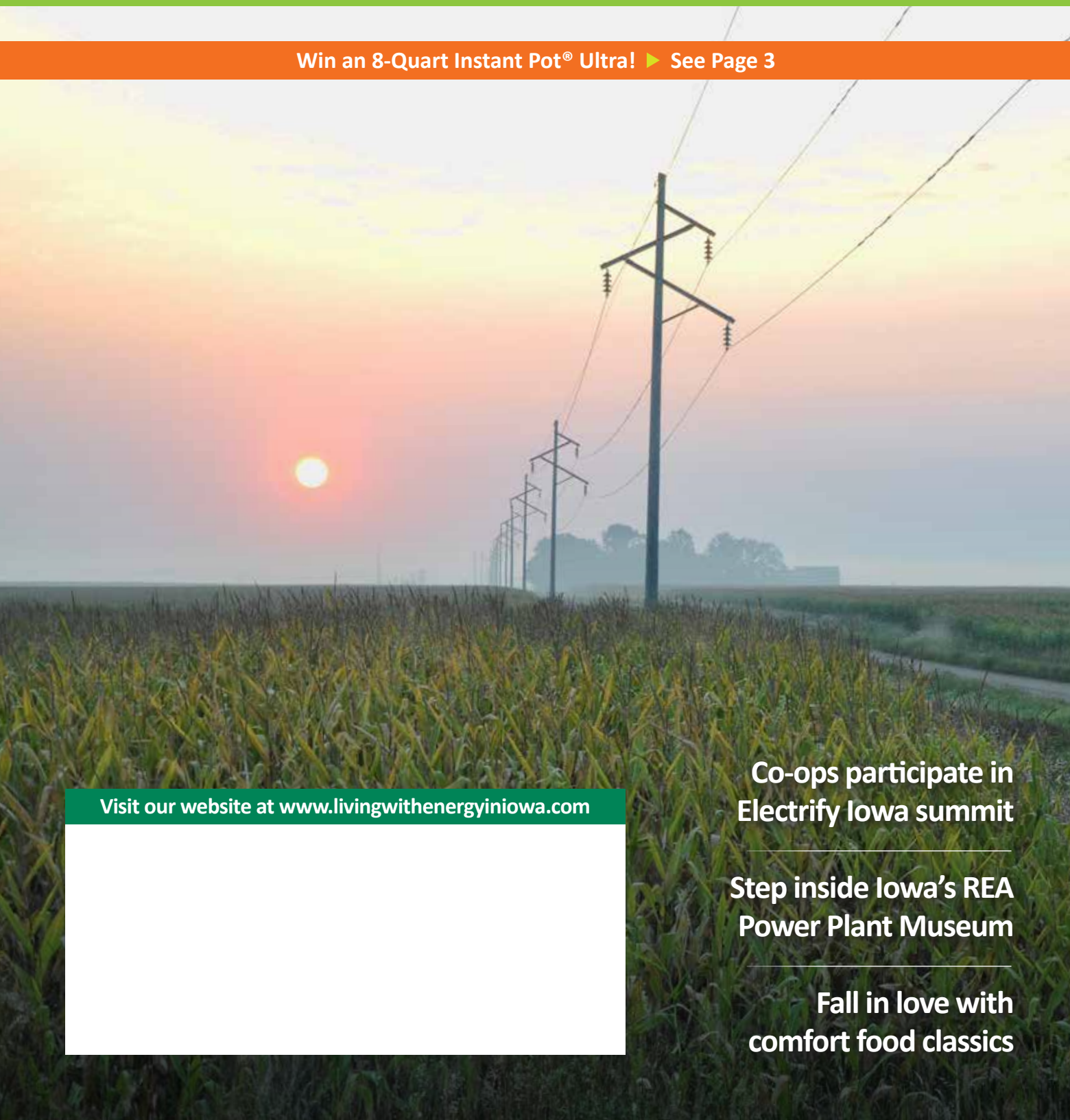
living with energy IN IOWA

OCTOBER 2019

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa
www.touchstoneenergy.coop

Win an 8-Quart Instant Pot® Ultra! ▶ See Page 3



Visit our website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com

Co-ops participate in Electrify Iowa summit

Step inside Iowa's REA Power Plant Museum

Fall in love with comfort food classics

Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Volume 72 • Issue 10

EDITOR
Ann Thelen

ART DIRECTOR
Joel Clifton

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Chuck Soderberg

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Erin Campbell

Living with Energy in Iowa magazine (ISSN: 1935-7176) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase **Living with Energy in Iowa** is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

Editorial Office: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350. E-mail address: editor@livingwithenergyiniowa.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length before publication. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

Website: www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

Change of Address: Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

living with energy IN IOWA

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa
www.touchstoneenergy.coop

CONTENTS OCTOBER 2019

Features

Favorites

ON THE COVER

The harvest season is a beautiful time in Iowa. Mother Nature uses her paintbrush to vividly transform the landscape. Harvest also brings more traffic on Iowa's county roads and highways. Whether it's farm equipment or electric cooperative trucks, always remember to move over and slow down to keep yourself and others safe! Photo courtesy of Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

Celebrating National Co-op Month

BY STEVE SEIDL

You have a unique story to tell because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of electric co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. So, here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receives their power the way you do, from a locally owned electric cooperative. Electric co-ops belong to the people they serve – that would be you and your neighbors. Electric co-ops were first developed in the 1930s because city utilities, owned by investors wanting to make a profit, refused to serve rural America. So, people in rural communities banded together and formed their own local electric co-ops governed by locally elected directors.

October is National Co-op Month, the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and more importantly, celebrate the members they serve. This year, we're focusing on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built *by* the community, *for* the community, so let's look at what that means for you, the members of the co-op.

Your co-op is here to stay.

Since your co-op belongs to the members it serves, it's not going to move out of the country or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.

Your co-op knows you.

Across the country, there are more than 900 electric co-ops, and no two are alike. Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power to 650,000 Iowans. Because each co-op belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community it serves. Whether it's working with the latest energy efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric co-op can offer solutions that make the most sense *locally*.

Your co-op cares about your community.

The co-op's top priority is to power the community; it's not owned by investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op also partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. We're your friends and neighbors. By investing in the local community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

Your cooperative is guided by seven key cooperative principles.

These principles are the foundation of everything Iowa's electric cooperatives do to serve you. They include: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community. Each month, throughout the pages of *Living with Energy in Iowa*, you'll see how these principles come to life throughout all of Iowa's 99 counties.

These are just a few of the way cooperatives are unique. To learn more, I encourage you to visit with your local electric co-op employees and attend your co-op's next annual meeting of members. They will be happy to visit with you!

Steve Seidl is the board president for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and a director for Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an 8-Quart Instant Pot® Ultra!

The 8-Quart Instant Pot® Ultra electric pressure cooker is the next generation in kitchen appliances. A central dial with a simple turn and press provides added precision in program selection and adjustment. New features include a cooking indicator and steam release reset button. Developed with the latest third-generation technology, an embedded microprocessor monitors the pressure and temperature, keeps time, and adjusts heating intensity and duration.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com no later than Oct. 31, 2019. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the Nest® Learning Thermostat from the July issue was Jan Bier, Prairie Energy Cooperative.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Curious about co-ops and renewable energy?

If you're wondering about how the nation's electric cooperatives are involved in renewable energy, now you can find out! The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has an interactive map that tracks co-op renewable energy development. On each map, you can drill down to the distribution co-op level. Before you get started, here are some fun facts to know:

- Currently, 95 percent of NRECA's distribution members offer renewable options to 40 million Americans.
- Including federal hydropower, co-ops own or purchase roughly 10 percent of U.S. renewable capacity.
- Co-ops own nearly 1.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity and have long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) for more than 8.3 GW — in addition to roughly 10 GW of preference power contracts with federal hydroelectric facilities.
- Co-ops plan to add more than 4 GW of additional renewable capacity over the next few years, with more announced every day.
- In Iowa, 32 co-ops are involved with wind projects and 24 co-ops are involved with solar projects.

View the interactive map online at www.electric.coop/wp-content/Renewables

ECONOMIC IMPACT

It's PORKtober!

October is National Pork Month! Iowa is No. 1 in the nation for pork production and many of those farms are within electric cooperative service territories. With our state's abundant assets of corn, soybeans, farmers and packing capacity, Iowa is the ideal location for pork production. One hog consumes approximately 9 to 10 bushels of corn and 100 pounds of soybean meal from birth to a market weight of 275 pounds!

Iowa has more than 6,000 hog farms, and 94% are family-owned operations. Pork production in Iowa creates 141,813 jobs and nearly $37 billion annually in sales, according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Iowa is a leader in renewable energy, and that's due in large part to places like Southwest Iowa Solar Farm in Adams County. Thanks to Zach Stewart [apprentice lineman with Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative] and the rest of the team who gave me an awesome tour."

– Sen. Joni Erst, following an Aug. 28 tour of the Southwest Iowa Solar Farm, which is located outside of Corning along Hwy 34. The Southwest Solar Farm project was constructed by Southwest Iowa REC in partnership with its power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, and was energized on Jan. 30, 2018. The 2-megawatt utility-scale solar project occupies 10.7 acres of land and consists of 7,128 solar panels with 33 inverters.

Photo credit: Central Iowa Power Cooperative

Employee volunteers to bring electricity to rural Guatemala

In late September, 12 volunteer linemen from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin left for an international project in Guatemala. The linemen, four from each of the three states, are helping a rural village get electricity for the first time. After a 16-day construction project, 42 homes, a school and a health post will have electricity. The project is being coordinated through NRECA International.

While in Guatemala, the linemen will work with Empresa Municipal Rural de Electricidad (EMRE), which provides electric service to the municipality of Ixcan. The electric utility began to expand service to rural areas several years ago. It's estimated that 19% of Guatemalans don't have access to electricity.

Salinas 7 Cerros, located in north central Guatemala, will no longer be part of that demographic, thanks to this group of linemen. Among the adults, Salinas 7 Cerros is home to 63 school children, ages 7 to 14.

The volunteer linemen will install transformers, string wire and finish building a distribution system. All work will be done by hand as bucket trucks won't be available on-site. This is the first international project for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Linemen from North West REC, Access Energy Cooperative, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and Linn County REC were randomly selected from the 11 Iowa co-ops who expressed interest in sending a volunteer lineman.

This project was made possible by NRECA International, a non-profit 501(c) (3) charitable organization, whose mission is to increase individual and community access to electricity in all parts of the world. NRECA International has brought electricity to more than 160 million people in 45 developing countries.

Watch for a feature this fall in *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine.

Co-op safety pledge

Iowa's electric cooperatives make safety their No. 1 priority. Recently, Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative celebrated its commitment to the safety of members and staff. The co-op's line crews, office staff and board of directors gathered and signed a banner outlining Harrison County REC's pledge to safety. We appreciate the emphasis Iowa's electric cooperatives place on safety, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

Step inside Iowa's REA Power Plant Museum

BY ANN THELEN

In September, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' (IAEC) board members toured one of Iowa's best-kept secrets – the REA Power Plant Museum in Hampton.

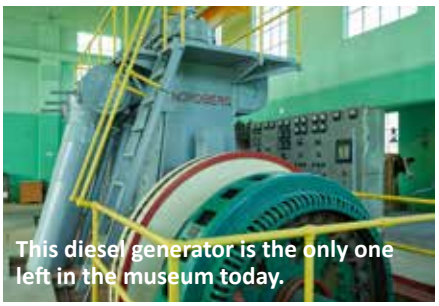
In celebration of National Co-op Month, it's fitting that we dig into our archives to re-tell the story of this iconic landmark.

Pictured *(from left to right)*: Chuck Soderberg, EVP/general manager for IAEC, board members Kenneth VandenBerg, Steve Seidl, Don Shonka, Roger Solomonson, Neal Heldt, Gordon Greimann and Darrell Jensen.

First electric generating plant west of the Mississippi River

The REA Power Plant Museum preserves and documents a very important part of rural life in Iowa: a generating plant built by farmers to provide electricity to farmers.

Once known as the Reeve Electric Association Plant, it was the first electric generating station built west of the Mississippi River. When it went online in 1938, residents in the rural Iowa communities it served experienced the advantages of electric power for the first time.



This diesel generator is the only one left in the museum today.

Photographs in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Progress arrived in the area's rural homes and barns through wires strung on wooden poles, and farm families used electric power just like their city cousins. Farm wives bought electric irons, families listened to radios powered by electricity and light bulbs replaced lamps and lanterns to push back the dark edges of night.

The 80-year-old plant showcases the diesel generating units, as well as artifacts from the pre-electricity era. The plant once furnished power to rural electric cooperatives serving members in Butler, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Hardin and Wright counties. Not only was it the first electric generating plant west of the Mississippi River to begin operation, it was also the first plant to receive funds from the Rural Electrification

A historical timeline for Iowa's first generating plant

May 1935: President Franklin Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Act (REA) to provide money to build lines to distribute electricity.

March 1936: An ad in the Hampton newspaper sought possible interest in establishing electrical service for rural residents in the area.

February 1937: Five county cooperatives – Butler, Franklin, Grundy, Hardin and Wright – formed the Federated Cooperative Power Association to build the generating plant near Hampton.

November 1937: Hancock County REC became a member of the Federated cooperative group. Federated borrowed $222,000 from REA – the first loan in the country from REA – to build the generating plant near Hampton, where the small town of Reeve once had flourished.

March 1938: The Reeve Federated Plant came online, just 11 days after another REA-financed rural generating plant in La Crosse, Wisconsin, began electric service to its members.

IAEC board members Roger Solomonson (left) and Neal Heldt study the Nordberg three-cylinder, 525-kilowatt generating unit.

Act (REA), the federal agency that paved the way for RECs to form.

At that time, at least 80% of rural citizens didn't have access to electricity. It's a story the community members wanted to tell and memories they wanted to preserve.

Building a museum

In the late 1980s, an enterprising group of area residents, under the guidance of the Franklin Historical Society decided to restore the power plant and turn it into a museum.

In July 1989, the REA Power Plant Museum Committee was formed under the leadership of Kenneth Showalter as chairman and Lois Hovey as secretary/treasurer. Under their leadership and with the help of countless volunteers – tallying up 1,800 hours of work – the building was renovated, and a museum was created. The project was vital in documenting the era that served as a foundation for the network of present-day rural co-ops now providing energy across Iowa.

The building had significantly deteriorated before the renovation. The group raised money and amassed a large force of volunteers to restore the building. Funding came from a government-funded Resource Enhancement and Protection grant, the Winnebago Foundation, Corn Belt Power, community members and donations from the electric cooperatives who formed the original Federated Group.

Three of the plants' generators were removed after the plant closed, but the first Nordberg three-cylinder, 525-kilowatt generating unit remains in the building. When the individual who installed the generating unit arrived in Iowa's countryside, he said the first generator would provide all the electricity the community would ever need.

The need for electricity outgrew everyone's expectations. The energy the plant produced was vital to local electric cooperative members, and it also became a closely guarded commodity during World War II. A guard tower was built on top of the building to shelter armed guards as they protected the building in case the enemy tried to sabotage the plant.

Because of its unique origins, the Reeve Electric Association Plant qualified for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

The REA Power Plant Museum documents the role of electricity in rural Iowa. It also stands as a tribute to both the people who decided to build their own generating plant more than 80 years ago and to the people who renovated the building into a museum that proudly stands today.

REA Power Plant Museum

LOCATION
1450 110th St
Hampton

CONTACT
Phone: 641-456-5777

HOURS
By appointment only

Ann Thelen, editor of *Living with Energy in Iowa*, compiled this article with excerpts from former magazine writers Le Spearman and Jody Garlock.

1948-1950: The Reeve Federated Plant reached peak production. It became one of 14 cooperatives that created Corn Belt Power in Humboldt. The Reeve Federated Plant was then used as a standby station before closing in 1974. At full production, it employed 12 to 15 people.

1988: Don Yadon of Hampton, who bought the building after it closed, donated the building to the Franklin County Historical Society.

1989: A group of volunteers, operating under the umbrella of the Franklin County Historical Society, restored the building.

April 1991: An open house was held to celebrate the opening of the REA Power Plant Museum.

2002: The REA Power Plant Museum was selected as a Point of Interest in the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area.

FALL FAVORITES

White Chicken Chili

- 32 ounces chicken stock
- 3 cans (14.3 ounces each) Great Northern white beans, undrained
- 5 cups cooked chicken
- 16 ounces salsa, mild or spicy
- 8 ounces pepper jack or jalapeno cheese, grated
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- white pepper to taste
- ½ cup finely crushed corn chips
- sour cream and/or shredded cheese for garnish

Place all ingredients except the corn chips in a slow cooker and cook on high until cheese is all melted. Chicken can be rotisserie or boiled. Chili may also be cooked on stove top on medium-high heat until cheese melts completely. When chili is hot, add finely crushed corn chips and let simmer for 10 minutes to thicken. Garnish with more corn chips, shredded cheese and/or sour cream.

Jayne Kirse • Marshalltown • Consumers Energy

FALL FOOD FACTS

COMFORT FOOD IS REAL

Comfort food was added to the dictionary in 1977. Informally defined as any food eaten not only for its pleasing taste but also for a sense of contentment or nostalgia it provides.

Meatloaf Balls

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup instant rice
- 1 egg
- ½ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 cup barbeque sauce
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- ½ cup white wine vinegar

Combine ground beef, onion, rice, egg and soy sauce well. Make meatloaf mixture into balls the size of a baseball. Place in 9x13-inch pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over meatloaf balls. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes. Can be baked ahead of time and place in a crock pot on warm.

Diane Spellman • Woodward
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative

Buttercup Biscuits

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 2 cups self-rising flour, pre-sifted

Blend butter and sour cream until creamy. Add flour and mix. Drop by teaspoonfuls into mini muffin pans. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30-35 minutes until golden brown. Makes about four dozen.

Karen Caldwell • Albia
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Autumn Fruit Salad

- 2 3-ounce packages lemon Jell-O
- 3½ cups water, divided
- 8 ounces crushed pineapple
- 1 pound whole cranberry sauce, chilled
- 2 apples, diced
- 1 cup celery, diced
- chopped walnuts, optional

Dissolve Jell-O in 2 cups hot water. Then add 1½ cups cold water and pineapple. Chill until mixture starts to set. Add chilled cranberry sauce, apples, celery and walnuts. Pour into a 12x7½-inch pan to set.

Norma Brasfield • Wever
Access Energy Cooperative

Pumpkin Bars

- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 15 ounces canned pumpkin
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1½ stick butter, softened
- 3½-4 cups powdered sugar

Mix together the first nine ingredients. Pour into a greased 10x15-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees F for 20-25 minutes. Once bars are cooled, mix the remaining ingredients together into a frosting and spread on bars.

Jamie Zomermaand • Maurice
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

Texas Caviar

- 1 package frozen shoepeg corn
- 1 can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 colored pepper (green, red, orange or yellow), chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 10-12 pieces cilantro, chopped
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup white sugar
- tortilla chips

Combine corn, beans, chickpeas, peppers, onion and cilantro in a large bowl. Boil oil, vinegar and sugar until dissolved. Allow mixture to cool to room temperature. Pour over the other ingredients listed. Serve with tortilla chips.

Heather Lair • Danville
Access Energy Cooperative

THAT'S A "LATTE" OF PUMPKIN SPICE!
Sales of pumpkin spice-flavored items continue to shatter records. According to Starbucks, the Pumpkin Spice Latte is its top-selling seasonal beverage of all time with more than 424 million sold in the U.S. since its release 16 years ago.

FALL FOOD FACTS

Apple Betty

- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup flour
- ⅔ cup margarine
- 4 apples, peeled and sliced
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Put apples in a greased 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Mix remaining ingredients until crumbly and cover apples. Bake at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes until golden.

Marci Domnick • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

Hot Cranberry Drink

- 1 pound cranberries
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 12 cups water
- 1½ cups orange juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Boil the first three ingredients for 10 minutes. Steep at least 15 minutes, up to a full day. Strain and press. Add orange juice, sugar and lemon juice. Serve warm.

Anna Domnick • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

FLAVOR OF FALL
If fall had a flavor, it would be pumpkin spice! However, among colonial American settlers, pumpkin "was a food of last resort." When there was no wheat for bread or yeast for beers, they'd turn to the pumpkin.

FALL FOOD FACTS

Wanted: Heart Healthy Recipes
The Reward: $25 for every one we publish!

February is American Heart Month! We're looking for your favorite healthy recipes that help to keep your heart pumping strong. If we run your recipe in the magazine, we'll send a $25 credit for your electric co-op to apply to your power bill. Recipes submitted also may be archived on our website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com.

The deadline is Oct. 31, 2019. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions.

EMAIL:
recipes@livingwithenergyiniowa.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your e-mail message.)

MAIL:
Recipes
Living with Energy in Iowa
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

SLICE OF COMFORT
Pizza is the most popular comfort food in the U.S., according to numerous studies. Pizza even has its own holiday – National Pizza Day is Feb. 9.

FALL FOOD FACTS

Can the electric grid take us to a clean energy economy?

BY ERIN CAMPBELL

The electric grid has been called the most important engineering achievement of the 20th Century. What if the grid can also transition us to a clean energy economy in the 21st Century?

This concept was at the center of discussions at the Electrify Iowa! summit, held on Sept. 5 in West Des Moines and hosted by the Iowa Rural Power Education Foundation and the Iowa Environmental Council. Special thanks to the Beneficial Electrification League, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency, the Iowa Geothermal Association and others for their involvement and support of the summit.

What is beneficial electrification?

Sessions at the summit centered on *environmentally beneficial electrification*, which means that electrical appliances and devices like water heaters, ovens, clothes dryers and vehicles have the potential to become greener over time without any additional action from the consumer.

"As electric generation becomes more renewable and environmentally responsible, the devices that use electricity automatically become greener compared to those that use fossil fuels, such as gasoline, propane and natural gas," says Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Through proactive beneficial electrification (also referred to as efficient electrification or strategic electrification), policies and practices are put into place that encourage the transition of fossil fuel applications to electric power. The electric vehicle (EV) movement is just one example of beneficial electrification. And as more and more vehicles transition from gasoline to electricity, they will use fewer fossil fuels as more renewable generation is added to the electric grid.

Iowa has momentum

Beneficial electrification isn't a new concept; electric water heating was really the first technology that introduced the concept back in the 1980s, along with the introduction of geothermal heating and cooling technology. But the movement is picking up steam in recent years as renewable electric generation and electric transportation gain momentum.

In fact, Iowa is already surpassing expectations and estimates regarding EVs. According to data provided by the Iowa Legislature, there are 3,241 EVs registered in the state as of August 2019, representing a 170% increase since 2016.

With beneficial electrification, every person, every family, every farm and every business can participate in our transition to an abundant clean energy future. "By using sustainable electricity to meet our water heating, climate control and transportation needs, we are collectively reducing our environmental impact," Soderberg says.

For consumers looking for environmentally responsible energy options, choosing electric appliances and devices over those powered by fossil fuels is a great way to participate. Consider electric rechargeable power

tools, electric water heaters, electric appliances like ovens and clothes dryers and electric vehicles as ways to reduce greenhouse gases. In the years ahead, there will be even more opportunities to transition to electric vehicles and electric lawn and farm equipment with the added benefits of reducing noise, emissions and maintenance costs.

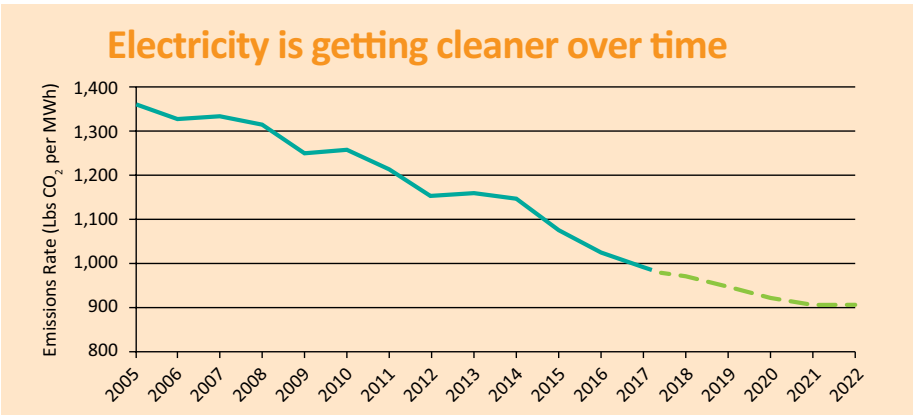
Electric cooperative involvement

Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively engaged in the beneficial electrification movement. We work with our statewide and national associations and partners to promote this sustainable concept with policymakers and thought leaders. In 2018, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to form the Beneficial Electrification League, whose purpose is to meet our nation's and the world's economic and environmental goals through electrification of products and services. "We believe that beneficial electrification is the single most effective and inclusive carbon reduction strategy available moving forward," says Steve Koep, advisory board member of the Beneficial Electrification League and presenter at the Electrify Iowa! summit.

Your local electric cooperative also remains committed to helping you use energy wisely through energy efficiency efforts. After all, the greenest kilowatt-hour is the one you never use in the first place. Check with your local electric co-op for details on programs, incentives and rebates for electric vehicles, electric water heaters, geothermal heating and cooling and LED lighting.

"We want to help our co-op member-owners keep electric use and costs as low as possible which makes it even more attractive to transition to electric devices and appliances," Soderberg says.

Find more resources and information at www.BeneficialElectrification.com.

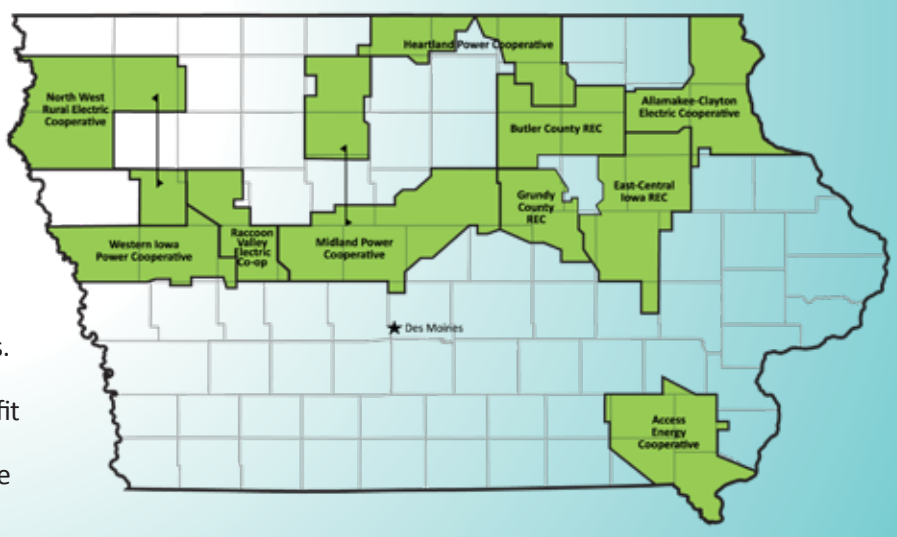


Source: Based on EPA data estimates.

Erin Campbell is the director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

IOWA CHOICE RENEWABLES
your trusted energy partner

Iowa Choice Renewables is one way some electric cooperatives are investing in renewable energy. The initiative was established in 2016 by a group of rural electric cooperatives in Iowa with deep roots in delivering safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to their cooperative members and consumers. Iowa Choice Renewables works to provide renewable energy resources that will benefit cooperative members as well as those in their surrounding communities. Learn more at www.iowachoicerenewables.com.



Stanton Child Resource Center receives project support from area cooperatives

Electric cooperatives teamed up to contribute $10,000 to support a major expansion project for the Stanton Child Resource Center, located in Stanton, Iowa. Donations came from Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and CoBank's Sharing Success Program.

The Stanton Child Resource Center serves families from several neighboring counties, providing childcare options for infants through school age children. The new project will expand the center's capacity to serve 160 children. The expansion project is part of the Stanton 150 project focusing on area housing, recreation and quality of life improvements.

Phil Kinser, CEO of Southwest Iowa REC, says local families are well-served by the Stanton Child Resource Center, and the need to serve more children and families is critical to area development.

"Southwest Iowa REC is pleased to support the Stanton Child Resource Center expansion project. We also appreciate the participation of our valued business partners, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and CoBank, in this project and their commitment to helping our communities prosper," says Kinser.

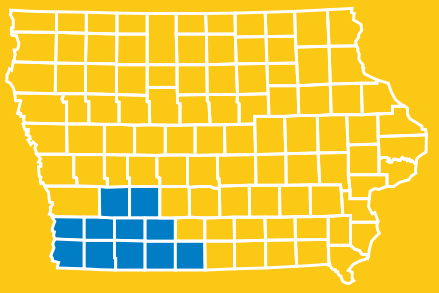
Southwest Iowa REC has also approved an additional $5,000 pledge for the project through its Operation Round-Up® program, which allows members to "round-up" their electric bills to the next highest dollar. The collected donations are distributed to local charities and other qualifying individuals and organizations throughout the service territory.

Many of Iowa's electric cooperatives offer Operation Round-Up®. Check with your local electric cooperative for details.

Phil Kinser, CEO of Southwest Iowa REC, presents a check for $10,000 to Brandi Snow, director of Stanton Child Resource Center, and Stacy Kutzli, board member of Stanton Child Resource Center and chairperson of Stanton 150. Also pictured is Dawn Sly-Terpstra, vice president of corporate communications for Central Iowa Power Cooperative. Donations from these local cooperatives, in addition to CoBank's Sharing Success program, will support the child resource center's expansion project, which will better serve area families.

About Southwest Iowa REC

Southwest Iowa REC serves members in Adair, Adams, Cass, Decatur, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor and Union counties.



About Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO)

CIPCO is a generation and transmission electric cooperative built by member cooperatives and the communities they serve. With a balanced, 24/7 energy portfolio, CIPCO is committed to providing cost-effective, clean, safe, and reliable energy. CIPCO and its 13 members serve over 300,000 Iowans in 58 Iowa counties. CIPCO's offices are located in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Creston, and Wilton, Iowa. For more information visit www.cipco.net.

Three ways your co-op manages physical threats to the grid

BY ANN THELEN

While the threat of cybersecurity attacks on the electric grid get a lot of attention these days, physical damage from storms or critters is much more likely to disrupt power. There are many physical threats to our power delivery system that your electric cooperative works hard to manage on a daily basis. From weather events – such as ice storms, tornadoes and flooding – to criminal activity, including copper theft and shooting at a substation, it takes a proactive commitment to consistently deliver reliable service. Even something as small as a squirrel can damage infrastructure and cause power outages.

If the lights do go out, your Iowa-based co-op is ready to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible. Here are three key ways your co-op works to keep your power as reliable as possible:

The nation's electric grid is incredibly resilient and can withstand many physical impacts, but it's also a dynamic infrastructure that requires constant attention. That's why your electric cooperative is vigilant in ensuring grid protection from physical and cyber threats in order to power your lives.

1 Being part of the community

One of the most valuable things about being served by an electric co-op is that you also have an ownership stake in the way the cooperative operates. Iowa's electric co-ops know our communities. We live and work in the neighborhoods and towns we serve. You know many of your co-op's board members and employees. And, in turn, board members and employees are personally acquainted with or are a part of fire departments, county supervisors, EMTs, etc.

We know that emergencies can happen at any time, and these relationships are important in urgently responding to unplanned events or in preparing for more predictable events, including winter storms or summer flooding. For example, when the Missouri River flooding happened or tornadoes hit the Marshalltown and Pella areas, Iowa's electric cooperatives responded. That's because we're part of one large cooperative community, and cooperation among cooperatives is an essential principle of providing reliable electric service.

2 Planning, preparing and practicing

There is a well-known saying that *it's not if a crisis will occur, but when it will occur.* What constitutes a crisis can mean different things to members, depending on the role electricity plays in their daily lives or businesses. Your electric co-op tests disaster and business continuity plans regularly and takes pride in being prepared at all times. Plans not only focus on how to prevent threats, but also how to respond and recover in the event of an incident. Business activities, such as vegetation management or pole inspections, may seem routine; however, they are strategically performed to proactively reduce power disruptions. Trees that are too close to power lines can cause major damage during a storm and may result in a lengthy outage.

3 Coordinating with stakeholders

Your electric co-op places a high importance on partnerships with fellow cooperatives, industry partners and government agencies to mitigate the potential impacts of all types of threats to our system. Electric cooperatives work closely with the rest of the electric industry, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Iowa resources on matters of critical infrastructure protection – that includes sharing necessary information about potential threats and working together to avoid disruptions to the extent possible.

Although the electric grid is incredibly resilient and can withstand many physical impacts, it's also a dynamic infrastructure that requires constant attention. Your electric co-op is vigilant in ensuring grid protection from physical and cyber threats in order to power your lives.

Ann Thelen is the editor of *Living with Energy in Iowa.*

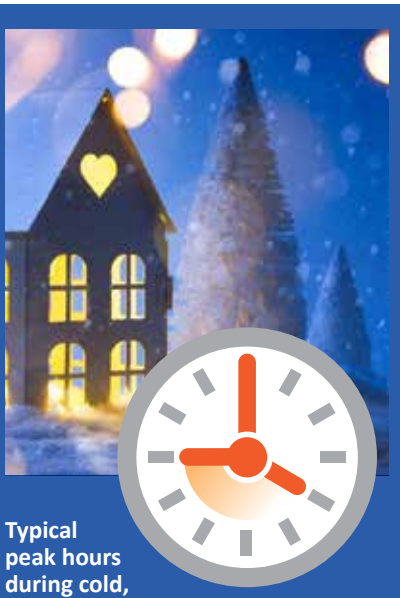
ABOUT ENERGY

Consider peak hours for electricity during upcoming winter months

Peak hours are the busiest times for your local electric cooperative, since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise.

Using less electricity during peak periods can save your co-op – and you – money. Here's how you can help during peak hours:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. For instance, wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven and countertop cooking appliances use considerably less energy than your stove or cooktop.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one. Look for Energy Star® labels when you're evaluating different models.
- Be aware of your energy consumption. Get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.



Typical peak hours during cold, winter days

SAFETY MATTERS

Harvest Safety Tips

Harvest is a busy time for farmers, and it's easy to become distracted. Always maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions. If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, call your electric cooperative immediately and stay inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In the case of smoke or fire, exit by making a solid jump out of the cab without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety by keeping your legs and feet together for one point of contact on the ground. We wish Iowa's farmers a safe and bountiful harvest!

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. **Publication title:** *Living with Energy in Iowa*
2. **Publication number:** 1935-7176
3. **Filing date:** 8/31/2019
4. **Issue frequency:** Monthly
5. **Number of issues published annually:** 12
6. **Annual subscription price:** N/A
7. **Complete mailing address of known office of publication:** 8525 Douglas, Suite 48, Des Moines, Polk County, IA 50322-2992
   Contact person: Charles Soderberg
   Telephone: 515-276-5350
8. **General business office of publisher:** Same as above.
9. **Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:** Publisher – Charles Soderberg, EVP Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, 8525 Douglas, Suite 48, Des Moines, Polk County, IA 50322-2992; Editor – Ann Thelen, same address as above; Managing Editor – N/A.
10. **Owner:** Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, 8525 Douglas, Suite 48, Des Moines, Polk County, IA 50322-2992
11. **Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities:** None
12. **Tax status:** The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.
13. **Publication title:** *Living with Energy in Iowa*
14. **Issue date for circulation data:** August 2019
15. **Extent and Nature of Circulation:**

		Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
a.	Total no. of copies	55,034	55,091
b.	Paid/requested circulation: (1) Mailed outside-county mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541	54,397	54,463
c.	Total paid distribution	54,397	54,463
d.	Free or nominal rate distribution (3) Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS	577	596
e.	Total free or nominal rate distribution	577	596
f.	Total distribution	54,974	55,059
g.	Copies not distributed	60	32
h.	Total	55,034	55,091
i.	Percent paid	98.95%	98.96%

16. **Electronic Copy Circulation** 0 0
17. **Publication of Statement of Ownership** will be printed in the October 2019 issue of this publication.
18. **Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager or owner:** Charles Soderberg, Executive Vice President (9/13/2019). I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

Living in a shared economy

BY VALERIE VAN KOOTEN

It doesn't take articles in popular culture magazines to tell you that we are living in a shared economy. Why pay for the maintenance and upkeep of something when you can rent it – or better yet, share it with someone else?

From clothing rental subscriptions to opening an extra bedroom in your house for travelers, vendors are fueling a new economy with their services, and customers are able to try something commitment-free.

This has seemingly dealt a blow to the American Dream, to a generation for whom purchasing a car or a boat or a camper was a rite of passage and a declaration of keeping up with the Joneses. Today's consumers are trading the prestige – and headache – of the upkeep in those items for the footloose, fancy-free life of a non-owner.

Our middle son just moved back to Iowa from New York City. The thought of owning a car there was just crazy, he says, where there is no parking and insurance rates are sky high. You can just grab a cab or an Uber or hop on the subway. Similarly, you can rent furniture for your apartment and even lease house plants for a set period of time. You can even "borrow" pets from the local animal rescue league for a while.

My husband Kent and I have dipped our toes into this phenomenon as well, all from the consumer end. We've stayed in strangers' apartments in Hawaii and caught a ride with someone in his personal car in San Antonio. I've leased clothing through a mail-order service. We've rented vehicles for longer road trips. And by and large, they've been good experiences even when I figure in the apartment in Brooklyn where I was positive we'd be murdered in the hallway. We survived.

There's something uniquely intimate about letting strangers into your home, strangers who are sleeping on your sheets and eating off your dishes. There's something a bit unnerving about renting out your car to haul people around. Our driver in San Antonio said his biggest fares come every morning when he's hired to drive kids as young as 5 years old to school. "There's no way I'd let my kid get in a car with a driver I didn't know," he says, with a shrug. "But lots of people do it here."

Many naysayers will point out this is indicative of a lack of commitment on this generation's part … that we don't want to invest our time, energy or money in anything. I see it more as a push to live more simply and not be mired down in payments, time pressures and maintenance.

Whichever way you look at it, I still don't think I could put my 5-year-old in a car with a stranger. But I'm intrigued with the possibility of renting a ficus plant.

Valerie Van Kooten is a writer from Pella who loves living in the country and telling its stories. She and her husband Kent have three married sons and two incredibly adorable grandsons.


THE POWER OF COMMUNITY
Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives of Iowa
www.touchstoneenergy.coop
We're proud to be a part of it, bringing people together by providing energy for all the things you love.