

Hawkeye REC

The Power Is Yours



Celebrating **75**
1936-2011 Years

May - 2011

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MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 30

Office Closed



Kid's Korner...

Stay Safe Within the Lines

When it comes to coloring, children are familiar with the phrase, 'Stay within the lines.' Electricity follows that same rule. But sometimes car accidents or storms cause power lines to fall, creating a hazard. "It's critical that we teach our children about the dangers of downed power lines," says Mike Walton, Operations Manager. "After a utility pole accident, should you get out of a car when power lines are on the ground? Unless a fire is involved, the answer is: No. You should wait until the utility can turn off the power."

"Using electricity has become such a part of our children's daily lives that we may tend to take the safety of their electrical toys and appliances for granted," claims Walton. "By teaching kids about how electricity works and where it is found, we can each do our part to educate our children and prevent electrical accidents."

Help keep your children safe from indoor and outdoor electrical dangers by making sure they are familiar with these important electrical and fire safety tips for kids:

- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as TVs, video game consoles, and computers.

They could spill and cause dangerous shocks or fires.

- Never play with electrical cords, light sockets, or electrical outlets.
- Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
- Never yank on the cord to unplug an appliance. Hold on to the plug itself.
- Never play near substations or power transformers.
- Do not play or fly kites near power lines. If your kite gets caught in a power line, let go of the kite.
- When there is lightning, stay away from trees and get inside.



Courtesy of Culver
When Your Message Matters™

Go to our website
www.hawkeyerec.coop
to download a full
size picture

If electric power lines fall on your car, don't get out! Stay in your car until the electric utility turns the power off!

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Construction Update...



The move-in date to the new headquarters is **Wednesday, May 25th**. The office at the Featherlite Center at the Howard County Fairgrounds will be closed this day and business will resume for the membership at the new office on Highway 9 on Thursday, May 26th.

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

- Painting of office rooms
- Electrical installations
- Installation of office cabinets and furniture
- Information Technology (IT) Networking
- Installation of solar panels
- Installation of floor tile
- Driveway prep-work and cement
- Prep-work of the grounds and parking lot
- Installing carpet

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



Thanks for your cooperative support!

Seventy five years ago, rural residents were knocking on doors across our three-county area trying to gain excitement and support to form an electric cooperative. This was an instrumental grassroots effort, because residents living outside the urban areas did not have electricity or had an unreliable and maintenance driven Delco light plant in their home.

Reliable central station electricity from your electric cooperative became a monumental accomplishment for improving the quality of life seventy-five years ago. I applaud the vision and the leadership from these early pioneers that efficiently and economically did what investor-owned utilities said could not be done – electrify rural America.

I find it interesting that before President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the executive order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) on May 11, 1935, his initial thought was that investor-owned utilities would embrace the opportunity to extend electric service to the rural areas with federal loans. However, they determined that less than four customers per mile of line was not profitable, which became the stepping stone for the formation

of electric cooperatives. While much has changed over the last 75 years, our density has not – today we still average less than four members per mile of line.

At our Annual Meeting on April 14th, we reflected back at the tremendous accomplishments of our electric cooperative and provided an overview of our future:

- ▲ Reliability remains a focal point, from its early beginning right up to today. Linecrews have been aggressively rebuilding our aging distribution system through the development of our five-year work plan that has allocated Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding for a \$17.5 million loan recently approved by the Board of Directors and RUS.
- ▲ Working diligently with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation program to replace the primary feeder lines that are the backbone of our electric distribution system. Through the FEMA 404 mitigation program, we have already received approval for rebuilding 380 miles of feeder lines. If we continue to be successful in our grant application process, we could ultimately receive approval for over 1,000 miles of new distribution feeder lines built over the next five

years. This is especially significant due to the fact that these mitigation funds are 85% grants, requiring only a 15% contribution from your electric cooperative.

The month of February was one of our primary tests of the benefit of this mitigation program because of Mother Nature's severe ice storm. The 150 miles of new feeder lines already constructed by the cooperative under this program, incurred minor damage and few outages, compared to the damages and outages on the older distribution lines. Many of these new lines were reported by our crews to have equal, if not more ice build-up than the 2007 ice storm, and yet withstood the galloping lines and wind.

The new lines being constructed have shorter spans (more poles per mile of line) and aluminum conductor which replaces the existing copper. The end result is a stronger distribution infrastructure and increased reliability.

▲ A new recently installed outage management system that will increase our outage restoration efficiency and will be complimented with automatic vehicle tracking to our electronic mapping system.

I am very pleased with the accomplishments of your electric cooperative over the past year and very proud of the work accomplished by your cooperative employees. Much like the work initiated back in 1936 to start our electric cooperative, the elements of success include a visionary board of directors, an excellent staff of employees, and a membership that stands by their electric cooperative.

Thanks for your cooperative support and we look forward to another exciting and productive 75 years.



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



"At our Annual Meeting on April 14th, we reflected back at the tremendous accomplishments of our electric cooperative..."

BOARD *Report*

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

Highlights of the meeting:

- ▶ Reviewed and approved amended CoBank line of credit loan documents
- ▶ Held annual reorganizational meeting and voted for officers
- ▶ Approved engineering services for next 404 Hazard Mitigation Projects
- ▶ Approved \$500.00 donation for the NRECA International Foundation
- ▶ Reviewed and discussed recent Annual Meeting procedures
- ▶ Appointed board of directors as delegates to Dairyland's Annual Meeting



April Outage Report

- Planned – 10
- Weather – 10
- Other/Unknown – 19
- Power Supplier – 12 (2,297 members)
- Small Animals/Birds – 3
- Individuals - 27
- Affected Members – 2,562
- Total Outages - 54

When the lights go out, so do we

Annual Meeting Highlights

Members enjoyed a walk down memory lane at this year's Annual Meeting. They were greeted by the board of directors and received their copy of Hawkeye's 75th Anniversary book. Before they entered the meeting room, they were engaged by a large display of pictures, artifacts and other memorabilia from the past seventy-five years of the cooperative. Shortly before the meeting started, members watched a short video highlighting scenes of what life was like before electricity and pictures showcasing a "Journey Through the Decades" of business at the co-op.

A short business meeting followed the video along with the 2011 Director Election results. Incumbents Dennis Ptacek from the Howard District and Dean Nierling from the Winneshiek District were re-elected to the Board of Directors. After the meeting was adjourned, drawings for over \$1,000 in electric bill credits, grill sets and extension cords were given away and then members enjoyed Kolaches, milk and coffee. A complete listing of our Registration Drawing Prize Winners can be found on our website at www.hawkeyerec.coop.



The Power of Human Connections

Members Helping Members through **RECare**

For the past several years, Hawkeye's RECare Program has been one of the best in the State of Iowa. The RECare Program is a consumer contribution fund to help cooperative members with financial hardships pay their electric bills. During these tough economic times our country is facing, this type of kindness is a strong expression for our concern for community. Thank You!

	Member Participants	Families Assisted	\$ per Family
2009/10	288	89	159.00
2008/09	215	29	175.00
2007/08	205	32	150.00
2006/07	203	38	150.00
2005/06	201	40	150.00
2004/05	199	30	133.00

Be a Part of the Program

Consider a monthly contribution today. Your contribution, whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month, when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping others. Hawkeye appreciates your generosity and the pledges given by members to help our members in need. What a great way to show you care about your community and know that you can make a difference!

Go to www.hawkeyerec.coop today to fill out a donation form.

To apply for RECare funds, please contact Northeast Iowa Community Action offices in Chickasaw, Howard and Winneshiek counties.



Setting the Way for the REA Lines

"When I was about five years old (1940), I remember standing in the pantry and watching the hole for the new meter pole getting prepared by dynamite. Our yard was almost all limestone in some places. I remember the loud boom then dirt and rocks flying into the air," recalls Frankie Hrdina of rural Cresco.

It was hard work for employees of the REA during the early development years. Ervin Walter of rural Cresco recalls, "Our neighbor Dennis Kruger was an employee of the REA. He would be so tired after digging holes all day that he would just lay on the floor when he got home at night."

Within two years of the start of the rural electrification administration (REA), electricity was brought to some 1.5 million farms through 350 rural cooperatives in forty-five of the forty-eight states. Within six years, the REA aided the formation of 800 rural electric cooperatives with 350,000 miles of power lines.

In September of 1938, the first concentrated effort toward a "sign-up" took place at the monthly Orleans Township Farm Bureau meeting. At the close of 1938, 640 members had signed for 300 miles of line in Howard County and shortly after that, the first location was energized in Winneshiek County.

"I also remember a gentleman, I believe it was Sumner (Sum) Fields, wiring our house," Frankie recollects. "We had carbide gas lights before the electric service was installed in 1940. For whatever reason, we didn't get our first refrigerator until 1951 though."

Through all the years on the Hrdina farm, they had a spring by the milk house and that kept things cool and they would get water from the spring or a pump by the milk house to drink, cook and bathe.

"Looking back through the early years of no electricity, I do believe life went on and no one suffered," Frankie recalls. "It just took a little longer to get things done. Besides, life wasn't so complicated."

When Frankie's mom (a Chicago gal) and dad were married on New Year's Eve 1934 before

"Aided with few power tools and with little method applied to the task, erection of the lines were sometimes primitive affairs. After 1935, REA developed assembly-line methods for constructing lines with uniform procedures and standardized types of electrical hardware. The results were lowered costs which made rural electrification economically feasible for more and more cooperatives."

—Excerpt taken from "The Next Greatest Thing"

"Do You Remember When?"

A series of articles capturing memories and photos of the beginning of your electric cooperative.

This article was written in May 2009.

By: Meagan Moellers





coming back to the farm, all of their relatives went bananas for the chance to come to the farm to enjoy the country. Most of them didn't own a car or drive. Frankie's dad would take the hay rack and a team of horses to Ridgeway to and from the train station.

Frankie lives on the same farm in Winneshiek County where there are still two original poles being used today to provide power to rural residents.

Good Old Electricity

I used to mope and grope my way
With a lantern on my arm.
Then I'd get mad and throw things
And wish I'd never seen a farm.

And poor old ma, she'd work
And toil with all her might.
She'd wash the chimneys, and clean the wicks,
And still we had no light.

The kids came home from school
And studied late at night,
And what they learned couldn't be much
By that dim kerosene light.

The hens declared they wouldn't lay.
They stayed on the roost most of the night & day
Can't say as I blamed them much
For they too wanted REA.

One day the REA man came to me
And asked me what I thought was right.
I says, "sign me up by gee!"
And now we have electric light.

Now ma isn't weary, the kids are cheery
And the future all looks bright.
The hens all lay, and help to pay
For the REA light!

-Poem written in the May 1941 REA newsletter



REA crews would have to string wires connecting the poles to provide electricity to the rural farmsteads.



R.E.A. LINEMAN is pictured connecting the first farm electrical service on the M.R. Ringeon farm, Lincoln Township, in November 1940.

Newspaper clipping.



Hawkeye employee Larry Coates in 1939.



Source: New Deal Network S-39.

It takes more than Hawkeye crews

Hawkeye has hired the following contractors that will be working throughout the service territory during the spring and summer months. Feel free to call the office if you have any questions regarding the contractors working in your area. Please use caution when driving by these companies working along roadsides.



Pole Testing:

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

- **Ameripole Inspection Company** of Marshalltown, Iowa is hired to dig around every pole to check, evaluate and treat bad utility poles in Hawkeye's service territory.

Staking:

The following contractors will be staking power lines throughout Hawkeye's service territory in order to re-build power lines for our 404 Mitigation and FEMA grants.

- **Star Energy Services** is located in Alexandria, Minn.
- **Acculine Consulting** is located in Nashport, Ohio.

Vegetation Management:

Controlling and maintaining the growth of vegetation (brush and trees) along power lines is very important to the electric industry. Overgrown trees and brush can cause problems during severe weather and can make it difficult to reach trouble spots to make repairs.

- **Community Tree Works** will be working throughout the service territory. The tree cutting company is located in Canton, Minn.
- **Elite Tree Service** will be spraying and tree clearing throughout the service territory. Elite Tree Service is located in Pella, Iowa.
- **Norby Tree Service** - Dave Norby, owner of Norby Tree Service, will be working throughout the service territory. They are located in Mabel, Minn.

Meter Testing:

- **Chapman Metering** will be testing and updating AMR meters throughout Hawkeye's service territory. Chapman Metering is located in Avoca, Iowa.

Underground Line Construction:

- **West Union Trenching** will be working throughout the service territory installing underground electric lines by boring, trenching and plowing. West Union Trenching is a family business located in West Union, Iowa.

Overhead Line Construction:

- **Highline Construction** will be re-building over 113 miles of line. Highline is located in Paynesville, Minn.

Farm Safety Awareness

Jim Flach Story: *Learn from his Tragedy*

Jim Flach was a farmer and 4-H club leader who generously shared his skills of showing champion livestock with others. "My Dad would help any kid in the barn," says his son Brett. "He was a good man and a lot of people loved him."

Jim taught thousands on the livestock show circuit and as a farmer, was willing to help anyone anytime.

In fact, he was operating a crop sprayer in a neighbor's field, when a sprayer arm contacted an overhead power line. Jim was severely injured when he climbed from the cab to the ground, and eventually died of his injuries.

Working with Safe Electricity's Teach Learn Care TLC



campaign, his family extends his teaching legacy by sharing the story of their tragic loss in hopes of preventing accidents.

Jim's son Brian says, "I lost my father to electricity and I talk about that with my wife and kids so they know the hazards of electricity." That philosophy is at the heart of the TLC campaign, aimed at getting people to learn what they need to and share it with others.

The Flach's encourage everyone to visit Safe-Electricity.org to see the video of Jim's story and learn all of the vital information operators must know when working with large equipment around power lines.

Give TLC to those you care about – for Jim's sake.



TLC Teach what you know.
Learn what you need to.
Care enough to share it.





Tex-Mex, Southwestern or Mexican

75th Anniversary



Mexican Chicken Bake

- 2 c. coarsely crushed taco flavored corn chips
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 (4 oz.) can hot taco sauce
- 3 c. cubed cooked chicken
- 1 c. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ c. finely chopped onion - optional

Preheat oven to 375°. In 2-quart greased baking dish, combine 1 c. corn chips and all other ingredients, except cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until hot. Remove from oven; top with remaining chips and cheese and return to oven. Bake for 5 minutes or until cheese melts. Tastes delicious with rice or inside taco shells.

Holly Kanengieter • Decorah

Egg & Cheese Breakfast Burrito

Extremely Simple Recipe - Great for summer campers and motorhome travelers who have access to a microwave.

- 1 flour tortilla
- 1 egg
- 1 T. shredded Mexican cheese blend
- 1 T. salsa
- (Optional: Add pre-chopped onions, green peppers, and breakfast sausage)

Makes 1 serving

Line a 2 c. microwave-safe cereal bowl with paper towel. Press tortilla into bowl. Break egg into center of tortilla. Beat egg gently with a fork until blended, being careful not to tear tortilla. Microwave on high for 30 seconds; stir, microwave 15 to 30 seconds longer until egg is almost set. Remove tortilla with paper towel liner from bowl to a flat surface. Top egg with cheese and salsa. Fold bottom of tortilla over egg, then fold in sides.

(Cooking times may vary depending on microwave oven).

Carolyn Huber • New Hampton

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.

June - Recipes that use a blender (need by May 15)

July - Recipes that use 5 ingredients or less (need by June 15)

Aug - Mix It Up – mixed salads, vegetables, etc. (need by July 15)



Taco Pot Pie

- 1 lb. ground beef (optional –can add onions while frying)
- 1 pkg. (1¼ oz.) taco seasoning mix
- ¼ c. water
- 1 can (8 oz.) either light red or dark red kidney beans
- 1 c. chopped tomatoes (Mrs. Grimes Mexican chopped tomatoes)
- ¾ c. frozen corn (thawed)
- ¾ c. frozen peas (thawed)
- 1½ c. shredded cheddar cheese or Mexican blend cheese
- 1 can (11½ oz.) refrigerated breadstick dough

Preheat oven to 400°. Brown ground beef in large skillet. Drain. Add seasoning mix and water to skillet until most of the water is absorbed, stirring occasionally.

Stir in drained can of beans, tomato, corn and peas. Cook about 3 minutes or until mixture is hot. Remove from heat. Transfer mixture to a large baking dish or medium size roaster. Top with the shredded cheese. Open breadstick dough and twist strips to lay on top of the mixture in an attractive design. If using an oval enamel roaster, put the breadsticks around the edge of the mixture and then criss-cross the rest of them across the top of the mixture.

Bake 15 minutes or until dough is golden brown and meat mixture is bubbly.

Makes 4 to 6 servings

Irene Eiffler (Mrs. Duane) • Lime Springs

May is National Beef Month

Thanks to our local Beef Producers!



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of 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 - Decorah
Roger Nibaur - Elma
Dean Nierling - Burr Oak
Dennis Young - Decorah
Darla Rance - Lime Springs
Carl Reicks - New Hampton

PERSONNEL

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

EDITOR

Meagan Moellers

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Cresco, Iowa 52136

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Dates to Remember

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- May 10 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on April meter reading.
- May 11 Bills are mailed to members.
- May 25 Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of June. If needed, member reads meter and records on payment voucher.
- May 24 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- May 31 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- May 31 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- June 1 Bills become delinquent.

OTHER EVENTS

- May 25 **Office Closed** – Move Date to New Headquarters
- May 26 Hawkeye REC Board Meeting
- May 30 **Office Closed** – Memorial Day



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

LAST WEEKEND, I SEALED MY AIR DUCTS AND MY WALLET.

Saving money is one good reason to seal your ducts. But there are other reasons, too. A leaky duct system affects your quality of life. It makes the rooms in your home stuffy and less comfortable—not cool enough in the summer or warm enough in the winter. And because insulation particles, dust and pollen can enter a leaky system, they may affect your home's indoor air quality..

The first step is to find the biggest air leaks in your home. In the attic, the greatest duct leaks are typically found where the walls meet the attic floor, above drop ceilings and overhangs and behind attic walls. Look for insulation that is dirty or discolored, indicating that air has been moving through it. In the basement, ducts are often located along the top of the basement wall. Duct runs that go through the basement ceiling to the floors above can be sources of leaks.