Corning | Mount Ayr

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

September 2026

## Board Approves $327,000 Patronage Refund

The Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved payment of patronage dividends in 2026. We will return 100% of the remaining dividends allocated to the members for the year 2008, 100% of the dividends allocated for 2009, and 10% of the current allocation for 2025. The total payment will be approximately $327,000.

Dividends will be distributed to you in October and will appear as a **CREDIT ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL** for those who are still active members of the cooperative. Former members will receive a check. There are substantial savings to the cooperative in applying these dividends to your account versus mailing out checks.

If you have questions regarding the taxability of these dividends, please consult your tax preparer. Patronage dividends reduce the net cost of electricity to members. It is one of the principles that provide the basis for the cooperative business model.

Our current policy on patronage dividends allows the board flexibility in the amount of patronage that will be returned to the members. There are several factors to be considered when determining this amount, such as the co-ops current cash position, equity level and major improvements needed to keep the system in good condition and provide all members with reliable electric service. Deferred patronage dividends are used by the cooperative to help finance major construction and maintenance projects. This allows us to reduce the total amount of long-term financing that is required, thus reducing the total interest expense.

## Employee Update: Welcome Nolan and Dominic!

Nolan Waterman

We're excited to welcome Nolan Waterman and Dominic Nicolas to the team as apprentice linemen at our Corning office!

Nolan began his first day on August 17 after graduating from Metropolitan Community College Utility Line School in 2026. Nolan previously gained valuable experience as an intern with Harrison County REC, and we're glad to have him continue his career with us.

Just one week later, on August 24, Dominic Nicolas joined us as an apprentice lineman. Dominic graduated from Metropolitan Community College Utility Line School in 2025 and previously interned with Southwest Iowa REC during the summer of 2025.

Please join us in giving Nolan and Dominic a warm welcome! We're excited to have them on board and look forward to watching them grow and contribute to our team.

Dominic Nicolas

## Complaints Resolution Process

Southwest Iowa REC makes every effort to resolve all complaints brought to its attention. You can contact us at:

2248 Avenue of Industries, Corning, Iowa 50841
1502 W South Street, Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854
Or you can call (888) 220-4869.

If your complaint is related to the Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative's service rather than its rates, and Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling (515) 725-7321, or toll free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

## Autumn Begins September 23rd

## 2025 CIPCO Power Supply Report: Action Today, Impact Tomorrow By Dale Walkup Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

Dale Walup

As a representative of Southwest Iowa REC on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the significant progress CIPCO made in 2025 to strengthen the reliability and future of our power supply system. In recent years, CIPCO has been committed to pursuing cooperative solutions to the generation challenges facing us. Today, that commitment is turning into action.

Guided by its Integrated Resource Plan, CIPCO moved forward with several major generation projects last year that will help meet growing energy demand, support economic development, and ensure long-term reliability for the communities it serves. Together, these projects will add nearly 400 MW of generation resources to CIPCO's portfolio in the years ahead.

One of the most important developments was the announcement of a new 240 MW natural gas-fired peaking facility in eastern Iowa. This plant will provide dependable energy during periods of high demand and help balance intermittent resources like wind and solar generation. Significant progress has already been made and, once completed, the plant will become the largest capital project in CIPCO's history and a critical reliability resource for Southwest Iowa REC.

CIPCO also reaffirmed its commitment to the Coggon Solar project, a 100 MW solar facility in Linn County. After overcoming regulatory and legal hurdles, the project is now moving forward with construction expected to begin soon and completion targeted for 2028. This project reflects CIPCO's continued commitment to a balanced, all-of-the-above generation strategy.

Another major milestone came with the announcement that Duane Arnold Energy Center, Iowa's only nuclear facility, will return to service through a collaboration involving CIPCO, NextEra Energy, and Google. CIPCO secured a long-term agreement to purchase a portion of the plant's output once operations resume in 2029. Nuclear energy has long played an important role in Iowa's energy mix, and restarting DAEC will provide CIPCO Member-owners like Southwest Iowa REC with reliable, carbon-free baseload generation for decades to come.

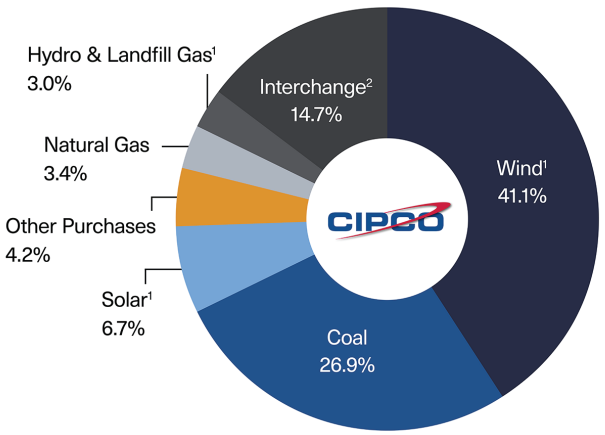
CIPCO's strong financial performance in 2025 also demonstrates responsible stewardship of member resources. Strong margins allowed CIPCO to defer revenue and create financial flexibility that will help maintain stable and affordable rates while these major investments move forward. Both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings affirmed CIPCO's 'A' rating as a result of this financial strength. In 2025, CIPCO realized a net margin of $28 million, well ahead of budget. This in turn allowed margins to be returned to CIPCO Member-owners in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. For 2025, CIPCO returned patronage totaling $319,359 to our cooperative.

We are already seeing the impact of increased electric demand throughout our communities. CIPCO's energy sales reached an all-time high in 2025, driven by growth and economic development opportunities across the system. With this in mind, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of .26 per consumer, well under the target of 1.00 hour per consumer. In 2025, Southwest Iowa REC's was 0.28 hours per member-owner.

At the heart of all this progress is cooperation. CIPCO exists to serve its Member-owner cooperatives, and these accomplishments reflect what can be achieved when cooperatives work together with a shared purpose. I am confident that together, CIPCO and Southwest Iowa REC will remain steadfast in delivering stable power at stable rates today and in the decades to come.

### A BALANCED, RESPONSIBLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO

*Represents 3,209 GWh requirements for traditional load*




1CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind, solar, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

2A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.

## Local students could win college scholarships for attending webinar series on leadership and advocacy

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Southwest Iowa REC has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, leadership and electric cooperatives with a two-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at IowaYouthTour.com.

"This program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, advocacy or leadership," remarked Phil Kinser, SWIAREC General Manager. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting career paths that are available in smaller communities and help them advocate for issues they care about."

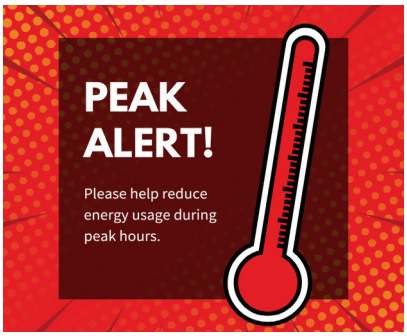
Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Sunday, October 4, 7:00 p.m. - Why Cooperatives Matter and How to Effectively Advocate
- Sunday, October 18, 7:00 p.m. - Being a Leader

At the end of each live session, one attendee will be selected at random to win a $500 scholarship; students who attend both sessions will be entered into a bonus drawing for a $1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online at IowaYouthTour.com receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a dynamic speaker. Attendees will also hear about Iowa Youth Tour. Students with an interest in government and public service are encouraged to apply for this weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2027 Youth Tour is slated for June 16-22 next summer.

Learn more at www.IowaYouthTour.com or contact Tim Pfeiffer at tim.pfeiffer@swiarec.coop for more information.

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## Apple Crumble

### Ingredients

- 6 cups Apples (Peeled and chopped 1" pieces)
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon or apple pie spice

### Crumble Topping

- 1 cup flour
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter cold, cut into cubes

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Place all topping ingredients in a medium bowl.
   Use a pastry cutter to cut in butter until the mixture starts to stick together, about 3 minutes.
   Place in the fridge while preparing the apples.
3. Place apples in a 2qt baking dish and toss with sugar, flour, and cinnamon.
4. Sprinkle topping over top and bake 35-40 minutes or until golden and apples are soft.
5. Serve warm with ice cream.

## 2026-2027 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**
  October 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027
- **All other households:**
  November 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027

### WHAT TO PROVIDE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

### WAGE EARNERS:

Please provide copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

### FIXED INCOME:

This income may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance and pensions. Please provide copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

**Note - Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination**

## 2026-2027 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

### NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2026-2027 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply you can **Dial 2-1-1**, visit https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap to locate and contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

**INCOME MAXIMUMS**

| *Household Size* | *Annual Gross Income* |
|---|---|
| 1 | $31,920 |
| 2 | $43,280 |
| 3 | $54,640 |
| 4 | $66,000 |
| 5 | $77,360 |
| 6 | $88,720 |
| 7 | $100,080 |
| 8 | $111,440 |

For households with more than eight members, add $11,360 for each additional member.

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Find us on Facebook

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**Mount Ayr**
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**Board of Directors**
Marilyn Werner, President
Mark Herzberg, Vice President
Kay Fast-Deyoe, Secretary
Jason Smith, Treasurer
Alan Spencer, Adam Boswell, Dana Morgan
Justin Akers, Bonnie Larson, Dale Walkup

**Phil Kinser, CEO**

**Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**