

## Practice What We Preach

**H**awkeye REC Director Dean Nierling made the decision when he built his new home to go all electric. As a director of Hawkeye, Dean was



Dean Nierling, Hawkeye REC Director, practices what Hawkeye preaches to members by building an all-electric home.

aware of the advantages and efficiencies of electric heat, specifically geo-thermal. The 2000 sq. ft. home was designed by Dean and his wife Ardie, with the help of Ridgeway Lumber. After having the house framed by Numedahl Construction, Dean and his son Matt finished the home, with the help of family and friends. Dean is an experienced electrician and Matt built all the cabinetry. The project took the father-son team about ten months to finish as they had to fit carpenter work in between their farming operations. Dean and Matt farm 1500 acres, have a 50 head dairy herd and also do custom farming for area neighbors.

The Nierling's chose to have a hot water system in all the floors, including the garage, and forced air for cooling the house.



Johnson's Plumbing and Heating of Lime Springs installed an 8-ton WaterFurnace ground source heat pump system for the Nierlings. Dean also assisted with this process. A WaterFurnace system uses the Earth's thermal properties in conjunction with electricity to provide unprecedented efficiency. For every unit of electricity the system uses, it provides four units of heating energy, giving a geothermal system a 400 percent efficiency rating, on average. These numbers can translate into real savings on your utility bills year-round.



A ground source heat pump system, including the underground loops, costs approximately \$2,500 per ton of capacity, more or less, depending on the type of system you install.

Dean realized the up front costs of the ground source heat pump are more expensive than conventional heating units, but he knows that the rewards come later down the road when he receives his monthly utility bill. An average \$45 to \$95 (or more, depending upon propane costs) per month is the additional savings that Dean looks forward to! On top of that, in accordance with Hawkeye's incentive programs, Dean received a \$1,280 rebate and qualified for the interruptible rate offered to members with a required backup system.

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