



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

January 2023

Reminder Notice to All Members – DRG Performing Field Inventory



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 began its work in early 2022 and will continue in 2023 until the project is complete. Should you have any questions, please call our office at 888-220-4869 for assistance.



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Employee Update

Congratulations to Les Helvie for 20 years of service. Les is the Line Foreman at the Corning location.



Pictured are Les (left) and Justin Murphy, Director of Operations at SWIAREC, presenting him with his 20-year service award.



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Hen Haven Honored with Iowa Venture Award

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) and its Rural Electric Cooperative partners honored seven distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting. Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa Finance Authority, joined IADG as the presenter of the awards.

Hen Haven's layer facilities began operation in the 1990s, supplying shell eggs to the breaker industry. Seeing the future need for cage free eggs, the owners remodeled nine-layer barns and added new processing machinery to sell eggs to the cage-free breaker market.

Freebird Holdco LLC purchased the site in 2021 and renamed the company, Hen Haven. At the end of November 2021, the site suffered a fire, causing a catastrophic loss of one layer house, the processing plant and the biosecurity facilities. Just as the company started to rebuild in February 2022, highly pathogenic avian influenza hit, and the site was depopulated. During that time, the determined Hen Haven team worked tirelessly to shorten the cleanup period, repopulate the barns and resume operation. Hen Haven has also added two additional layer houses to the facility. The recent challenges demonstrate the Hen Haven team's dedication to delivering top products and services to their customers and partners.

"The Iowa Venture Award provides an opportunity to recognize and thank companies that are innovating, creating jobs, and

investing in Iowa," said IADG President/CEO Bruce Nuzum. "IADG and its partners are proud to recognize Hen Haven for their long-term contributions to their community, state of Iowa and beyond."



Left to right...

- Marilyn Werner** – SWIAREC Board President
- Sarah Newton** – SWIAREC Director of Finance & Admin Services
- Tim Pfeiffer** – SWIAREC Director of Member Services
- Bruce Nuzum** – IADG President/CEO
- Phil Kinser** – SWIAREC CEO
- Debi Durham** – Director, Iowa Economic Development Authority & Iowa Finance Authority
- Josh DeBower** – Hen Haven

- Kevin Buchanan** – Hen Haven
- Randy Nelson** – Hen Haven
- Tammy Buchanan** – Hen Haven
- Ken Peppmeier** – SWIAREC Board Secretary
- Becky DeBower** – Hen Haven
- Karen Nelson** – Hen Haven
- Justin Murphy** – SWIAREC Director of Operations
- Kay Fast** – SWIAREC Board Treasurer
- Mark Herzberg** – SWIAREC Board Vice President

Check out swiarec.coop to see their nomination video!

Reminder - Southwest Iowa REC's Outdoor Lighting Program

In January 2022, Southwest Iowa REC began installing 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 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) is estimated to be between \$6.50 to \$7.50.

We 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.

Students can apply now for a trip to our nation's capital from June 17-23!



Area high school students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com

People. Power. Purpose.

Statewide association annual meeting celebrates 2022 achievements

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), the trade association for Iowa's electric cooperatives, conducted its 2022 Annual Meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines Conference Center on December 1 and 2 with more than 350 registered attendees. Board directors and employees from Iowa's locally owned electric co-ops received informative updates from the IAEC board and staff in addition to learning about industry trends and current events.

"Our theme of People. Power. Purpose. really sums up what electric cooperatives are all about," remarked Roger Solomonson of Heartland Power Cooperative, who has completed his first year as IAEC board president. "Iowa's electric cooperatives should be proud of what their statewide association has accomplished on their behalf this year."

IAEC Executive Vice President and General Manager Chuck Soderberg covered several topics during his executive report including cybersecurity resources available to member co-ops and the importance of embracing an "all-of-the-above" power generation strategy to ensure reliability for member-consumers.



*Roger Solomonson, IAEC Board President
Phil Kinser, SWIAREC CEO
Marilyn Werner, SWIAREC Board President
Chuck Soderberg, IAEC Executive VP/General Manager*

During the business meeting portion of the annual meeting, two directors were elected to the IAEC Board: Deena Moore of Southwest Iowa REC was elected to serve a three-year term representing District 4 and Bruce Amundson of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (not pictured) was elected to serve a three-year term representing District 7. The IAEC Board would like to thank outgoing director Neal Heldt of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and outgoing managers' representative Brian Krambeer of MiEnergy Cooperative (not pictured) for their leadership and service to Iowa's electric cooperatives. They were presented with commemorative plaques during the business meeting in recognition of their service.

Several Iowa electric cooperatives, including Southwest Iowa REC, were congratulated for completing the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) in 2022. RESAP is a national safety program that electric co-ops utilize as a framework to improve safety performance and culture.

Following the Annual Meeting, the new slate of directors reorganized and announced the following officers:

- IAEC Board President: Roger Solomonson, District 3 director from Heartland Power Cooperative
- IAEC Board Vice President: Gordon Greimann, District 6 director from Franklin REC
- IAEC Board Secretary/Treasurer: Kenneth Vandenberg, District 1 director from Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative
- IAEC Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Deena Moore, District 4 director from Southwest Iowa REC



Paul Vanderholm

The statewide association also honored several electric co-op employees and directors who celebrated 25 years of service in 2022, including Paul Vanderholm from Southwest Iowa REC, Stanton.

Co-op board directors who earned education certifications during the year were also recognized at IAEC's 2022 Annual Meeting for their commitment to education and training. Southwest Iowa REC Board President, Marilyn Werner, was honored with the Board Leadership Certificate.



*Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative Board Members pictured left to right:
Marion Denger, Prairie Energy Cooperative & NRECA
Jim Miller, Calhoun County
Anthony "Tony" Lem, Consumers Energy
Kenneth Vandenberg, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Deena Moore, Southwest Iowa REC
Neal Heldt, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Gordon Greimann, Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative
Roger Solomonson, Heartland Power Cooperative*

As part of the Annual Meeting program, IAEC coordinated an auction of personally donated items which raised \$21,460 for the Iowa Friends of Rural Electrification (Iowa FORE) political action committee. The funds will stay in Iowa to aid state legislators and candidates who support electric cooperatives.

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives is a trade association which represents the interests of locally owned electric cooperatives in the state, including 39 distribution co-ops and nine generation and transmission co-ops. Formed more than 80 years ago, IAEC provides many vital functions for its members including legislative representation, regulatory oversight, training and education services, safety programs, and communications support. Learn more at www.iowarec.org.

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.

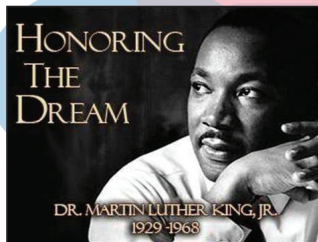
Here are a few other reasons we advertise:

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.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 16, 2023

Chicken Wild Rice Soup

This creamy chicken wild rice soup, loaded with vegetables is a quick, easy and utterly satisfying cold weather fare.

- 1 tbsp butter
- 2 stalks celery sliced
- 2 carrots sliced
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 clove garlic
- 3-4 sprigs fresh thyme or 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 chicken breasts
- 100g/2/3 cup wild rice or long grain rice
- 1.5 litre/ 6 cups chicken stock
- 250ml/ 1 cup double/ heavy cream
- 3 tbsp butter melted
- 3 tbsp flour
- 30g/1 cup fresh spinach

1. Heat the butter and cook the chopped celery, carrots and onion for 5-7 minutes over low heat, then add garlic and thyme and cook for 30 seconds longer.
2. Add the chicken stock, one bay leaf, a pinch of salt and pepper, chicken breasts, wild rice and bring to a boil. Then lower the heat and simmer for 45 minutes until the rice is tender. Take the chicken breasts out and shred with two forks, then add it back to the soup together with the heavy cream.
3. Make the roué by mixing melted butter with the flour, then stir it into the soup, bring to a gentle boil and let the soup simmer for a few minutes until it thickens, stir in spinach if using. Add salt and pepper to taste and take it off the heat.



The X RECipe



Enjoy!

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

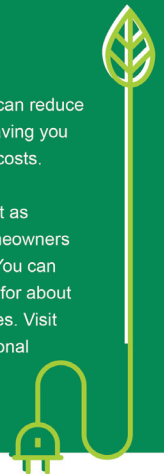
We are required to communicate with our cooperative members regarding specific state and federal regulations. Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps Southwest Iowa REC achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov



2022 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0030/kwh



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