



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

December 2021



*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!*

### Employees

Cacey Quick  
Jesse Hitt  
Duane Schafer  
Les Helvie  
Nathan Weeda  
Cody Stackhouse  
Shayne Larson  
Tanner Rinehart  
Kylee Fleharty  
Brycen Wallace

Luke Brockshus  
David Head  
Dustin Smith  
Lucas Dalton  
Paul Vanderholm  
Sarah Newton  
Steven Grace  
Tim Pfeiffer  
Zach Schafer  
Brady Williams

Eric Hensley  
Denise Hallquist  
Marilyn Rubel  
Phil Kinser  
Scott Geer  
Suzy Olson  
Justin Murphy  
Connor Giles

### Directors

Terry Barnes  
Kay Fast  
Mark Herzberg

Fred Hossle  
Deena Moore  
Dana Morgan  
Ken Peppmeier

Jason Smith  
Dale Walkup  
Marilyn Werner



If you have added or replaced appliances or other equipment or implemented other measures that may qualify for a rebate, be sure to submit those with us as soon as possible to maintain eligibility. Our current rebates will remain essentially the same for 2022 so be sure to check those out online at [swiarec.coop/rebates](http://swiarec.coop/rebates). Rebate forms may be printed from there or requested from one of our offices at 888-220-4869. Please look for our complete rebate listing in the January newsletter.

**Southwest Iowa REC offices will be CLOSED on Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's. Have a safe and happy holiday!**



**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!**

## CEO's COMMENTS:

# Season's Greetings from Southwest Iowa REC

"The holidays." I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Southwest Iowa REC, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here too. We have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone. Another service we offer is budget or leveled billing, which is intended to help you budget your monthly energy costs and avoid the seasonal influences that can have a significant impact on your electric bill. We also offer energy

efficiency programs to save you money and energy. Check out our rebate offerings on our website [www.swiarec.coop/rebates](http://www.swiarec.coop/rebates).

Our Operation RoundUp program helps many individuals and organizations in our local communities. By simply choosing to "round up" your energy bills to the next whole dollar amount, you can help others right here in our community. Through members' generous donations over the last 12 years, we've been able to give over \$280,000 to those in need. If you'd like to participate in our Operation RoundUp program, please contact your local Southwest Iowa REC office to sign up.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing on the future. In our area, we're seeing increased interest in renewable energy sources. Recent innovations and advances have led to significant cost decreases in renewable energy, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Southwest Iowa REC and its power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) have been able to adjust our fuel mix by incorporating more renewables. Today, 40% of our fuel mix is comprised of

solar, wind, hydro and landfill gas.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. Southwest Iowa REC provides \$10,000 annually in scholarships for local students.

Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send a high school junior to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. Information on how students can apply for our scholarships and/or Youth Tour will appear in our newsletter so be on the lookout for that.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Southwest Iowa REC, I know the future will be bright, because of you.



**Phil Kinser**

## Congratulations to Luke & Dustin!

Southwest Iowa REC's Luke Brockshus (Stanton) and Dustin Smith (Corning) have successfully completed a comprehensive lineworker certification program. The Lineworker Certification Program is the time-tested benchmark of apprentice and lineworker training programs and is administered through the Northwest Lineman College. The Lineworker Certification Program is a distance-learning training program offered to electric utility and construction companies for the certification of their lineworker employees. This program is most commonly used as the curriculum component of apprenticeship leading to journeyman certification. The remainder of their training leading to journeyman status will come from on-the-job training. Congratulations to Luke & Dustin, who can look forward to a very rewarding career at Southwest Iowa REC.





## Changes to Southwest Iowa REC's Outdoor Lighting Program

For many years, Southwest Iowa REC has installed a cooperative-owned outdoor light for its members on the meter pole. These lights have been provided, maintained and replaced at no additional cost to the member other than the cost of the electricity registered through your electric meter.

Effective January 1, 2022, Southwest Iowa REC will switch from installing 150-watt high-pressure sodium light fixtures to 50-watt LED light fixtures whenever a new light is installed or a repair to your existing non-LED light is needed. We will not upgrade you to the new LED light until your existing light stops working.

A \$5.00 monthly rental charge will be charged per light installed after January 1, 2022, and the energy consumed by the light will continue to be registered through your electric meter and billed accordingly. Southwest Iowa REC will continue to maintain and replace these LED lights, as necessary, at no extra charge to its members on the rental program. LED lights are very energy efficient and your monthly cost to have one (rental charge plus energy usage) will be between \$6.50 to \$7.50. This change is expected to be revenue neutral for the cooperative or result in a slight decrease in cost overall for our members.

After January 1, 2022, we will no longer repair or replace your existing cooperative-owned outdoor light fixture with anything other than the LED light. Members that choose not to participate in the cooperative's LED rental lighting program, may opt to purchase an LED light from Southwest Iowa REC plus installation. Please contact the cooperative for the cost to buy an LED light and have it installed. Southwest Iowa REC will not install any outdoor lighting that has not been purchased through it and all costs to maintain and replace a member-owned light will be billed at time and material as applicable.

## Davey Resource Group - Notice to All Members



Southwest Iowa REC has hired Davey Resource Group (DRG), of Alpharetta, Georgia, as a subcontractor to perform a complete field inventory of all of Southwest Iowa REC's electric distribution system. This will require physically visiting each pole, meter, and pad-mounted device that Southwest Iowa REC owns covering its entire service territory.

**DRG will begin its work in early January 2022.**

**Should you have any questions, please call our office at 888-220-4869 for assistance.**

## RECare – Customer Contribution Fund

Southwest Iowa REC's RECare program makes it easy to help Cooperative neighbors in need this winter. With rising heating fuel prices this season, more and more Iowans are seeking assistance with energy, heating and weatherization costs. While some federal and state dollars exist to help those in need, there are still shortfalls.

Consider a monthly contribution to Southwest Iowa REC's RECare program. 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 those who can't afford winter's heating bills. To help, fill out the form:

## Christmas Sugar Cookie Bars



### Sugar Cookie Bars

- ½ cup unsalted butter softened to room temperature
- 4 oz cream cheese
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract optional
- 2 large eggs
- 2 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt

### Frosting

- ½ cup unsalted butter
- 2 oz cream cheese
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

### Sugar Cookie Bars

1. Preheat the oven to 350F degrees.
2. Line a 9x13 inch pan with aluminum foil and lightly grease, or line with parchment paper.
3. In a large bowl, beat together the butter, cream cheese and sugar until fluffy.
4. Beat in the vanilla extract, almond extract and eggs.
5. In a separate bowl sift together the flour, cornstarch, baking powder and salt.
6. Carefully beat the flour mixture into the butter mixture about ½ at a time.
7. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan, and with lightly greased hands press it into the pan to form an even layer.
8. Bake in the preheated oven for 22-25 minutes or until the top is set and an inserted toothpick comes out clean.
9. Cool the bars completely, leaving them in the pan as they cool.

### Frosting

1. Beat the butter until soft, then mix in the cream cheese.
2. Add in the salt and vanilla extract
3. With the mixer on low speed beat in the powdered sugar about ½ cup at a time, until the desired sweetness and thickness is reached.
4. Frost the cooled cookie bars, then sprinkle with holiday sprinkles.

### Notes: Storage & Make-ahead Tips

Store bars in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days, or in the fridge for up to 5 days. Unfrosted bars can be wrapped tightly and frozen for up to 3 months. Thaw in the fridge overnight, then bring to room temperature before frosting and serving.



## Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of “members helping members” and contribute to RECare.

- \_\_\_\_ I will make a 1-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.  
 \_\_\_\_ I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: RECare – SW Iowa REC

1801 Grove Avenue; Box 367; Corning, IA 50841

OR RECare – SW Iowa REC

1502 W South Street; Box 391; Mt Ayr IA 50854

OR RECare – SW Iowa REC

415 Broad Avenue; Box 460; Stanton, IA 51573



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

### Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



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**2021 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0030/kwh**



Find us on Facebook

**Corning**  
1801 Grove Ave., Corning, IA 50841

**Mount Ayr**  
1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854

**Stanton**  
415 Broad Ave., Stanton, IA 51573

**Phone Number: (888) 220-4869**

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