum	Harold Hoffman Estate	Stanley Long	Luverne Rowson	UT Dairy LC
Thomas M Bourcier	Brad Horne	Anthony Malecha	Chelah M Ryan	Gary Vanvliet
Michael A Bright	David K Huinker	Kenneth Maruska Estate	Orville K Salvesson	Ronald Waddle
Richard L Bronner Estate	Delmar Hulet	John Massman	Scotts Rolling Hills	Jacqueline Warfield
William Burke	Dean Humpal	Myers Bros Inc	Robert Q Seegmiller Estate	Howard Wendling
Lisa J Burrow	Donald S Hunt	Elaine Nicola	Charles Shono	Whitestone Farms LLP
Lyle Carpenter	Curt I Iverson	Lester Oefstedahl	Lonny Smith	Z&S Incorporated
Troy Cleveland	James Iverson	Perry Olgard	Kristy L Solum	Keith A Zobeck
James Creek	Leon F Jauert	James J Opat Estate	Charles T Spence	
Paul Cremer	JMS Company LLC	Leroy Peters	Dana L Spry	
Chad Ernst	Gaianne Jocquin	Steven A Peterson	David Stanley	
Farms Bountiful	Albert M Jones Estate	Stanley Phillips Estate	Raymond Steinberg	
Rod Flaskerud	Daniel L Kalkwarf	Ed Piasecki	Gerald Stevens Estate	
Alvin Franzen	Blaine Keller	Gregory A Portee	Sun Prairie Partnership	
Mark Gerleman	Bruce Koch Estate	Elmer Rognlien	Thomas W Szabo	

2010 Checks mailed in October

2010 Service Awards

New Employees



Ted Kjos
(Marketing & Communications Manager)
Shared Employee



Darla Rance
(Director)



Carl Reicks
(Director)



Aaron Trezona
(System Arborist)
Shared Employee

Congratulations to you all!

10 Years



Pat Boyle
(Director of HTC & Business Development)



Meagan Moellers
(Director of Public Relations)



Karen Pecinovsky
(First Call & Customer Service Representative)



Kevin Reicks
(Operator/Technician)



Ruth Riha
(Accounting Assistant & Customer Service Representative)

15 Years



Norman Dickman
(Director)



Julie Madsen
(Customer Service Representative)



Marlyn Ohloff
(Operator/Technician)

20 Years



Sherie Dietzenbach
(Customer Service Representative)



Ron Stika
(Lineman)

Planning to upgrade your grain dryer or adding geo-thermal in the next two years?



Grants and guaranteed loans available

USDA Rural Development Offering Grants and Guaranteed Loans to Individuals & Businesses to Produce Renewable Energy or Make Energy-Saving Improvements

Grants and guaranteed loans are available from USDA Rural Development to help rural businesses or agricultural producers looking to produce renewable energy or make energy-saving improvements to their facilities or farms.

A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems or geo-thermal for farm shops or businesses.

The program can make a big difference to rural small businesses or producers looking to finance a renewable energy system or make energy saving improvements to their facility or equipment.

During the past seven years, nearly 1,325 projects in Iowa have received \$130 million in grants and guaranteed loans to help install renewable systems such as wind turbines, solar, geothermal, biodiesel, ethanol, anaerobic digesters or hydrogen, and make a wide variety of energy efficiency improvements to facilities.

Restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, greenhouses, cold storage businesses, ethanol plants, manufacturing facilities, as well as any other business that requires a large amount of energy to

operate, may benefit from an energy-efficient upgrade that these funds could help finance.

Costs incurred before submitting an application for both grants and loan guarantees are not eligible. *In addition, funds are not available for residential use.*

Grants can cover up to 25 percent of the project costs. The minimum grant application is \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvement projects and \$2,500 for renewable energy projects. The maximum energy efficiency grant is \$250,000; \$500,000 for renewable energy.

Guaranteed loans can be issued for up to 50 percent of the project costs. Minimum project costs to qualify for a guaranteed loan are \$10,000 for both energy efficiency and renewable projects. The maximum guaranteed loan is \$10 million.

A combination grant and guaranteed loan can be requested for up to 75 percent of eligible project costs.

Contact Hawkeye REC

Please contact Pat Boyle at 563-547-3801 for more information.

Hawkeye members have received over \$940,000 in grants during 2010 for energy efficiency/renewable energy. Contact Pat Boyle for more information.

A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems or geo-thermal for farm shops or businesses.

Covers 25% of project costs.



The power of human connections



Sales Tax Exemption

The tax season is here and Hawkeye REC reminds members whose business is agriculture related that there is a tax exemption that could save you money.

Since January 1, 2006, residential customers are no longer subject to state sales tax, however the local option taxes remain at the same rate.

However, state sales tax rates are applicable for non-residential customers, unless a sales tax exemption certificate is filed with the Cooperative. If you use electricity for processing/agriculture, you may be eligible to file a sales tax exemption certificate for the portion of your electric usage that qualifies for this sales tax exemption.

The certificate may be valid for up to three years and you can also file for refunds for the past years, up to a maximum of three years.

Hawkeye REC can provide you with the amount of past sales tax paid, your past and present electrical usage, the Sales Tax Exemption Form, and the Refund Form. You are not required to have exempt usage metered separately, but are required to calculate the percentage of exempt and non-exempt usage.

Get your chimney ready for cold weather—and Santa

You empty the ashes and sweep your fireplace after every use to keep it safe and looking nice. But is it ready for Santa?

Your fireplace isn't really clean until you remove what you can't see: the creosote, soot, ashes, dust, leaves and even birds that are stuck in the flue and chimney.



Unless you want Santa to scrape off the flaky mess with his big belly on his way down the chimney on Christmas Eve, you'd better get the job done before he arrives.

If you do, you'll have a clean, safe chimney and fireplace to sit around with company during the holidays.

Unless you're already finished with your shopping, baking, wrapping, mailing and card-writing, you might want to hire a professional chimney sweep to do this time-consuming and messy job. That will cost you \$100 or so.

Why bother? When smoke from your fireplace goes up the chimney, some of it condenses into soot and tar in the flue, which is the chimney's inner surface. That creosote builds up over time, and it's highly flammable.

Keeping your chimney clean will help Santa slide down it worry free. And it will help your family enjoy celebrating the holidays around a dancing fire—also worry free.

LED Holiday Lighting Rebates

Fill out this form and submit to Hawkeye's office by January 15 or go to www.hawkeyerec.coop and click on REBATES. The form is on page 4 called "Lighting Rebates" in an orange box. Please call the office if you have any questions. You must also attach a copy of the receipt.

How to apply:

1. Must purchase LED Christmas lights by **December 31, 2010**.
2. Complete and submit this form to your cooperative by Jan. 15, 2011 along with a copy of the sales receipt.



Customer information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number: _____

\$2 per string or décor item. (Limit 12 per account)

of strings: _____ X \$2.00 = _____

Construction Update

Progress of your cooperative's new headquarters facility during the month of November:

- Brickwork and masonry of office area
- Roof insulation for fleet storage and warehouse
- Cement work in fleet storage and warehouse
- Windows and doors installed in fleet storage and warehouse
- Geothermal heating and cooling loop field installation
- Sanitary sewer lines installed

Log-on to www.hawkeyerec.coop for more pictures and videos.



Holiday Co-op Connections deals

Remember to take advantage of your co-op connections card this holiday season. Go to www.hawkeyerec.coop and click on the card image on the home page. It will direct you to the national website that lists all the coupons and special offers available to you as a member of the co-op such as Cruises Inc., Pro Flowers, Omaha Steaks and much more. There are also major savings in other retail areas including travel, automotive, dining, entertainment, pharmacy, home and garden and more.

Stop by our office if you need another card. Great stocking stuffer gift ideas!



Recipes...



Creative Christmas Breakfast

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Christmas morning is no exception. Surprise your family with a great start to the Christmas spirit with these unique and delicious Christmas breakfast recipe ideas.

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
All recipes can be found on our website.

Jan. - Cakes, cupcakes or shortcakes (need by Dec.15)

Feb. - Recipes that use a waffle iron (need by Jan.15)

March - Make ahead meals to freeze (need by Feb.15)



Orange-Coconut Muffins

1/3 c. orange juice 1½ t. baking powder
¼ c. melted butter ½ t. baking soda
1 egg ½ t. salt
1½ c. flour 1 (11 oz.) can mandarin oranges (drained)
¼ c. sugar

Topping

1/3 c. coconut
¼ c. sugar
1 T. butter
½ t. grated orange peel



Heat oven to 375°. Combine orange juice, ¼ c. melted butter and egg in a large bowl. Beat. Combine all dry ingredients and add to orange juice mixture. Blend. Stir until moistened. Gently stir in oranges. Spoon batter into 12 paper lined or greased muffin cups. Combine topping ingredients in a small bowl: sprinkle evenly over muffins. Bake 19-23 minutes. Let rest 5 minutes. Remove from pan.

Sherry Bouska • Ridgeway

Breakfast The Night Before Christmas

1 lb. pork sausage
8 slices bread (cubed)
2 c. cubed Cheddar cheese (8 oz.)
4 eggs
2½ c. milk
¾ t. dry mustard
1 (10¾ oz. can) condensed or golden cream of mushroom soup
½ c. milk

Cook sausage in large skillet until brown, breaking up with wooden spoon; drain. Pat sausage dry with paper towels. Grease 9 X 13-inch baking dish. Place bread cubes in baking dish. Sprinkle cubed Cheddar cheese over bread. Sprinkle sausage over cheese. Combine eggs, 2½ c. milk and dry mustard in medium bowl; beat with rotary beater or fork until well mixed. Pour egg mixture over layered mixture in baking dish. Cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 8-24 hours.

Heat oven to 300° F. Stir together cream of mushroom soup and ½ c. milk in small bowl. Pour over mixture in baking dish. Place baking dish on baking sheet. Bake, uncovered, about 1½ hours or until center is set when baking dish is slightly jiggled. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

This dish is made easier by mixing it the afternoon or night before and cuts down on the mess in the kitchen on Christmas morning.

Serves 8.

Carolyn Huber • New Hampton

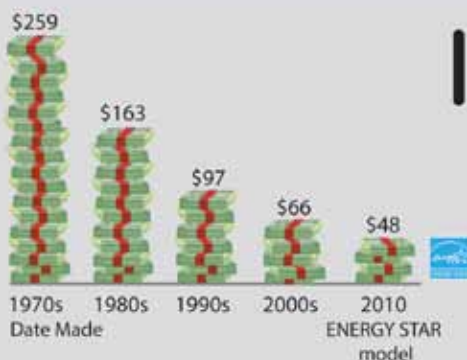


Serving Suggestion:

Serve with fresh baked Pillsbury or Rhodes cinnamon rolls placed in the shape of a Christmas tree. Start with one roll, then place two rolls under the first roll, then three, etc. Add green food coloring to icing if desired and decorate with maraschino cherries.

The Cost of Cool Food

If your fridge dates from the 1980s, you could save more than \$100 each year by replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model. Compare the average annual electricity costs for refrigerators manufactured in the following years:



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When decorating, remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy





Howard Cty. Fairgrounds - Cresco, Iowa 52136
1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801
www.hawkeyerec.coop

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday • 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Closed Sat., Sun., & Holidays)

**Payment and billing inquiries
are available 24-7**

OUTAGES

1-800-927-5265

**IOWA STATE ONE CALL
1-800-292-8989**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Fisher, President - Lawler
Charles Frana, Vice President - Calmar
Dennis Ptacek, Secretary/Treasurer - Elma
Norman Dickman - Decora
Roger Nibaur - Elma
Dean Nierling - Burr Oak
Dennis Young - Decora
Darla Rance - Lime Springs
Carl Reicks - New Hampton

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Mike Walton, Operations Manager
Peggy Berg, Chief Financial Officer
Ted Kjos, Marketing & Mbr. Services Manager

EDITOR

Meagan Moellers

Hawkeye REC
PO Box 90
Cresco, Iowa 52136

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
DPC

DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- Dec. 10 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on November meter reading.
- Dec. 13 Bills are mailed to members.
- Dec. 21 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- Dec. 25 Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of January. If needed, member reads meter and records on payment voucher.
- Dec. 26 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- Dec. 31 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- Jan. 1 Bills become delinquent.

OTHER EVENTS

- Dec. 29 Hawkeye REC Board Meeting
- Dec. 24 **Office Closed** – Christmas Eve
- Dec. 27 **Office Closed** – Christmas Observation
- Dec. 31 **Office Closing** at 11:30 - New Year's Eve
- Jan. 3 **Office Closed** – New Year's Day Observation

*Holiday Bakers & Christmas
Goodie Makers Are Part of
Our Electric Cooperative.*



**Did you know
that you can bake
cookies or other
holiday treats for
1.75 hours for only
\$1 (based on electric
oven at 8,000 watts)**

*When you're part of a co-op, you know exactly what the co-ops stands for.
Members of your electric co-op come from all walks of life. Members are
community leaders, teachers, business owners, farmers and students.
Be proud to be part of a local cooperative!*

The power of human connections
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative