

# Southwest Lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

December 2024



## Congratulations



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Scott Geer for his remarkable 37 years of service at Southwest Iowa REC! Scott has exemplified hard work and dedication since joining as a lineman at the Stanton office in 1987 and becoming

Line Foreman in the fall of 2021. Thank you, Scott, for your inspiring commitment; may your retirement be filled with happiness and fulfillment.

## 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!

### Employees

- |                |                 |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
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| Dustin Smith   | Nathan Weeda    | Connor Moheng    |
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| Suzy Olson     | Kylee Fleharty  | Brady Williams   |
| Justin Murphy  | Brycen Wallace  |                  |
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| Kay Fast-Deyoe | Adam Boswell  | Dale Walkup    |
| Mark Herzberg  | Dana Morgan   | Marilyn Werner |
|                | Bonnie Larson |                |



**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!**



# Defined electric service areas protect rural Iowans

By Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives



At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, we are constantly monitoring issues that could impact the people and rural communities served by Iowa's electric cooperatives. Our state's 2025 Legislative Session will begin on January 13 and IAEC will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa's law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. I'd like to explain why this law has been so crucial to our mission to serve co-op member-consumers.

## What are defined service areas?

In Iowa, where you live determines which electric utility will serve you. This regulatory protection is called defined electric service territory and the State of Iowa wrote Senate File 1258 into law almost 50 years ago to efficiently ensure that every square foot of our state has an electric utility obligated to provide service upon request.

## Why do Iowa's electric cooperatives support defined service areas?

Electric co-ops are committed to safeguarding defined service areas because they protect rural Iowans by supporting affordable electric rates, securing a resilient electric grid and encouraging economic development.

Defined service areas provide a high degree of certainty to Iowa's electric cooperatives because we can confidently make long-term investments in power generation to maintain affordable rates, finance major grid upgrades to ensure resiliency and utilize new technologies to enhance service. Electric co-ops can also be proactive in maintenance and vegetation management to improve reliability for the homes, farms and businesses we serve every day. Additionally, defined service

areas allow electric co-ops to robustly support economic development efforts in the communities we serve, which retain and create local jobs and provide needed services and tax revenue.

Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans. This issue is non-negotiable for Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which are mission driven to power lives and empower communities by providing electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable.

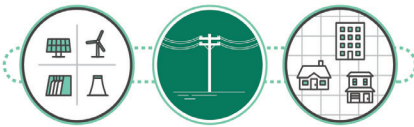
Since the 1990s, several states have deregulated their electric utilities, but the hopes that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability have not materialized. In fact, according to a 2023 New York Times investigation, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." The report goes on to conclude that "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity..." This outcome is unacceptable for the Iowans we serve.

We invite you to learn more about this issue at [www.ProtectRuralIowa.com](http://www.ProtectRuralIowa.com) where you will also find links to research and studies on deregulation. Your locally owned electric cooperatives are working hard to safeguard defined service area protections that have benefitted Iowans since 1976.

## A Balancing Act:

# ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

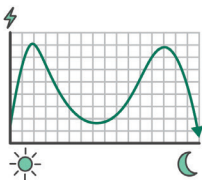
Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.

### Regional Grid Operators



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



### Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

## Accepting Applications for High School Leadership Trip to D.C.



**Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21!**



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

### Southwest Iowa REC will send 1 student on an all-expenses Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., in June

At Southwest Iowa REC, we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors passionate about government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

1 student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2025 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with nearly 2,000 other students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications from now through March 14th. High school students from Southwest Iowa REC Service territory are eligible to apply; the student must be a current sophomore, junior, or senior student. You can download our form at [swiarec.coop/scholarships](http://swiarec.coop/scholarships). Contact Suzy, Southwest

Iowa REC Administrative Assistant, at [suzy.olson@swiarec.coop](mailto:suzy.olson@swiarec.coop) for more information.

For more than 65 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2025 by March 14th!

## 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:

### 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

## Employee Updates

### Congratulations

Cody Stackhouse!  
Southwest Iowa REC  
Lineman from the  
Mount Ayr office,  
received his 5-year  
service award.  
Congratulations  
Cody, and thank you  
for your service!





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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

## No Bake Eggnog Pie

### Ingredients

- graham cracker crust
- 1 vanilla instant pudding mix 153g box
- 1 1/2 cups eggnog
- 2 cups whipped cream
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

### Instructions

1. Add the eggnog and pudding mix into a medium bowl.
2. Beat using a hand mixer until well combined with a smooth texture.
3. Add the cool whip and 1/4 teaspoon of the nutmeg. Fold the mixture until combined.
4. Pour the mixture into the prepared crust, using a spatula to spread evenly. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon of nutmeg.
5. Refrigerate until firm before serving. Chill time is at least 5 hours, to overnight.

### Notes

- Store leftovers in the refrigerator for up to 3-4 days.
- Can be made ahead of time and frozen for up to 4 months. Thaw in the fridge overnight before serving.



## 2025 Charges – Member Pricing at SWIREC Served Locations Only

### LABOR – Regular Working Hours

\$ 74.00/hour \* 1 hour minimum

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

\$ 111.00/hour \* 2 hour minimum per employee – 2 employees required

### TRUCKS/EQUIPMENT

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 the truck and equipment charges

\*Call for non-member pricing quotes.

Southwest Iowa REC offices will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 25th, and Thursday, December 26th for Christmas and Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*



Like us on Facebook



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

Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Board of Directors

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