

**SOUTHWEST LINES**



**SOUTHWEST IOWA**  
**RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

- Don't forget to check out our **NEW WEB SITE!!** Find us at [www.swiarec.coop](http://www.swiarec.coop). Tell us what you think about it!!  
.....
- **BEFORE DIGGING...** CALL 811 – Make sure underground lines are located **BEFORE** you start to DIG!!  
.....
- In case of Down Power Lines **REMEMBER:** no matter what vehicle you're in(tractor, car, pickup, combine) – always remember to:
  - Stay in the vehicle
  - Call for help
  - If you **MUST** exit the vehicle (in case of fire) **JUMP CLEAR!**
  - Never touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. It could be a deadly mistake!
  - Do not touch any wires!

## Scholarships Available for High School Seniors

Southwest Iowa REC will once again be offering scholarships for the 2014 school year to graduating high school seniors. **Students must be enrolled fulltime at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school. The parent or guardian of the student must be a SW Iowa REC member and the student MUST RESIDE in the REC-served residence.**

Applications are available at your high school guidance counselor's office or you may fill out the form below. Recipients of the scholarships will be chosen by a selection committee appointed by Southwest Iowa REC whose decisions are final.

**We will be awarding twelve (12) \$500 scholarships. In addition, two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be available for students planning to attend an Accredited Lineman School.**

*Completed applications and a photo must be received at the REC Office by March 3, 2014 to be eligible.*

---

### Scholarship Information

Please send me the  
**Southwest Iowa REC Scholarship Application form.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

REC Account #/Location#: \_\_\_\_\_

**Corning Office**  
1801 Grove Avenue  
Corning, IA 50841  
(641) 322-3165  
888-591-1261

**Stanton Office**  
415 Broad Avenue  
Stanton, IA 51573  
(712) 829-2211  
888-591-1260

**Mt. Ayr Office**  
1502 W. South Street  
Mount Ayr, IA 50854  
(641) 464-2244  
888-220-4869

## Manager's Comments



Phil Kinser

### Southwest Iowa REC Mission Statement:

Provide safe and reliable electric service, while also advancing community and economic development opportunities, in a manner consistent with sound cooperative business practices and values.

**CRIME**  
**STOPPERS**  
**800-452-1111**  
**STOP COPPER THEFT!**

## Thanks.....

Thanks for the rebate on our new water heater and for the quick service on replacing our old one. Sure appreciated it.

Delbert & Lila Mauderly

# Vegetation Management / Tree Trimming

Throughout the year(s) you may have noticed Southwest Iowa REC crews or one of our contractors out pruning trees, cutting shrubbery and applying sprays to overgrown vegetation. When our member-consumers spot this activity, we often receive a few questions about this process – beginning with, “What exactly is vegetation management – and why is it so important to my electric service?”

We’re happy when our member-consumers ask these questions, because the vegetation management process is very important to your electric service, especially when it comes to the safety and reliability of our system.

Vegetation management is a combination of tree pruning, brush and vine pruning, and chemical treatment to impede future growth. Across the U.S., thousands of instances occur each year when injuries result from unqualified individuals climbing or pruning trees that are too close to power lines. And, the reliability we count on day in and day out can be compromised if trees come into contact with power lines during storms. In fact, fallen tree branches are one of the leading causes of outages during the storm season.

To ensure safe and reliable service for all of our member-consumers, routine trimming or pruning of trees and other vegetation – such as vines, shrubs and bushes – is sometimes necessary. Branches that come into contact with power lines can cause power impairments in many ways by reducing voltage, causing short circuits, complete outages and fires. The result can be injuries to those near the lines or a lack of power to our homes and businesses. When outages occur, safety also becomes a focal point. Without power, emergency-related services that rely on electric power can be impacted.

Southwest Iowa REC uses information from annual system inspections to determine what areas are in need of vegetation management. Besides inspections, we also use comments from our member-consumers to determine areas in need of vegetation management in the near future. Southwest Iowa REC attempts to prune trees and manage vegetation on 20 percent of the system annually. This allows for an overall schedule of having the entire system pruned and managed on an approximate 5-year cycle. It also helps to keep the process affordable for Southwest Iowa REC and you, our member-consumer, without sacrificing safety or reliability. The majority of our vegetation management program is completed during the months of January – March. **In 2014 the following areas are scheduled for vegetation management:**

#### **Coddington Inc. (contractor)**

Decatur County – Bloomington, Burrell and New Buda townships

#### **REC Crews**

Adair County – Richmond and Washington townships

Adams County – Carl, Colony and Douglas townships

Decatur County – Grand River township

Montgomery County – Douglas, Scott and Washington townships

Page County – Fremont township

Ringgold County – Athens, Liberty, Monroe, Poe, Tingley, Union and Washington townships

Union County – Spaulding township

You can always feel free to contact us at any of our service locations in Corning, Mount Ayr or Stanton with any questions you might have on this process. Or perhaps, you would like to let us know about a tree or other vegetation that you think could be too close to power lines or important electrical equipment. You’ll also find helpful information on our website at [www.swiarec.coop](http://www.swiarec.coop).

Trees and shrubbery have an important place in our communities. They provide cool breezes, relief from glare and noise and a strong visual appeal to our yards, streets and businesses. Rest assured, Southwest Iowa REC works hard to make sure trees also have a positive role in the overall safety and reliability of our system.

## Co-op meets with area legislators



On November 13, Southwest Iowa REC representatives met with area legislators to discuss issues of importance to rural electric cooperatives. Representatives Clel Baudler, Cecil Dolecheck, and Joel Fry participated in the meeting.

The meeting began with the state legislators introducing themselves and sharing their priorities for the upcoming legislative session. All of them indicated support for rural electric cooperatives and an interest in working on issues important to co-op membership.

Phil Kinser, CEO/General Manager at Southwest Iowa REC, then led a presentation about the cooperative business model, how involved the area rural electric cooperatives are in the

communities they serve, the cooperatives' commitment to economic development and our legislative priorities for the upcoming session in Iowa as well as federal issues we are tracking. The meeting was an opportunity to share information and develop an open line of communication with elected officials who will be



*Rep. Cecil Dolecheck*

making decisions that directly impact the cooperative.

Southwest Iowa REC (Corning, Mount Ayr, Stanton) partnered with Farmers Electric Cooperative (Greenfield), Guthrie County REC (Guthrie Center), and Clarke



*Rep. Clel Baudler*

Electric (Osceola) to host the joint legislative meeting in Creston. Members of the Board of Directors as well as General Managers and staff from each of the four cooperatives participated in the discussion. This fall legislative meeting has become a tradition for the four electric cooperatives to host annually before the legislative session begins in January.



*Rep. Joel Fry*

## Why do We Advertise?

Southwest Iowa REC's main purpose in advertising is to teach and promote electrical safety and energy efficiency to meet federal and state regulations – and to educate our members and policy-makers about the Cooperative – and what we do for our communities.

- Like any other business, Southwest Iowa REC uses paid advertising to communicate a message to a specific audience. The personal safety of our members and the general public is our primary concern.
- Advertising is a communication tool we use to reach our members and the general public about issues important to our business, such as the need for additional base-load electric generation or energy efficiency tips that save consumers electricity and money.
- We have used advertising to educate legislators and regulators about major issues that significantly impact the

cost of your electric bill, such as climate change legislation.

- As an electric cooperative, we have made a commitment to the communities we serve. That means we sponsor and support programs that enhance the community and provide services to our members such as our revolving loan fund and student scholarship programs.
- Advertising helps us develop name recognition with legislators and regulators. It is important for them to know who we are and what we do when we contact them to advocate on behalf of your interests – collectively, cooperative members have a strong voice.
- Because Southwest Iowa REC benefits from the combined buying power of anywhere from a dozen to 30 different electric cooperatives, we get a great return for our advertising dollars.



## Employee Spotlight

**Name:** Bonnie Goodvin

**Family:** Married to Larry. Children

are Rick Goodvin and Tracy Spurrier. Tracy has two boys, Spencer and Addison. I also have 4 step-grandchildren – Dakota, Harper, Morgan and Jensen.

**Date of Hire:** Oct. 16, 1972

**Current Position:** Customer Service Representative (Corning)

**Favorite Recipe:** Cream of Broccoli Deluxe Soup



## The RECipe

### CREAM OF BROCCOLI DELUXE SOUP

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 6 Cups vegetable stock or bouillon  | 1 large head broccoli, including stem, chopped |
| 1 rounded cup raw cashews   | 2 tsps. dried thyme                            |
| 1 each – celery stalk (finely chopped), large carrot (chopped), garlic clove (minced) | 1 tsp. sea salt                                |
| ½ large red bell pepper, chopped  | ½ tsp. black pepper                            |

Puree 1 Cup of the stock with the cashews in a blender until smooth. Set aside. In a large pot, cook the onion, celery and carrot in 1 C. of the stock for 5 minutes. Add the garlic, bell pepper and potatoes and cook for 2 more minutes. Add the remaining 4 C of stock and the broccoli, thyme, salt and pepper and bring to a boil over high heat. Cover and simmer until the broccoli and potatoes are soft, about 10 minutes.

Add the cashew mixture to the soup and stir until mixed. Remove the pot from heat and puree about half the soup, in small batches, until smooth. Return pureed soup to the pot and reheat, stirring well. Serve. Delicious!

## Preparing for a Winter Storm

Extreme winter weather can immobilize an entire region. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can suddenly be hit with heavy snowfall or intense cold. Winter storms can result in closed streets and highways, power outages and flooding. Take action now to ensure the safety and comfort of your family in the event of extreme winter weather.

### Before a storm

- Have snow removal equipment on hand, as well as rock salt to melt ice, and sand to improve traction.
- Regular heating fuel sources may be cut off, so make sure an alternative is available. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Locate your main water supply and valves and make sure you know how to shut them off in case a freezing pipe bursts.
- Repair roof leaks and keep gutters clear. Trim any tree branches that could fall on your house during a storm.
- Winterize your home by caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows, sealing the attic area and installing storm windows. This will help to keep your family safe and comfortable during a storm.

### During a storm

- Listen to your radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio for weather reports and emergency information.
- Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.

- If it becomes necessary to conserve fuel, keep your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- Stay dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent the loss of body heat.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Drive only if it is necessary. If you must drive, travel in the daytime, do not drive alone and keep others informed of your whereabouts. Also, stay on main roads. Avoid back-road shortcuts.

### After a storm

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.
- Help neighbors who may require special assistance including infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation and open all faucets; pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold. Do not try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame.
- Follow forecasts and be prepared when venturing outside. Major winter storms are often followed by extremely cold conditions.

A little forethought and some attention to detail will help to ensure that you and your family stay warm, dry and safe in your home this winter, no matter what the weather is outside.