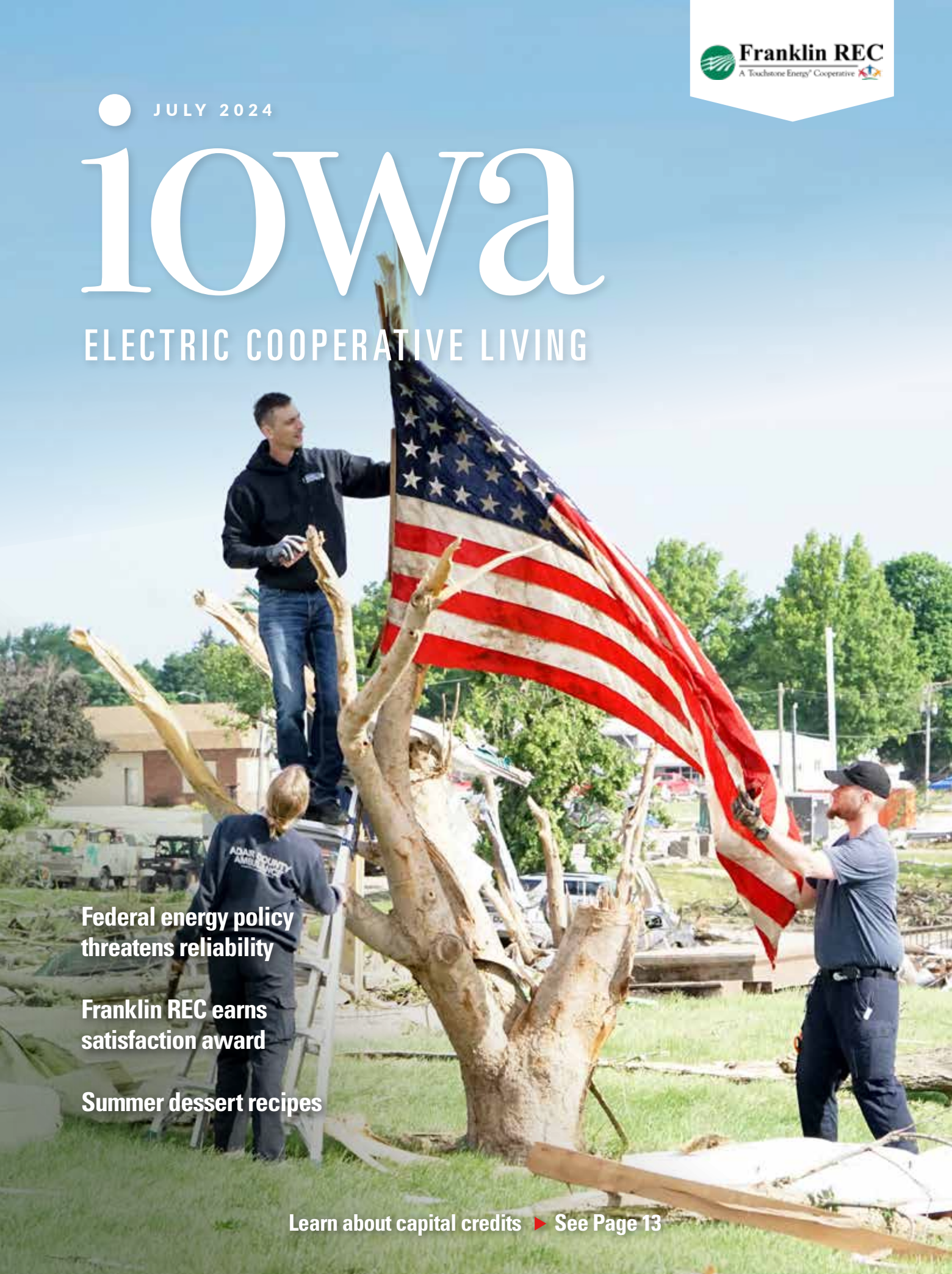


● JULY 2024

# Iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**Federal energy policy  
threatens reliability**

**Franklin REC earns  
satisfaction award**

**Summer dessert recipes**

Learn about capital credits ▶ See Page 13

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Jacob Holck, whose family are North West REC member-consumers, for supplying this month's cover image of tornado damage in Greenfield. He is also a former Iowa Youth Tour participant. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100! Holck donated his prize to relief efforts in Greenfield.

# REFLECTING ON A COOPERATIVE CAREER

BY CHUCK SODERBERG



Do you remember what you were doing in July of 1979? That's when my electric cooperative career began 45 years ago. When I

started working for Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) in the summer of '79, I had just graduated from college and was so excited to start my first job. I didn't know much about the electric industry, but I soon learned how complicated it is to provide reliable, affordable power to the member-owners of Iowa's electric cooperatives.

Over the years, many have asked what keeps me up at night. My answer is simple: This is not the time to restrict the use of any generation source to produce electricity. The electric industry must be allowed to use all resources to produce reliable, affordable electricity. This must include the use of coal, natural gas, nuclear and weather-dependent renewable resources such as wind and solar. An "all-of-the-above" strategy is the only way to meet the growing electricity needs of this country. Read more on Pages 6-7 of this issue.

## Leading the statewide association

In my role as executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) for the past nine years, I have been blessed to help bring electricity to those less fortunate. Through IAEC's participation in National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International projects in 2019 and just last month, Iowa's electric cooperatives have helped two rural Guatemalan villages receive electricity for the very first time. This transformation will improve their lives in fundamental ways for generations.

At IAEC, I have also worked to bolster our member co-ops' cybersecurity



Photos courtesy of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative

defenses, as cyberattacks are now an ever-present threat in the electric industry. Iowa's electric cooperatives have made great strides over the last four years, and the electric industry must remain vigilant in this area.

## An honor serving co-op members

On July 31, I will retire after serving for 36 years at NIPCO and nine years at IAEC. It has been an honor to serve you in these roles. IAEC is in great hands as the board of directors' leadership is second to none. The staff at IAEC work

tirelessly to serve you, the electric cooperative member-owners.

I always tell my family to enjoy the journey of life. God has blessed me greatly, and I am excited for what lies ahead. Now, it's time for me to shift gears and enjoy the rest of my journey. During my retirement, I will always have one eye on the electric industry while the other eye will be focused on my faith, family and friends.

*Chuck Soderberg is the retiring executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.*

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

# WIN AN ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER!

The Craftsman 1,900 MAX PSI Electric Cold Water Pressure Washer is durable, mobile and powerful enough for outdoor cleaning tasks. With three nozzles, including a turbo nozzle, you have the accessories you need to wash your car or clean your back patio. The pressure washer gun has an integrated soap tank for cleaning with soap.

## Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting [www.ieclmagazine.com](http://www.ieclmagazine.com) no later than July 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 \$100 in beef certificates from the May issue was David Tallon, a Harrison County REC member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY JULY 31!

# A DEEP DIVE INTO COAL GENERATION

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



Coal-fueled power plants have been in and out of the news throughout their existence. However, over the last four years, they have been pushed

into the media spotlight due to their carbon byproducts. With an emphasis on cleaner energy and a focus on wind and solar generation, how does coal fit into the picture? How exactly does a coal plant work? As we continue our series on electric power plants, we strive to answer those questions.

## Different types of coal

Coal is classified into four groups: anthracite, bituminous, subbituminous and lignite. Coal mined from the ground is placed into one of those four groups based on its amount of carbon and the heat energy it can produce. Data from the Energy Information Administration provides the following details for each type of coal.

**1 Anthracite.** This form of coal contains 86% to 97% carbon and is the highest-value group. Anthracite accounts for less than 1%

of the coal mined in the U.S., with all mining operations for this coal done in northeastern Pennsylvania. Since most anthracite is mined in Pennsylvania, it is mostly used in the steel industry.

**2 Bituminous.** Bituminous coal contains between 45% to 86% carbon and is estimated to be between 100 million and 300 million years old. This grouping is the most abundant coal found in the U.S. and accounts for roughly 45% of total U.S. coal production. In 2022, 16 states produced bituminous coal, with the top five being West Virginia (31%), Illinois (14%), Pennsylvania (14%), Kentucky (11%) and Indiana (9%).

**3 Subbituminous.** Subbituminous coal typically contains 35% to 45% carbon and is estimated to be around 100 million years old. In 2022, subbituminous coal accounted for 46% of total U.S. coal production, which came from the following five states: Wyoming (89%), Montana (8%), New Mexico (2%), Colorado (2%) and Alaska (less than 1%).

**4 Lignite.** This form of coal contains 25% to 35% carbon and has the lowest energy content of all the coal groups. Lignite is more granular and has a higher moisture content, mainly because it's the newest of these four coal groups. Five states mine lignite, which accounts for roughly 8% of total U.S. coal production. Those five states are North Dakota (56%), Texas (36%), Mississippi (7%), Louisiana (1%) and Montana (less than 1%).

## How a coal plant works

From a 30,000-foot view, the processes at coal-fueled power plants can be broken down into five steps.

- 1** Coal is burned at temperatures around 1,000 degrees F in a boiler to produce steam.
- 2** The steam is pressurized around 1,800 pounds per square inch and then flows into a turbine.

- 3** That steam spins a turbine, which is connected to a generator.
- 4** The generator produces electricity, which is sent onto the grid.
- 5** The steam is cooled, condensed and reused.

## How coal generation fits into the energy landscape

Every type of generation resource has pros and cons. While coal's main pros are its affordability and availability, the con is the carbon footprint it leaves behind. Over the last few years, technological advancements have been made in capturing and reusing that carbon byproduct. However, that technology is still in its infancy and has a ways to go.

At Franklin REC, coal-fueled generation plants remain essential in our energy portfolio. They provide electricity 24/7, 365 days a year, even when the wind may not be blowing or the sun isn't shining. At the same time, we are constantly looking for ways to lessen coal's carbon footprint, which will prolong the life of the generation asset. This would allow more time for scientists and engineers to master and refine new forms of electric generation that can be made available every hour and every day of the year, with a more palatable carbon footprint.

Franklin REC's mission is to efficiently deliver reliable and safe energy to our members. To uphold that mission statement, we must employ all forms of electric generation, including coal, nuclear, natural gas, wind, solar, hydro and other sources. Much like a national champion basketball team (like my Kansas Jayhawks), every player has their part. The energy generation sector is no different, with each generation source playing a role.

*Garrett Thompson is the CEO/General Manager of Franklin REC.*



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# FRANKLIN REC EARNS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AWARD

Franklin REC is honored to have earned a 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations and how well we measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Franklin REC's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported



in the 2023 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This award is a testament to Franklin REC's ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2023 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that Franklin REC's hard work has been noticed by its members. Franklin REC is grateful for its members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement.

Award criteria are determined by the ACSI® and are based on customers rating their satisfaction in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

## FROM YOUR BOARD ROOM

During the May board meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$4,364.38
- Appointed National Rural Utilities Cooperative Corporation (CFC) voting delegate
- Appointed Basin Electric Power Cooperative District 11 delegate
- Approved estate retirements
- Approved patronage allocations
- Approved patronage retirements
- Approved National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) membership dues
- Approved Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) membership dues

## WELCOME BACK, TREY SWANEY



Apprentice Lineman Trey Swaney is no stranger to the cooperative world, having started his journey in 2021 with Franklin REC

as a 1,000-hour summer lineman. After completing his apprenticeship, Swaney joined the line crew at Prairie Energy Cooperative in Clarion, where he honed his skills for two and a half years.

Now, Swaney is returning to his hometown to join Franklin REC's line crew, and the cooperative is thrilled to welcome him back! With a cooperative mindset, one of Swaney's favorite parts of being a lineman is restoring power to members as safely and swiftly as possible, no matter the weather conditions.

Swaney understands the importance of his role, knowing that when members call Franklin REC, they can count on linemen like himself to be on the scene, repairing outages quickly and efficiently. Learning and adapting to situations are among Swaney's strong attributes, making him a valuable addition to the line crew.

In his free time, Swaney enjoys spending quality time with his friends and family. He also indulges in outdoor activities like fishing and hunting, which allow him to unwind and recharge.

Swaney is excited to work for the co-op and looks forward to being engaged in the community. Franklin REC is proud to have another dedicated individual on its team, ensuring unwavering service for its members.



Congratulations to lineman Cole Marzen on reaching his fourth work anniversary with Franklin REC.

Marzen's continued dedication and strong work ethic have been instrumental in laying a solid foundation for the co-op's future, ensuring safe and reliable electricity for all our members.

**CONGRATULATIONS, COLE!**

Laramie River Station. Photo Source: Basin Electric Cooperative

# SOUNDING THE ALARM: FEDERAL ENERGY POLICY THREATENS ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

BY CHUCK SODERBERG

Those of us who work in the electric utility sector are deeply concerned how federal energy policy is threatening electric reliability for the families, businesses and communities we serve. It's time to sound the alarm and raise awareness of how these misguided mandates will negatively impact our country.

In April, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final Power Plant Rule, which includes four major environmental regulations. One regulation under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (also known as the Greenhouse Gas Rule) will limit emissions from existing coal and new natural gas power plants. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) stands with the Iowa Attorney General, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and the Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) in opposing these regulations on

the grounds that they are unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable.

The EPA's Power Plant Rule requires existing coal and natural gas generation facilities to deploy carbon capture and sequestration at a level that is not yet achievable or commercially viable. The other three regulations in the rule tighten already stringent standards for mercury and air toxins and wastewater and impose additional burdensome requirements on legacy coal ash sites.

## Policy targets always-available generation

Specifically, the Power Plant Rule will force the early closure of "always-available" electric generation sources and limit the construction of new natural gas plants as our nation's economy will require more electric generation in the years ahead. Existing coal-fueled units that plan to operate past 2032 and until 2039

must co-fuel with natural gas at a 40% rate starting in 2030.

To operate past 2039, existing coal-fueled plants must capture or avoid 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. The Power Plant Rule also requires the same 90% carbon capture or avoidance for new natural gas plants operating at baseload (above a 40% capacity factor). These new standards will impact electric utilities' abilities to economically and reliably replace lost coal generation.

These reckless regulations are not based in reality and pose an immediate threat to the electric grid and will negatively impact electric reliability here in Iowa. We are sounding the alarm that these EPA mandates will drastically diminish electric cooperatives' ability to provide dependable power when our member-consumers need it most.



Leland Olds Station. Photo Source: Basin Electric Power Cooperative



Walter Scott, Jr. Energy Center. Photo Source: Central Iowa Power Cooperative



Earl F. Wisdom Generating Station. Photo Source: Corn Belt Power Cooperative

### Jeopardizing affordable and reliable electricity

With the Power Plant Rule, the EPA is overreaching its legal boundaries, disregarding practicality and endangering national energy security. These new mandates jeopardize affordable and reliable electricity by forcing the premature closure of “always-available” power plants while also making it harder to permit, site and build critical new generation facilities. As electric demand increases each year, replacing dispatchable electric generation sources like coal and natural gas with intermittent power sources like solar and wind is a recipe for disaster.

We support an “all-of-the-above” electric generation strategy that prioritizes reliability.

Iowa’s electric utilities are not alone in our concern. In filing joint comments on the proposed EPA Power Plant Rules back in 2023, Iowa’s OCA and the IUB expressed the following opposition to the mandates:

*“The proposed rules treat reliability as merely one of many considerations and do a poor job in making that consideration.” ... “The proposed rules are rushed, the record does not meaningfully consider the impact of this truly essential service, and*

*EPA myopically pursues a narrow goal at the expense of larger societal benefits like life, heat, and jobs.”*

National utility trade associations – including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Edison Electric Institute and the American Public Power Association – and a coalition of 27 attorneys general, including Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird, have filed separate lawsuits in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, petitioning for review of the EPA’s Power Plant Rule and to stay the rule while the Court decides the motion.

### Risk of insufficient power resources

Additionally, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has noted this growing capacity shortfall, which has resulted from the reduction in reliable electric generation and the increase in electric demand. In its 2024 Summer Reliability Assessment, NERC warns that there is an elevated seasonal risk for several regions of the country, including parts of the Midwest. This means there is potential for insufficient operating reserves – which can translate into rolling power outages – in above-normal peak conditions. And in 2023, NERC

listed energy policy as the highest significant risk to grid reliability.

Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a regional transmission operator that covers parts of western Iowa, warns that the EPA’s rule poses reliability risks.

*“SPP is concerned that limited technological and infrastructure availability and the compliance time frame will have deleterious impacts including the retirement of, or the decision not to build, thousands of megawatts of baseload thermal generation.”*

Iowa’s economy can’t succeed without reliable electricity, and the EPA cannot ignore growing reliability challenges at this critical time for our nation’s energy future. The EPA must follow the law and set realistic standards based on technology that has been adequately demonstrated and is achievable. With the Power Plant Rule, the EPA has set an unworkable timeframe in violation of the Clean Air Act and Supreme Court decisions.

Federal energy policy has now become a major threat to electric reliability and it’s time to take a stand and sound the alarm to protect the Iowans we serve.

*Chuck Soderberg is the executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.*



# Summer DESSERTS

## KIWI PIE

- 1½ cups vanilla wafers, finely crushed (36 wafers)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- ½ cup cold water
- 8 ounces plain yogurt
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 16-ounce carton whipped topping
- 3 kiwis, peeled and sliced

In a mixing bowl, combine crushed wafers, cinnamon and butter. Press onto bottom and sides of 9-inch pie plate. Chill for 1 hour. In a small pan, soften gelatin in cold water. Cook and stir over medium heat until gelatin is dissolved. Cool this mixture. Beat together yogurt, sugar and lemon juice, then stir in the cooled gelatin. Chill until partially set, stirring occasionally. Fold whipped topping into gelatin mixture. Line the bottom and sides of the chilled crust with two sliced kiwis and place whipped topping/gelatin mixture on top. Cover and chill several hours, or until set. Garnish with sliced kiwi before serving.

Mary Thatcher • Breda  
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

## RHUBARB PUDDING

- 1 heaping cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ cups sugar, divided
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3 cups fresh or frozen rhubarb  
a few pieces butter
- 1 cup boiling water

Mix flour, baking powder, salt, ½ cup sugar and baking soda. Cut in softened butter, then add buttermilk and stir. Pour mixture into greased 9x13-inch pan and top with rhubarb. Sprinkle 1 cup sugar, dot with butter and pour boiling water over top. Bake at 350 degrees F for 35-45 minutes, until the top is golden brown. Any fruit can be used in place of rhubarb, or use 2 cups rhubarb and 1 cup blueberries. Serves 6-8

*This recipe is more than 100 years old and was originally called Pie Plant Pudding.*

Dawn Fry • Moravia  
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative



## RHUBARB DUMPLINGS

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1½ cups plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided
- 2 cups rhubarb, diced
- dash salt
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups boiling water
- 1¼ cups flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons shortening or butter
- ⅓ cup milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla

Combine butter, 1½ cups sugar, rhubarb, salt, cinnamon and boiling water in heavy skillet. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Sift flour, baking powder and ⅓ cup sugar. Cut in shortening, then mix in milk and vanilla. Drop by teaspoons in boiling sauce. Cover and simmer 20 minutes.

Mary Eggebraaten • Forest City  
Prairie Energy Cooperative

## TOFFEE CRUNCH ICE CREAM CAKE

- 2½ cups chocolate graham crackers, crushed
- ½ cup butter, melted
- ½ gallon vanilla ice cream, thawed slightly
- 4 Heath candy bars, crushed (or more, to taste)
- ½ gallon chocolate ice cream, thawed slightly

Mix 1½ cups graham crackers and butter. Pat into bottom of a greased 9x13-inch pan. Freeze 10-15 minutes. Spread vanilla ice cream onto crumb crust, then sprinkle with half of crushed candy bars and ½ cup cracker crumbs. Spread chocolate ice cream on top, then sprinkle with remaining crushed candy bars and cracker crumbs. Freeze until ready to serve. Butterfinger candy bars also work well.

David Warner • Rock Rapids  
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

## SUMMER STRAWBERRY DESSERT

- 1 large angel food cake
- 2 3-ounce packages instant vanilla pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 3 cups vanilla ice cream
- 1 3-ounce package strawberry Jell-O
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 10-ounce package frozen strawberries

Break cake into pieces and put in bottom of 9x13-inch pan. Mix pudding with milk, then add ice cream and beat together. Pour over cake pieces. In another bowl, dissolve strawberry Jell-O in hot water. Add strawberries, and once thawed, pour over pudding mixture. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Betty Meeves • Dunlap  
Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative

## CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI CAKE

- ½ cup margarine
- ½ cup oil
- 1¾ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup sour milk
- 2½ cups flour
- 4 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 cups zucchini, chopped
- 1 cup nuts, chopped
- ½ cup chocolate chips

Cream margarine, oil and sugar. Add eggs, vanilla and sour milk, blend well. Add flour, cocoa, salt, baking powder and cinnamon to creamed mixture and mix well. Add zucchini and nuts. Pour into greased and floured 13x9x2-inch pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Bake at 325 degrees F for 40-45 minutes. Serves 15

Debra Bartholomew • Ollie  
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

WANTED:

## THANKSGIVING SIDE DISHES

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

Deadline is July 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](mailto: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,  
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# AFTER THE STORM: COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

The Midwest experienced several powerful storms this spring, with the worst of the storms hitting Iowa on May 21.

The National Weather Service issued an EF-4 rating to the devastating tornado that struck Greenfield; five people died, and dozens were injured. Several employees of Farmers Electric Cooperative, headquartered east of Greenfield, and Greenfield Municipal Utilities (served by Central Iowa Power Cooperative) suffered extensive damage to their homes and properties. In addition, Farmers Electric linemen were some of the first to assist with search

and rescue efforts in Greenfield immediately after the tornado hit.

As the storm system moved across Iowa on May 21, many of Iowa's electric cooperatives experienced power outages. The peak of outages occurred around 8:30 p.m. as the storm left Iowa's eastern border, with just over 12,000 electric cooperative outages systemwide. As of 6 a.m. the next day, about two-thirds of those outages had been restored, with electric co-op linemen closing in on the remaining 4,000 outages. After surveying the extent of the damage, Iowa's electric cooperatives supported each other with several

co-ops providing mutual aid for the restoration efforts.

Later in May, northern Arkansas experienced widespread outages following severe storms over Memorial Day weekend. The National Weather Service confirmed tornadoes in six counties and at least eight deaths. In the aftermath, three Iowa cooperatives – Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative and Western Iowa Power Cooperative – sent crews to Arkansas to assist with restoring service to co-op member-consumers.

*Photos courtesy of the respective electric cooperatives pictured.*



◀ **Corn Belt Power Cooperative** transmission crews cleared downed structures, phases and equipment on May 22 before rebuilding this stretch of line northeast of Farnhamville.



◀ Loyd Hise, Jay Spack, Jordan Terwilliger and Jeff Eagle of **Guthrie County REC** worked with **Consumers Energy** in Marshalltown to provide mutual aid after severe weather hit their service territory leaving broken poles, downed lines and more than 1,000 members without power.



▶ The mid-May storms damaged 109 poles across **Central Iowa Power Cooperative's (CIPCO)** territory.



▶ **Grundy County REC** provided mutual aid support to **Consumers Energy**.





◀ Tornado damage near Harlan in Nishnabotna Valley REC's service territory.

▶ Crews worked to lift a broken transmission pole in CIPCO's service territory.



▶ Pella Cooperative Electric Lineman Matt Ainsworth and Apprentice Lineman Spencer Nagel assisted in the recovery and restoration of Consumers Energy member-consumers in Story and Polk counties.



▶ A road is closed due to downed power lines in the area.



▶ As a result of the storm, Southwest Iowa REC faced the task of replacing 140 broken poles and restringing roughly 142,000 feet of wire. Nishnabotna Valley REC and Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative supported the restoration efforts. The dedicated line crews worked long hours to safely and efficiently restore power in just four days.



▶ Clarke Electric Cooperative linemen spent time working at Farmers Electric Cooperative in Greenfield after the EF-4 tornado.

▶ At the peak of the outages following the storm, Maquoketa Valley REC had nearly 3,500 members without power.



▶ A domino of downed poles line a gravel road.



▶ Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of the most important cooperative principles. NIPCO (pictured) and Corn Belt Power Cooperative assisted CIPCO with storm recovery efforts across Iowa.

# SUMMER ENERGY FORECAST

This spring, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2024 Summer Reliability Assessment. In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations and their challenges related to electric generation and transmission this summer.

**The good news** is that Franklin REC's service territory isn't located in one of these regions facing challenges.

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Franklin REC's power supplier) work diligently to maintain reliable electric service, even during drastic weather changes.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an all-of-the-above strategy that includes renewable energy and dependable resources. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting the member-consumers' expectations day in and day out.

## Reliable and affordable energy is a priority

The way electricity is generated is rapidly changing. More renewable energy sources like wind and solar are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. Franklin REC

believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. This strategy promotes the idea that the U.S. depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation (biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower and coal).



We are keenly aware that the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. While Franklin REC fully supports and encourages the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there isn't enough of it to keep the lights on all the time. Its place is to supplement a reliable and affordable baseload generation mix. That's why we must continue to recognize the value of and operate baseload generation plants now and into the future.

Franklin REC's mission remains the same. We will continue to advocate for a sensible all-of-the-above approach with state and federal policymakers and regulators. The cooperative is here to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will passionately advocate on your behalf and do everything possible to fulfill that mission.

## What is NERC?

The North American Reliability Corporation (NERC) is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid. NERC develops and enforces reliability standards; annually assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the bulk power system through system awareness; and educates, trains and certifies industry personnel.

## What is the SPP?

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is Franklin REC's regional transmission organization, also referred to as a Balancing Authority. The SPP maintains the balance between the demand for electricity and the generation (or supply) of electricity within its 14-state, 111-member-company footprint in real-time. Ensuring enough energy is transmitted across high-voltage power lines to where it is needed at the exact moment when it is needed. This is crucial because if supply and demand get out of balance, costly damage may occur to part of the grid, and large areas of the country may lose power.

Think of the SPP as air traffic controllers. They don't own airports or airplanes; they simply control the traffic to keep things moving smoothly. Accordingly, SPP doesn't own or operate power plants or transmission and distribution lines. They exist to ensure a steady flow of power throughout the grid.

## CUT OUT AND REDEEM THIS BONUS ICE CREAM VOUCHER AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR!



# WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

Franklin REC is a not-for-profit cooperative. Each of its members have a share in ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of the co-op through capital credits. Capital credits have two stages they can be in, allocation and retirement.

1

## ALLOCATION \$636,715.76

An allocation is made annually for each member based on the amount of revenue spent.



The allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this allocated money aside to use over a period of years. The funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance until the board of directors elects to retire the capital credits.

When a person establishes service with Franklin REC, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.

Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.

At the end of each year, any funds remaining after expenses (margins) are allocated to the member's account based on percentage of electricity purchased.

2

## RETIREMENT \$346,795.02

A retirement is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired.



The amount paid is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services and other lending institutions financial requirements.

Annually, the board of directors evaluate the financial condition of the cooperative to determine whether to retire capital credits.

When the board elects to retire capital credits, they calculate the amount to pay each member based on historical allocation.

Capital credits will be returned to active members in the form of an energy credit on the July bill.

The remaining allocated patronage has no cash value and is not available for retirement until the board of directors approves the retirement of the specific year.

The only time unretired patronage is available prior to the maturity date is if the account owner is deceased. An executor must complete the required paperwork to receive funds, many times at a discounted rate. The board of directors must also approve the early retirement of patronage, prior to refund.



## COLORING CONTEST: WINNER OF THE SUMMER ADVENTURE KIT

Congratulations to Grant Peterson, son of members Ryan and Amanda, on winning the Franklin REC coloring page raffle. Grant won a summer adventure kit where he chose a new fishing rod and accessories plus a snorkel set. Grant's colorful photo was one of many submitted to the random drawing.

**Visit our Facebook page to see all the wonderfully decorated coloring page submissions.**

# SIGNS YOUR HVAC IS IN TROUBLE

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is one of the most important and expensive systems in your home. Equipment functionality issues can affect electricity use, which may result in higher energy bills. Detecting issues early can help you plan for repairs or equipment replacement.

The age of your equipment can be a major factor in function. The lifespan of a heating and cooling system ranges from 15 to 20 years. If your system is approaching or past the 20-year mark, it is wise to start saving for a new system and get replacement estimates. To find the age of your system, look for the manufactured date printed on the unit's nameplate. You can also search online using the model number or call the manufacturer.

There are a few warning signs beyond equipment lifespan that may signal your HVAC system needs to be repaired or replaced.



The lifespan of a heating and cooling system ranges from 15 to 20 years. Proper maintenance and lower use can increase the life of the equipment.

Photo Source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources

**1 Air conditioning is not as cool as usual.** If the air from your air conditioner is warm or not as cool as it usually feels, the equipment has an issue. It could be a problem with the compressor or a refrigerant leak. Many refrigerants, especially the ones used in older systems, are harmful to the environment. Fix leaks before adding more refrigerant. Special certifications are required for handling refrigerants, so hire a professional to ensure the work is done properly.

**2 Low airflow.** If you aren't getting good airflow, it could be an easy fix, such as filter replacement or opening closed dampers. If you've made these fixes and the airflow is not at normal levels, contact a professional. There could be a bigger problem with a motor or fan.

**3 Bad odors.** Heating and cooling systems sometimes smell when first turned on for the season. Those smells should be minor and dissipate quickly. Any serious smells – such as burning metal, melting plastic or noxious odors – are a sign the system is in trouble. If you smell those odors, turn the system off immediately and contact a professional.

**4 Strange noises.** There is typically noise associated with the fans and motors in HVAC systems. Take note of any excessive or new noises. If your system is making any clunking, clanging or

whistling noises, turn it off and check the filter. If that doesn't solve the problem, reach out to a professional.

**5 Running frequently.** Your system needs to run more often to keep up on extreme weather days, but there might be an issue if it runs too often outside of these special circumstances. Short cycling is when a system cycles on and off before completing the heating or cooling process. Contact a professional to diagnose this issue.

## Decision-making factors to consider

Several factors come into play when deciding to fix or invest in new equipment. Consider the severity of the issue, repair costs, the likelihood of additional repairs, equipment lifespan and your budget.

The efficiency of your existing system is also a consideration. Heating and cooling technology improvements have come a long way in the last 20 years. Lower operation costs can offset the cost of a new system over time.

Be proactive and evaluate your options before you are in desperate need. And if you are ready to make a change, always get estimates from at least three contractors before making a choice.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.



The best solution for your home might be a different type of equipment. This high-efficiency, dual-fuel heat pump system heats and cools.

Photo Source: Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

# REMEMBERING THE BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

When I was putting flowers on the graves of our family members on Memorial Day, I visited the grave of my great-great-grandfather Henry C. Nicholson at the Lake City Cemetery. Ever since I was a kid, I've seen his white marble gravestone with the words "Henry C. Nicholson, Co. B, 106 Ill. Inf."

I never knew much about Henry, other than the fact that he was my great-grandmother Myrtle Dougherty's father. I also knew he died in the master bedroom upstairs in my family's farmhouse in 1925.

I became more interested in Henry's story after interviewing some members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and attending one of their meetings this spring in Atlantic, Iowa. These men, who come from Denison, Lenox, Griswold and beyond, are members of the Colonel William H. Kinsman Camp #23.

It was amazing how much each member knew about his ancestor's Civil War service. I shouldn't have been surprised, since the group's mission is to "preserve the history and legacy of the heroes who fought to save the Union during the Civil War." This takes many forms, from educating local school children to locating the final resting place of Union Civil War veterans and providing gravestones.

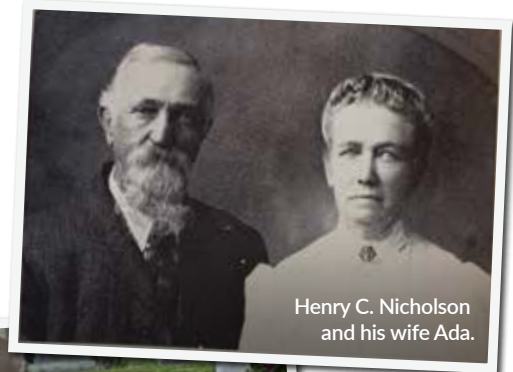
## A personal account of the Civil War

These guys inspired me to see what I could find out about Henry Nicholson's life. I was thrilled to find the "Life's History of Henry C. Nicholson Written by Himself," which appeared in the Nov. 26, 1925, edition of the *Lake City Graphic*, following Henry's death.

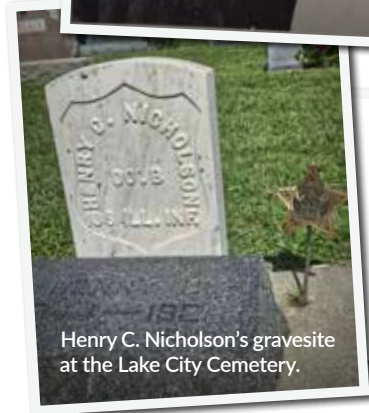
Born in Cass County, Michigan, in 1844, Henry grew up working on farms in Michigan and Illinois. Henry was living in Logan County, Illinois, northeast of Springfield, when "President Lincoln called for 600,000 more soldiers," he noted.

"On Aug. 9, 1862, I went with the Army as a volunteer in Company B, 106th Illinois Volunteers," he wrote. "We camped at Lincoln, Illinois, on the fairgrounds. We drilled hard for two weeks and were then sent south. We went by railroad to Alton, Illinois, and then by boat to Columbus, Kentucky, and then to Jackson, Tennessee. We were soon put on detached service to keep the rebels from burning bridges and tearing up railroads. This brought us in touch with the rebels several times. We had to forage some of the time, as the government was unable to send us food."

Henry noted that, "Four of the boys in my company were captured, and three



Henry C. Nicholson and his wife Ada.



Henry C. Nicholson's gravesite at the Lake City Cemetery.



ran away. I was exposed to all kinds of weather, sleeping in wet clothes, etc. I took very ill with pneumonia and was sent to the regimental hospital and from there to General hospital at Jackson, Tennessee, where I was discharged as an honorable soldier by the medical board, saying I would not be able to stand the service any longer. I was not able to work much for over a year."

## Preservation, education and patriotism

Henry eventually recovered, married my great-great-grandmother, Ada (Adams) Nicholson in Illinois, and moved to Calhoun County, Iowa, in 1881. He bought farmland near Yetter, which my family still farms.

The more I've learned about Henry's history, the more I appreciate the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, who promote historic preservation, education and patriotism in their communities. That's worth honoring as we celebrate our nation's independence in July.

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at [www.darcymaulsby.com](http://www.darcymaulsby.com).



Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at a recent meeting in Atlantic.



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