



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

March 2019

Annual Contractor Conference Promotes Energy Efficiency



BG Builders; Enos Swartzentruber and Jacob Swartzentruber – Swartzentruber Construction; Matt West – West Plumbing & Heating. “For many years, Momentum Is Building has allowed building trades professionals from our area to find out what’s new in the industry—techniques as well as products. Attendees also obtain continuing education credits they need to stay current in their professions,” says Tim Pfeiffer, Director of Member Services.

Nationally recognized speakers shared their knowledge on topics including ways to improve building and remodeling through HERS ratings, energy modeling and more; the latest in solar; smart home products; and solving the housing crisis in rural Iowa. CEU sessions for electricians and heating-plumbing professionals included cold climate air source heat pumps, common electrical code violations, and more. Momentum Is Building also includes a trade show where participants visit with companies to learn about new products.

Support for the conference comes from Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives.



From left to right pictured: Fred Drake, Jeff Durham, Chris Olson, and Tim Pfeiffer

Iowa’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives celebrated the 27th annual “Momentum Is Building” conference Feb. 7–8 at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

Since the conference began in 1993, its mission has been to provide a forum for energy efficiency and electric technology education. The conference seeks to build relationships with trade professionals who influence electric co-op members’ decision-making about home building/remodeling, heating, cooling, water heating and energy efficiency.

Momentum Is Building continues to offer up-to-date building science information,

practical hands-on details and new technology displays for building trades professionals – including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across Iowa join their local contractors at the conference.

Attendees from Southwest Iowa REC include Tim Pfeiffer – Southwest Iowa REC; Fred Drake – Drake Electric; Matt Munyon, and Daniel Leonard – Munyon Plg and Htg; Steve Newton – Newton Construction; Kelly Adamson and Rick Ferle – Brad Waltz Construction; Matt Gilliland and Terry Bosewell–

CEO's COMMENTS:

You're More Than a Customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Southwest Iowa REC's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In the late 1930's and early 1940's, Southwest Iowa REC's predecessor's (Adams County Cooperative Electric, Nyman Electric, and Rideta Electric) were founded to fulfill a vital need in our communities that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build these co-ops and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create the electric cooperative. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings, formed a Member Advisory Committee, and occasionally conduct surveys. We do this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use. We provide a wide-range of energy efficiency programs and rebates as well as flexible payment options to help meet your

needs. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Southwest Iowa REC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations through our Operation Roundup® program and provide scholarships for students pursuing additional education. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



Phil Kinser

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 lowans 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

Lineman Appreciation Day



America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Southwest Iowa REC gratefully supports this day in honoring our linemen and recognizing the risks they take to carry out their daily duties. We would like to take this opportunity on April 8th to acknowledge and appreciate those men at Southwest Iowa REC that work so hard to provide our members with safe and reliable energy 24 hours a day throughout the entire year!

Introducing Suzy Olson



Suzy Olson began her duties as an Administrative Assistant in the Corning office on February 11th. Suzy resides in Brooks with her husband Andy. *Welcome Suzy!*

Summer Help Wanted

Southwest Iowa REC is looking for summer help to assist our line crews in Corning, Mount Ayr, and Stanton. If interested, please stop in or call to request an application. The applicant must be at least 18 years old. The job is only for the summer months of 2019. For more information – please call (888)220-4869 and press option #1 for Mike Stargell in Corning, option #2 for Duane Schafer in Mount Ayr, option #3 for Ken Van Wyhe in Stanton.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, Corning, Iowa is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/ad-3027-usda-program-discrimination-complaint-...> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov USDA and Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative are equal opportunity providers and employers.

Bravo!

Thank you for your recent donation to the Lenox Neighborhood Center. We greatly appreciate your support. Debbie Tillman

Our wishes for a safe and healthy 2019. Thanks for keeping our lights on no matter the weather. Kurt & Rhonda Boehm

Your support means a lot to us – through your generous gift, we will continue to provide leadership for projects that enhance our region's natural beauty, promote rural vitality and engage the people, culture and communities that make rural southwest Iowa great.

Michelle Wodtke Franks

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development

Complaints Resolution Process

Southwest Iowa REC makes every effort to resolve all complaints brought to its attention. You can contact us at 1801 Grove Avenue Corning, Iowa; 1502 W South Street, Mount Ayr, Iowa or 415 Broad Street, Stanton, Iowa. 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 Board 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.

Southern Fried Cabbage



- ½ head green cabbage, cut into bite sized pieces
- 5 slices thick cut bacon
- 1.5 lbs. baby red potatoes
- 1 lg. onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Cut potatoes into quarters and spread on baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil. Season liberally with salt & pepper, garlic powder. Roast potatoes about 15 minutes, stirring half way through, until tender and crispy. Set aside.
3. Meanwhile, cook bacon in a high side skillet, big enough to add your cabbage to later (use a dutch oven if you don't have a high sided skillet. Either cook the bacon in strips and break it up later or dice the bacon first, then cook. Remove bacon, set aside. Drain grease from pan but leave about 2 tablespoons in the skillet to cook the vegetables in.
4. To the skillet with the bacon grease, add onions and cook over medium heat, until they start to soften. Add cabbage, garlic, a little salt & pepper and caraway seeds. Stir and continue to cook a few minutes until the cabbage starts to soften and everything is combined well. Add white wine, stir, cover and cook about 5 more minutes until cabbage is tender. Stir the cabbage a few times while it's cooking.
5. When cabbage is done, remove lid, add the roasted potatoes and bacon. Toss well to combine and serve.



The RECipe

- 1 tsp. caraway seeds
- ¼ C. white wine
- 2 Tbls. olive oil
- salt & pepper
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder



WINTER MORATORIUM ENDS APRIL 1, 2019

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, 2019 to make payment arrangements on your past-due bill to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency. *Source: energy.gov*

Find us on Facebook

2018 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0029/kwh



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

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