

## Salted Caramel Apple Sheet Cake

### Ingredients

#### For the cake:

- 2 cups (254 grams) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (200 grams) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (200 grams) lightly packed light brown sugar
- 2 sticks (227 grams) unsalted butter
- 1 cup water (236 grams)
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) buttermilk
- 2 large eggs

- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups (200 grams) peeled and chopped Granny Smith apples (about 2 medium apples)

#### For the glaze:

- 1 stick (113 grams) unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) milk
- 3 cups (375 grams) powdered sugar, sifted
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup salted caramel sauce - store-bought or homemade

### Directions

#### Make the cake:

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Butter or oil a 10-by-15-inch jellyroll pan or a 16-3/4 by 12-inch sheet pan.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, granulated sugar, and brown sugar.
3. In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, combine the butter with 1 cup water and heat until the butter melts. Bring to a boil. Once the mixture is boiling, remove from heat and stir into the flour mixture. Let cool slightly then add in the buttermilk, eggs, and vanilla. Gently stir in the apples.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan, spreading evenly. Bake for 20 minutes if using a jelly roll pan, and about 17 minutes if using a 16.75 by 12-inch pan, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Let cool in the pan on a wire rack for about 15 to 20 minutes.

#### Make the glaze:

Meanwhile, combine the butter and milk in a large heat-proof bowl. Microwave until the butter is melted. Gradually stir in the powdered sugar until combined. Stir in the vanilla and caramel until combined. If the glaze is too thin, add more powdered sugar to thicken. Pour evenly over the slightly warm cake. Feel free to use less glaze for less sweetness. Let set for about 15 minutes before slicing and serving.



Enjoy!

# Southwest Lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

December 2023

## Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Employees and Directors of Southwest Iowa REC would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued patronage and may you and your loved ones have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

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Look forward to more information on Southwest Iowa REC's scholarship opportunities in next month's newsletter.

Can't wait until then? Updated information is located on our website!

Students can apply now for a trip to our nation's capital from June 15-21!



Area high school students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)

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**Southwest Iowa REC offices will be CLOSED:**  
**On Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas**  
**and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's.**  
*Have a safe and happy holiday!*



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**Mount Ayr**  
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## A Storm is Brewing: Electric Reliability is in Jeopardy

By Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Congressman Randy Feenstra, representing Iowa's 4th District

Supply chain delays. Disorderly retirements of dispatchable electric generation. Complex regulations on power plant emissions. Regional warnings about a lack of generation capacity to cover electric demand. Permitting delays for needed electric transmission infrastructure.

Individually, any one of these issues is enough to seriously impact reliability of electric service. But all these scenarios are playing out simultaneously across the nation and a perfect storm may be on the horizon.

Electric reliability across America is in serious jeopardy, and frankly, it's unacceptable. Here are the facts:

Dispatchable sources of electric generation like coal and nuclear are being retired far too early. And their generation capacity is being replaced by intermittent sources of generation like wind and solar. The downside: These intermittent sources only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.

Battery storage is not yet feasible for longer durations on a utility-scale level. For all practical purposes, electricity must be generated as it is being consumed. This becomes a problem when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining and energy consumption is high.

Demand for electricity continues to grow as our society becomes increasingly reliant on electricity.



Chuck Soderberg



Randy Feenstra

Locally owned electric cooperatives work hard to provide reliable and affordable electricity for the member-consumers they serve. Co-ops are mission driven to power lives and empower communities and they make long-term decisions to ensure power is available when it's needed.

That's why we believe in a power generation strategy that prioritizes energy diversity. The same adage used for sound financial investing also applies to power generation: don't put all your eggs in one basket. Iowa's electric cooperatives use dispatchable sources of power like coal and natural gas because they can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. But our ability to provide reliable electricity is in jeopardy.

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units. The proposal is part of the current administration's misguided regulatory agenda to create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. We believe this proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation.

But that's not the only threat we face. The 2023 NERC summer reliability assessment is just the latest in a series of alarming reminders about the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. Nine states experienced power interruptions last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

It's imperative that policymakers work to prioritize reliability in every energy policy discussion. Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late.

The families, farms and businesses served by electric cooperatives deserve affordable AND reliable electricity to power their lives.



## Newly Redesigned SmartHub

Your life is busy and managing your account can feel complicated, with our new SmartHub tool it won't be. Save time and money by managing your account at anytime from anywhere. Here are some of the ways SmartHub will put you in control of your account.

Save time and money by managing your account at anytime from anywhere

### HOW CAN SMARTHUB HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR ACCOUNT?

Our SmartHub web portal or mobile app will keep you informed and will show you where to save time and money on your bills.

**Billing & Payments:** No more waiting for your bill to arrive in the mail, access your bill at anytime from anywhere. Save time with easy payment options to avoid late fees and service interruptions.

**Alerts & Notifications:** It can be frustrating waiting on hold to get your questions answered or pay your bill. Stay informed on important account events via email or text messages. Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.

**Paperless Billing:** What if you could save some time and a tree at the same time? Activate SmartHub paperless billing, an ecofriendly way to instantly access your bill.

**Usage Monitoring:** Worrying about usage or surprising bill amounts can be stressful. When you know what devices are using the most [energy/bandwidth], you can make moneysaving decisions about your account. Imagine opening your bill and seeing an amount less than expected.

SmartHub gives you complete control over your account by giving you the tools that deliver the right information at the right time so you can make the right decisions about your account.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER FOR SMARTHUB?

You will need an email address and your account number. You can find your account number on your bill.

### HOW WILL YOU REGISTER FOR SMARTHUB?

Getting started with SmartHub is as easy as 1-2-3.

#### Step 1: Register your account in SmartHub

Whether through our web portal or mobile app, you can register your account, for free, in SmartHub. You can find the registration button on our SmartHub support page at [domain.com/smarthub](http://domain.com/smarthub).

#### Step 2: Activate the features you want

Now is the time to take advantage of features like alerts/notifications, Auto Pay, and paperless billing to have more control over your account.

#### Step 3: Managing your account from anytime at anywhere

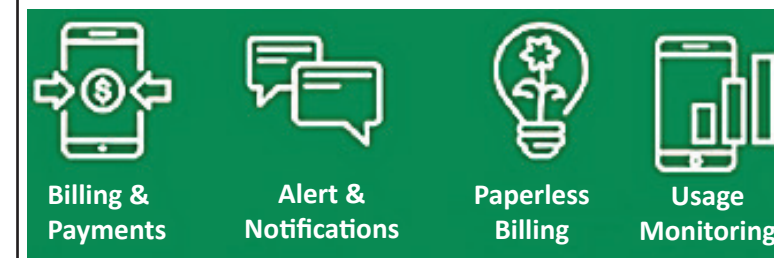
The more features you take advantage of, the more time and money you can save!

**Give Auto Pay a try:** After you register your account in SmartHub, to keep your scheduled payments on track you can set up your account for Auto Pay. Visit our SmartHub support page at [domain.com/smarthub](http://domain.com/smarthub) for instruction.

**Activate Paperless Billing:** At the end of the registration process, we encourage you to select our paperless billing option so you can receive your new bill immediately, no matter where you are at.

#### Mobile App Downloads:

You can download our free, secure SmartHub app from the Apple or Google Play stores.



## 2024 Charges – Member Pricing at SWIREC Served Locations Only

### LABOR – Regular Working Hours

\$72.00/hour 1 hour minimum

### LABOR – After Regular Working Hours (Member Emergencies Only)

\$108.00/hour 2 hour minimum per employee – 2 employees required

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Trip Charge	\$40.00 per mileage vehicle required per job per day
Portable Trencher	\$.75/foot
Trencher/Backhoe	\$2.00/foot (\$250 minimum)
Basket/Digger	\$80/hour
Boring Machine	\$80/hour (\$300 minimum)

- 1 hour minimum on all truck charges
- Labor will be charged in addition to truck and equipment charges

Call for non-member pricing quotes.

