



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

December 2015

Southwest Iowa REC and CIPCO Host Congressman Young

SOUTHWEST IOWA REC AND CENTRAL Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), our generation and transmission partner, hosted a visit by U.S. Representative David Young and his staff October 19 at the CIPCO Des Moines office.

Representative Young met with member rural electric cooperatives, directors and staff to learn more about the rural utility industry in Iowa. CIPCO, Clarke Electric Cooperative, Consumers Energy, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative, Midland Power Cooperative and

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative provided Representative Young with an overview of industry successes, challenges and opportunities. Discussions focused on the success of economic development endeavors, challenges utilities face implementing the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and the changes taking place with electric generation.

"Hosting Congressman Young provides the cooperatives a chance to engage and educate him on issues affecting our members," stated CEO Phil Kinser.



John Allen, left, and Phil Kinser, center, met with U.S. Representative David Young in Des Moines.

WISHING
• You •
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
• And •
A 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!

John Allen
Zach Schafer
Shayne Larson
Sam Elsberry
Tysen Sederburg
Justin Murphy
Gary Goldsmith
Mike Stargell
Tim Pfeiffer
David Head
Paul Vanderholm

Ben Knapp
Ginny Eighmy
Bill Scharfenkamp
Jamie McManis
Scott Geer
Danny Stamps
Sarah Newton
Denise Hallquist
Ken Van Wyhe
Tanner Rinehart
Les Helvie

Marilyn Rubel
Phil Kinser
Wendy Wimer

Directors
Dick Ballantyne
Jason Smith
Deena Moore
Mark Herzberg
Marilyn Werner

Nathan Weeda
Duane Schafer

Dennis Meier
Rich Fast
Dale Walkup
Dana Morgan
Ken Peppmeier

Office Closed for Holidays

The offices of Southwest Iowa REC will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 for Christmas; and Friday, Jan. 1 for New Year's. Have a safe and happy holiday!



CEO's COMMENTS:

This Holiday Season, Remember Your Co-op Cares



Phil Kinser

THE HOLIDAYS BRING MANY THINGS TO mind. Happy memories of seasons past, good food (and expanded waistlines!), great family and quality time spent together.

However you share your own unique holiday spirit, know that we here at Southwest Iowa REC strive to share our spirit with you.

We hope you see it reflected in your utility bill. Even during the holiday season – when many people are lighting their homes with festive decorations, or staying up late entertaining and cooking for family and friends, we are still working to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

We help members keep energy use in check by providing energy efficiency tips – visit www.TogetherWeSave.com or www.swiarec.coop.

We help you save driving time by providing the option to pay your bill online with SmartHub, over the phone with Pay-by-Phone or through ACH bank draft.

We also help keep your family safe by providing electrical safety tips – information that is especially important this time of year – visit www.safeelectricity.org or www.swiarec.coop.

Another great benefit we offer is the Co-op Connections Card. We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. Southwest Iowa REC's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. The card gives you access to online savings at

more than 95 national retailers. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

Local businesses are signing up for discounts to be passed on to you as a member of Southwest Iowa REC. Visit: Breadeaux Pizza (Corning), Sweet Desires Bakery (Corning), Hair Designer's (Corning), UFMC Mart (Corning), Studio 406 (Corning), Offspring's Furniture (Mt. Ayr), Country Blossoms (Mt. Ayr) and many more participating local businesses to receive your savings discount!

If you have misplaced your card or would like an additional one, you can contact us or print one online at www.connections.coop.

I hope you see how much we care through the benefits, savings and services we provide, but I also hope you see it in the ways we give back to our community. Southwest Iowa REC manages a Revolving Loan Fund, made possible by USDA grant funds and REC matching funds. A total of 13 loans have been made totaling \$1,998,328. As these loans are repaid, the principal and interest remain in the Revolving Loan Fund to be used again and again for economic and community development in our service area.

In 2009, Operation Round Up was initiated. Members that participate in Operation Round Up agree to have their electric bills rounded up to the next dollar and the extra cents are placed in a special fund to be used only for assistance to individuals and organizations in our service territory with a demonstrated need. To date, a total of \$156,475 has been awarded to assist many types of requests.

Annually, Southwest Iowa REC accepts scholarship applications from high school

continued on pg. 4

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) 220-4869. 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

If you only want to heat or supplement inadequate heating in one room, small space heaters can be less expensive to use than your central heating system. Just remember to follow all operating and safety instructions in order to prevent a fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters account for one-third of home heating fires and four out of five home heating fire deaths. *Source: energy.gov*



2016 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

SOUTHWEST IOWA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PROVIDES our members with ways to save on your energy budget. We offer rebates on the following products that will offer substantial savings for your home.

Appliances: When replacing appliances always look for ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances. Appliances can account for 13% of your energy bill. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models.

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer	
If both water heater & dryer are electric	\$60/unit
With only electric water heater	\$30/unit

Pull the Plug Appliance Recycling: Contact your Cooperative to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner and receive an incentive for up to three operable units per address. Curbside pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor.

Refrigerator	\$35/unit
Freezer	\$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner	\$25/unit

Indoor Air Quality: Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home. Limit of one air quality system per home.

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV)	\$250/unit
--------------------------------	------------

Heating and Cooling: As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to **heating and cooling**. So making smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system can have a big effect on your utility bills - and your comfort.

Geothermal Heat Pump	
Closed loop system (AHRI listing)	\$350/ton
Open loop system (AHRI listing; no "pump & dump" systems)	\$250/ton
G.S.H.P. Replacement	\$250/unit
Air Source Heat Pump	\$150/ton (ASHP units over ¾ ton)
ENERGY STAR Bonus	\$350/unit (Min. SEER 15.0, EER 12.5, HSPF 8.5)
ENERGY STAR Central AC	\$75/unit (Min. SEER 15.0 & EER 12.5)

Lighting: Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy. Up to 12% of your energy usage in a home. Replacing your five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR qualified lights can save \$70 a year in energy costs.

Interior Lighting
Residential ENERGY STAR Hardwired Fixtures 50% of price paid for qualified products: ENERGY STAR CFL and LED fixtures, ENERGY STAR ceiling fans with light kits, T8 and T5 fixtures (not ENERGY STAR rated)
Maximum incentive of \$15 per fixture and \$600 per home. Household limit applies to a 5-year period. (Installs prior to 1/1/13 are exempt). Minimum 4watts per unit. Fixtures with screw-in adapters do not qualify.

(Lighting, continued)

Outdoor Security Lighting	
High Pressure Sodium Fixtures (replacement only)	\$10/fixture (>100 watt)
ENERGY STAR CFL	\$15/fixture (>26 watt)
	(Cold-start rated to -20 deg. F.)
ENERGY STAR LED or DLC Qualified	\$15/fixture (20-34 watt)
	\$20/fixture (35-49 watt)
	\$40/fixture (50-74 watt)
	\$50/fixture (75-124 watt)
	\$60/fixture (125 watts+)

**New lighting fixtures must be more energy efficient (lower wattage) than original installed fixtures.*

Water Heaters: From warm showers to clean dishes, we count on hot water. In fact, the average household spends \$400-\$600 per year on water heating - making it the second largest energy expenditure behind heating and cooling. Depending on the technology you choose, you can cut your water heating costs in half!

ENERGY STAR Heat Pump Water Heater	\$650/unit
Add-on to Electric Storage Tank	\$300/unit (> 2.00 EF)
Solar Water Heater with Electric Auxiliary Tank	\$350/unit
	(must be ENERGY STAR Qualified)
Electric Resistance Storage Tank Water Heater	\$50/unit
	(50-55 gal. tank-min. EF 0.95)
Drain Water Heat Recovery Systems	\$450/unit

(Not to exceed cost of system. Must have electric water heater. Homemade systems are not eligible for the incentive.)

Weatherization: Weatherizing your home will put money back in your pocket every month. It's that simple. On average, weatherization helps homeowners reduce their energy consumption by 25% to 30% - a savings of \$600 per year, every year. Older homes save even more - around 35% or more! Requirements are you must have electric heat and/or central air conditioning (homes with natural gas heat do not qualify).

- Home must be built prior to 1996.
- Must be upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify)
- Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

- Maximum incentive per home \$2,200 (with electric heat with or without AC)
- \$300 (with central AC only and non-electric heating)

New Home Construction: Building an All-Star home is the maximum goal you can obtain toward energy efficiency and will result in putting the most money back in your pocket.

All-Star Home	\$500/home
(new construction, all electric heating, water heating and appliances)	

**Inquire with the Cooperative for more incentive details. '*

Note: The effective 9/15/15 date for the ENERGY STAR eligibility is the date of manufacture, so we will allow equipment manufactured before this date to still qualify for an incentive.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Name: Nathan Weeda
Family: Mount Ayr Raider football team
Date of Hire: April 1, 2005
Current Position: Lineman
Favorite Recipe: Sour Cream Cake



The RECipe

Sour Cream Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 C. flour
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 heaping tbsp. cocoa
- 1 C. sour cream
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix together flour, sugar, baking soda and cocoa. Add sour cream, eggs and vanilla. Mix well, pour in 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes.



Thank you for the nice meeting and the extra \$10 bill credit.
 -Allen Brown

Thank you for repairing the lines and restoring our power so quickly after the tornado. We were very grateful for our REC crew and their prompt assistance in our time of need. Having electricity gave us a sense of normalcy after such a disaster. Their hard work was very much appreciated. Again THANK YOU very much!! - Joyce Green, Jason & Tonya Green, Lola Blazek

Thank you for your support of the Iowa 4-H and for supplying the t-shirts for the State Fair Exhibitors. - Colton and Malea Moore

John, I appreciate your presentation at our 8th grade Career Conference. It's always fun to hear the students' questions and see that they're connecting with you. Thank you for your time and effort – it was fantastic.
 -Rachel Ramaeker, Coordinator of Secondary Programs, Southwestern Community College

Thank you for an enjoyable evening of entertainment and meal. Oh yes, I had the lucky ticket # for one year free electricity! Very much appreciated! -Betty Jean Smith

2016 Miscellaneous Labor / Truck Charges

LABOR – Regular Working Hours

Members: \$55.00/hour, 1 hour minimum

LABOR – After Regular Working Hours

(Member Emergencies Only)

Members: \$82.50/hour, 2 hour minimum per person

Miscellaneous Charges

There is a \$27.50 minimum labor charge for repair of member-owned security light or yard light + materials (when in the area). NOTE: If a special trip is made to repair the light, then the regular hourly rate and minimums for labor and trucks will apply.

Call Southwest Iowa REC at (888) 220-4869 with any questions.

Truck* / Equipment

Trip Charge	\$25.00 per mileage vehicle required per job per day
Small Trencher	\$.75 / foot plus labor
Large Trencher	\$1.75 / foot and \$225 minimum (includes 1 hour labor)
Basket / Digger	\$75.00 / hour for members

*1 hour minimum on all truck charges. Labor will be charged in addition to the truck charge unless otherwise noted.

Your Co-op Cares...from pg. 2

seniors planning to further their education. A total of 12 - \$500 scholarships are awarded to students in our service territory and we also make 2 - \$1,000 scholarships available to students pursuing a career as a power lineworker.

We are nothing without our members. We

recognize that and understand that we cannot thrive unless you thrive, so we do all we can to make sure that our community is strong.

From all of your friends at Southwest Iowa REC, we hope you have a happy holiday season!



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
NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR ALL LOCATIONS:
 (888) 220-4869

Board of Directors
 Marilyn Werner, President
 Dennis Meier, Vice President
 Richard "Dick" Ballantyne, Secretary
 Mark Herzberg, Treasurer
 Richard Fast
 Deena Moore
 Jason Smith
Phil Kinser, CEO
 Dana Morgan
 Ken Peppmeier
 Dale Walkup