

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

April 2025

Help us Find these Former Members

We are looking for the following former members of the cooperative. This month, we are listing names that begin with the letters K through Z. Last month, we published names A through J. The complete list is available on our website. These members have patronage checks waiting for them at our offices. If a member has passed away, we kindly ask that a family member contact us with the estate information so we can process their patronage refund. Thank you for your assistance.

KASHA	BRITTNEY C	MCENDREE	NELLIE	POUSH	C.R.	STEFFEN	RICHARD
KATZ	JACK	MCKENNEY	MIKE	POWERS	SCOTT L	STEINBACH	MARYBETH M
KILGORE	EVELYN M	MERCER	GARY	PYLE	DONALD J	STEPHENS	WILLIAM
KNOEBEL	PAUL	MEYER	JOYCE A	RAUCH	DON	STEWART	WILMA
KNOTT	LEONARD	MICHELSON	RICK A	REASONER	DARLENE	STUART	JOHN
KNUDSON	RUTH	MORALES	RUDY	REDWINE	STEVEN	SULLIVAN	ED
KURTH	DONALD D	MORRIS	KATHERINE M	REILLY	FRANK J	SWANGER	MAXINE
LA FON	JAMES	MORRISON	MEREDITH	REIS	LARRY	SWANSON	MERRILL D
LAMAAK	SHANE	MUHLBAUER	L	RETLAND	LARS	TAYLOR	DONALD M
LANGENFELD	DALE	MURPHY	FLAVEL	REYNOLDS	LUELLA	TAYLOR	JAMES
LANK	LEVI	MURPHY	JENI	RHINER	CARLR	TAYLOR	JOHN E
LAPPE	GERALD	MURPHY	JOHN	RICHEY	GARY J	THOMPSON	RICHARD
LARSON	ROGER	NAYLOR	GARY	RILEY	RUSSELL	TRULLINGER	CYNTHIA
LEE	ERNEST	NELSON	CEDRIC	ROGERS	WILMA C	TUTOR	ELAINE
LESTER	WENDY	NICHOLS	JAY D	ROSE	BETTY	USA	SWINE
LEWIS	ROBERT	NIEDERKORN	DAVID	ROSE	JIM	VALDIVIA	ALLEYNE
LICHTHARDT	JOHN	NIELSEN	NIEL S	RUEFER	DON	VANDERPLUYM	LUCAS
LILLIE	BEVERLY A	NIMS	RON	RUNYON	JEROME S	VERTREES	GEORGE
LOCKHART	TIM	NOVAK	TONY	SCARPELLO	SAM	WAKENIGHT	JAMES
LODGE	SPORTSMAN	O'RILEY	JAMES	SCHIELZWOOD	JANET	WALKER	EVA C
LOWRY	MICHELE	ORMISTON	TAM	SCHMITT	MIKE	WALTERMEYER	JOHN
MANCHESTER	RUSSELL	OSBORN	ROBERT G	SCHUTT	VERN R	WALTMAN	KENNETH
MANDERS	CHAS.	OSTRANDER	JOHN	SCOTT	WM	WATKINS	BECKY R
MANNING	JACK	PARKER	FRANK	SHEIL	MICHAEL	WEATHERMAN	DAVID
MARCKMANN	MINNIE	PARKER	JOHN	SHORT	RUSTY R	WEIS	DONALD
MARN	LARRY	PATCH	DAVID	SHRUM	CHARLES	WEITZELL	SHARON
MARSHALL	WALDINE J	PECKHAM	JERRY	SIEFER	MARTHA	WERNER	BARRY
MARTIN	TREVIN A	PEEL	TARA	SITES	SHAIN A	WHITE	ED
MATHANY	JERRY	PEIFFER	LINDA	SLIGH	AARON T	WIGGINS	ATTALISSA
MC KERN	JACK	PERRIN	LARRY	SMITH	COURTLAND	WILDIN	LINDA
MCALEXANDER	JEFF W	PETERSON	ALAN	SMITH	KEEGAN C	WILLIAMS	TODD C
MCCLELLAND	TIM R	PHELPS	VERLIN	SMITH	RUSTY	WILSON	DREW C
MCCOY	RALPH	PITT	MARION L	SNYDER	KIMBERLY D	WISE	EARNEST D
MCDANIEL	MELBA	PLATT	MICHAEL R	SOUTH	HOWARD	ZIMMERMAN	CHERYL
MCDOWELL	CON	POLLOCK	JAMES	STANISLAV	PHIL		
MCDOWELL	KAREN	POORE	DONALD	STAUFFER	TAWNY R		
MCDOWELL	PEGGY	PORTER	LACY	STEELE	DONALD		

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Use Caution When Burning Ditches this Spring

Burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause extensive damage to Cooperative property, resulting in electric service problems. Members involved in such fires may be invoiced for damage they cause to Cooperative property.

TWO TIPS FOR SAFE BURNING

1 Green, or newer, poles are more susceptible to burning—use extra caution.

2 Always be aware of the locations of poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets, and other important Cooperative equipment when burning.

Mark your calendars for

Thursday, September 4, 2025

for this year's

Southwest Iowa REC

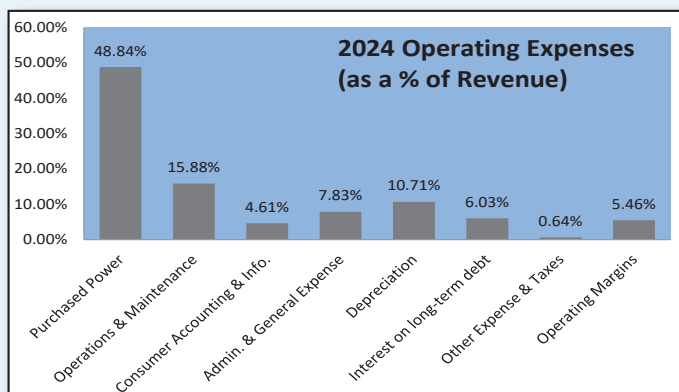
Annual Meeting!

Cooperative Audit Completed for 2024 – A Look at the Year Ahead

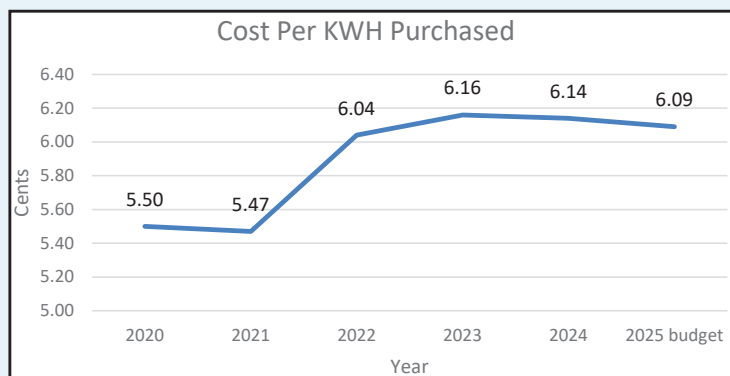
The annual, independent financial audit of your cooperative's 2024 records was recently completed by the firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP resulting in a clean, favorable audit opinion. The financial performance of your Cooperative in 2024 was good and we were able to exceed all the requirements placed upon us by our lenders. The rate increase that was implemented on January 1, 2024, helped to strengthen the finances of your cooperative. Kilowatt-hour sales were 7.71% below budget and 2.42% less than 2023. These lower sales were mainly due to moderate temperatures in 2024, reducing both heating and cooling load. We are off to a good start in 2025. Kilo-watt hour sales for January were 10.44% above budget and 1.05% higher than January 2024 and 6.24% above budget in February and 32.74% more than February 2024. As I have mentioned many times before, weather, hot or cold, is the most significant variable affecting energy use for most of our members.

Operating costs in 2024 were \$18,389 above budget (excluding purchased power) and operating margins were below budget by \$158,541. The main reason that operating margins were lower than expected was due to the lower than budgeted kilo-watt hour sales.

Member equity decreased from 42.99% in 2023 to 40.98% at the end of 2024 due to large increases in utility plant construction. \$378,522 of member patronage capital was refunded during the year. The following chart shows where the money we collected from you was spent in 2024:



The cost of wholesale power we purchase from Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) is projected to be slightly lower in 2025. In 2024, the average PCA (power cost adjustment) applied (excluding electric heat sales) was +\$.00113 per kilo-watt hour resulting in additional member electric bill charges of \$97,014. The PCA collects or refunds the cost of purchased power not captured in your base electric rate which helps to lessen the need for frequent base rate adjustments. The following chart shows the recent trend in the cost of purchased power from 2020-2024 and the budgeted cost for 2025.



Our line crews have been concentrating on finishing construction projects that were included in our 2021-2024 Construction Work Plan as well as performing current year line inspection and maintenance, new and upgraded services and vegetation management. A vegetation contractor, CR Environmental Inc., will be performing maintenance on approximately 100 miles of line this spring. A new Construction Work Plan for 2025-2028 is in the final stages of being approved and will include around \$18 million of projects which includes approximately \$3 million in carryover projects from the old work plan. The new LED security light program continues to progress with 312 energy efficient lights installed on the system in 2024. All our programs are designed to continue to improve the electrical system and provide you with safe and reliable service.



Phil Kinser CEO

IES Commercial, Inc., out of Holdrege, Nebraska is in the final stages of replacing 31 miles of 3-phase lines as a part of the FEMA Mitigation project originally applied for in 2019. Another large project for us is the complete rebuilding of our Corning Substation. The substation will be completed by a combination of contractors and our own crews. The steel has arrived for the substation structure so our crews will be busy erecting that soon while we wait for the substation transformer delivery this fall so the project can be finalized and energized.

A general contractor has been selected for the remodel project at the building recently purchased by the cooperative so that work should be underway soon with a projected 3–4-month construction timeline to where the facility will be ready for us to move in and begin operations from there. We will provide updates as the project progresses.

Electricity remains a good value when you consider all the ways it helps to make our lives easier and enhance our standard of living. I am proud of the entire team at Southwest Iowa REC for providing exceptional service to our members while working to keep costs in check. Our unwavering commitment to providing reliable electricity continues to be a top priority and we will continue to do our best to support our members now and in the future.



Celebrating the Unsung Heroes: Power Lineworkers

On Monday, April 14th, we take a moment to appreciate the incredible people who keep the lights on and the power flowing—our dedicated line workers. On Lineworker Appreciation Day, we salute their unwavering commitment and hard work, often under the harshest conditions.

Whether it's the biting cold of winter blizzards or the blazing heat of summer, these heroes show up every day, ready to face the elements and the challenges of working high above the ground. While most of us are bundled up inside during winter storms or lounging in the air conditioning during a summer heatwave, linemen are scaling poles, repairing downed wires, and ensuring that electricity continues to power our homes and businesses.

The job is physically demanding and dangerous. Linemen navigate high-voltage wires with precision and care, facing risks that would deter most. They perform with skill and bravery, often unrecognized, showing up daily to provide the energy we need, regardless of weather or risks. We might not always notice them, but the hard work of our linemen and women is so important! Whether they're fixing power lines in a snowstorm or restoring power after a tornado, they are truly our heroes. Let's take a moment on April 14th to give a big shout-out and show our appreciation for all they do. Your dedication and bravery mean the world to us—thank you!



Pictured left to right- back row: Lucas Dalton, Shayne Larson, Tanner Rinehart, Connor Giles, Nathan Weeda, Dustin Smith, Cody Stackhouse, Waylen Butler, Justin Murphy. Middle Row: Brycen Wallace, Connor Moheng, Les Helvie, Steven Grace, David Head, Luke Brockshus. Front row: Brady Williams and Brayden Daly



Administrative Professional's Day is April 23rd

Thanks to Southwest Iowa REC's Customer Service Representatives, Accountant, and Director of Finance. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do!



Pictured: Denise Hallquist, Kylee Fleharty, Suzy Olson, Sarah Newton, and Marilyn Rubel.



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

WINTER MORATORIUM ENDS APRIL 1, 2025

For those members who are on energy assistance or have a past-due electric bill – please remember that you need to contact the REC office before April 1, 2025, to make payment arrangements on your past-due bill to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

Easter Poke Cake

- 1 box white cake mix
- Ingredients listed on the box (eggs, water, oil)
- 2 (3.3 oz.) boxes instant white chocolate pudding
- 3 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar (or more to taste)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Food coloring (blue, green, pink, and yellow)

The RECipe



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to a temperature specified on the box. Grease a 9×13 inches baking dish with baking spray and set aside.
2. Prepare the cake mix according to the directions listed on the box.
3. Next, divide the mixture into 4 equal portions and add a few drops of food coloring in each bowl, and stir well.
4. Then using a spoon, make small droops of each mixture in the bottom of the baking dish. Drops will spread in greased dish so you should do this quickly. I suggest you to drop one color at the time leaving a few inches apart between the drops, then make the drops with second color, then the third, then the fourth, until you cover the bottom of the pan. Then drop another layer on top until use all the batter. Finally, tap the baking dish on the counter to flatten the surface, do not spread with the spatula to avoid mixing the colors. Using a toothpick, swirl the colors just a little bit. Do not over mix, you want the colors swirled
5. When the cake is baked, and sit at room temperature for about 10 minutes, poke the cake. Use the handle end of a wooden spoon poke holes all over the top of the cake, almost an inch apart, then allow it to cool completely.
6. In a bowl, combine the white chocolate pudding and milk, whisking until the pudding is dissolved. Before the pudding sets completely, pour it over the cooled cake, trying to fill all the holes completely. Spread remaining pudding on top and place in the fridge to set completely.
7. When the pudding is set and the cake is completely cooled, top the cake with whipped cream. Mix chilled heavy cream and vanilla extract until soft peaks form. Add powdered sugar and mix until stiff peaks form. Spread over the pudding layer.
8. Garnish with sprinkles before serving.
9. Store in the fridge.

not mixing together. Bake as directed on the box.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

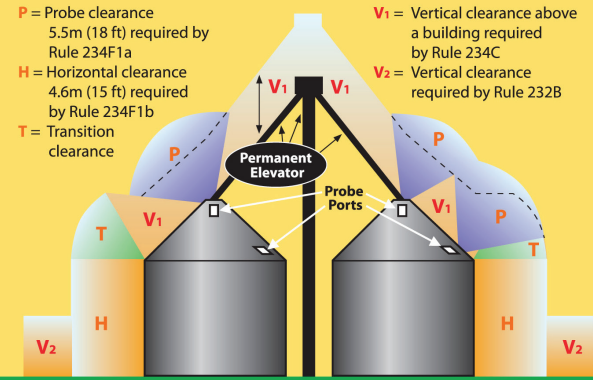
TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators

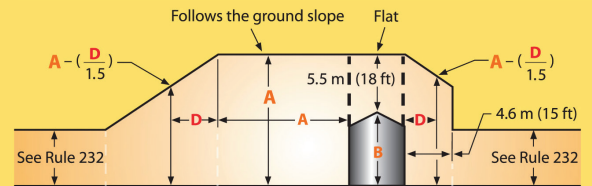
P = Probe clearance
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
H = Horizontal clearance
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
T = Transition clearance
V₁ = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
V₂ = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators

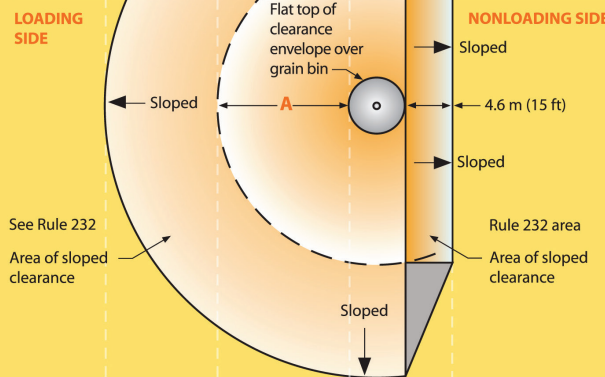
ELEVATION



B = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
A = B + 5.5m (18 ft)
D = Variable horizontal dimension

In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

PLAN VIEW



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Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical



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