

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

MAY 2020

Are you on our updated list of “lost” members who haven’t received a capital credits check? ► See Page 5



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Powering on  
during a pandemic

Electric co-ops  
support Iowa's  
poultry industry

CVEC announces  
board candidates

*Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine (ISSN: 1935-7176) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase *Living with Energy in Iowa* is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

**Editorial Office:** 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350. E-mail address: [editor@livingwithenergyiowa.com](mailto:editor@livingwithenergyiowa.com). Letters may be edited for clarity and length before publication. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

**Website:** [www.livingwithenergyiowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com)

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

**Change of Address:** Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

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# living with energy IN IOWA

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Cooperatives of Iowa  
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## CONTENTS

MAY 2020

### Features

#### 6 Powering on during a pandemic

Iowa's G&T cooperatives took aggressive planning measures before the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in the state. Their resiliency is allowing Iowans to power on with safe and reliable energy.



#### 8 Recipes to celebrate spring

Strawberries, rhubarb and asparagus are the flavors of spring. Co-op cooks share recipes to enjoy these ingredients and more. **PLUS:** Find out how you can receive a \$25 credit on your power bill!



#### 10 Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

For Iowa, the answer to the age-old question is both! Iowa is No. 1 in the nation for egg production, and electric co-ops contribute significantly to this industry domination.



### Favorites

#### 3 Statewide Perspective

Electric co-ops are helping members in financial need

#### 14 Powering On

Co-ops embrace concern for community, social distancing

#### 3 Editor's Choice Contest

Win a Deluxe NOAA Emergency Weather Alert Radio

#### 15 Out Back

When cocooning becomes cloying

### ON THE COVER

Tyler Herrig, electronics technician, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, prepares Wisdom Unit 2 for a routine combustion inspection. Wisdom Unit 2 is an 80-megawatt natural gas combustion turbine generator keeping Iowans "powered on" from Wisdom Station in Spencer, Iowa. See Pages 6-7 and 14 of this issue for more information about how electric cooperatives are operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo taken by Marena Fritzler, marketing director, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. ⚡



# Electric co-ops are helping members in financial need

BY STEVE SEIDL

Electric cooperatives are no strangers to extreme situations, but these are unprecedented times even by our standards.

Iowa's electric co-ops have plans and processes in place to manage all types of scenarios, including a pandemic like the one we are currently working through.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, national and local economies are struggling to adapt to social distancing measures. We know many families and local businesses will feel the financial impact from reduced or lost income for months to come. Iowa's electric cooperatives and other utilities have temporarily suspended disconnections for nonpayment to help those in financial need. Please note that while electric and other utility bills may be deferred during this public health emergency, consumers will eventually need to pay for the services they have used.

As we forecast the long-term economic ramifications of COVID-19, electric cooperatives

across America will be financially impacted in the months ahead. The CEO of the National Rural Electric



Cooperative Association sent a letter to congressional leaders in April encouraging them to take action to support electric co-ops in the next stimulus package. In his letter, Jim Matheson noted that without federal assistance, cooperatives' not-for-profit structure and cost-based

rates may expose them to significant financial distress as the economic downturn causes high nonpayment rates coupled with declining electric load.

Locally owned electric co-ops depend on member-consumers to pay their bills in a timely manner so we can operate as financially stable utilities and ensure safe, reliable service when you need it most. The Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate and the Office of the Attorney General encourage consumers to keep current on utility bills or pay a portion to prevent large unpaid balances and reduce the potential for service disconnection once the public

health emergency has passed. If you received a federal recovery rebate, consider using some of the funds to pay for the essential utility services you use to stay safe, connected and comfortable. ⚡

Steve Seidl is the board president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

### Financial assistance for utility bills



Concern for community is a core cooperative principle, and Iowa's electric co-ops are willing to work with member-consumers who may have trouble paying their bills. If you are experiencing financial hardships, please contact your local electric co-op to discuss payment options. Co-op staff can also suggest ways to reduce your energy use to lower your bills. Our top priority is serving our member-consumers, especially in these challenging times.

You may also be eligible for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) financial aid by contacting your local community action agency. At the time of publication, the Iowa Department of Human Rights extended the LIHEAP application period for eligible Iowans until May 31, 2020. Those who demonstrate financial need may qualify for help in paying a portion of their household's utility bill. Learn more at <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply>.

If you are compelled to help your neighbors in need, please consider a tax-deductible donation to customer contribution funds like the RECare Program or Operation Round Up if your co-op participates in them. You can pledge a one-time contribution or a recurring monthly amount to these types of funds and your support will help those in need in your local community. Contact a member service representative at your local electric co-op or visit your co-op's website to learn more.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are committed to keeping the power flowing safely and reliably to you during these turbulent times. ⚡

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

### Win a Deluxe NOAA Emergency Weather Alert Radio



May is National Electrical Safety Month. Being aware of severe weather is one way to stay safe this season. NOAA Weather Scan will automatically scan through seven available weather (WX) band channels with flood, tornado, thunderstorm, civil danger warnings and more. We'll choose two winners this month! \$70 value each. ⚡

#### Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than May 31, 2020. 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 Philips Compact Pasta Maker for Two from the March issue was Josh and Kelli Kauffman, Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## 2020 Youth Tour canceled due to COVID-19

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative previously announced Savannah Stalzer and Sherryl Rowe as the cooperative's 2020 Cooperative Youth Tour representatives.

Both were set to join about 40 other Iowa students – and nearly 1,900 high school students from across the U.S. – in Washington, D.C., from June 18-25, 2020. Plans were to get an inside look at the federal government and tour the city, visiting the National Cathedral, war memorials, Smithsonian museums and Capitol Hill. Unfortunately, Youth Tour 2020 has been canceled due to concerns about COVID-19.

We are disappointed our winners will not be able to experience Washington, D.C., firsthand. However, we are pleased to offer each of them a scholarship, payable to the college they plan to attend this fall.

As always, CVEC is proud to support our local youth! ⚡



Savannah Stalzer



Sherryl Rowe



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



### Office

2090 Highway 5 South  
P.O. Box 486  
Albia, IA 52531-0486

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

### Telephone Numbers

Days, nights or holidays:  
641-932-7126 (local)  
or 800-475-1702

### Website

[www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com)

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## Working through a pandemic – we're all in this together

As we all deal with the new realities brought on by the coronavirus, I want to assure you that CVEC is here to help. We have always had an Emergency Plan that has served us well in a variety of circumstances, from ice storms, to tornadoes, to flash floods. Early in this crisis, our staff updated that plan with a special emphasis on ensuring we continue to provide the reliable electric service you have come to expect from your local electric cooperative.

So far, that is exactly what we have done. We know that after a sufficient supply of food and water, electricity is the number one thing you need to maintain some sense of normalcy as we hunker down in our homes.

That starts with our generation cooperative, Associated Electric Cooperative, which has taken extreme measures to ensure its workforce is healthy and its power plants are functioning as needed. Our transmission provider, Northeast Power, has also taken precautions to ensure our service remains constant.

To keep our line crews safe and healthy, we have segregated crews and staggered their start times to minimize their exposure. With a majority of their work being performed outdoors – they are able to be in well-ventilated areas, thus reducing their exposure rate. However, if you see our linemen performing work, please afford them their space to keep them as safe and healthy as possible!

Our internal staff has been split into two groups and has begun working staggered days, working in the office and at home on the opposite days, to do our part in stopping the spread of this virus. Technology has served us well as our staff can be connected to the office through direct connections to workstations, forwarding phone calls to cellular phones, and communicating via emails and conference calls. We will do all we

can to keep business as usual for our members, while also preparing for changes that may occur based on recommendations from health and elected officials.

As this pandemic continues, we encourage our members to use our drop box locations, online and phone payment options and the U.S. Postal Service to pay bills. CVEC has temporarily

suspended disconnections and waived late fees during this time to help our members as we know this situation is well beyond their control. If you are unable to pay your bill, please contact the office at 641-932-7126 to see what arrangements are available. It is extremely important to communicate your needs with our Member Care Team, so we can help you through this unprecedented time.

Our management team and board of directors are meeting constantly by phone, web meetings and email to fine-tune this plan. We are in frequent contact with the other electric cooperatives in Iowa and Missouri, along with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, which in turn is working closely with our national associations, the state legislature and Gov. Reynolds.

So far, it is working well, and everyone has adapted to the new norm. That is because we have been through crises before. We are tough, resilient and will continue to serve our membership through this trying time.

We are all in this together, so stay healthy, stay home and we will get through this together. ⚡

Becky Teno is the interim general manager for Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.

\*Please note: Due to magazine deadlines, this publication was written several weeks before you are reading this. Therefore, at the time of publication, changes may have taken place in this constantly evolving situation. CVEC is committed to you, our members, and we are constantly monitoring the situation. Please visit our website, Facebook page and stay tuned to local media outlets for the most up-to-date information.

# Are you on the list of “lost” members who haven’t received a capital credits check?

## Are we looking for you?

One advantage of belonging to a rural electric cooperative is receiving your share of capital credits. Any earnings left over after all expenses and/or reserves are paid are allocated to members as capital credits. They represent your share of ownership and can also be referred to as patronage dividends.

Each year, hundreds of capital credit checks are returned to the

cooperative due to one reason or another. This list is for former members from the years 2005 and 2006 whose checks have either been returned to us or not cashed.

## If your name is on the list:

Contact CVEC at 641-932-7126. Verify the address, phone number and the Social Security Number associated with the account. Upon verification, a replacement check will be mailed.

## If you know someone on the list:

Contact them and inform them their name is on the list and that they will need to contact CVEC.

## If the person on the list is deceased:

The executor of the estate of the deceased member should contact CVEC for further instructions to close out the patronage dividends. ⚡

### A

ADOLFS MARTIN C &/OR MARCINDA  
AHEE ESTATE RICHARD A  
ALBIA DRIVING RANGE LESHEN  
ALBIA SOCCER CLUB  
ALBIA THEATER  
ALLEN TERRY W  
ALLISON KENNETH OR SHIRLEY  
ALLSPACH MARY ANN  
AMOS CONSTRUCTION  
ANDERSON AMANDA D &/OR TRAVIS  
ANDERSON ESTATE LLOYD D  
ANDERSON JR SHERRY OR GAIL  
ANDERSON TIMOTHY E  
ANDREWS ESTATE VIVIAN  
ARKATEK INC  
ASHMORE ZACHARY TAYLOR  
ATWELL SUN DANCE

### B

BACON ANNETTE R OR DANIEL C  
BAKER JAMES G OR DONNA  
BAKER WES  
BALL DERRICK R OR DANIELL  
BALLALATAK ESTATE JUANITA  
BARBAGLIA BILL J  
BARNES HAYLEE N OR DUSTIN  
BATTEN JOE P  
BEAIRD GARRETT N  
BEAVERS DANNIELLE D FENWICK  
BILLINGS ESTATE DONALD E  
BIRD LARRY E  
BISHOP JANICE C  
BJORNSON RYAN R  
BLEW ROGER A OR MARCELLA J  
BOCCELLA HANA B  
BOSSARD JILL M  
BOTTORFF CHAD E  
BRIDGEVIEW REPAIR MARINA ALI  
BRIMMER ROGER OR SYLVIA K  
BROTHERS CATHARINE M  
BROWN GABE D OR KATIE L  
BROWN JOHN  
BROWN SHARA M  
BYLER LESTER M

### C

CAMPBELL JIM A  
CARLSON DIANE E OR BOB  
CARMAN PHILLIP D  
CASTER AMY L  
CHAPMAN GEORGE  
CHIPP DAVID E  
CHRISTINE CALEB OR STACEY

CLARK ESTATE WILLIAM J  
CLARK VIRGINIA R  
CLEAVER FRANCES L  
CLOUGH ESTATE CHRIS A  
COFFMAN KRISTINA  
COLEMAN WILLETTA K  
COLLINS STEVEN OR DELORES  
CONLEY ESTATE DAN  
CONNETT ROBIN L  
CONRAD DAVID N OR MELINDA  
CRAWFORD JERRY GENE  
CURTIS TAMMY

### D

DAKIN SHARI S  
DAVIS EMMET F &/OR ELLIS L S  
DE COOK DANIEL M  
DEEMER TRACY G OR LAURA L  
DENHAM MEGHANN L OR DONALD  
DESOCIO TATJANA  
DOUD MATT OR ILA  
DUNHAM SANDRA  
DYE ESTATE ANGELA K

### E

EASTLICK BRYAN W

### F

FAMILY SHOE SPORTING STEWART  
FELTON WELDING SHOP  
FETTERS MARCIA  
FINLEY TINA L  
FISHER RICHARD K OR CHRISTY  
FLUEGGE SANDY S  
FOGLESONG ESTATE CLAYTON  
FORD VONDA LYNNE  
FOREMAN RODGER W  
FOWLER ELEVATOR INC  
FRY TERRY L  
FRYE ELIZABETH A  
FULLER TRINA J

### G

GARDNER KATIE C  
GARNER RENAE S  
GARNER REVETTE  
GARRETT RAMONA I  
GONZALES DAVID M  
GORDY JACK L  
GRADY JUNIOR W OR ELAINE H  
GRAY MICHAEL W

### H

HAUKE MAUREEN K  
HAWAIIAN TROPICS  
HAYES JEFF J

HEIDEN BRANDEN D  
HEIN DENNIS A OR VERONICA L  
HENDERSON CARRIE M  
HEWITT MCDONALD FELICIA J  
HILDEBRAND ESTATE ROGER  
HILLIARD SUSAN  
HOLMES LINDA D  
HOLMES PRESSLEY L SR  
HOLSMAN LOIS J  
HOPKINS ALAN R  
HUFFMAN ESTATE MILDRED L  
HUMPHREYS JR ART OR SUSAN  
HUSTON ESTATE ROBERT C  
HUTT GRAHAM G

### J

J R ENTITIES LLC  
JOHNSON LYNN H  
JOHNSON ROBERT D OR RUTH  
JOHNSTON CHRISTINA A &/OR BR  
JONES ESTATE EDWARD D  
JONES LETA C  
JUDGE ERIC J

### K

KAHLER RYAN L OR CATHY M  
KAUZLARICH RUDY OR GERTRUDE  
KELLAR BARBARA K  
KELLER JERRY J  
KELLEY JOSH W  
KINCAID ROGER C K OR DORIS  
KING DOLLY J  
KINNAIRD ESTATE MARIE  
KOESTNER KRIS  
KOOL BRIAN J  
KRAFT TODD OR JULIANN  
KUM GO LC 651

### L

LATHRUM CLARK OR MARY LOU  
LAVELY ALFRED OR L LAVON  
LAWRENCE BILL E  
LAWRENCE ROBERTA OR TERRY  
LENZE RANDY L  
LEONARD JACKIE M  
LEWIS JENNIFER L  
LINEBACK II CHARLES A  
LISK BRENT L  
LORD JR ESTATE HAROLD F  
LOVELL JEFFEREY  
LOVERIDGE LORRETTA C  
LYMAN ESTATE MARIAN L

### M

MAJOR LEE  
MASON ANDREW J &/OR AMBER L  
MATIX ESTATE LINDA A

MAUPIN ESTATE KATHY D  
MC KIM MARCY K OR KEVIN  
MCCABE BRANDON R  
MCCLURG ESTATE BRYAN L  
MCDONALD MATTHEW G  
MCDUFFEY TERRY OR BONNIE  
MCGEE KAY L  
MEYER JOYCE M  
MEYERS JR WILLIAM L  
MICKLES RENTALS JERRY  
MILETICH ESTATE ROSE  
MITCHELL KATHLEEN  
MOCO PORK SOW UNIT  
MOFFATT MARGARET MAY  
MOSLEY ESTATE BARBARA  
MOSS SAMUEL D OR NICOLE L  
MOYER TONY L OR KRISTY A  
MYERS MANDI R

### O

O'CONNELL TOM

### P

PALMER TERRIE  
PETERSEN TERRY D  
PFANNEBECKER GARY D  
PLUM JUANA M  
POE GUY W OR PAMELA  
POLLITT KARLA S  
POPE KINYOTTA J  
POPPON ESTATE IRENE M  
POTTORFF AMY N  
POTTORFF BECKY S  
PRATER JILL R  
PULLMAN VICKIE L  
PURDY DOLORES

### R

REED'S ROLLING ACRES  
REESE CHARLES V  
RHODES JIMMIE LEE  
RICHARDSON PAUL A  
RIDDICK THOMAS A  
ROMANCO JAMES D  
RUSSELL JR CHARLES E

### S

SALLADAY CODY J  
SALLADAY TAMARA B  
SANDIFER VALERIE A  
SATURDAY SHOP  
SCHIPPERS JUSTIN E  
SCHLENZEN IDA  
SCHOLTUS JOSH A  
SCHOLTUS LUELLA  
SCHWARTZHOFF AARON J &/OR BR  
SCIESZINSKI DAVID G

SEDDON ROBERT  
SHILTZ BILL J  
SHOULTZ KENNETH OR PROVY  
SHOWALTER FARMS  
SICKELS MILDRED  
SIMMONS JEFF ALLAN  
SIMMS AARON L  
SISLER PATRICIA L  
SMALLEY WILLIAM S  
SOLOMON JR VERNON J  
STARCKOVICH L LEE OR FAYE  
STEELE LEONA  
STEGALL STEPHANIE OR PETER  
STEPHENS BRYAN K &/OR STEVEN  
STEPHENS KEITH L  
STEVENS RALPH  
STICE MATT J  
STOUTHAMMER DAN J KAREN  
STOWERS PAUL OR CYNTHIA  
SUMMERS ESTATE ELLEN  
SWAYNE JR ARTHUR D

### T

TEMPLETON VERNA A  
THOMAS L COLLEEN  
THOMPSON ESTATE CLIFFORD L  
TISUE KAREN K  
TOWERCO LLC IA0006  
TUCKER DAVID D OR LISA  
TUNQUIST DIANE A

### V

VAN DORN DEBORAH  
VANDER VORT DANIEL M  
VANDERMARK JOSEPH

### W

WALKER SUSAN L OR NOEL G  
WALTERS JEAN  
WEIR SR JOHN  
WELCH BRYAN S OR STEPANIE  
WEST BRIDGETTE L  
WEST JEREMIAH B &/OR DUSTIN  
WEST KATHLEEN M  
WHISLER RENTALS ESTATE ROD  
WHISLER'S CLEAN SHINE  
WILEY AMBER L  
WILSON HAROLD L OR CHRIS  
WOLFF LORA L  
WUETHRICH B WESLEY OR MOLLY  
WULFF KRISTIN D

### Y

YES PROPERTIES

### Z

ZACHMEYER JOSHUA

# Powering on during a

## Electric cooperatives demonstrate resilience in planning and operating

BY ANN THELEN

As providers of an essential service, electric cooperatives perform a lot of work behind the scenes for electricity to be available when a member-consumer flips the light switch or turns on a computer. The continually evolving dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic show how much we rely on electricity during these challenging times. Thanks to reliable power and technology, many employees across Iowa's diverse economy transitioned to remote work environments successfully.

Iowa's generation and transmission cooperatives took aggressive planning measures before the COVID-19 crisis emerged in the state. Their resiliency allows Iowans to power on through this pandemic with safe and reliable energy.

### Co-ops are hard at work

Although most co-op offices throughout Iowa have closed their doors to visitors, their message is clear – we're still working to provide members with safe, reliable power.

"The situation may have altered how we do business, but it hasn't changed what we do – serving our members with power when they need it," says Bill Cherrier, executive vice president/CEO of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO). CIPCO's distribution co-op members serve a population of nearly 300,000 rural and urban residents in 58 of Iowa's 99 counties.

Weeks before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, CIPCO conducted a pandemic simulation

with its workforce. Dan Burns, vice president of utility operations for CIPCO, led the exercise.

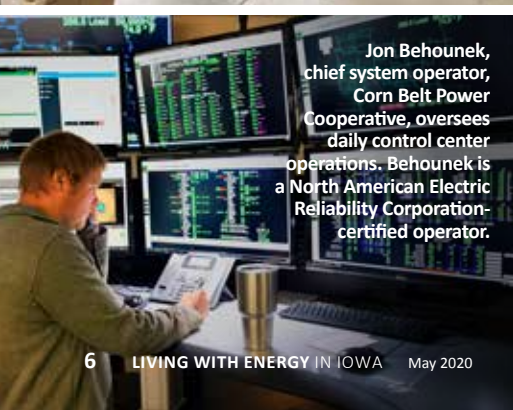
"While we regularly conduct planned emergency response simulations, we held a surprise tabletop exercise for a pandemic in February," Burns explains. "As part of the simulation, we operated under a hypothetical scenario that 40% of our essential staff was unavailable due to pandemic. With this reduction, we would have minimal staff available to run the power plant and transmission system."

Taking this approach allowed CIPCO to map out in advance how the co-op would react in the situation. Leadership examined employee bench strength, outlining the people who knew how to do different jobs within the organization other than their current roles. They discussed what would happen if certain power plants needed to run more to compensate for other temporary plant closures. The team prioritized what maintenance projects could be deferred without sacrificing reliability to member-consumers.

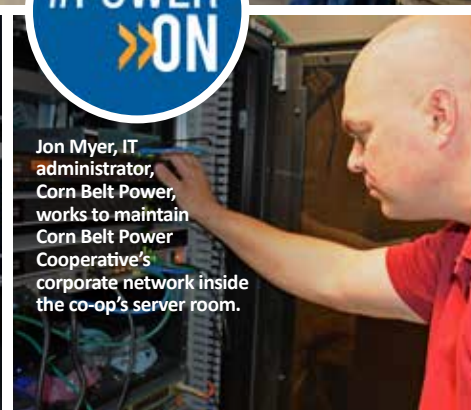
"Our dispatch system is our most critical area and the hub of everything we do to keep the power flowing," Burns says. "We made that area off-limits to anyone other than the five people who work in dispatch."



NIPCO Transmission Superintendent Steve Harringa leads a morning crew meeting to discuss the day's work in the garage instead of in the crew office to allow for proper social distancing.



Jon Behounek, chief system operator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, oversees daily control center operations. Behounek is a North American Electric Reliability Corporation-certified operator.



Jon Myer, IT administrator, Corn Belt Power, works to maintain Corn Belt Power Cooperative's corporate network inside the co-op's server room.



### G&T cooperatives

Generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own electric generation facilities or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

### Distribution cooperatives

Your local distribution cooperative is part of the foundation of the electric cooperative network. As a co-op member-consumer, it is your direct point of contact in the delivery of electricity and other services.

# pandemic

Construction continues on CIPCO's Summit Lake Expansion project to add new generating units. COVID-19 has impacted the way the work is carried out. CIPCO staff have minimized direct contact with construction personnel, increased cleaning activities and are working solo as much as possible. Contractors have also responded to COVID-19 with their own measures.

## An always-prepared mindset

At Corn Belt Power Cooperative, whose distribution co-ops serve members in 41 north-central Iowa counties, similar measures were taken through rigorous cleaning and restricting access in the control center and other areas.

"Our control center operators are essential for keeping the system online. They manage high-voltage power lines that only certified NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) operators can do," explains Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager for Corn Belt Power. "Dependable power production relies on the regulation of the transmission network, which provides electric energy from generation facilities. A disruption can affect many locations and consumers."

Electric cooperatives are veterans at preparing for emergencies, such as tornadoes and ice storms. This always-prepared mindset has served the co-ops well in the pandemic situation, one of which this country hasn't seen since

the Spanish Flu more than a century ago. Even with intense planning, it's unpredictable.

"No one is ever 100% prepared for a pandemic of this magnitude," says Matt Washburn, executive vice president/general manager of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), whose distribution cooperatives serve Iowans in 10 counties. "Because of our cooperative business structure, we've been able to nimbly adapt to the daily changes of the pandemic."

Kuyper echoes the value of the cooperative structure. "We always put our members' needs first and are proud of our exceptional track record of reliability and service."

## Safety remains paramount

Like CIPCO and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, NIPCO placed significant emphasis on first keeping its employees safe, and then ensuring remote work could be seamless. The IT teams worked tirelessly to ensure staff and distribution cooperatives

were able to effectively and efficiently work remotely.

At every co-op, safety is paramount. Under normal conditions, working with power lines and equipment can be dangerous if the proper processes and procedures are not followed. With the pandemic causing distractions, there is the potential for that atmosphere to create an unsafe work environment. It's a daily priority for co-op leaders to mitigate and minimize distractions by helping their workers keep safety top-of-mind at all times. They do so by following strict workplace cleaning standards, distancing practices and a constant refinement of processes.

"Planning and preparations have allowed us to provide reliable power just as we have always done," Cherrier says. "This situation will make cooperatives even stronger and more prepared. It's in our cooperative spirit to work together and power on." ⚡

Ann Thelen is the editor of *Living with Energy in Iowa*.

## Ensuring the continuous delivery of safe and reliable power

### Key steps taken by Iowa's G&T cooperatives



■ **Taking trucks home.** Crew members are assigned trucks to take home, if necessary, so they can go directly to job sites rather than reporting or returning to co-op headquarters or warehouses.



■ **Ramping up hygiene and distancing.** Work areas are cleaned between shifts, in-office workdays are alternated when appropriate, start times are staggered and distancing procedures are strictly enforced.



■ **Performing solo projects.** Focusing on jobs out in the field that can be completed by one person at a time to increase distancing.



■ **Working in pairs, staggered starts.** Lineworkers are staggering start times and working in the same pairs to avoid spreading COVID-19.



■ **Facilitating remote work.** IT departments ensure all employees who need to work remotely have laptops and VPN connections.



■ **Providing ways to collaborate.** Employees who are working remotely use software, such as Microsoft Teams, to facilitate face-to-face online collaboration.

See Page 14 for a photo gallery of how these cooperatives #PowerOn.

# RECIPES TO Celebrate Spring



## Grandma's Rhubarb-Pecan Muffins

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup pecans, chopped
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cooking oil
- 2 teaspoons orange peel, finely shredded
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup orange juice
- $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups rhubarb, finely chopped

In a large bowl, combine flour,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar, pecans, baking powder, salt and baking soda. In another bowl, beat together egg, cooking oil, orange peel and orange juice. Stir in rhubarb. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and pour in the rhubarb mixture all at once. Stir until just moistened, batter should be lumpy. Line muffin cups with paper baking cups. Fill  $\frac{2}{3}$  full. Sprinkle with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar. Bake at 400 degrees F for about 20 minutes or until golden. Remove from pans, serve warm. Makes 14-18 muffins.

**Diane Wilson • Grinnell  
Guthrie County Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association**

## Strawberry Pie

- 1 quart fresh strawberries
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups and 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt

Sort, then rinse and halve strawberries. Place in the pie crust. Sift flour,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups sugar and salt together in a bowl. Add sour cream and stir well. Pour this mixture over the strawberries. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons sugar on top. Bake at 450 degrees F for 10 minutes. Reduce oven to 350 degrees F and bake for another 30 minutes or until crust is a golden brown.

**Patricia Hawk • Danville • Access Energy Cooperative**

## Asparagus Guacamole

- $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds asparagus, cut into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cilantro, chopped
- 3 green onions, sliced thinly
- $\frac{1}{2}$  jalapeno pepper, minced
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 1 tomato, diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 dash hot pepper sauce
- salt and pepper to taste

Cook asparagus until tender. Drain and puree in food processor. Combine puree with remaining ingredients. Refrigerate until ready for use. This recipe has fooled many people into thinking it was avocado guacamole.

**Rae Jean Hollopeter • Ladora  
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative**

## Crunchy Rhubarb Crisp

- 4 cups fresh or frozen rhubarb, diced
- 1 3-ounce box strawberry gelatin
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup quick oats
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup flour
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter

Place rhubarb in a 2-quart glass baking dish. Sprinkle gelatin over the rhubarb. Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl. Cut in butter until crumbly and sprinkle evenly over rhubarb. Microwave for 12-16 minutes on high until tender. Makes about 6 servings.

**Monica Wuebker • Rockwell City  
Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association**

### FIRST TO RIPEN

Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen each spring. Considered a member of the rose family, they give off a sweet fragrance as they grow on bushes. If you come upon a bush of them growing, you'll find they smell as sweet as they taste.

## Asparagus Casserole

- 4 cups asparagus
- 1 cup water, lightly salted
- 2 cups croutons, crushed
- 8 ounces shredded cheese
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- French fried onions

Cook asparagus in lightly salted water. Combine croutons and cheese. Add soup to undrained asparagus. Layer ½ of crouton mixture in a 2-quart casserole and ½ asparagus mixture. Repeat and top with French fried onions. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 30-40 minutes.

**Lillian Schweer • Donnellson**  
Access Energy Cooperative

## Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

- 4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups and 1 tablespoon sugar, divided
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup ice water
- 2 cups rhubarb, chopped
- 2 cups strawberries, sliced
- ¼ cup Minute tapioca
- egg whites

For the pie crust, measure flour, salt and 1 tablespoon sugar in a mixing bowl; cut in the shortening and butter. Combine the vinegar, egg and ice water then add to the first mixture until incorporated. Chill for 1 hour. For the pie filling, stir together the rhubarb, strawberries, remaining 2 cups sugar and tapioca. Roll out half the pie dough. Place the dough in a pie pan and pour in the filling. Roll out remaining dough, place on top of filling and crimp edges together. Put a glaze of egg white on top crust and sprinkle with sugar if desired. Cut 4 slits in top crust. Bake at 400 degrees F for 40-50 minutes, covering the crust if needed, to prevent over browning.

**Tammi Christensen • Chariton**  
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Rhubarb Punch

- 1 quart rhubarb juice
- 1 6-ounce can frozen orange juice
- 1 6-ounce can lemonade juice
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 package cherry powdered drink mix
- 3½ quarts water

Make rhubarb juice by cutting rhubarb and covering with water. Cook until soft, then strain off juice. Mix rhubarb juice with all the ingredients listed and serve. Makes 5 quarts.

**Linda Cuvelier • New Hartford**  
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative



**Search** our online recipe archive for thousands of recipes from Iowa's co-op cooks.

[www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com/recipes](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com/recipes)

## Blush Rhubarb Jam

- 5 cups rhubarb, cut in ¼-inch pieces
- 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 small package strawberry Jell-O

Mix rhubarb, pineapple and sugar. Let stand for 2 hours, then boil for 12 minutes. Remove from heat. Add Jell-O and mix well. Process in hot water bath canner for 15 minutes to seal.

**Jane Person • Batavia • Access Energy Cooperative**

### IT'S A VEGETABLE

Rhubarb is a member of the buckwheat family and botanically speaking, it's a vegetable, not a fruit.

SPRING FOOD FACTS

### SEEDS ON THE OUTSIDE

The average strawberry has 200 seeds, and it is the only fruit to wear its seeds on the outside.

SPRING FOOD FACTS

### LEAVE OUT THE LEAVES

Never eat rhubarb leaves, cooked or raw. Eating the leaves can be poisonous because they contain oxalate.

SPRING FOOD FACTS

### WHITE ASPARAGUS

White asparagus comes from the same plant as green asparagus, but it is grown underground to block sunlight and prevent photosynthesis, thus inhibiting production of chlorophyll.

SPRING FOOD FACTS

## Wanted: Favorite apple recipes for fall! The Reward: \$25 for every one we publish!

Apples are a favorite fruit of the fall season. Whether you use them in desserts, in salads or as a complement to a pork dish, the possibilities are endless. Share your favorites, and if we run your recipe in the magazine, we'll send a \$25 credit for your electric co-op to apply to your power bill. Recipes submitted also may be archived on our website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com).

The deadline is May 31, 2020. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions.

### EMAIL:

[recipes@livingwithenergyiniowa.com](mailto:recipes@livingwithenergyiniowa.com)  
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your e-mail message.)

### MAIL:

#### Recipes

*Living with Energy in Iowa*  
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48  
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

# Which comes first, the

BY KAY SNYDER



Photo: Iowa Poultry Association

For Iowa, the answer to the age-old question is BOTH! With nearly 59 million laying hens, producing approximately 16 billion eggs annually, Iowa far outpaces other states in both categories. Add to that the 12 million turkeys that are raised annually in Iowa, and you can see why Iowa is a poultry powerhouse. Another interesting fact is that Iowa's electric cooperatives contribute significantly to this industry domination, not only by powering farms and companies but also in recruiting and supporting existing poultry businesses and operations.

Thirty-five years ago, amid the farm crisis and major recession, Iowa electric cooperatives came together in the spirit of cooperation to develop the unified economic development organization, Iowa Area Development Group (IADG). At that time, Iowa ranked in the bottom 25 states for poultry production and produced only about 18 million eggs per year.

Industry research tapped to guide this economic development effort gave high priority to the value-added agriculture industry and identified access to raw materials for feed as a significant factor setting Iowa apart

from other states. Based on the reports, IADG and partners focused on growing Iowa's egg and poultry industry, as well as expanding the supply chain and processing facilities. Fast forward 35 years, and Iowa is the industry leader in poultry and egg production. IADG and Iowa's electric cooperatives remain active partners providing reliable electric power and supporting the farmers, suppliers and businesses that make up Iowa's value-added ecosystem. ⚡

## Beyond production to processing, West Liberty Foods – Two decades of growth

In 1996, the Louis Rich turkey plant (owned by Kraft Foods) in West Liberty announced it was closing. Swiftly, 47 turkey growers formed the Iowa Turkey Growers Cooperative, purchased the plant from Kraft and named it West Liberty Foods (WLF). Though turkey prices were volatile for the first couple of years, a purchase agreement with Kraft helped keep the company in operation. In 2003, WLF purchased an Access Energy Cooperative speculative building and opened a further processing facility in Mount Pleasant, complete with the nation's first Clean Room Food Processing Systems. Two years later, they expanded and added a state-of-the-art quality assurance laboratory. Today, WLF has six locations in three states and employs over 2,900 people. In addition to Iowa plants in West Liberty, Sigourney and Mount Pleasant, WLF operates in Utah, Illinois and Arkansas. IADG honored WLF in 2000 with the Value-Added Agriculture Venture Award. ⚡

## Hatcheries Feed Markets



### Select Genetics Hatches Turkeys in Osceola

In 2011, Valley of the Moon, as part of Aviagen, built a state-of-the-art hatchery in Osceola. The 87,000-square-foot hatchery can set 50 million eggs per year and hatch about 800,000 turkeys per week. As a result of a 2018 merger, the company is now Select Genetics. The company continues to supply commercial turkey poults to the U.S. market. Clarke Electric Cooperative is the electric provider for Select Genetics and also nominated them for an Iowa Venture Award in 2011.



### Hy-Line North America

In 2016, Hy-Line North America opened a 95,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art egg production facility – its largest hatchery – on a 25-acre site in the Wilton Industrial Park. Hy-Line North America delivers high-quality, day-old chicks to customers across the U.S. and British Columbia. The Wilton hatchery is capable of producing 150,000 chicks per day. Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative serves the Wilton Industrial Park and nominated Hy-Line North America for a 2015 Iowa Venture Award. ⚡



# chicken or the egg?



Photo: Iowa Poultry Association

## Diversifying farm operations with a new opportunity

Four years ago, Costco announced it was investing \$400 million in a new poultry complex in Fremont, Nebraska, to supply its stores with chicken. The plant started operating in 2019, and an estimated 120 new broiler sites were needed to meet the demand for chickens. The barns need to be within a 100-mile radius of Fremont, making three Iowa counties eligible. Currently, about 10-15 percent of the farmers are in Iowa. Lincoln Premium Poultry provides the chicks, feed, technical expertise, veterinary services, base pay with a performance bonus and other support. For many, this offers an opportunity to diversify their operations, be a full-time farmer and not require off-farm employment.

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative spearheaded this western Iowa initiative, hosted several information meetings and now serves 52 chicken barns, with four more under construction. Each barn is 640 feet

by 63 feet, longer than two football fields. Additional barns in Iowa include four served by Western Iowa Power Cooperative and another four coming online soon.

Harrison County Farm Bureau President Mike Dickinson built four new broiler barns and saw this as the opportunity of a lifetime. Dickinson grew up on his family's farm. He knew he wanted to join the operation but also needed to support his family of five. He became a nurse, which provided him the opportunity to work three 12-hour shifts while earning a salary and benefits, leaving the other four days to support the farm. Today, Dickinson operates four broiler barns, raising 168,000 chickens at a time. He expects to raise six flocks per year. The houses remain vacant for two weeks between flocks to allow time for maintenance and prep work for the next flock. His father, David Dickinson, was a Harrison County REC board member for approximately 25 years. ⚡

## COVID-19 unintended consequence

It turns out that in addition to toilet paper and hand sanitizer, people have also been panic-buying chickens. The Murray McMurray Hatchery of Webster City was featured in a *New York Times* article discussing that their inventory of chicks was completely sold out for several weeks in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Farm stores that carry chicks also report long lines of people who are hoping to buy chicks. Many are first-time owners, and their motivation is two-fold. Food security is one benefit. Many people feel that if they are going to be at home for several months, this can provide time to begin a new hobby and nurture the chicks as they grow. ⚡



IADG and member electric cooperatives promote Iowa at trade shows.

## What is an Iowa Venture Award?

On behalf of its member utilities, IADG annually honors distinguished Iowa companies and entrepreneurs with the Iowa Venture Award. This award recognizes outstanding businesses for providing leadership, capital investment and employment opportunities for rural Iowa. ⚡

# Director announces retirement after 15 years!

After serving five terms, totaling 15 years, District 2 Director Becky DeTar has announced she will not be seeking re-election at the upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members.

Becky and her husband Vernon have a cow/calf and crop operation on 880 acres. Becky is still very active in a number of civic activities, including Trinity United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women President, HCI Care Services (Monroe County Hospice), Pioneer Cemetery Board, Iowa Master Farmer Homemakers, FFA Alumni and countless more organizations.

Over the past 15 years as a director, DeTar has served as board treasurer, earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, her Board Leadership Certificate and her Director Gold Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Becky has been a great advocate in striving to supply safe, clean, reliable and affordable electricity for all CVEC members.

CVEC commends and thanks Becky for her dedicated 15 years of service and wish her well in retirement – we sure will miss her! ⚡



## HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

### Nominating Committee selects candidates for 2020 election

The Nominating Committee for Chariton Valley Electric's board of directors met via teleconference on April 16, 2020, to select candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors election. Three directors' terms are expiring this year – Becky DeTar, Michael Miller and Richard Welsh.

Mark Landa of Sullivan & Ward, P.C., explained the purpose of the meeting and had committee members introduce themselves. Attorney Landa also reviewed the bylaw provisions concerning nominations and the policies related to the Code of Conduct for directors and director qualifications. Sharon Tibbals was nominated to serve as chairperson of the committee.

The following slate of candidates were nominated and confirmed from each district:

- District 2 – Randy Gottschalk and Doris Little, 3-year term
- District 4 – Michael Miller, running unopposed, 3-year term
- District 5 – Richard Welsh and Dennis Conley Jr., 3-year term

Additional nominations may be made by written petition with the signatures of any 15 or more members. Bylaws of the cooperative provide that such petitions must be filed by July 4, 2020 – not less than 30 days prior to the meeting at which the directors will be elected.

Watch the July edition of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine for director candidate pictures and bios. Mark your calendars for Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, to attend your co-op's annual meeting and exercise your democratic right as a member to vote! ⚡

## OFFICE CLOSING

### MEMORIAL DAY

CVEC's office will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe and happy holiday! ⚡



# Seek savings through energy efficiency upgrades

BY DERRILL HOLLY

If May's warmer weather has you thinking about the sultry summer months ahead, this could be a great time to consider energy-saving options and making plans to help control your energy costs.

There's a combination of things you can do yourself, like making slight modifications to your family's routine that can help identify and achieve opportunities for savings while keeping your home more comfortable throughout the summer cooling season ahead.

## Tune it up

When it comes to heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, spending a few dollars at the beginning of the season can add up to big savings and help you avoid expensive surprises and system failures.

A qualified service technician with the right skills and equipment will check critical components like the compressor and condenser, clean the coils and inspect the ductwork. A technician may also offer advice on how to get the most value out of your programmable thermostat.

According to experts with the ENERGY STAR® program, sealing and insulating ductwork can improve the overall efficiency of your HVAC by as much as 20%. Making sure systems are appropriately sized can also improve performance.

Consider replacing systems that are more than 10 years old (or those that no longer keep your home comfortable) with a high-efficiency system that is properly sized and designed to meet your needs.

## Gain insights

Sometimes it pays to get the big picture, so when it comes to energy efficiency and getting real value for your home improvement dollars, professional advice is an excellent

During summer months, consider using smaller appliances like a slow cooker to eliminate heat gain in the kitchen.



Photo: Scott Van Osdel

place to start.

Your local electric cooperative may be able to recommend professionally trained energy advisors who can conduct comprehensive assessments and provide recommendations that could help you control energy costs and improve comfort.

Energy audits include an examination of heating, cooling and water heating equipment, as well as interior and exterior lighting. Other available services can include inspections and assessments of windows, crawl spaces and other voids for air leaks, which can degrade HVAC performance.

According to the DOE's Energy Information Administration, a professional energy auditor will review monthly, seasonal and annual energy bills, consider household occupancy patterns, and examine condition, age and use of appliances and other electronics.

An analysis developed from the collected information can help determine a series of recommendations that, if accomplished, can produce savings. Homeowners can then decide which

measures fit into their budgets or schedules.

## Make small changes to add savings

When your goal is to keep the house cool and comfortable, remember that any activities adding heat and humidity to your air-conditioned spaces can increase your costs.

Open doors don't just allow people to come and go. They also provide an instant exchange of cooler inside air for warm, moist air, much the same as the cooling effect you experience when standing in front of an open refrigerator. A cooler stocked with cold drinks and chilled snacks and placed outdoors can help cut down on household traffic on hot summer days.

Ceiling fans operating in air-conditioned space can make you feel about 4 degrees cooler while you are in the room. But the benefits only occur when a room is occupied. Make it a habit to turn off the fan when you leave the room. ⚡

Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

# #POWERON

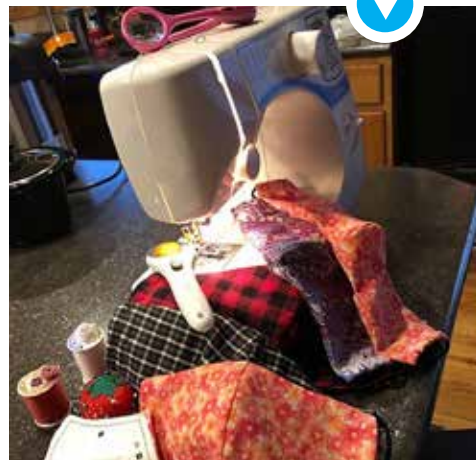
The resiliency of electric cooperative employees allows Iowans to power on through the COVID-19 pandemic with safe and reliable energy. Behind the scenes, these are some examples of employees hard at work to keep power flowing. ⚡

BY ANN THELEN



Grant Jackson, control operator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, monitors the Wisdom Unit 1 burner control system during operation at Wisdom Station in Spencer. Wisdom Unit 1 is a 38-megawatt natural gas generating unit with fuel oil back up.

Two CIPCO employees made face coverings to help protect the health of co-workers. Learn more about this effort on Page 4 of this issue.



NIPCO Engineering & Operations Manager Jayme Huber (*center*) leads a NIPCO construction planning meeting with System Protection Engineer Chris Larson (*right*) and Apparatus Services Manager Jeff Persinger (*left*). In-person meetings continue with staff while observing recommended social spacing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



#POWERON

CIPCO Journeyman Lineman Lee Madison works solo on a variety of projects in the field. Home start and frequent check-ins help line crews stay socially distanced.

NIPCO Crew Foreman Tom Berkenpas disinfects a service truck. Equipment and fleet vehicles undergo regular and thorough cleaning and disinfecting to protect line crews.



Joel Harklau, system operator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, monitors daily control center operations. Harklau is a North American Electric Reliability Corporation-certified operator.

# When cocooning becomes cloying

BY VALERIE VAN KOOTEN

Most of us have spent the last month hunkered down trying to avoid a nasty little bug that has spread quickly across our country. I'm pretty much a stay-at-home person anyway, so the thought of having some unscheduled time to pursue house projects and devour books sounded heavenly. After about 10 days, I found myself having in-depth conversations with the cat and admiring Gov. Kim Reynolds' wardrobe choices.

## Here's what I learned during my cocooning:

- Lack of time at home is something we're always complaining about, right? We all want more "me time"; more hours to work on our house, play with our kids, go for walks in nature. That's what we want until we're forced into it. Then, knowing we have no other choice, claustrophobia sets in. Days blur into a week. The lack of a routine disorients us and makes us lethargic. I performed the Annual Changing of the Closet, putting winter clothes in storage and getting the spring ones out before realizing I have nowhere to wear them. I rearranged my linen closet twice. (Okay, in full disclosure, it's a cupboard with a couple shelves that hold bedsheets. I've been experiencing illusions of grandeur while I'm home.)
- Working from home exposes every technological glitch known to humankind. At one online meeting with 10 people, we spent 20 minutes trying to get everyone on the same digital page. Our leader did something weird from his end and cut all of us off. When we got back online,



several participants could hear the others, but we couldn't hear them. One person kept changing his background as we met. One moment he was sitting in front of the Eiffel Tower; the next, the pyramids of Egypt. To say it was distracting would be an understatement. Those whom we couldn't hear ended up making signs and holding them up to the camera. Smoke signals might have been as effective.

- Entertainment becomes a relative term in captivity. After one long, tedious day, Kent and I spent 15 minutes FaceTiming with our grandsons and listening to them oink at each other. We've become easily amused.
- We've become a nation of panicky would-be hypochondriacs. Try standing in line (6 feet apart, naturally) at the pharmacy. If

you have the bad luck to sneeze or cough, you will immediately have to follow that up with, "It's allergies! Really!" as you get the side eye from the others in line, who fully expect a giant red X to appear on your chest any moment.

- I've learned to become more empathetic with shut-ins. For them, "shelter in place" is their life. I vow to call, visit or send messages more often.

Perhaps by the time you read this, we'll be settling back into a new normal. I hope so; I have a closet full of brightly colored spring clothes that I need somewhere to wear. 🌩

Valerie Van Kooten is a writer from Pella who loves living in the country and telling its stories. She and her husband Kent have three married sons and two incredibly adorable grandsons.



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