



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

April 2019

Electric Co-ops Advocate for Rural Iowa during “REC Day on the Hill”



Pictured left to right: Tim Pfeiffer, Duane Schafer, and Cecil Dolecheck, Iowa State Representative, visiting at Southwest Iowa REC’s booth.

More than 200 employees and directors, representing 36 of Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives (RECs), traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on March 20 to advocate for important issues during our annual “REC Day on the Hill” event. The cooperative advocates were briefed on state and federal legislative issues by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) before meeting with local legislators during a dessert social in the Capitol.

“This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to rural Iowa and rural economic development,” remarked Steve Seidl, board president of IAEC. Advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Legislators also learned about three

priorities important to Iowa’s electric cooperatives:

- Ensuring safety and reliability of service through vegetation management
- Supporting cost-effective energy efficiency programs for homes and farms
- Responsible power generation and delivery through fair treatment of all member-owners and utilization of advanced technology

Southwest Iowa REC had a booth display in the rotunda that provided information on energy efficiency, rural economic development, electrical safety, scholarships and Youth Tour. Throughout the event, representatives from Southwest Iowa REC were able to visit with Representatives Cecil Dolecheck, Tom Moore, David Sieck, Ray “Bubba” Sorensen, and Senators Mark Costello, Tom Shipley and Amy Sinclair.



CEO's COMMENTS:

Cooperative Audit Completed for 2018 – No Price Increase Projected in 2019 Operating Budget



Phil Kinser

The annual, independent financial audit of your cooperative's 2018 financial records was recently completed resulting in a clean, favorable audit opinion. The financial performance of your Cooperative in 2018 was very good and we were able to exceed all of the requirements placed upon us by our lenders. Kilowatt-hour sales for 2018 were 6.22% above budget and 8.34% more than 2017. Although sales were above budget, operating margins were below budget by \$326,663 due to operating costs (excluding purchased power) coming in 3.34% above the budgeted amount. The operating cost increases were mainly due to additional depreciation being recorded for the early retirement of plant. Member equity improved from 43.74% in 2017 to 43.95% at the end of 2018 and \$315,041 of member patronage capital was refunded during the year. The following table shows where the money we collected from you was spent in 2018:

project and preparing material orders for new construction projects.

The 2019 Operating Budget includes \$3,042,490 in system upgrades and improvements to be completed by our line crews. These upgrades and improvements are part of our 2017-2020 Construction Work Plan. The 2017-2020 Construction Work Plan places an increased priority on rebuilding and upgrading critical infrastructure. We have also budgeted \$1,939,438 for ongoing operations and maintenance programs including vegetation management, pole inspection, transformer and breaker maintenance, general line maintenance and security light maintenance. All of our programs are designed to continue to provide you with safe and reliable electric service.

Analysis: Electric Co-ops Support Nearly 612,000 Jobs, Annually Contribute \$88 Billion to U.S. GDP

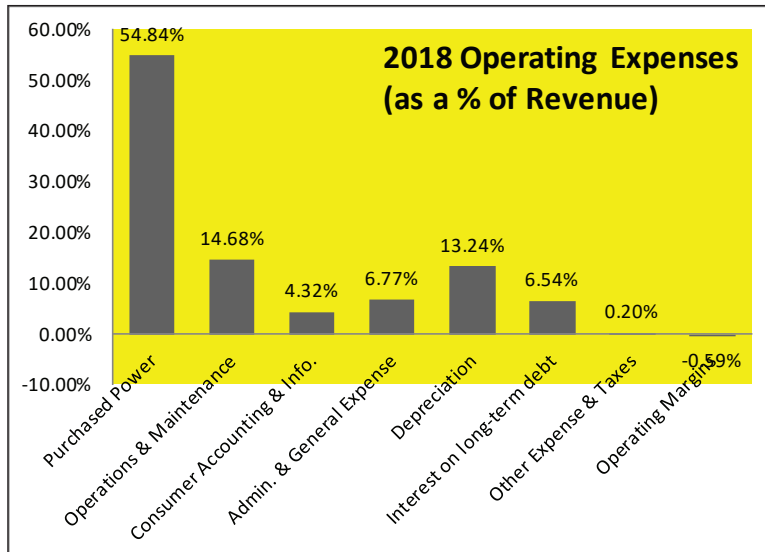
A new report on the nationwide economic impact

of electric cooperatives shows that co-ops support nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion of electric cooperatives businesses know well—electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric cooperatives were built by, belong to, and are rooted in the communities that they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses and workers.

From 2013-17, electric co-ops:

- Contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income and \$112 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.
- Spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including:
- \$274 billion on operational expenditures,
- \$60 billion on capital investments,
- \$20 billion on maintenance, and
- \$5 billion on credits retired and paid in cash to consumer-members under the membership structure of cooperatives.

A copy of the full report can be found under “News and Events” on our website www.swiarec.coop.



of electric cooperatives shows that co-ops support nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion

The Operating Budget for 2019 does not include any increase in the base price you pay for your electricity. The cost of wholesale power we purchase from Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) is also projected to be slightly less than 2018 so the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) portion of your monthly electric bill should reflect that as well. In 2018, the average PCA applied (excluding electric heat sales) was (\$.00453) resulting in member electric bill credits of \$392,005.36 which helped to lower your overall cost of electricity.

Sales during the first few months of 2019 have been strong due to the colder weather. Our crews have been concentrating on vegetation management (tree trimming and removal), finishing construction projects started in 2018, line inspection and maintenance, mapping updates, meter upgrade

in U.S. GDP from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually.

“The Economic Impact of America’s Electric Cooperatives” was conducted by FTI Consulting and commissioned by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

This report quantifies what many rural American families and

POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

The Economic Impact of America’s Electric Cooperatives

In 2017, electric cooperatives...

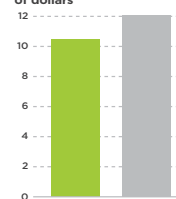
Supported 611,600 American jobs.

- 165,800 direct jobs
- 170,900 indirect jobs
- 274,900 induced jobs*



*Jobs that are created as a direct or indirect result of the work electric cooperatives do.

Taxes in billions of dollars



Generated \$22.5 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

- \$10.5 billion in federal tax
- \$12.0 billion in state/local tax

Contributed \$88.4 billion to U.S. GDP, including \$40.4 billion in labor income to American workers.



Help Us Find These Missing Members

We are looking for the following former members of Rideta Electric Cooperative that served Ringgold, Decatur, Taylor and Union counties for the year 2001 - 2002. These members have patronage checks at our office. If the member is deceased, we would like to have a family member contact us with estate information so we can refund their patronage. Thanks for your help.

Almqvist, Gary	Foggia, Gene	Jenkins, Al	Nichols, Jay D
Anderson, John W	Foreman, Don	K Bar C Supper Club	Oller, Jonathan
Arnold, Rick E	Frana, Laura	Knoebel, Paul	Ormiston, Tam % Ben
Bacon, Jean	Funk, Niles	Larson, Roger or Cindy	Kramanec
Black, Berdina	Gilbreath, Chuck	Madison, Robert	Powers, Scott L
Buckingham, Shawn	Grim, Grim % Rosa Mc-	Mast, Eli	Risser, Gayland
Campbell, Lauren	Clellan	McFarland, Jay	Rose, Jim
Connet, Dawn	Hatfield, Sandra	McVay, JoAnn % Tammy	Woods, Chad
Davis, Bill or Frances	Hindes, Chas. % Crystal	Jessen	Zeran, Viola
Fischer, Heather	Yates	Moffitt, Charles	
Flowers, Rebecca	Huss, Terri	Morelock, Nichole	

We are looking for the following former members of Southwest Iowa Service Cooperative that served Adair, Adams, Cass, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Taylor and Union counties for the year 2001 - 2002. These members have patronage checks at our office. If the member is deceased, we would like to have a family member contact us with estate information so we can refund their patronage. Thanks for your help.

Adams, Garvin	Frost, Larry S	Klimek, Debra	Schutt, Vern R
Anderson, James F	Gadino, Nick	Knott, Leonard or Nord-	Schwerdt, Shawn D
Anderson, Mrs. David C	Gage, Curtis E/Lewis, Ellen	strom, Sundae	Skinner, Joy
Anstey, W Edward	Gallup, Scott or Melinda	Lamm, Bonnie J	Spangler, Steven L/Mary J
Baird, Kathleen	Garber, Patricia	Larson, Sylvester	Sporleder, Chris J
Bauer, Sr., Frank	Gittings, Brian D	LePorte, Reggie	Stevens, Raymond P
Beedle, Robert	Grady, Wayne	Martin, Dominic L	Stogdill, Dawn M
Bender, Gerald	Gruber, Marci	Martin, Ron L	Summers, Michael M
Benskin, Duane R	GTE Telephone Operations	Maxwell, Eugene	Swine USA, %Jon Bell
Berry, Neil	Gwinn, Buddy G	McCoy, Ralph	Taylor, James
Brassfield, Elma	Hall, Maxine/Genevieve	McKern, Jack	Thompson, Ray or Eleanor
Braymen, Joel A	Halley, John	Mercer, Dave	Tiemann, Gary
Bright, Donald G	Hamilton, Nate	Miller, LouAnn	Truckenmiller, Dan or Lisa
Cole Airport	Hayes, Mary	Mommens, John M	Trusty, Alvin P
Crow, Curtis G	Hillman, Doris	Moore, David Lee	Tyner, Edwin A
Darden Jr, Henry H	Hoyt, Sharon	Nielsen, Niel S	Valdivia, Alleyne
Davis, Anna or Jones, Robert	Ingebritson, Lois G	Nims, Ron or Virginia	Vanik, Joe or Verna
Davis, Nancy	Isaacson, Ethel	Oathout, Shelbi	Walker, Terry L
Ellison, Mary	Jefferson, William D	Otte, Nola	Watson, Marlene
Evans, Angela or Doyle	Johannes, Shirley	Parks, Susie	Wells, Frances
Fichter, James L	Johnson, Andrew L	Pirtle, Corey A/Jamie N	Westberg, Dwight L
Filkins, Evelyn G	Johnson, Everett or Mary	Renninger, Tyrone	Wetzel, Ron
Forsyth, Robert N	Johnson, Mark, Robert, or Joan	Rogers, Wilma C	Wiese, Alysia
Fox, Dorothy E	Kelley, Brian D	Rucker, Barbara L	
		Schilz, James	

Introducing Steven Grace



Steven Grace began his duties as the Member Service Technician in the Mount Ayr office on March 4th. Steven resides just north of Mount Ayr with his fiancé Lesea Weeda and their 5 beautiful daughters; Avery Grace 8, Rylee Grace 11, Koda Henle 12, Tabby Henle 13, and Channler Henle 16. Welcome Steven!



Administrative Professionals Day is April 24, 2019. Please join us in celebrating their contributions to the workplace and the benefit they bring to our Cooperative!

Our Administrative Professionals we appreciate are Wendy Wimer, Denise Hallquist, Ginny Eighmy, Marilyn Rubel, Suzy Olson, and Sarah Newton.



Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Toss out damaged cords – they're not worth the risk!

#Electrical SafetyMonth

#BeSafe



Bravo!

We thank you for your continued support of our community and the Viking Center! Great things are happening in Stanton, and we look forward to sharing updates and improvements.

Justin Miller
Director

Thank you for your participation in the annual 4th of July celebration. The Adams County Community looks forward to these events every year. Thank you for helping to bring your community together.

The 4th Of July Committee
Adams County Conservation
Foundation & Board

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.

Lemon Sugar Cookie Bars

For the Cookie Bars

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



For the Frosting

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- colored sprinkles
- yellow sanding sugar

PREP TIME 15 minutes – COOK TIME 14 minutes – TOTAL TIME 29 minutes

Lemon Sugar Cookie Bars topped with fluffy lemon frosting and sprinkles are a fun dessert that everyone will love. Easy treat to make for potlucks, picnics, and parties!!!

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Spray a 9x13 pan with nonstick baking spray.
- Beat the butter and sugars until creamy. Add the egg and lemon juice and beat again.
- Stir together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Slowly mix this into the butter mixture until a soft dough forms.
- Spread the dough into the prepared pan. Bake for 14 minutes. Let cool completely.
- Beat together the frosting ingredients until creamy. Spread on the top of the cooled bars.
- Top with desired amount of sprinkles and sanding sugar. Cut into 24 squares. Store in a sealed container on the counter.



Do You Know...

Ever wonder what all those things are on a utility pole? To bring power to your home your Cooperative uses equipment that will provide you with safe and reliable electricity. The most noticeable equipment on the pole is the transformer. Transformers convert

higher voltage electricity from primary wires to lower voltage for your home. Since your transformer distributes power to your individual location—should it be damaged in any way—you could experience a power outage while your neighbor's electricity stays on.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov

2019 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0029/kwh



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