

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

January 2022

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.



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.



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Proactively Providing Safe and Reliable Service

When electric cooperative member-owners are asked what they value most about their electric service, two things consistently rank near the top – reliability and affordability. With a 5-year annual average reliability rate of 99.98%, we know reliability doesn't happen by chance. It takes constant effort to maintain systems, improve where necessary, and anticipate our member-owners' increasing needs for electric service.

During the winter months, reliability is under greater scrutiny from our member-owners. Old Man Winter's fury of snow and ice storms, combined with strong winds, can put our systems to the test in a significant way. When outages occur, the most frequent cause is trees or other vegetation coming into contact with power lines. These types of outages are not only inconvenient for our member-owners but also costly to your cooperative's bottom line, which impacts affordability over the long-term.

We know that vegetation – especially trees – are valued parts of our landscape. Beyond enhancing the beauty of an area, they provide important functions like cool shade, noise barriers, supplying vital oxygen to the atmosphere, and providing a habitat for many animals. But trees also grow, which can cause

problems with power lines if they are not properly planted or if volunteer trees rise in unintended areas.

When branches and limbs break off, they often land in roadways or bring the power lines down with them – posing a safety risk to cooperative employees and the public. Because our distribution system connects thousands of people across our service territory, one tree coming in contact with a power line may impact your neighbors near and far. The Iowa Electrical Safety Code requires electric utilities, including cooperatives, to have a schedule and procedures for regular tree trimming and vegetation management, which is critical in minimizing these instances.

Both federal and state policies require that vegetation must be cleared from power lines as a safety measure for member-owners and our employees. These groups also have strict guidelines, including prohibiting trees from being planted certain distances away from power lines.

Under our vegetation management program – which means that trees and other vegetation are inspected and trimmed on a 5-year cycle – maintaining line clearance is our primary objective. We do this while ensuring we trim vegetation in an environmentally

responsible manner. The tree trimming process has two purposes – to remove elements that may already be coming into contact with utility equipment, such as wires and conductors and to create a clearance that will provide hazard-free operation of electric service.

Using the established standards as the guide, we also know that a methodical, proactive approach is important to ensure the safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible delivery of service. Like many things in life, preventative maintenance is a key to health – oil changes are vital to the longevity of a vehicle, regular dental visits are important in cavity prevention, and annual inspections and maintenance will likely extend the life of your furnace. Left to chance – rather than being proactive – your vehicle, teeth or furnace would likely suffer. The same is true with your cooperative's electric system. By proactively clearing vegetation before it reaches power lines, Southwest Iowa REC will be less impacted during severe weather and we'll avoid longer, more costly outages.



Phil Kinser



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 18-24!

Local high school students interested in public service & government are encouraged to apply now! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



**2022 Washington D.C. Youth Tour
June 18-24, 2022**

Contact your local Southwest Iowa REC office for an application or visit www.swiarec.coop



Scholarships Reminder

Southwest Iowa REC will once again be offering scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year to graduating high school seniors.

We will be awarding fourteen (14) \$500 scholarships. In addition, three (3) \$1,000 scholarships will be available for students planning to attend an Accredited Lineman School or electrical trade program.

Completed applications and a photo must be received at the REC Office by March 1, 2022 to be eligible.

2022 Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives – Effective 1/1/2022

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

provides our members with ways to save on your energy budget. We offer rebates on the following products that will offer substantial savings for your home.

Appliances: When replacing appliances, always look for **Energy Star** qualified appliances. Appliances can account for 13% of your energy bill. **Energy Star** qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models.

Energy Star Clothes Washer/Dryer	
With electric Water Heater	\$40/unit
Energy Star Clothes Dryer	\$20/unit

Pull the Plug Appliance Recycling:

Call 855-838-7817 to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner and receive an incentive for up to three operable units per address. Curbside pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor. For refrigerators and freezers: appliance size requirements apply (10 cubic feet or larger, no commercial sizes).

Refrigerator	\$35/unit
Freezer	\$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner	\$25/unit

Indoor Air Quality: Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home. Limit of two air quality system per home.

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV)	\$250/unit
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Heating and Cooling: As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. So, making smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system can have a big effect on your utility bills - and your comfort.

Geothermal Heat Pump (closed loop system) listing)	\$400/ton (AHRI listing)
(open loop system)	\$300/ton (AHRI listing-- no "pump & dump systems)
G.S.H.P. Replacement	\$150/ton

Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump \$400 /ton

ASHP units over 1/2 ton that meet current federal standard efficiencies. Eligible products listed here: <https://ashp.neep.org/>

Air Source Heat Pump	\$200/ton (ASHP units over ¼ ton; including mini-split systems)
(Hybrid system)	\$300/ton

Energy Star Bonus \$250/unit (Min. SEER 15.0, EER 12.5, HSPF 8.5)

Energy Star Central AC \$100/unit (Min. SEER 15.0 & EER12.5)

Outdoor Security Lighting

Energy Star LED	
or DLC Qualified Fixtures	\$10/fixture (20-34 watt)
	\$20/fixture (35-49 watt)
	\$40/fixture (50-74 watt)
	\$50/fixture (75-124 watt)
	\$60/fixture (125 watts or more)

**New lighting fixtures must be more energy efficient (lower wattage) than original installed fixtures.*

Water Heaters: From warm showers to clean dishes, we count on hot water. In fact, the average household spends \$400-\$600 per year on **water heating - making it the second largest energy expenditure** behind heating and cooling. Depending on the technology you choose, you can cut your water heating costs in half!

Energy Star Heat Pump Water Heater	\$650/unit
Geothermal Assisted Unit (DSWH)	\$150 (40 gal. or larger tank w/ desuperheater)
Electric Resistance Storage Tank Water Heater	\$75/unit (40 gal. or larger. tank-min. EF 0.90)

Electric Resistance Unit / First Time Heat Plus	\$125/unit (40 gal. larger tank-min. EF 0.90)
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Go Electric Bonus for New Accounts or Conversions \$100

*Inquire for prices on water heaters purchased from SWIAREC



Weatherization: Weatherizing your home will put money back in your pocket every month. It's that simple. On average, weatherization helps homeowners reduce their energy consumption by 25% to 30% - a savings of \$600 per year, every year. Older homes save even more – around 35% or more!

Requirements are you must have electric heat and/or central air conditioning (homes with natural gas heat do not qualify).

Home must be built prior to 2000.

Must be upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify)

Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Maximum incentive per home
\$2,200 (with electric heat with or without air conditioning)
\$300 (with central AC only and non-electric heating)

*Inquire with the Cooperative for details

New Home Construction: Building an All-Star home is the maximum goal you can obtain toward energy efficiency and will result in putting the most money back in your pocket.

All-Star Home \$500/home

Premier Electric Home \$200/home
(new construction, heat pump, electric water heating and appliances)

*Please ask about the Building Checklist

Other Programs:

Electric Vehicle Level 2 Charger \$500
(Must be installed at a residence served by Southwest Iowa REC)

EV Ready \$100
• 240/208 Volt wiring with 50-amp breaker (to support 40-amp charging) box on back or side wall of garage with NEMA 6-50 or 14-50 outlet.

Please visit swiarec.coop/content/rebates to find the forms.

CRIME

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STOP COPPER THEFT!

HONORING
THE
DREAM

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
1929-1968

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 17, 2022

Why do Co-Ops Advertise?

Proactive communication is essential in any industry or business, and it's especially important for Southwest Iowa REC to communicate often with our members who own the co-op. In fact, the core principles of our cooperative business model include concern for community and keeping our members informed and educated. We use a variety of communication methods such as our monthly newsletter, radio announcements, social media posts, and our website. All serve as effective ways for us to quickly communicate important information with you regarding safety, energy efficiency, cooperative business and regulatory notices. Here are a few other reasons we advertise:

1. Safety Awareness

As your electric cooperative, we have a duty to keep you safe from the dangers of electricity. Preventative safety messages are a top priority in our public communications efforts. For example, we remind farmers to watch out for electric lines and poles during planting and harvest seasons. We encourage members to call 8-1-1 before

digging so underground utilities can be properly located. Throughout the year, we tell members to "look up and live" as they use ladders and tall equipment around the house, garage or farm.

2. Energy Efficiency

At Southwest Iowa REC, we're committed to helping our members use energy wisely. We provide multiple resources to help you find ways to reduce that electricity bill and become more energy efficient, but we need to promote those resources so you know about them. We communicate through various methods to let you know about rebates and incentives for energy efficient products.

3. Cooperative Business

As an owner of the electric cooperative, you need to know important information about the financial condition of the business and when to elect directors of the board. We publish an annual report which includes important information about the cooperative.

4. Regulatory Notices

We are required to communicate with our cooperative members regarding specific state and federal regulations. Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps Southwest Iowa REC achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities.

Chicken Parmesan Casserole with Pasta

- 1 small rotisserie chicken (pulled and shredded)
- 1/2 pound cooked pasta (any kind)
- 24oz jar marinara sauce
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan
- 3/4 cup panko bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp melted butter
- Italian seasoning and garlic powder

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and grease a medium size baking dish (I used a 7x9 dish).
2. In a large pan or pot, cook and drain the pasta according to the package directions.
3. Place the drained pasta back into the pot and mix with the marinara sauce, chicken, HALF of the mozzarella, HALF of the parmesan, and 1-2 tsp of Italian seasoning.
4. Allow the mixture to simmer for a few minutes over medium-low heat and then spread it evenly onto the bottom of your baking dish; sprinkle the remaining mozzarella and parmesan cheese over top.
5. In a small bowl, mix together the panko bread crumbs, melted butter and garlic powder; sprinkle it evenly over the top of the casserole.
6. Bake uncovered on the center rack for about 15 minutes or until the panko crust turns golden brown.
7. Serve alone or with salad, veggies and/or breadsticks.



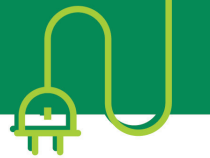
Enjoy!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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



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