

OCTOBER 2023

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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are great places to work**

**Franklin REC supports
first responders**

Perfect pork recipes

Generac generator discounts available for Franklin REC members ▶ See Page 4

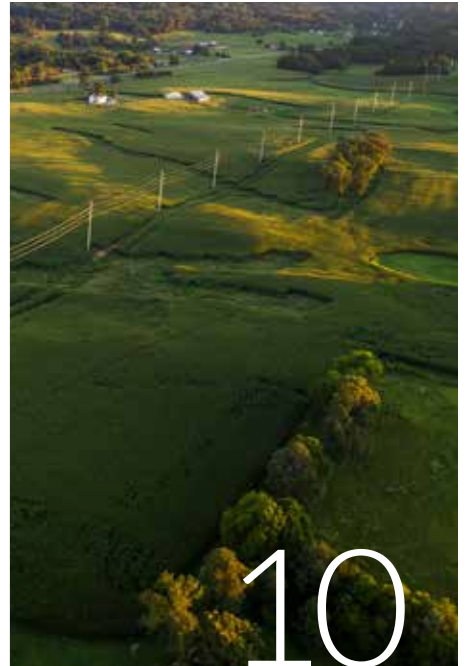
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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Abigail Westbrook, a Consumers Energy member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

FOSTERING IOWA'S GROWTH: HOW COOPERATIVES ARE SHAPING LOCAL ECONOMIES

BY CHUCK SODERBERG, DAVE HOLM AND MURRAY WILLIAMS



In the heart of the Midwest, Iowa is known for its sprawling fields, tight-knit communities and a spirit of collaboration that has long been a hallmark of its success. While often associated with agriculture and its iconic cornfields, the state boasts a different kind of growth story – one driven by cooperatives. Co-ops are more than businesses; they are pillars of empowerment, resilience and sustainable development that are shaping Iowa's local economies.



Many Iowans associate cooperatives with agriculture; however, co-ops also include rural electric service, credit unions, rural telephone, farm credit, petroleum and more. Co-ops are not-for-profit organizations that are owned and democratically controlled by their members. In fact, nearly one out of every two Iowans is a member of a cooperative.

Commitment to rural communities

As part of National Co-op Month, Gov. Kim Reynolds has declared October as Co-op Month in Iowa. During this month, cooperatives of all types and from all industries reaffirm their member-owned mission and commitment to the communities they serve.

In a state where rural communities hold a special significance, cooperatives play a pivotal role in

keeping these areas vibrant and alive. Rural cooperatives extend essential services such as energy, financial services, connectivity and healthcare to regions that might otherwise be overlooked.

Collectively, Iowa cooperatives pay more than \$75 million in property taxes to Iowa communities each year. Property taxes paid, especially in rural counties, have a big impact on county budgets and help support critical infrastructure. By pooling resources and sharing expertise, these cooperatives provide a safety net, effectively turning adversity into opportunity.

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives remain committed to powering lives and strengthening their communities. Locally elected co-op directors make informed decisions on behalf of their fellow members and neighbors to ensure reliable, affordable service for years to come. The average household served by an electric cooperative pays about \$5.25 a day for power, which is an incredible value in a world

increasingly reliant on electricity and connectivity. Locally owned and governed electric co-ops also embrace an "all-of-the-above" generation strategy as they face potential reliability challenges due to federal mandates.

A better future for everyone

The cooperative movement in Iowa is a testament to the power of community-driven endeavors. It embodies the spirit of collaboration, the commitment to sustainability and the pursuit of shared prosperity. As co-ops continue to shape local economies and empower communities, they remind us that growth is about fostering a better future for everyone. It's a future that Iowa's cooperatives are helping to build, one collective effort at a time.

Chuck Soderberg is the executive vice president/general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives; Dave Holm is the executive director of the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives; and Murray Williams is the president and CEO of the Iowa Credit Union League.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD!

To celebrate National Cooperative Month, we're giving away a \$100 gift card to your choice of a hometown business. It will be good for a restaurant, hardware store, gift shop, grocery store, beauty salon or other local business that's vital to your community.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Oct. 31. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the Amazon Fire 32-inch Smart TV from the August issue was Eugene VanMeeteren, Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.



ENTER ONLINE BY OCT. 31!

FROM YOUR BOARD ROOM

During the August board meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$151,111.21
- Appointed a nominee for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation District 5 director
- Appointed voting delegate and alternate for Corn Belt Power Cooperative meeting
- Approved National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives benefit and insurance plans for 2024
- Approved Franklin County Development Association agreement
- Approved quote for roof repair to the office portion of the co-op headquarters
- Approved donations to local first responder organizations



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MEMBER EXCLUSIVE GENERAC GENERATOR DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



Franklin REC is now offering a new member benefit! We are thrilled to partner with Generac to offer all Franklin REC members

discounted pricing on generators. Admittedly, we hope you never have to use a generator, but we all know nature has a mind of its own.

I'm sure there are a lot of questions surrounding this new program, so we developed a summary of frequently asked questions below. Please don't hesitate to call the Franklin REC office to ask for additional information or help.

Thank you for being a member of Franklin REC!

Q: What Generac generator models will Franklin REC offer?

Franklin REC can order any generator listed on the Generac website at a discounted price. Lead times may vary depending on the demand of a specific model.

Q: Where can I see Franklin REC's discounted Generac generator pricing? Franklin REC does not offer this information to the public. For interested members, we can obtain current pricing from the supplier per your request.

Q: Will Franklin REC install the generator? No. Franklin REC is not approved or licensed to perform electrical work on the member's side of the meter.

Q: Can I do my own electrical work for the generator hookup? Franklin REC recommends hiring a qualified electrician of your choice, but it is not required to purchase the generator.

Q: Will Franklin REC deliver the generator? No. Generators are delivered directly to the cooperative from the supplier. Members are responsible for transporting the generator from Franklin REC to the desired location. A 10% restocking fee will be charged to members who do not pick up the generator within 10 working days of being notified by Franklin REC that the generator has arrived at the headquarters.

Q: Why does Franklin REC care where my generator is located?

When referencing the purchase request form, Franklin REC requests the location of where the generator will be installed. This information is for the safety of our lineworkers. During an outage, generators will power on, creating an electric back flow onto the power grid, thus creating an additional danger to our lineworkers. This information will notify our lineworkers where generators are located within our system and help to identify potential hazards during an outage.

Q: How do I make a warranty claim? All warranty claims will need to be processed through Generac directly. If you need to file a claim, please call Generac at 1-888-436-3722. **IMPORTANT:** All work done on warranty claims must be completed by a Generac-certified technician. To find a technician in your area, please visit www.generac.com and click "Find a Dealer."

Q: Additional questions about this new member benefit?

Reach out to Franklin REC by phone at 641-456-2557, email contact-frec@franklinrec.coop or text at 641-456-6466.

Garrett Thompson is the general manager/CEO of Franklin REC.

HONORING RURAL IOWA'S UNSUNG HEROES: FRANKLIN REC SUPPORTS FIRST RESPONDERS



Spanning a distance of more than 1,000 miles and serving dozens of rural communities, local first responders and volunteer fire departments are the backbone of rural Iowa's emergency response system. Their unwavering commitment to serving communities despite all the challenges is a testament to the enduring spirit of rural America.

In observance of National First Responders Day in October, Franklin REC is paying tribute to all emergency first responder departments and volunteers.

Franklin REC's core principle of "Concern for Community" works to meet the needs of cooperative members and the community while improving the overall quality of life for residents.

The cooperative acknowledges the indispensable role of emergency responders in rural Iowa communities and wholeheartedly endorses the invaluable services provided.

Empowering local first responders

In small, rural communities, not only are first responder departments predominantly sustained by

volunteers, but these departments are often constrained by limited funding. Franklin REC acknowledges the significance of providing adequate training and personal protective equipment to ensure safe and effective performance of first responders' responsibilities while also recognizing the associated costs involved in supporting their crew.

Through the funds contributed to each emergency response department, Franklin REC aspires to empower these entities to fulfill their specific needs.


Franklin REC takes immense pride in supporting the departments that serve the cooperative's membership and the broader community.

These departments react swiftly to emergencies within our communities, including our loved ones, during times of crisis. Franklin REC's donation contributes to empowering these emergency response teams with the knowledge and capabilities to respond adeptly and effectively.

Franklin REC extends its heartfelt appreciation to all first responders who dedicate themselves to safeguarding the rural Iowa community.

The following first responder and volunteer fire departments received funds on behalf of Franklin REC and the cooperative's members.

- Ackley Fire Department
- Ackley Volunteer Ambulance Service
- Alden Fire Department
- Alden First Responders
- Alexander Fire Department
- Aredale Fire Department
- Bradford Fire Department
- Coulter Fire Department
- Dougherty Fire Department
- Dows Fire Department
- Dumont Fire Department
- Dumont Volunteer Ambulance Service
- Franklin General EMS
- Geneva Fire Department
- Hampton Fire Department
- Hansell Fire Department
- Hardin County E-Squad
- Iowa Falls EMS
- Iowa Falls Fire Department
- Latimer Fire Department
- Meservey Fire Department
- Meservey-Thornton EMT
- Rockwell Fire Department
- Rockwell-Swaledale EMT
- Sheffield EMS
- Sheffield Fire Department
- Swaledale Fire Department
- Thornton Fire Department
- West Franklin EMS



IOWA STUDENT PLACES IN NATIONAL CONTEST

FOR CREATING ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HISTORY WEBSITE

BY ANNE GARDINER

From the 50 states. From international affiliates, including South Korea, China, American Samoa, Singapore and Guam. More than 2,600 students. 1,500 projects completed. 54 medals. One Nashua student – Caleb Sinnwell.

In July 2022, Sinnwell, a then-sophomore at Nashua-Plainfield High School, began researching

the background of rural electric cooperatives. He dove into the short- and long-term impacts of their creation to develop a website for the National History Day National Contest.

He spent months researching, conducting interviews and developing the website, titled:

“With the Flip of a Switch on the Rural Frontier: REA Lights the Way.”

Along with meeting numerous deadlines, his first National History Day contest hurdle was districts in Cedar Falls. After taking first place, he moved onto the state contest in Des Moines, where he again took first place.

Lifelong interest in electricity

Sinnwell, who has attended Butler County REC meetings since he was a child, has always found electricity and the formation of cooperatives interesting.

“This was my opportunity to learn so much more about how my family receives electricity and why it is so very important to all of us, even though most times it is taken for granted,” he explains. “This was such an interesting event in history that I wanted to share it with everyone.”

Growing up, Sinnwell heard stories from his grandparents about his great-grandparents and the number of challenges they faced living and working on the farm with no electricity.

“I also thought it was interesting that electricity existed but for the more heavily populated areas, and farmers were being left in the dark,” Sinnwell says.

“Rural electric cooperatives brought electricity to rural America. The progression of that is probably one of the largest modern marvels that has ever happened to the United States.”

- Craig Codner, Butler County REC CEO, during an interview with Sinnwell on Feb. 16, 2023

Learning from the experts

Included on his website are interviews with Craig Codner, CEO of Butler County REC; Duane Rieckenberg, board president of Butler County REC; and Carl Heyenga, retired operations manager of Butler County REC. Heyenga set poles with the first Butler County REC crews who brought power to east-central rural Iowa.

“Interviewing Craig, Duane and Carl was fascinating. It opened my eyes to the hard work Carl faced digging holes and getting electricity to the farmers who wanted it desperately,” Sinnwell says.

How the REC board of directors, elected by the co-op membership,



functions is something that Sinnwell already understood. But throughout his research and interviews, he learned more about rural electric cooperatives as innovators.

“They are always doing their best to support the local communities and rural vitality,” he shares.

Appreciation all around

Butler County REC is proud of Sinnwell and his dedication to telling the rural electric cooperative story. He earned a bronze medal at the National History Day National Contest at the Xfinity Center at the University of Maryland in June for his website. This is the third year in a row that Sinnwell has taken home a medal from the contest.

“RECs do so much more for us in ways I never even thought, and I

am so proud that Butler County REC is where my family receives its electricity because I know they truly care about us and our future,” he says.

Sinnwell is a high school junior this year. He is the son of co-op members Josh and Heather Sinnwell, who live in Nashua. You can view his website at bit.ly/3qYnjAq.

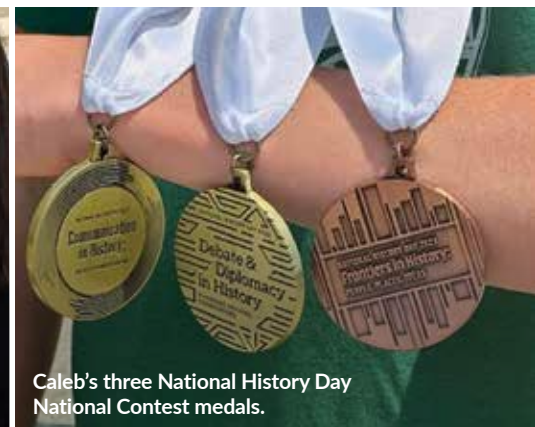
Anne Gardiner is the public relations specialist for Butler County REC.

“It was a never-ending delight to see how happy and excited people were when they first turned on a switch and saw their own electric light.”

- Ernest Neal, Iowa farmer and co-op organizer in 1934, quoted in Butler County REC's Aug. 2011 newsletter



Caleb is pictured with his mom Heather Sinnwell (center) and teacher Suzan Turner.



Caleb's three National History Day National Contest medals.



PERFECT PORK RECIPES

BBQ PORK CHOPS

- 1 can tomato soup
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon instant minced onion
- ½ teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard
- 6 pork chops

Combine first seven ingredients into a sauce. Brown chops on both sides, pour off excess fat. Pour sauce over chops. Cover and simmer for about 1 hour. *Serves 6*

Jane Fetter • Chelsea
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

BREAKFAST SOUFFLÉ

- 1½ pounds pork sausage
- 9 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3 cups milk
- 1½ teaspoons dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 slices bread, crumbled
- 1½ cups cheese, shredded

Brown sausage and drain. Mix eggs, milk, mustard and salt. Stir in sausage, bread and cheese. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate covered overnight. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 1 hour. *Serves 8*

Rebecca Hancox • Plano
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

COUNTRY-STYLE RIBS

- 2½ pounds country-style pork ribs
- ½ cup white vinegar
- 1 cup ketchup
- ¼ cup Karo white corn syrup
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste

Brown ribs in microwave for 1½-2 minutes on each side, depending on the size of your microwave, to pull off some of the grease before baking. Place ribs in a greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients into a sauce and pour over ribs. Bake covered at 325 degrees F for 1½ hours. *Serves 4*

Audra O'Neill • Wall Lake
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

GROUND PORK CASSEROLE

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 pound cabbage, shredded
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 5 cloves garlic
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- noodles or rice

Brown pork, then add cabbage. Add remaining ingredients and cook for 5 minutes. Serve over noodles or rice.

Karen Wingert • Panama
Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative

PORK TACOS WITH PINEAPPLE SALSA

- 4-5 pounds boneless pork loin
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits
- ½ jalapeno pepper, chopped
- juice of half a lime
- ½ red onion, chopped
- ¼ cup cilantro
- 2 cups rice, cooked
- tortillas
- sour cream

Rub brown sugar, salt, pepper, paprika, oregano and red pepper flakes over pork loin. Bake covered at 250 degrees F for 4 hours. Shred meat. Combine pineapple, jalapeno, juice of half a lime, onion and cilantro to make a salsa. Serve pork, rice and salsa in tortillas with sour cream.

**Lauren Zollinger • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

HAM ROLLS

- 2½ pounds ground ham
- 2½ pounds ground pork
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 cups cracker crumbs
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 2 cans tomato soup, undiluted
- 2¼ cups brown sugar
- ¼ cup cider vinegar

Combine ham, pork, beef, cracker crumbs, eggs and milk. Mix and form into rolls or balls. Combine dry mustard, soup, brown sugar and cider vinegar into a sauce. Spoon sauce over ham rolls and bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour. Rolls can be frozen either before or after baking. An alternative is to make into smaller rolls or balls and serve as an appetizer. *Serves 10-15*

**Jo Growth • Plainfield
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative**

SLOW COOKER HAM SLIDERS

- 2 boneless hams, thinly sliced
- 1 cup honey
- 2 cups brown sugar
- cheese slices
- 2 dozen slider buns

Set crockpot on low, spray with nonstick spray. Add ham, honey and brown sugar. Cook for 4 hours, stirring occasionally. Layer ham and cheese slices of your choice on slider buns. *Serves 10*

**Nancy Hemann • Parkersburg
Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative**

PORK CARNITAS

- 1½ tablespoons salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 pounds pork butt, cut into 4-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons cooking fat
- ½ medium onion, roughly chopped
- 1 cup water
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup green onions, sliced into ½-inch pieces
- juice of half a lime

Mix 1 tablespoon salt with pepper. Use mixture to season the pork butt evenly. Melt the cooking fat in a heavy pot or Dutch oven over medium heat, add the pork (be sure not to overcrowd) and brown all sides, 3-4 minutes per side. Remove pork from the pot and set aside. In the same pot, reduce heat to medium-low, add onion. Cook and stir for 4-5 minutes, until translucent. Add water, garlic, chili powder and cinnamon. Increase heat to medium-high, return the pork to the pot and bring to boil. Cover pot with a lid or tightly wrapped foil. Transfer to oven and bake at 350 degrees F for 2½ hours, turning the meat after each hour. Pork should be fork-tender when done. Transfer pork to a bowl and shred, discarding any excess fat. Incorporate cooking liquid from the pot, then add green onions and lime juice. Season with the remaining ½ tablespoon salt. *Serves 4-6*

**Amy Rudolph • Renwick
Boone Valley Electric Cooperative**

WANTED:

SOUP & STEW RECIPES

**THE REWARD:
\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!**

Deadline is Oct. 31

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. **Also provide the number of servings per recipe.**



EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48,
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

6 REASONS ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE GREAT PLACES TO WORK

BY PAUL WESSLUND AND ANN FOSTER THELEN

The electricity in your home can seem like an impossible miracle to explain. But one way to understand it is to think about the variety of skills and types of jobs it takes to make power happen.

That kind of thinking can also be handy if you or someone you know is looking for a promising career.

Running electric utilities today takes just about every skill imaginable. Some jobs call for the physical ability to climb a utility pole and for others, the technical know-how to create intricate

cybersecurity systems. Some require the interpersonal skills of talking with a co-op member about how they can lower their electric bill.

Other roles may require logistical knowledge to deliver essential equipment through a challenging supply chain.

An industry that depends on such a vast range of abilities offers job seekers a variety of career opportunities. Here are six reasons electric co-ops are a great place to work.



"I've worked for the cooperative for 20 years. In this time, I have witnessed electricity become increasingly important to our daily lives, from improving basic health and well-being to facilitating services like online banking to ordering groceries. Cooperatives are dedicated to their member-consumers. We are always working to improve the reliability of our distribution system and serve our members."

Jason Gibbs
Manager of Member Services
Clarke Electric Cooperative



"I appreciate the co-op philosophy that focuses on the seven cooperative principles, keeping members first and foremost in all decision-making. These principles guide us in everything we do, and it reflects on the success of the electric cooperative business model since 1938. I am part of a community working here and can reach out to any other electric cooperative in Iowa with any questions. 'Iowa Nice' shines brightly working in electric cooperatives."

Jeni Kolsrud
IT Manager
Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative

1 Stability. You can count on homes and businesses needing electricity now and in the future. Energy careers offer excellent benefits and paths for career advancement. Employees typically stay in the industry for more than 15 years.

2 Excitement. While utility work is reliable, it's also at the cutting edge of innovation. Electrification is the centerpiece of the push for greener energy. The number of electric vehicles is doubling every year, which means new workforce skills are needed to figure out how to keep all those cars and trucks plugged in and charged up. Two of the 20 fastest-growing occupations are wind turbine technician and solar voltaic installer. More than \$120 billion a year is being spent to modernize the U.S. electric grid to manage new patterns of electricity use.



"The past 10 years working at the cooperative have been the most enjoyable of my working career. The opportunities to increase my knowledge and skills are invaluable. The atmosphere is like a family. Networking with my peers at other cooperatives has proven to be extremely helpful. Supporting our member-owners instead of working for 'customers' has been refreshing, and the cooperative principles, including concern for our communities, make us stand out."

Sarah Newton
Director of Finance/
Administrative Services
Southwest Iowa REC

3 Variety. The skills needed in the utility industry range from an advanced college degree to trade school, apprenticeship and on-the-job training. And the variety of positions is staggering – accountants, social media managers, IT specialists, engineers and human resources professionals, to name a few. There are more unique positions as well, such as drone operators to inspect power lines, data analysts to coordinate the flow of electricity and power plant operators to oversee electricity generation.

4 It's local. Maintaining electric service needs to happen locally. That means that much of the work takes place near your hometown. Not only can a utility worker make a living and raise a family in the area they choose to live, if they decide to move to another part of the country, there will likely be energy career opportunities there as well.

5 Satisfaction. Any lineworker will tell you when they've just climbed down from a pole in the middle of the night during a rainstorm, there's no better feeling than knowing the power outage you've just restored brought light and heat back into the homes of hundreds of people. The same goes for the utility truck dispatcher back at headquarters or the media specialist getting the word out about the status of power restoration. Utility workers can know they're powering their neighbors and the nation.



"I enjoy the variety of each day. I have satisfaction in helping members daily and with long-term planning for our cooperative. Co-op employees are usually long-standing, which means I can have long-term relationships with my co-workers."

John Endelman
Operations Manager
Butler County REC

6 Not-for-profit business model
The people behind the power at your electric co-op get to know even higher levels of job satisfaction. Electric co-ops offer a unique business model led by the members who use the electricity.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. Ann Foster Thelen is the editor of Iowa Electric Cooperative Living.



"One of the reasons I like working for a co-op is the opportunity to work with a dedicated team with a common goal of improving our members' lives. It is also rewarding to see the positive results from the improvements we have made to our distribution system over the years."

Pat Hyland
System Controller
East-Central Iowa REC



"The best part of working in the cooperative world is being a part of a great team. Every job at my co-op is specialized, and every employee is committed to serving our members to the best of their ability. It's extremely satisfying to be a part of a dedicated and talented group of people who positively impact our local communities."

Nate Hopwood
IT Manager
T.I.P. REC



"I am honored to be able to work for an electric cooperative that serves the community in which I live. I love that decisions are made locally by a board of member-directors and that we are able to provide our members with safe and reliable power at the lowest possible price."

Katie Stadheim, PHR, SRM-CP
HR Director
East-Central Iowa REC

COMMITTED TO RELIABLE SERVICE AND PROACTIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Powering our members' lives and communities in Franklin REC's service territory with reliable service is a top priority for the cooperative. Franklin REC understands the significance electricity plays in our everyday lives, which is why the cooperative proactively works to minimize interruptions in our service territory.

While Franklin REC cannot control many factors that may lead to outages, such as severe weather, critter catastrophes or a mismatch of supply and demand across the grid, our team works strategically to maintain exceptional reliability and minimize the time members are without power. Franklin REC linemen annually inspect the cooperative's power lines

throughout the entire service territory, nearly 850 miles, and identify any looming issues that may cause an interruption or safety issue.

Managing vegetation around power lines

While we all appreciate the benefits of a large shade tree, a fallen tree branch or tree planted too close to a power line can cause significant issues. Franklin REC's preventative vegetation management program ensures Franklin REC linemen regularly trim trees and clear branches out of the electric right of way. The line crew personnel are trained to trim near powerlines, allowing for proper proximity to energized lines while maintaining vegetation.

As a member of the cooperative, it is your duty to ensure new vegetation is planted the correct distance from the utility poles while also maintaining any excessive growth occurring around the base of the utility pole. If you notice your trees are starting to grow into power lines, please don't hesitate to call the Franklin REC office at 641-456-2557 to discuss tree trimming options. Do not attempt to cut branches near power lines!



NEW BATTERY TECHNOLOGY, SAME RELIABILITY

Franklin REC and its power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, held a ribbon cutting for the 1.425-megawatt Tesla® Megapack battery energy storage system at the Hampton Substation on June 27. The festivities brought together representatives from Corn Belt Power Cooperative and its distribution cooperatives. The newest addition to the substation resides next to the original 750-kilowatt diesel generators inside the REA Museum.

"Our goal with the project is to learn more about battery technology, the process of procuring and installing batteries, how to operate them, and how a battery can benefit the cooperative," Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager

of Corn Belt Power Cooperative shared during the ribbon cutting. "On a good day, this battery could power around 150 homes for about six hours. It's far from what we need to serve our entire membership. However, we will see economic benefit to the Corn Belt Power membership by lowering demand charges in times of high use."

Cooperation among cooperatives

As an alternative to having several 150-kilowatt batteries across its system, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, collaborated with its membership to develop a plan that allowed each member-cooperative to pool its individual allocation.

Together, it was determined to integrate a 1.425-megawatt Tesla Megapack battery energy storage system into the Hampton Substation.

"Each of our cooperatives played a role in getting this project off the ground," Kuyper said in his speech.

"The battery energy storage system is the byproduct of our relationship with our member-cooperatives. I always say that doing things by consensus and as a team will yield good results and position Corn Belt Power well into the future."

Long-term savings and learning

The total project cost is nearly \$3.5 million, which includes the battery pack, engineering, site preparation and labor. The goal is for the battery to pay for itself in approximately 11 years. The stored power from the battery will allow Corn Belt Power Cooperative to avoid purchasing up to 1.425 megawatts of power during peak use times. Once the battery's energy is depleted, it will recharge during off-peak times in preparation for its next discharge.

The Tesla Megapack battery energy storage system will help shave costs for Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Franklin REC, in turn creating savings for our members.



THE POWER OF COOPERATION

“We’re here to serve you.” We’ve all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us – your local electric cooperative – they mean everything.

Franklin REC was established in 1936 to serve the needs of our rural community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our cooperative for the common good, as it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the areas where there was none. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we continue to power rural Iowa while promoting

our community’s growth. The cooperative’s focus remains steady on providing reliable energy to our members at a fair cost.

Today’s energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different from decades ago. That’s why we’re continuously adapting to keep pace with ever-changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

So, the next time you hear Franklin REC use the phrase, “We’re here to serve you,” we hope you know we sincerely mean it. Service is deeply ingrained in who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we have found additional ways to



serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We are here whenever you need us. Connect with us in person, online or through our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

CELEBRATING CO-OP WORKIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following Franklin REC employees for reaching service anniversaries at the cooperative this month!



Consumer Accountant **Madison Alert** reaches four years of service to the cooperative.



General Manager/CEO **Garrett Thompspon** is recognized for his three-year tenure with the cooperative.

We applaud our employees’ commitment and appreciate their continued contributions to the success of Franklin REC.



SLEIGH THE DAY & LIGHT THE NIGHT

Save the date for Franklin REC’s third-annual holiday festival on Saturday, Nov. 25. You’re invited to “sleigh the day” with activities throughout Hampton, then “light the night” with the lighted parade and park festivities. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with event details and announcements.



JOURNEYMAN CARD ACQUIRED

Congratulations to Franklin REC Lineman Tom Demro on receiving his journeyman card!

The process to gain the title of journeyman is a vigorous cycle of learning, testing and applying knowledge over a two-to-four-year education course. Journeyman Demro has been with the co-op for more than nine years.

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DETAILS RELEASED FOR IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The 2023-2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

Besides meeting the income guidelines, you must furnish the Social Security numbers of all household members and a copy of recent heating and electric bills. You also must show proof of income for all household members age 18 and older. If you receive alimony or child support, it will need to be verified too.

If you're a wage earner, you should bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period before the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return. If you're self-employed or a farmer, provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. And if you're on a fixed income – Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program (FIP), Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions – take copies of check stubs from the last 30 days. For FIP recipients, bring your current DHS

Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

In Iowa, applications for the program will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis from Nov. 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. The start date is Oct. 1, 2023, for elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled applicants. If you're not sure where to apply, visit humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply. To contact your local community action agency, call 211 or write: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

Note: For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.

PRESERVING IOWA'S AWARD-WINNING CULINARY HISTORY

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

I never know what to expect when I check my email. If you're like me, sometimes the inbox contains a reply (yeah!) from someone I'm trying to contact. There's also plenty of junk mail, but sometimes there's something interesting – and unexpected – like this:

Subject: 4-H Project

Date: May 30, 2023

Hello Ms. Darcy Dougherty Maulsby,

My name is Kathleen Mosher. I am a freshman in high school and a member of the ENP Bearcats 4-H club in Hardin County, Iowa. This year, I read your book, "A Culinary History of Iowa." After reading your book, I decided to cook my way through all of the recipes listed in the book and keep a journal of my progress as a 4-H project.

I am writing to ask if I have permission to display your book and use the recipes contained in the book for the 4-H project I described above? The book and project would be on display at our county fair in July at the Hardin County Fairgrounds.

Within minutes, I replied to Kathleen. "I think your 4-H project sounds terrific (what a creative idea!). You are certainly welcome to display my book and use the recipes for your 4-H project."

Hands-on experience builds confidence

This correspondence got me thinking about my own experiences as a member of the Lake Creek Go-Getters 4-H club, when I entered a variety of foods in the Calhoun County Expo each summer. These experiences expanded my culinary skills, but they also built my confidence.

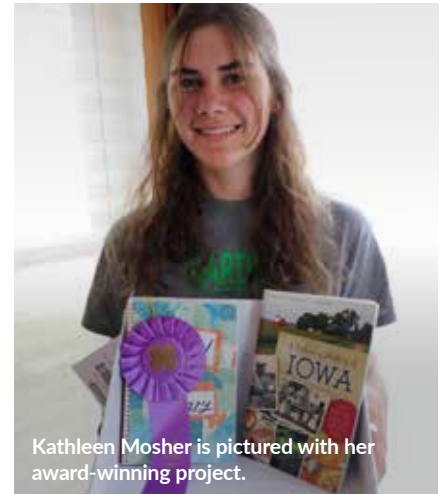
So did a college internship at Living History Farms during the summer of 1995. Clad in calico skirts, buttoned-up blouses and aprons sewn on a treadle sewing machine, I learned to milk cows by hand, transform homegrown vegetables into delicious side dishes, and bake bread and cookies in a wood-fired cookstove at the 1900 farm.

About halfway through that summer internship, my supervisor announced she was leaving for an appointment that morning and was putting me in charge of cooking the day's dinner for about eight staff members and volunteers at the 1900 farm. I panicked. "You'll be fine!" she shouted as the squeaky screen door clattered behind her.

During the next three hours, I discovered she was right. I got the meal cooked on time, and the hungry farmhands appreciated the food. My fear of "I can't" transformed into "I can." That's an attitude I've embraced far beyond the kitchen.

Cooking transcends time

Something unexpected also happened along the way. As I prepared the pot



Kathleen Mosher is pictured with her award-winning project.

roast, fresh lettuce salad, creamed peas, bread (with butter I had churned) and cake in that hot kitchen, I felt a connection with my Grandma Fern, who grew up on a farm in Webster County, and my Grandma Katherine, who grew up in West Point, Nebraska, in the early 1900s.

That's the amazing thing about cooking – it transcends time and brings people of all ages closer, especially when meals include treasured family recipes. But what happens when the cooks who knew these recipes (from kringla to kolaches) are gone?

That's a big part of why I wrote "A Culinary History of Iowa." I'm thrilled that Kathleen's 4-H project based on my book took top honors at the 2023 Hardin County Fair, plus it received a blue ribbon at the Iowa State Fair, along with the Outstanding Food and Nutrition Award.

Well done, Kathleen! If your efforts are any indication, young Iowans will help carry on our state's culinary traditions for years to come.

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.





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Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop

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