

SOUTHWEST LINES



SOUTHWEST IOWA
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM Find us at www.swiarec.coop

- Don't forget to check out our **NEW WEB SITE!!** Find us at 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!

Southwest Iowa REC offices will be **CLOSED** on Thursday, December 25th, and Friday, December 26th for Christmas and Thursday, January 1st for New Year's.



Have a happy and safe holiday!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The Employees and Directors of Southwest Iowa REC would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued patronage and may you and your loved ones have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Employees

John Allen
 Ginny Eighmy
 Sam Elsberry
 Scott Geer
 Gary Goldsmith
 Denise Hallquist
 David Head
 Les Helvie
 Phil Kinser

Ben Knapp
 Shayne Larson
 Jamie McManis
 Justin Murphy
 Sarah Newton
 Tim Pfeiffer
 Tanner Rinehart
 Marilyn Rubel
 Duane Schafer

Zach Schafer
 Bill Scharfenkamp
 Tysen Sederburg
 Danny Stamps
 Mike Stargell
 Ken Van Wyhe
 Paul Vanderholm
 Nathan Weeda
 Wendy Wimer

Directors

Dick Ballantyne
 Rich Fast
 Mark Herzberg

Dennis Meier
 Dana Morgan
 Ken Peppmeier
 Glen Roberts

Jack Stephens
 Dale Walkup
 Marilyn Werner



Greg Johnson Retires

Line Foreman in Stanton, retired on October 31st after 40-plus years of service to the members of Southwest Iowa REC. A retirement open house was held with approx. 100 people stopping by to wish Greg good luck. Congratulations Greg!

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.

What will the power grid of the future look like?

This is a common question from consumers across the country, and even around the world, as they look to policymakers, electric cooperatives and other utilities to provide an answer to this question.

The electricity industry is dynamic and continuously evolving; the electric co-op history of stringing the first power lines and poles in rural America nearly 80 years ago illustrates that statement. As electric cooperatives, our core business principles ensure that we balance change with doing what's right for all of our member-owners and the long-term sustainability of the cooperative. And amidst all of this change, there are a number of fundamental things that remain important constants.

Before electric cooperatives lit up rural areas with affordable and reliable power, individual businesses and residences had to rely on their own sources of fuel to provide power and light. The long-awaited delivery of centralized power generation – the delivery of electricity from one central station power plant to end users through transmission and distribution lines – dramatically improved the quality of life for farm families and businesses.

Central station generation quickly earned its place in our lives by providing safe, reliable and affordable power to hundreds of thousands of people. In fact, the creation of the North American power grid has been lauded as one of the greatest achievements of the 20th Century and one of the most indispensable machines on earth. Today, more than at any point in history, our livelihoods and economies rely on a continuous and affordable power supply, and that power comes from a diverse mix of fuel sources including coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, solar and biomass. Central station generation also provides diversity in system size, optimal operation times for maximum efficiency, and geographic location.

Efficiencies of power generation and delivery have dramatically evolved over the decades, too. Energy efficiency has always been a cornerstone of the cooperatives' strong efforts toward environmental responsibility and programs and services designed in concert with central station generation continue to improve with technological advances.

As member-owners investigate solar and wind distributed energy resources, your electric cooperative sees this as yet another evolution in the energy business. We support our members' interests in owning their own renewable energy system. However, we also know that in order to ensure reliable and uninterrupted power, individual renewable systems must be balanced with a continuous source of dependable power from central station generation.

That's why your team of employees and locally elected board members – along with policymakers and other utilities – are working hard to ensure costs are fair, and all generation systems are safe, reliable and environmentally responsible.

Our electricity systems and the needs of our member-owners will continue to evolve as demand increases for reliable, affordable power. As your not-for-profit electric cooperative, our job is to make sure that we never drift away from our top priority of improving the quality of life for our member-owners.

Did you know?

Space heaters are responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



* Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface.

* Make sure your space heater has an auto shutoff function.

* Never pair your space heater with an extension cord.

* Never leave a space heater unattended when in use.

* Purchase space heaters that are cool to the touch.

Energy Efficiency Incentives are Changing January 1!

Southwest Iowa REC's energy efficiency incentive programs are evaluated every five years by our power supplier (CIPCO), reviewed by Southwest Iowa REC and filed with the Iowa Utilities Board. Our current five year program expires at the end of this year.

We will have changes to our new five year program. Some incentives will be enhanced, others modified and some discontinued.

The following products will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2015:

Residential:

- Electric storage water heaters greater than 55 gallons
- ENERGY STAR appliances –refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, televisions, room air conditioners
- Compressor only change outs for heat pumps
- Indoor air-quality devices- whole house electronic air filter, ultra-violet (UV) air purifier and radon abatement systems

Commercial and Agriculture Lighting:

- Lighting – Replacement of all types of lighting with standard T5 and T8 fixtures/lamp ballast combination all lengths that are mounted below 15 feet.
- Pulse start metal halide outdoor security lights (both agriculture, commercial and residential applications)

The following incentive amounts will increase for our 2015-2019 energy efficiency plan:

Residential:

- Heat Pump water heater: \$650/unit
- Drain water heat recovery pipe: \$450/unit
- Air source heat pump : \$150/ton with additional \$350/ENERGY STAR unit
- Heat recovery ventilator: \$250/unit

In addition to these changes, members will no longer need to file paperwork for screw based ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent and LED light bulbs. You will be able to receive your instant Be Bright rebate at the time of purchase at participating stores.

If you have installed equipment that qualifies for a 2014 energy efficiency rebate from Southwest Iowa REC, send in your application by December 31, 2014.

Watch for more details on new incentive programs coming soon.

Thanks.....

Thank you for the \$10 off my bill. Also the REC meeting was a great evening with the delicious meal, entertainment and tremendous turnout of members. A special thank you for the nice slow cooker I won!

-Joyce Hoepker

Thank you for the \$10 credit to our bill and the Home Audio System from RESCO. Thank you very much!

-Bob & Joyce Cooper

You folks sure worked hard and put on a fabulous meal and meeting. I wanted to thank you for the wonderful meal, gifts, and entertainment. Winning the year of free electricity was a real "God send" to me! That was amazing! I want all of you to know how much it is appreciated! Thank you for everything.

-Dianna Hensley

I attended the REC Annual Meeting and enjoyed the meal with friends and entertainment. Thank you for the crockpot from the drawing.

-Ruth Roberts

Thank you for the annual meeting meal and gift card. I enjoyed the entertainment and visiting with friends.

-Ethel Campbell

A special thanks to all of you for drawing our number for the free 6 months of electricity! Thanks for taking care of our electric needs since 1959! We had a wonderful annual meeting!

-Oliver & Mary Jo Herzberg

Thank you for the kind words and support you have given me through the years. I will certainly miss all of you.

Thank you!

-Carroll Baker

Thank you for helping us with a successful safe trick or treat promotion. We appreciate it.

-Corning Main Street Committee

Thank you for your support of Friends of Prescott School Foundation and our 100 year celebration of Prescott School!

-Friends of Prescott School Foundation



Employee Spotlight

Name: Wendy Wimer
Family: Married to Brian. Daughter Logan, Sophomore at University of Missouri and son, Clay, Sophomore at Mt Ayr Community Schools.
Date of Hire: June 1, 1988
Current Position: Customer Service Rep – (Mt Ayr)
Favorite Recipe: Rena Smith's Lasagna



The REcipe

Rena Smith's Lasagna

Ingredients:

9 Lasagna Noodles

Meat Sauce:

1 lb sausage browned and drained

Minced garlic to taste

1 T dried Basil

1 tsp salt

1 15oz can tomato sauce

Cheese Mixture:

3 C Cottage Cheese

½ C Parmesan Cheese

2 eggs beaten

1 T parsley flakes

½ tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

1lb Shredded Mozzarella Cheese

-Combine meat sauce ingredients and simmer for 20 minutes.

-Meanwhile cook 9 lasagna noodles. After cooked, drain and let set in cool water until ready to assemble.

-Combine all cheese mixture ingredients.

-In 9x13 sprayed pan, start with meat sauce layer, then noodles, then cheese mixture. Make 3 layers. Bake uncovered at 375° for 40 minutes or until cheese topping is slightly browned and bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.



Breast Cancer Awareness

In October, the Southwest Iowa REC line crew wore pink hard hats to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

For each hat purchased, 3M donated to the American Cancer Society. All hats were donated to the line crew by Denise Hallquist, Customer Service Representative in Stanton.



Left to right: Paul Vanderholm, Zach Schafer, Scott Geer, Tysen Sederburg, Tanner Rinehart, Shayne Larson, Les Helvie, Justin Murphy, and Nathan Weeda.

STATE LAW REQUIRES NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE ENERGY PRODUCTION

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology including:

- solar
- wind turbine
- waste management
- resource recovery
- refuse-derived fuel
- agricultural crops or residue
- wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide written notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the generator.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system – please contact Southwest Iowa REC at 888-591-1261 (Corning) or 888-220-4869 (Mt. Ayr) or 888-591-1260 (Stanton). Let us provide information and assistance BEFORE making the decision to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts.

Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.