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October is Co-op Month!

## Messages carried to the Nation's Capitol by Iowa Delegation

**T**hirty representatives from Iowa rural electric cooperatives have returned from Washington, D.C., after discussing the following issues regarding energy, economic development and storm recovery issues with Iowa's congressional delegation.

- 1.** A sound U.S. energy policy is critical to electric cooperatives as we make plans for providing power to our member consumers now and into the future. The impact of current energy policy and the speed of transition from coal-based generation to other generation sources will have a significant impact on our member-consumers' power bills. Electric cooperatives support the creation of a balanced energy policy that protects both the economy and environment.
- 2.** Each year since Fiscal Year 2008, Congress has approved a \$6.5 billion

loan level for the RUS Electric Loan program. This loan level has not cost the federal government a single cent over that time. Electric cooperatives and the RUS are careful and diligent when it comes to loan management, resulting in an excellent record of loan repayment that will contribute more than \$100 million to the U.S. Treasury for deficit reduction in Fiscal Year 2012. All electric utilities receive subsidies in one form or the other and the rural electric cooperatives receive the least amount of federal subsidy per consumer. We asked our legislators to preserve funding we do receive through these essential programs: RUS, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, Power Marketing Administrations and the Federal Energy Management Agency.

- 3.** Electric cooperatives rely significantly on FEMA funds to promptly restore power after severe natural disasters, such as tornadoes, ice storms and floods, and for hazard mitigation projects. Without FEMA assistance, many electric cooperative member-consumers living in these affected areas would face additional burdens of longer wait times for service restoration and the potential for higher rates. Due to the high frequency of recent

disasters, FEMA funds are at risk of being depleted. We need to ensure that Iowans impacted by severe storms are not forgotten, and FEMA funding is not redirected to more recent disasters.

**Look for more information next month regarding legislative news affecting your electric cooperative. It is an ongoing challenge until the opening session in January 2012.**

## Call to Grassroots

**KEEP RURAL ELECTRICITY AFFORDABLE**

**Y**our cooperative has been very active in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., making sure our legislators know what effects laws could have on utility costs for our members.

In the past year, various out of state environmental groups have injected misleading TV, newspaper and automated telephone call advertisements into essential discussions on needed baseload generation in Iowa. We believe these out-of-state special interest groups have no legitimate stake in Iowa's energy future and their intentions are remarkably disingenuous and intentionally misleading on proposed legislation.

More on page 3...



Hawkeye's CEO Brian Krambeer and employee Josh Lenz communicate with Representative Tom Latham in Washington, D.C. during the Fall Fly-In Legislative Conference.

# Strategic Planning Results

**O**n September 8 and 9th your cooperative board, management and employees participated in our annual strategic planning session. The purpose of the session was to develop five key goals for the cooperative to strive to attain over the next three years.

The planning process was very rewarding and I'm very pleased to share our goals along with our cooperative mission and vision statements and our commitment to safety.

## 2011—2014 Goals

### Wholesale Power Costs

*Develop strategies to mitigate wholesale power cost increases and reduce the negative impact to the cooperative and its membership.*

Wholesale power costs are Hawkeye REC's largest operating expense. Over 60 cents of every dollar spent -- yet one expense that we have little influence or control. However, due to its significance it is once again one of our top key goals.

### Mission of Hawkeye REC

*To provide reliable electricity to our member-owners and our communities through superior customer service and innovative energy solutions, at fair and reasonable prices.*

### Vision of Hawkeye REC

*That members of Hawkeye REC enjoy the benefits of highly reliable electricity and superior customer service at a reasonable price from their own cooperative, a highly respected leader and trusted partner.*

### Statement on Safety

*We shall foster a culture of safety within the organization by training and motivating our employees to recognize risk, safeguard themselves, protect others, and promote safe work practices.*

### Your cooperative will be:

- investigating the use of time-of-day retail electric rates
- deploying critical customer information programs to maximize member benefits and education on energy efficiency
- working with our power supplier to control costs

### Integration of Technology

*Integrate our technologies to optimize their contribution to efficiency (cost containment), effectiveness (quality of results), and customer care (satisfaction).*

Through the use of technology your cooperative has become more efficient. The integration of technology involves strengthening our technology platform to improve process design and work flow processes to optimize effectiveness and efficiency.

### Use of Shared or Federated Services

*Evaluate future staffing and equipment needs in terms of costs and needed skill sets. Study ways to optimize efficiencies and effectiveness by developing mutual services with other cooperatives.*

Cooperation among cooperatives is the seventh cooperative principal and Hawkeye REC and Tri-County Electric Cooperative are prime examples of two cooperatives working closely together to operate efficiently together. Shared services is again a key goal that will allow Hawkeye REC and our neighboring electric cooperatives to continue working together for a common need on current and future projects and operating efficiencies.

### Member Communications, Education and Information

*Design/implement an external communication/education plan to enhance our relationship with members while engaging them to build support on public policy issues.*

Another key goal that is ongoing for

your electric cooperative is the focus on communicating and building a close working relationship with the cooperative membership. This includes membership feedback/surveys, public news releases, along with community support and development. It also includes utilizing member communication channels and use of technology to optimize energy efficiency and costs savings for the membership.

### Distribution System Reliability

*Evaluate, enhance and implement a comprehensive long-term reliability plan for our distribution plant to insure highly efficient operations and a high level of electric service reliability for our members now and in the future.*

The final ongoing strategic planning goal – distribution system reliability – is critical to your cooperative's future success. The cooperative's completed ten-year work plan has already addressed and identified the roadmap to improve system reliability. This work plan will be followed and updated to meet the needs of our membership. The cooperative will also work diligently to attain mitigation dollars to replace an aging distribution system through federal programs made available to cooperatives.

### Statement on financial planning

*Our fiduciary responsibility requires due diligence as we develop all strategies. We will establish a set of financial targets to guide us as we evaluate initiatives, goals and options.*

If you have questions of comments on your cooperative's goals. I welcome your calls, personal visits or e-mails.

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



## BOARD *Report*

Hawkeye's Board of Directors conducted the monthly board meeting on September 30th.

### Highlights of the meeting:

- ▶ Approved a Capital Credit distribution of \$411,427.94
- ▶ Approved a Revolving-Loan Fund request of \$25,000 to the Howard County Agricultural Society
- ▶ Approved the Hawkeye REC Strategic Planning Goals
- ▶ Approved a Hazard Mitigation Grant Project for Archeological Survey services from Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.
- ▶ Approved a work plan amendment for the replacement of 4.5 miles of distribution line that was down from the September 2nd wind storm
- ▶ Approved Policy #206 – Distributed Generation and rate rider



## September Outage Report

- Planned - 9 (91 members)
- Weather - 17 (831 members)
- Other/Unknown - 15 (121 members)
- Power Supplier - 0
- Small Animals/Birds - 2 (44 members)
- Individuals - 29
- Affected Members - 1, 087
- Total Outages - 43

# When the lights go out, so do we

## Straight-Line Winds Knock Down Power Lines

Over 600 members in the northwest half of Howard County experienced extended power outages throughout the day on Friday, September 2nd because of power poles and lines that were blown down with the straight-line winds. This affected members on the Saratoga and Lime Springs Substations.



Over 67 structures on Dairyland Power's 3-phase transmission lines were knocked down.

### Grassroots... *(from cover)*

Increased baseload energy, as part of an overall energy package that includes renewable resources, will mean reliable, affordable, safe electricity delivered in an environmentally responsible manner for the future for electric cooperative members, agribusiness and other partners in business in rural Iowa.

#### BE INFORMED:

Sign up today to be included in email communications from Hawkeye REC so you are armed with the facts that matter to Iowans. Sign up via email today to [mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com](mailto:mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com) and provide your email address. If you change your mind, rest assured, you can unsubscribe simply by notifying Hawkeye REC.

#### NEW: You can also follow us on TWITTER

Go to [www.twitter.com/HawkeyeREC](http://www.twitter.com/HawkeyeREC) and start following your electric cooperative today. We urge our members to stay connected with issues affecting the co-op, but we'll also provide safety updates, event announcements, outage information, and tips to help you save energy and money.

Hawkeye strives to provide the best communication tools available to our members and now with social networking, you can get the latest information in real time.



**Thanks for making a difference in Iowa's energy future!**

## Apprenticeship Graduates

Congratulations to two Hawkeye line crew members on their graduation of the Electric Line Worker Apprenticeship Program. Josh Lenz and Travis Cummings both completed the program earlier this year. It requires 7,360 hours of on-the-job training along with classroom and testing portions. It is an important commitment to becoming a lineman at a rural electric cooperative.



Josh Lenz



Travis Cummings

# *Congratulations!*





## *Neighbors Cooperate to Clear Timber for REA Lines*

### **"Do You Remember When?"**

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

This article was written in October 2009.

By: Meagan Moellers

*Tom Ryan of rural Cresco recalls his life as a young boy before electricity.*

"My first memories are of growing up on a farm. I am told I tagged along with my dad as soon as I could walk fast enough to keep up with him.

"In the late fall, darkness would happen before the chores were all done. Since we had no electricity, we used a kerosene-burning lantern to light our way. Dad would carry the lantern in one hand and the lighted portion would be about to or just below his knee. As I tagged along behind I would watch the shadows of his legs opposite the lantern. I

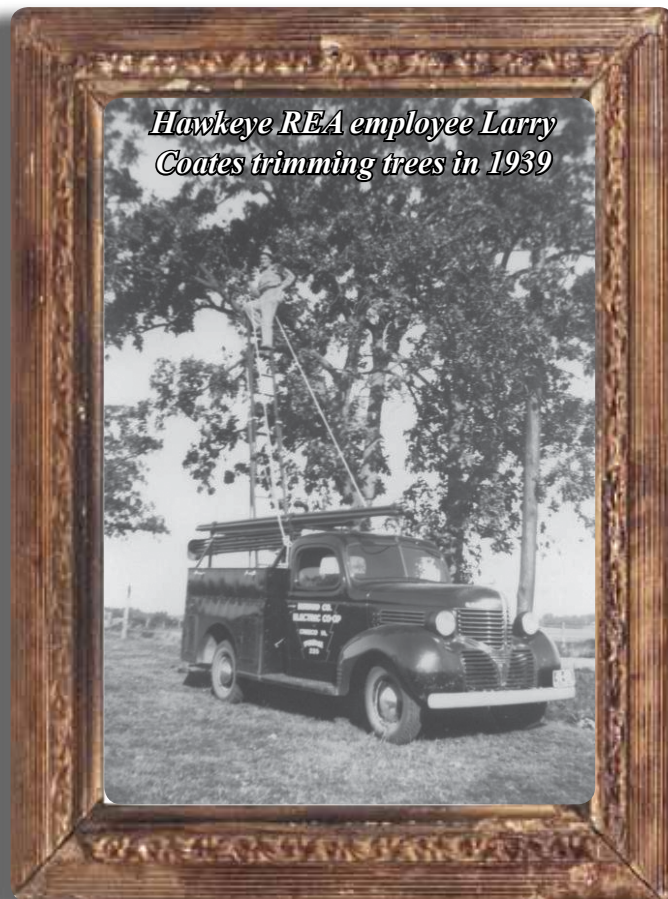
was intrigued with watching as they moved back and forth.

"When in the barn 'choring', the lantern always had a particular place to hang from the ceiling where it would light-up the area but also be out of the way. Some years later, we acquired an Aladdin Lantern and Aladdin Lamps for use in the house. These gave off much more light and more like our present electric lights. The lantern would light up the barn much better than the other (kerosene) lanterns.

"After my parents bought a farm of their own, we had a 32-volt light plant installed. This consisted of 16 batteries and an engine-driven generator to charge the batteries. These batteries were large glass jars filled with water and acid. They were quite large, so we set them up on a bench with two levels, eight in each row. A few years later, dad traded that engine for a newer one with automatic start. All we had to do was keep gas in it and check the oil level.

"These 32-volt light plants were sold and serviced by Dewey Tatro in Decorah. Dewey was well known around the area for his knowledge of electricity. Most of the installation and service work on the light plants was done by a man named Ed Sauresig.

"Not all rural residents could afford to own a light plant, therefore a group of people were busy organizing a rural electric cooperative in Cresco to serve all of Howard and Winneshiek counties plus a portion of Chickasaw County. Shortly after World War II was over, the REA crews were getting near to hooking our farm onto the line. However, the line had to be installed through an acre of timber.



*Hawkeye REA employee Larry Coates trimming trees in 1939*



“I can remember helping as a young boy clearing timber for the REA. There was one tree that housed a bee hive. We saved cutting it down until the very end. We carefully struck the hive avoiding the swarm of bees and harvested enough honey to last my family a very long time.”

–Ray Ferrie of Kendallville

They asked us if we would agree to clear a strip two rods wide through the timber, then they could get us hooked up sooner. We agreed and got all the neighbors who would be affected together and got the job done. So, Gerald Hovden, Elvin Hovden, Lynfred Hovden, Herb & Leonard Yarwood, Gerald Ryan (my father) and I took on the job with axes and crosscut saws. No chain saws were available back then.

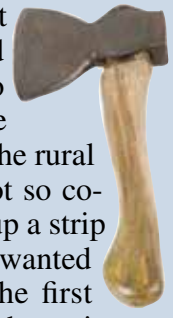
“Since I was the youngest member of the crew, I got the job of climbing up the trees and tying the rope so we could keep the trees from falling on the fence. I have no memory as to how long it took to complete the job, but I thought it was fun. Just to get that many people cooperating on a project together made it a pleasurable job. And we didn’t have to wait long for the electricity to be hooked up for all of us. A job well done!

“To this day if you drive one-and-a-half miles east from the old creamery building at the northeast corner of Ridgeway, you will see the swath cut through the timber straight ahead. The REC has maintained that area ever since.”

Tom and his wife Elsie reside on their farmstead southeast of Cresco. They have four children and four grandchildren. Tom and his family have enjoyed many years of planting and harvesting together in Northeast Iowa.

### Clearing Early Right-of-ways

“Construction of the main system could not begin before right-of-ways were cleared through heavy timber. The co-op had to obtain thousands of easements signed by the property owner. Even though they wanted the rural electric service, a few landowners were not so cooperative in signing the easements to give up a strip of their land. There were also those who wanted electricity but could not be included in the first construction phase. They were too far from the main line, or they lived in areas where not enough neighbors had signed up. A line had to pay its way or it couldn’t be built, which meant three hookups per mile. The average wage for an REA employee clearing right-of-ways was 35 cents an hour. By 1940, REA co-ops had energized 180,000 miles of power line, and thousands more miles were under construction. The average mile of rural electric line cost around \$825 to build.”



Excerpt taken from: NRECA’s “Next Greatest Thing”



FDR Library, 1933, 27-0749a



Photo Sources: Rural Electrification Administration Photos; Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

# 2011-2012 Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program

## WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:** October 3, 2011 to April 30, 2012
- **All other households:** November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

## WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income (for all household members age 19, and over)**  
Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2010 tax return
- **Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)**
- **Recent heat bill**
- **Recent electric bill**
- **Recent telephone bill**

## WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

## FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

## SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

## FIP RECIPIENTS:

Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

## ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

### NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2011-2012 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to:

### LIHEAP

**Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Capitol Complex**

**Des Moines, IA 50319**

or, call your local community action agency.

Household Size	INCOME MAXIMUMS	
	Three Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 4,084	\$ 16,335
2	\$ 5,516	\$ 22,065
3	\$ 6,949	\$ 27,795
4	\$ 8,381	\$ 33,525
5	\$ 9,814	\$ 39,255
6	\$ 11,246	\$ 44,985

For households with more than six members, add \$1,433 per three months, or \$5,730 annually for each additional member.

# Inspire Education Day

## at the Norman Borlaug Farm

Over 300 5th grade students from Northeast Iowa participated in the Inspire Education Day at the Norman Borlaug Farm on Friday, September 16th.

Students from Turkey Valley, Riceville, South Winn, Howard-Winneshek, Notre-Dame in Cresco, CFS in Spillville, Trinity in Protivin, Sumner-Fredericksburg and the UNI Lab School attended this year. The students rotated between nine educational sessions focusing on science and technology throughout the day.



Representatives from your local electric cooperative gave electric safety demonstrations at one of the sessions. Rick Hagen(R) and Ron Stika(L) provided the students with the basics regarding the safety and education of electricity.

**Hawkeye REC is proud to serve electricity to Dr. Borlaug's childhood home near Protivin.**



Hawkeye employee Rick Hagen demonstrates to students what happens to a tree branch if it comes in contact with an energized power line.

## Snowbirds-Are you leaving for the winter?

If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time this winter, remember to call Hawkeye to make billing arrangements while you are away. Hawkeye has a number of options to offer.

- ▲ Automatic checking or credit/debit card payments
- ▲ Online Payments & Readings

# Recipes...



*World Egg Day is held each year on the second Friday of October. The occasion recognizes the global appeal of the billions of nutritious eggs produced worldwide.*

*How will you celebrate?*

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)  
**All recipes can be found on our website.**



- Nov** - Muffins (need by October 15)
- Dec** - Hot Drinks (need by November 15)
- Jan** - Deviled Egg Variations (need by December 15)

**75th Anniversary**

## Egg Bake

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1½ c. cheddar cheese            | 1½ c. half and half |
| 1-2 c. browned crumbled sausage | 1 t. onion salt     |
| 2 tomatoes (slices or diced)    | ½ t. pepper         |
| 12 eggs                         |                     |

Spread cheese on bottom of 9x13 greased dish. Layer sausage. Add tomatoes. Beat eggs, half and half, dill, salt and pepper together, then pour over sausage mixture. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until center is set.



Lori Rea – Decorah

## Breakfast Pizza

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 eggs slightly beaten | ¼ t. oregano                    |
| ¾ c. milk              | 8 oz. crescent rolls            |
| 1/8 t. salt, pepper    | 2 c. shredded Mozzarella cheese |
| Meat of your choice    |                                 |

Mix eggs, milk, salt, pepper and oregano, set aside. Line a 9 x 13 pan with crescent rolls, forming a ledge and sealing all perforations. Place meat on top of rolls. Sprinkle cheese over meat. Pour egg mixture over cheese and bake at 450° for 20-25 minutes.

Donna Rue – Ridgeway

## Patronage Dividends Applied to Electric Accounts in October

*“As a member of Hawkeye, YOU are an owner of the cooperative. Every time you turn on a light, watch TV or use the electric stove, you also add to your equity in the cooperative and accumulate dividends.”*

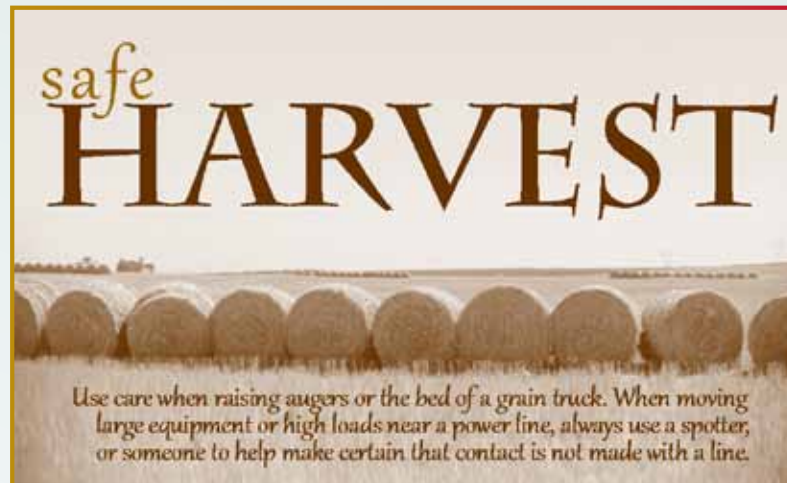
Issuing dividends to our members expresses the benefits and rewards of belonging to a cooperative. When you became a member, the Cooperative agreed to provide the best possible service at the most economical cost. As a member/owner, you expect a return on your investment.

Member dividends are assigned to member accounts, based on each member’s historical electric consumption. Your board of directors approved **paying approximately \$411,000 of patronage dividends this year.** It will be applied to your electric bill in October.



More than \$9.5 billion has been returned to members by electric co-op members nationwide since 1988 – nothing to sneeze at.

**October is National Cooperative Month!**



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

When buying a new appliance, check the black and yellow EnergyGuide label. This label provides an estimate of the product’s energy consumption and efficiency. It also shows the highest and lowest energy efficiency estimates of similar models. Most major appliances—such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes dryers—are required to have these labels.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801

[www.hawkeyerec.coop](http://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

**Hawkeye REC**  
PO Box 90  
Cresco, Iowa 52136

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## Dates to Remember

**BILLING CYCLE DATES**

- Oct. 10 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on September meter reading.
- Oct. 11 Bills are mailed to members.
- Oct. 25 Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of November. If needed, member reads meter and records on payment voucher.
- Oct. 25 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- Oct. 28 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- Oct. 31 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- Nov. 1 Bills become delinquent.

**OTHER EVENTS**

- Oct. 28 Hawkeye REC Board Meeting



Saving energy is a learned behavior. Find out how your local electric cooperative can help you lead by example at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



Hawkeye  
**REC**  
*The Power Is Yours*

[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)