



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives
of Iowa

● AUGUST 2022

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**2022 Shine the Light
nominees announced**

**Students attend Youth Tour
in nation's capital**

State Fair inspired recipes

Win a Westinghouse electric pressure washer ► See Page 3

CONTENTS



VOLUME 75 • ISSUE 8

3

STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

Youth Tour delivers incredible experience

3

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Westinghouse electric pressure washer

14

IN THE COMMUNITY

Visit us at the Iowa State Fair

15

OUT BACK

Oh, the places we'll go!

EDITOR
Ann Foster Thelen

ART DIRECTOR
Joel Clifton

IAEC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Chuck Soderberg

IAEC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Erin Campbell

IAEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Roger Solomonson, District 3 – President
Gordon Greimann, District 6 – Vice President
Kenneth VandenBerg, District 1 – Secretary/Treasurer
Neal Heldt, District 7 – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Tony Lem, District 2
Jim Miller, District 5
Deena Moore, District 4
Marion Denger, Prairie Energy Cooperative – NRECA Representative
Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy Cooperative – Managers' Representative

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine (ISSN: 1935-7176) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase ***Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*** is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

Editorial Office
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350.

Email Address
editor@ieclmagazine.com. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

Website
www.ieclmagazine.com

Postmaster
Send address changes to *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

Change of Address
Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

© Copyright 2022, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. No portion of the editorial, photographic or other content of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine or its website may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.



ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Erica Vonk, a North West REC member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could win \$100!

YOUTH TOUR DELIVERS INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE IN D.C.

BY SHELLY YORK



Youth Tour 2022 can be summed up simply by saying, “We’re back!” The pandemic was able to pause the 60-plus year tradition, but it certainly couldn’t

stop it! We were so excited to get back to Washington, D.C., and show 34 Iowa students the nation’s capital and experience all that the Youth Tour has to offer.

To be honest, there was a bit of trepidation on my part. Would I remember how to “do Youth Tour?” Is D.C. ready for large groups? What if we have travel issues? All that worry was for nothing. D.C. was ready, and our travel days went off without a hitch. But the true rockstars of the trip were the 34 high school students chosen by their electric cooperatives for this experience of a lifetime!

We started out with an orientation in Des Moines the night before we left. Most of the students did not know a single other person going on the trip, but that didn’t stop them from jumping right in.

Snack cooperative success

I love touring D.C. with the Youth Tour delegates, but I must admit one of my favorite activities of Youth Tour is working with students to run our own cooperative. Our cooperative provides snacks for chaperones and students. This project is educational and practical, plus it accomplishes a few

things: It provides drinks and snacks at discount prices, and it teaches everyone about starting and operating a cooperative and being a member-consumer.

On the last night of the trip, our snack co-op held an annual meeting where the leadership reported to the members about the co-op’s operations. Margins, or funds remaining after operations are closed, were returned to the members through patronage and capital credits.

Once-in-a-lifetime experiences

Our week in D.C. was full of incredible sights and experiences. From laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, seeing the city from the top of the Washington Monument, meeting with members of Congress, visiting all the monuments and memorials around the district, touring the U.S. Capitol, grabbing lunch at my favorite local eatery (Ben’s Chili Bowl) to joining Sen. Chuck Grassley on his early morning run, we had an unbelievable week. I say without hesitation that we all walked away with a greater understanding of our roles as



American citizens and a greater appreciation for the role of electric cooperatives in our communities. For details about what we did each day, check out our blog at iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.

Save the date

Next summer’s Youth Tour will be held June 17-23, 2023, with orientation the evening of June 17 in Des Moines.

If you know a high school student with a passion for government and public service, encourage them to apply for next year’s trip. Contact your local rural electric cooperative and visit www.iowayouthtour.com for more information.

Shelly York is the Youth Tour director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR’S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Westinghouse electric pressure washer



Tackle the toughest grime with the Westinghouse ePX3050 electric pressure washer designed for your most easy and convenient cleaning experience yet. Delivering 2,050 max PSI of pressure with up to 1.76 gallons per minute of water flow (without nozzle at minimum pressure), this electric pressure washer has the muscle to scrub away mildew, grease, oil, tar, mud, rust and more for all household surfaces with pure scouring force.

ENTER ONLINE BY AUG. 31!

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month’s contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Aug. 31. You must be a member of one of Iowa’s electric cooperatives to win. There’s no obligation associated with entering, we don’t share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the ice cream maker from the June issue was Molly Bohlen, Butler County REC.



IOWA CO-OPS USE FEDERAL LOANS TO HELP HOSPITAL HANDLE RECORD BIRTHS

As more rural health care systems close, one north-central Iowa hospital is experiencing an unprecedented baby boom, and local electric cooperatives have stepped in to help it finance a much-needed maternity center expansion.

Prairie Energy Cooperative in Clarion and power supplier Corn Belt Power Cooperative in Humboldt recently passed through \$2.4 million in federal loans to Iowa Specialty Hospital to boost its maternity services. The money comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, which provides zero-interest loans and grants for projects that create and retain jobs in rural areas. Eligible applicants are USDA’s Electric Program and Telecom Program borrowers.

The REDLG loans come as record numbers of births are straining the busy hospital, where five of 25 beds are dedicated for labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum care. In 2021, doctors delivered a record 568 babies, compared to 485 in 2020. And the hospital is projecting 600 births this year.



Iowa electric co-ops are steering federal loans to help Iowa Specialty Hospital with record births. From left: ISH’s Steve Simonin; Prairie Energy Cooperative’s Todd Foss and Sarah Olson; ISH’s Cindy Hunter; Corn Belt Power Cooperative’s Brittany Dickey and Stacy Cirks; and ISH’s Greg Polzin.

Photo: Jordan Weber/Iowa Specialty Hospital

“We consistently fill these rooms and overflow into medical and surgery rooms daily,” says Jenn Mewes, Iowa Specialty Hospital’s OB leader, adding that doctors and nurses have been paying extra attention to “bed management” to keep pace with deliveries.

Throughout the state, 10 labor and delivery units have closed in the past three years.

“As birthing facilities continue to decrease, patients are more likely to have to drive for this care,” says Mewes, noting that in some cases,

expectant families travel as far as 100 miles roundtrip.

The hospital’s expansion, estimated at \$5.5 million, will include three additional maternity rooms and specialty clinic space at the facility. It’s all part of improving the lives of members, says Brittany Dickey, vice president of business development, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

She adds, “Our members and staff use this hospital and it’s part of our community.”

Sources: NRECA, Prairie Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

ENTER TO WIN

WIN \$100 FOR A PUBLISHED COVER PHOTO

We’re always looking for stunning images for the cover of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine. If we select your photo for a cover, we’ll award you with \$100. The photos must be clear, of an Iowa place served by an electric cooperative and in high resolution. To be considered, email photos to editor@ieclmagazine.com with “Cover Submission” in the subject line.

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT COPPER THEFT!

If you see suspicious activities, please call. Together, we can cut down on copper theft and other crimes that threaten public safety!





MADDIE SCHMITZ TO REPRESENT IOWA ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

Maddie Schmitz, the Pella Cooperative Electric Association recipient for the 2022 Iowa Youth Tour, was selected as the Iowa Youth Leadership Council (YLC) delegate during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., June 18-24.

Each state participating in the Youth Tour selects one student to be a part of this national group known as the YLC. Schmitz will serve as the Iowa representative from June 2022 through March 2023.

"The Iowa Youth Tour was an absolute blast," says Schmitz. "I met so many great students from across the state, met with some of our Iowa senators and representatives, toured monuments and historical sites, and learned about our nation's electric cooperatives. I'm honored to represent Iowa on the Youth Leadership Council and look forward to the upcoming year."

Schmitz will attend the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's



(IAEC) Annual Meeting in Des Moines this December and an all-expense paid trip to the NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, next March. Of the national group, one student will be selected as the spokesperson for the YLC and give their speech at the NRECA meeting. She also receives a \$1,000 scholarship from IAEC.

"Investing in our next generation of leaders is a large part of our cooperative's mission. We'd like to congratulate Maddie for her hard work and determination," says Doug Stewart, CEO of Pella Cooperative Electric Association. "She is a born leader and driven student that we're proud to have represent our co-op."

Schmitz will join the other state representatives throughout 2022 for virtual meetings, leadership and public speaking trainings, co-op forums and community activities, such as voter registration drives.

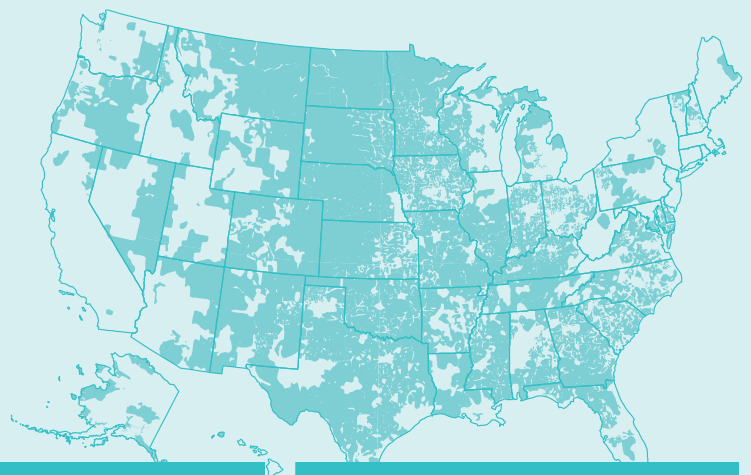
"Maddie is a well-spoken, successful, driven student," says Shelly York, IAEC Youth Tour director. "Her school involvements and extracurricular activities have set her up to be a terrific delegate to the YLC."

For more information on this year's Youth Tour, see Pages 10-11 of this issue.

Cooperatives power

56%

of the nation's landmass.



Our co-ops serve **42 million** people, including **92% of persistent poverty counties**.

Power over **21 million** businesses, homes, schools and farms in **48 states**.

Returned more than **\$1.5 billion** in capital credits to their **consumer-members** in 2020.

SHINE THE LIGHT CONTEST NOMINEES ANNOUNCED



The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa are driven by our commitment to community.

To celebrate local volunteers, the Shine the Light contest returned for a second year and received 68 entries during the month of June. Employees and member-consumers of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community.

Three winners will be awarded a \$2,000 donation to their charity or community organization of choice and will be featured in next month's issue. Please join us in celebrating these nominees for their outstanding commitment to community. Learn more at www.IowaShineTheLight.com.

2022 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

Nancy Anderson from Estherville was nominated by **Jennifer Sievert of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Emmet County Relay for Life**.

Sandi Bartels from Clinton was nominated by **Chandra Williams of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Midwest Pets for Life**.

Sharon Van Beek from Primghar was nominated by **Laura Leonard of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Buckets for Joy**.

Joe Berger from Lohrville was nominated by **Presley Vogel of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for his work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Barb Bloes from Sac City was nominated by **Alice Zimmerman of Racoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Sac City Summer Lunch Program**.

Catherine Burkman from Albia was nominated by **Aimee Campbell of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with the **Albia Victoria Stroll**.

Rebecca Carico from Guthrie Center was nominated by **Sarah Sheeder of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with the **Friends of the Mary J Barnett Library**.

Rosalie Christensen from Riceville was nominated by **Elaine Govern of MiEnergy Cooperative** for her work with the **Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail Association**.

Billie Dall from Dike was nominated by **Patricia Pruisner of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Dike Public Library**.

Rick Dawson from Eagle Grove was nominated by **Lisa Harvey of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with **Eagle Grove Boy Scout Troop 1059**.

Louise Van Ervelde from Brooklyn was nominated by **Rusty Clayton of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Brooklyn Ruritan Club**.

Arlys Fritz from Burlington was nominated by **Martha Settles of Access Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Patriotic Quilts of SE Iowa**.

Judy and Jerry Fynaardt from Pella were nominated by **Emma Henning of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for their work with **Forward with Faith**.

Connie Gehring from Dakota Dunes S.D., was nominated by **Jody Hinrichsen of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Siouxland Foster Closet**.

Mary Goebel from Guttenberg was nominated by **Joseph Goebel of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Holy Cross North Buena Vista Fire Department**.

Marilyn Halbur from Carroll was nominated by **Jeff Halbur of Racoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Carroll Community Schools**.

Hope Hartman from Sheffield was nominated by **Madison Alert of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Coulter-Alexander-Latimer School Greenhouse Program**.

Kalcey Harvey from Dolliver was nominated by **Gary Natterstad of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Elks Lodge Foundation #528**.

Dr. Philip Heistercamp from Jefferson was nominated by **Kristi Holz of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Greene County Christian Action Resource Center**.

Rebecca Helland was nominated by **Jana Noteboom of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for her work with **Sprigs 'n Sprouts**.

Ron Hewus from Bloomfield was nominated by **Joye Lore-Lawson of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Davis County Tourism Corporation**.

Mary Hill from Afton was nominated by **Retta Ripperger of Farmers Electric Cooperative (Greenfield)** for her work with the **Afton Community Club**.

Tom and Julie Hoodjer from Clarksville were nominated by **Patrick Norton of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with the **Northeast Iowa Food Bank**.

Jalene Hornbuckle from Nevada was nominated by **Nancy Clough of Consumers Energy** for her work with **Harmony Clothing Closet, Inc.**

Joyce Hornstein from Huxley was nominated by **Jean Saveraid of Greenfield Municipal Utilities** for her work with the **Ballard Community Performing Arts Association**.

Greg Hudecek from Calmar was nominated by **Theresa Hudecek of MiEnergy Cooperative** for his work with the **Cresco Wildlife Club**.

Richard Hyman from Dubuque was nominated by **Frank Johnson of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Ewalu Bible Camp and Retreat Center**.

Deb Johnson from Fairfield was nominated by **Kathleen Brown of Access Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Greater Fairfield Area Habitat for Humanity**.

Geri Johnson from Onawa was nominated by **Katie Weston of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **Food4You**.

Sheila De Jong from Sioux Center was nominated by **Karla Byl of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Katelyn's Fund Orphan Ministry**.

Janet Judisch from Sumner was nominated by **Nancy Jaschen of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**.

Kristine Kennedy from Chariton was nominated by **Tami Adams of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Lucas County Health Center Volunteer Services**.

Marilyn King from Schaller was nominated by **Kirk Langner of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Harold King Memorial Tractor Ride, Inc.**

Riley Lewis from Forest City was nominated by **Laura Kudej of Heartland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Winnebago Historical Society**.

Mike Lingle from Arion was nominated by **Stacy Meggers of Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **WAVE**.

Kenneth Lloyd from Union was nominated by **Pauline Lloyd of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America**.

Nicole Low from Eldora was nominated by **Paul Lawler of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Eldora Community Garden**.

Connie Mattison was nominated by **Linzie Morris of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with the **Belmond Promotions Council**.

Bradley McDowell from Primghar was nominated by **Dudley McDowell of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **LoveINC**.

Jamie McManis was nominated by **Phil Kinser of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Adams Community Foundation**.

Jack McPherson from Boone was nominated by **Marcia Godfrey of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **Marion St. United Methodist Church**.

Jeff Miles from Boone was nominated by **Mark Schneider of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Iowa Arboretum & Gardens**.

Mike Moran from Lohrville was nominated by **Pam and Gary Haberl of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for his work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Diane Olson from Pocahontas was nominated by **Tracy Grothaus of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Pocahontas County Shooting Sports**.

Sandra Otto from Albert City was nominated by **Karl Lind of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **American Legion Post 299**.

Barbara Pestka from Maquoketa was nominated by **Lisa Gottschalk of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Friends of the Maquoketa Public Library and Maquoketa YMCA**.

Sara Preston from Swea City was nominated by **Amy Walter of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Swea City's Pool Plunge**.

Linda Pruin from Clarksville was nominated by **Harlan Pruin of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Waverly Health Center**.

Duane Queen from Storm Lake was nominated by **Brad Strader of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Hy-Noon Kiwanis Club of Storm Lake**.

Mike and Sandy Ralya from Afton were nominated by **Dorothy McNaught of Greenfield Municipal Utilities** for their work with the **Afton Community Club**.

Retta Ripperger from Afton was nominated by **Laura Tallmon of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with the **Afton Community Club**.

Candy Roberg from Anamosa was nominated by **Peggy Michaelsen of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Animal Welfare Friends**.

Barb Sauser from Cascade was nominated by **Joyce McMullen of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **St. Matthias Parish**.

Julie Schmidt from Denison was nominated by **Douglas Schmidt of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Denison First United Methodist Church**.

Tom Simmons from Clarion was nominated by **Chad Chapman of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with the **Clarion Church of Christ Youth Group**.

Jim Sloan from Eldon was nominated by **Kimberly Orman of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Wapello County Fair**.

Peggy Smith from Baxter was nominated by **Natalie Moorman of Consumers Energy** for her work with **Baxter Hometown Pride**.

Mary Snyder from Breda was nominated by **Mark Ludwig of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Breda Betterment Committee**.

Wyona Stewart from Floyd was nominated by **Ramon and Sara Kuntz of Heartland Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Patchwork Pals Quilt Guild**.

Aggie Theobald from Stacyville was nominated by **Karen Brumm of Heartland Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Stacyville Community Nursing Home**.

Beth Thole from Sibley was nominated by **Don & Cindy Thole of Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with the **McCullum Museum - The Farm Shed**.

Presley Vogel from Lohrville was nominated by **Heather Parker of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Lynn Waelchi was nominated by **Lisa Digman of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Inspiration Stables**.

Jeff Wanninger from Manning was nominated by **Jean Voegel of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for his work with **Main Street Manning**.

Leona Welter from Corwith was nominated by **Linda Krebs of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with the **Corwith Public Library**.

G. Kim Wills from Hampton was nominated by **Allen Nickerson of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **West Fork Food Pantry**.

Tom Woodard from Albia was nominated by **Janice Crall of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for his work with the **Albia Victorian Stroll**.

Dena Zoske from Eldora was nominated by **DeAnne Kielsmeier of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with **Hardin County 4-H**.

STATE FAIR INSPIRED RECIPES

MINI DONUTS

- 3 cups all-purpose flour (plus ½ cup for kneading)
- 1 tablespoon instant dry yeast
- ¼ cup white or brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup buttermilk
- 1 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- ½ cup butter, melted (plus additional butter for dipping)
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

Whisk together dry ingredients. Mix buttermilk, milk and vanilla. Heat this mixture until just lukewarm. Pour ½ cup melted butter into the milk mixture and stir. Pour wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix. Turn out the dough onto a floured surface and knead for 5 minutes until smooth. Place dough into an oiled bowl and cover. Allow the covered dough to rise for 1 hour.

Punch down the dough and roll to ½-inch thickness. Use a 2-inch circle cookie cutter and a ½-inch cookie cutter for the center donut hole. Place the cut donuts on a baking sheet that has been lined with parchment. Cover and leave in a warm location to rise for 20 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees F for 8 minutes or until golden brown. Mix the granulated sugar and cinnamon. Dip the hot baked donuts in melted butter then roll in the cinnamon sugar. *Yield 24 donuts*

**Twyla Godbersen • Arthur
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

CORN DOG DELIGHTFUL BITES

- 4 hot dogs
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Cut each hot dog into six pieces. Mix remaining ingredients until well blended. Grease 24 small muffin tins. Fill with batter ¼-inch from top. Carefully push hot dog pieces into center of batter. Bake at 450 degrees F for 15 minutes, until browned. Cool and enjoy these delightful bites!

Mary Gropper • Chelsea • T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

OATMEAL CREAM PIES

- 2¼ cups shortening, divided
- 2⅔ cups brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2¼ cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 4 cups oats
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 1 7-ounce jar marshmallow creme
- 1-3 tablespoons milk

Mix 1½ cup shortening together with brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and oats. Mix well, then drop cookie-scoop-size balls on a greased cookie sheet, spaced 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees F for 10-12 minutes. Cool. Mix ¾ cup shortening, powdered sugar, marshmallow creme and milk. Spread on the bottom of half of the cookies and top with remaining cookies to make a sandwich.

**Anna Domnick • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

NACHO DIP

- ½ pound cream cheese
- ¼ cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ cup Velveeta cheese
- 2 tablespoons milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¾ tablespoon taco seasoning
- 2 tablespoons taco sauce
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Microwave cheeses together until melted. Add remaining ingredients and serve in a small slow cooker on low to keep warm. Optional: Add white cooking wine to taste.

Lizzy Hartter • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

MONKEY TAILS

- 10 ice pop sticks
- 5 ripe bananas
- 1 16-ounce package semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 10 tablespoons flaked coconut

Peel bananas and halve crosswise. Insert one ice pop stick into the cut end of each banana. Place the bananas on a baking sheet covered in wax paper and place in freezer until frozen, about 2 hours. Melt the chocolate chips and butter in a microwave-safe bowl in 30-second intervals for 1-3 minutes, stirring after each melting. Dip the frozen bananas in the melted chocolate, spooning the chocolate over the banana to cover it completely. Roll in coconut if desired. Place the dipped bananas on wax-paper-covered baking sheet and freeze until the chocolate is firm. *Serves 10*

Dave Duit • Nevada • Consumers Energy

EASY CHEEZY CREAM POTATO BAKE

- 3 cups half and half
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 8 ounces mild cheddar or Velveeta cheese
- 1 32-ounce package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large bowl or saucepan, combine half and half, butter and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat until butter is melted. Then add cheese to mixture until melted. Place potatoes in a greased 13x2-inch baking dish, pour cream mixture over potatoes. Sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 45-55 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown. *Serves 12*

Janice Shelton • Indianola
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

COCONUT DREAM PIE

- 2 envelopes Dream Whip
- 2¼ cups cold milk, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 4-ounce packages coconut cream instant pudding
- 1 9-inch baked pastry shell or graham cracker pie crust
- 1 cup toasted coconut

In a large bowl, beat Dream Whip, 1 cup milk and vanilla with electric mixer on high speed for 6 minutes or until topping thickens and forms peaks. Add remaining 1¼ cups milk and pudding mixes, beat on low speed. Then beat on high speed for 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Spoon into pastry shell and refrigerate at least 4 hours. Garnish with toasted coconut. *Serves 8*

Annalee Buffington • Marshalltown • Consumers Energy

APPLE FRITTERS

- 2 medium Granny Smith apples
- 1 cup flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- small handful raisins

Peel and cut apples into very thin pieces. Mix flour, baking powder, sugar, egg, milk and salt. Add apples and a small handful of raisins. Drop by tablespoons into deep-fat fryer at 350 degrees F until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. *Yield 20-24 fritters*

Penny Sue Haley • Keswick
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

WANTED:

CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND CANDY RECIPES

THE REWARD:

\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!

Deadline is Aug. 31

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. **Also provide the number of servings per recipe.**

EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com

(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave.,
Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992



EDUCATING AND DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S COOPERATIVE LEADERS

The Youth Tour was a great experience to meet new people, see parts of our nation's capital, and learn about cooperatives' impact on their communities.

Maddie Schmitz,
Pella Cooperative
Electric Association

Youth Tour is an incredible experience full of so many lasting memories. The people I met on this trip will change me forever. There's something magical about what happened Youth Tour week. It's kind of like we all slipped into the same dream, and then slipped out of it and only we will ever be able to experience and describe what happened in that very special dream.

Elsie Lange,
Access Energy
Cooperative

BY ANN FOSTER THELEN

Youth Tour was an experience of a lifetime. I am so grateful.

Lily Mayo,
Butler County REC

Youth Tour was eye opening and inspiring. Talking to our senators and our representatives helped me realize they are normal people, but with great responsibility and knowledge. I was amazed by all the sights we got to see.

Leah Langel,
North West REC

Electric cooperatives are focused on all their members, not just those who are in control.

Colton Buell,
Consumers Energy

To learn more about the group's daily adventures, visit the Iowa Youth Tour Blog at iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.



The cooperative system is a very effective way to provide a service, while maintaining membership-owned leadership.

Lucas Wuebker,
Midland Power Cooperative

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2023 Youth Tour
June 17-23, 2023
www.iowayouthtour.com



2022 PARTICIPANTS

- Elsie Lange** – Access Energy Cooperative
- Andi Scott** – Access Energy Cooperative
- Cadan Evanson** – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
- Riley Troendle** – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
- Lily Mayo** – Butler County REC
- Nathan Burley** – Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association
- Gabriel Helmon** – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Jayce Reed** – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Colton Buell** – Consumers Energy
- Teagan Glenney** – Consumers Energy
- Miles Wood** – Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative
- Ethan Blomme** – Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Grace Denning** – Harrison County REC
- Maci Juenger** – Heartland Power Cooperative
- Liz Muller** – Heartland Power Cooperative
- Hannah Grothaus** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Isaac Johnson** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Rayce Meyer** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Jaina Groen** – Lyon REC
- Amelia Schneidermann** – Lyon REC
- Lucas Wuebker** – Midland Power Cooperative
- Elaina Rosonke** – MiEnergy Cooperative
- Sabre Schmitz** – Nishnabotna Valley REC
- Addison Arens** – North West REC
- Leah Langel** – North West REC
- Hudson Oolman** – North West REC
- Maddie Schmitz** – Pella Cooperative Electric Association
- Jenna Pringnitz** – Prairie Energy Cooperative
- Kyra Wolterman** – Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
- Hannah Bridgman** – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
- Holland Hunter** – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
- Henry Bevington** – Southwest Iowa REC
- Alaina Whittington** – Southwest Iowa REC
- Kendra Tracy** – United Electric Cooperative

SOME OF THE THINGS STUDENTS DID AND SAW ON THIS YEAR'S YOUTH TOUR:

- » Washington Monument
- » World War II Memorial
- » Albert Einstein Memorial
- » Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- » Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- » The National Mall
- » Boat cruise on the Potomac River
- » Holocaust Memorial
- » Ford's Theater
- » Korean War Veterans Memorial
- » Lincoln Memorial
- » Washington National Cathedral
- » Mount Vernon
- » Iwo Jima Sunset Parade
- » White House
- » U.S. Capitol



STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE UTILITY SCAMMERS

BY PAUL WESSLUND

In 2021, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received 5.7 million incident reports in the consumer marketplace. About half of those were identified as fraud and a quarter as identity theft. Those statistics don't tabulate utility fraud specifically, but the Better Business Bureau says it receives about 1,000 complaints of utility scams each year.

Some of the most common utility scams include:

- **A random call.** The caller says you didn't pay your last electric bill, and your power will be cut off immediately – unless you pay right now by credit card over the phone. Caller ID shows it came from the utility; they even told you the exact amount of your most recent bill.
- **An alert that you overpaid your utility bill.** To get the refund, you need to provide your financial information.
- **A friendly couple in uniform knocks on your door.** They claim to be from the power company and are following up on high-bill complaints from your neighbors. They want to look at your utility bill so they can get the information code to make sure you aren't being double-charged.

These real-life stories may seem like obvious scams. Who would ever fall for them? It turns out about one in four people.

Scammers take you by surprise

While most people do the right thing and hang up the phone or contact their utility rather than handing over money or private information, more than \$6 billion in losses to various scams were reported in 2021. According to Utilities United Against Scams, the typical cost for each victim who lost money was about \$500.

Reading about avoiding utility scams makes it sound simple. But the thing about scammers is they take you by surprise. They might be the most



charming people you have ever met. They might be the meanest and most intimidating, bullying you into acting. It can be hard to say “no” in the moment.

Scammers are notorious for recognizing when people are most vulnerable – Christmas, right after a tornado, or with the approach of really hot or cold weather. Fraud reports skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and FTC figures show complaints rising from almost 3.5 million in 2019 to more than 5.5 million in 2021.

Latest trends in utility fraud

Con artists keep up with technology – they'll come at you through email and texting. In one of the top recent scams, you're told to pay by gift or cash card, giving the swindlers the card and PIN number so they can easily access your money. (Note: A utility will never ask you to pay by a gift card.)

Another new scheme tells you to pay your bill with cryptocurrency. Your electric co-op will not require you to pay by bitcoin or similar methods.

The best way to avoid being a victim of a utility scam is to call your electric co-op directly. Scammers will try to rush you into acting, but no billing situation is so urgent you can't check on it.

If you do lose money on a scam, don't be embarrassed. Report it to your electric co-op. The state attorney general is responsible for going after fraud and will want to know about any suspicious schemes. You might even be able to get your money back.

Letting the appropriate contacts know about a scamming operation can help protect others in our communities.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

EMERGING ELECTRIC FARMING EQUIPMENT

BY KATHERINE LOVING

It's no surprise that sensitivity to fuel costs and a growing desire for energy independence are driving innovation in electric vehicles. Similarly, these same factors are creating increased interest in electric farming equipment.

Running a farm is traditionally dependent on oil and gas to keep machinery operating. Fuel costs impact the bottom line of agricultural production and are a major driver of food prices and farming revenue.

One significant new change for farming equipment is the trend of switching fossil fuel-powered equipment to electric equipment.

Electric tractors are now commercially available from multiple manufacturers and niche, electric-only companies. There are many benefits of replacing diesel motors with electric motors. Highly efficient electric motors can operate at 90% thermal efficiency, which helps provide cost savings over time, compared to diesel motors that operate at 30%-40% thermal efficiency.

Challenges in battery life

But there are significant barriers to electric farming technologies. Electric tractors cost about a third more than traditional tractors. Battery life for electric tractors typically ranges from three to six hours depending on hauling weight and workload, which can be a nonstarter for many larger

Electric tractors are now commercially available from multiple manufacturers, like the John Deere SESAM shown here, as well as from niche, electric-only companies.



Photo Credit: John Deere

farms where tractors are expected to run all day doing heavy-duty work.

While battery life can be problematic, advancements have been made over the last few years. Some tractors can carry two batteries, allowing for a mid-day switch without returning the tractor to a charging point. At this stage of development, electric tractors are likely better suited to smaller farms or vineyards.

Additional electric and renewable options for the farm

Utility terrain vehicles tend to look more like their gas-powered counterparts in terms of capability

and price, making them a more accessible entry into electric equipment on the farm.

The future of farm electrification may be focused on renewable energy, either in the form of solar power or waste heat recovery systems. There is ongoing research into the feasibility of placing solar panels on farms coupled with a battery storage system, then using that system as a fuel source for electric tractor batteries. Solar power is already being used to directly power autonomous precision sprayers for row crops.

There are still limitations on the heavy-duty use of electric farming equipment. Still, research and development will continue until these electric technologies are on par with their diesel or gas counterparts.

With more time and investment, electric farming equipment will likely become more widespread in the coming years.

Katherine Loving writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

Some farmers are switching to electric tractors, but many continue to utilize diesel-powered tractors. Electric tractors lack the battery power many farmers need for a long day of working in the fields.



NEW OUT BACK CONTRIBUTOR

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living is pleased to welcome Darcy Dougherty Maulsby as our new Out Back contributor. As a fifth-generation farmer, business owner, author, marketing specialist, historian and speaker, Darcy helps businesses uncover their “wow” stories and share those stories to inspire people to dream bigger, revitalize their rural communities and change the world for the good, one story at a time.

Darcy is proud to be part of a farm family that operates a Century Farm in Calhoun County near Lake City and Yetter. She is an electric cooperative member and also serves as president of the Calhoun County Corn Growers, a director with the Calhoun County Farm Bureau and an Iowa Soybean

Association District Advisory Committee member.

She is also passionate about helping people preserve local history. She serves as board president of Central School Preservation in Lake City, vice president of the Calhoun County Historic Preservation Commission, and is a member of the Titanic Historical Society and the Lincoln Highway Association.

Thank you to Valerie Van Kooten

We would also like to thank Valerie Van Kooten for serving as the Out Back author for the past eight years. We appreciate the monthly content she provided for our readers. Her musings and observations certainly brought smiles and chuckles over the years.



VISIT US AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2022 Iowa State Fair.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from Aug. 11-21, make sure to stop by and see us in the air conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello!

IN THE COMMUNITY



Stop by and see us during the #IowaStateFair! Iowa's electric cooperatives are handing out suckers and **hard hats** in the 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

IowaStateFair

OFFICIAL
SPONSOR

AUG 11-21 2022

Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives of Iowa

www.touchstoneenergy.coop



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

When I was volunteering one Saturday morning this summer at Central School, the museum in my hometown of Lake City, a high school friend and his family stopped by. They live in Orange County, California, not far from Disneyland. It was great to meet the whole crew, who wore matching blue T-shirts with "Oh! the Places We Go..." in yellow letters.

I wondered what it's like for my friend's California kids to experience small-town Iowa. Then I started thinking about how I couldn't wait to get away from rural Iowa 30 years ago when I graduated from high school.

Growing up in rural Iowa

I grew up on a farm between Lake City and Yetter, a child of the 1980s Farm Crisis. While no one ever explicitly told me to avoid an ag career and move to the city, the message was implied. When I left Lake City, though, I was still a farm girl at heart, thanks to my years as a Lake Creek Go-Getters 4-H Club member and the national awards I won with the horticulture team from the Southern Cal FFA chapter.

Plus, I had seen a bit of the wider world already. Around my junior year in high school, my parents encouraged me to write an essay and send it to the Calhoun County REC, which was accepting entries for the Iowa Youth Tour competition. That essay earned me an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., that summer.

I took my first airplane ride. I got to meet with Iowa's Congressional delegation. (The one who stood out to me was Rep. Fred Grandy, mainly because I remembered him as "Gopher" on *The Love Boat* TV show.) I even started to get the idea that good communication skills could pay off.

I went on to earn journalism and mass communication and history degrees at Iowa State University before starting my own marketing



JUNE 1991

and communication business in 2002. Since then, I've become an author and have published seven books of non-fiction Iowa history. I'm regularly asked to share my stories during ag career days at local middle schools. I always tell the kids that writing skills opened up amazing opportunities for me starting in high school, thanks to that winning essay and the Iowa Youth Tour.

Now I've come full circle and am grateful to be your new columnist for *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*. If you like stories of Iowa farming, food, history and rural living, we have a lot in common. Thanks for joining me on this journey. Oh, the places we'll go!

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.

Visit our website at www.ieclmagazine.com

TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM

FOCUSED ON YOUR STREET. NOT WALL STREET.

Think of your not-for-profit Touchstone Energy cooperative as your very own local energy advisor. After all, we're owned by you and the other members in our community, which means you'll always have a say in how your co-op runs. To learn more, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives
of Iowa

