



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



OCTOBER 2021

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**CVEC announces
employee promotions**

**Heat pump options
for your home**

Flavorful pork recipes

Win an Instant Pot ► Page 3

CONTENTS



6



8



10

VOLUME 74 • ISSUE 10

3

STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

Proud of our
cooperative heritage

3

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an
Instant Pot

14

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

It's time to
save energy

15

OUT BACK Adventures in bulk buying

EDITOR
Ann Thelen

ART DIRECTOR
Joel Clifton

**EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT**
Chuck Soderberg

**DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS**
Erin Campbell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Steve Seidl, District 5 – President
Don Shonka, District 2 – Vice President
Roger Solomonson, District 3 – Secretary/Treasurer
Darrell Jensen, District 4 – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Gordon Greimann, District 6
Neal Heldt, District 7
Kenneth VandenBerg, District 1
Marion Denger, Prairie Energy Cooperative – NRECA Representative
Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy Cooperative – Managers' Representative

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living 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 ***Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*** 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.

Email Address
editor@ieclmagazine.com. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

Website
www.ieclmagazine.com

Postmaster
Send address changes to *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* 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. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

© Copyright 2021, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. No portion of the editorial, photographic or other content of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine or its website may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.



**Iowa Association of
Electric Cooperatives**

* A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ON THE COVER

Congratulations to Marty Hulsebos, an Access Energy Cooperative member-consumer, for supplying the cover image for this month's issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*. See Page 14 for details on submitting cover images.

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR COOPERATIVE HERITAGE

BY CHUCK SODERBERG



You probably noticed that this magazine has a new name and a new look this month! It is my pleasure to introduce you to *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*,

the magazine for member-consumers of Iowa's electric cooperatives. The content and local co-op news you've come to appreciate in the pages of *Living with Energy in Iowa* remain the same, but we've updated our name to incorporate our cooperative heritage.

When we were planning the debut of our rebrand, it seemed most appropriate to time it with National Co-op Month in October. As we strategized on a new title, it was important to include "cooperative" in the name because it's essential to who we are and what we do. Electric cooperatives are proud to be owned and governed by the local members we serve.

Core values remain constant

Our cooperative values are core to our existence and legacy. Many electric cooperatives were formed across the Midwest in the 1930s and 40s because investor-owned utilities at that time saw no profit in building infrastructure into rural areas to serve sparse populations. So, farmers and ranchers decided to form their own locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives so they could gain access to safe, affordable and reliable power. And we're still here more than 80 years later delivering on that original mission to improve the quality of life for our members.

In fact, cooperative organizations around the world adhere to the same set of core principles and values. These seven cooperative principles are a key reason why electric

cooperatives operate differently from other types of electric utilities. We put the needs of our members first.

Information and education guides success

One of our key cooperative principles – Education, Training and Information – really explains why your local electric cooperative invests in this magazine. It's important to educate and train our cooperative members, elected directors and co-op employees so they can effectively contribute to the development and success of the cooperative. We believe informed members like you make better decisions.

Thank you for taking time every month to read this publication. We make it a priority to keep you

informed on regional electric cooperative news, the latest trends in the electric industry, energy efficiency tips that can save you money and safety information to protect your family. We also enjoy sharing member photos and member recipes with you each month. Make sure to bookmark our updated website at www.ieclmagazine.com where you can enter our monthly Editor's Choice Contest for a chance to win a great prize!

We believe our new name and updated design will help us connect with our greatest cooperative asset – our members.

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an Instant Pot!

This Instant Pot Pro is a pressure cooker, sous-vide cooker, slow cooker, rice cooker, food warmer, yogurt maker, cake maker, sauté pan and steamer. The generous 8-quart capacity cooks up to eight portions – ideal for families, meal prep and batch cooking. An essential machine for every kitchen, this Instant Pot has an upgraded steam release switch with a noise-diffusing cover plus easy-grip handles on the inner pot, a large LCD screen and an auto-sealing lid.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Oct. 31, 2021. 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 Breville Panini Press from the August issue was Melvin & Kay Hauf from Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart



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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

We accept



CELEBRATING NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

BY LEILANI TODD

Each October, cooperatives across the nation celebrate National Co-op Month. It is an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and unique collaborative spirit, while also educating others about the value of belonging to a cooperative.

Cooperatives are filled with diverse people from all walks of life who, together, unite for a common purpose. Just like all cooperatives, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) was created out of necessity – to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. That's when our story begins, in 1947 when investor-owned utilities failed to extend electric services to our local farms and rural homes. Your ancestors took it upon themselves to organize a cooperative to provide those services to themselves and their neighbors. Today, 74 years later, CVEC continues to provide reliable service to approximately 6,000 members in the seven counties we serve.

Co-ops serve the greater good

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain – the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. At CVEC, our mission is to safely deliver reliable power and innovative services at competitive rates while providing superior member services. We continue to have constructive dialogue on new and existing challenges while also finding new ways to meet our members' needs.

Our vision is to power the lives of our members while improving the quality of life in the communities they live. Our close connection to the communities we serve ensures we have a firsthand perspective on members' priorities. This enables us to make more informed decisions

on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs and more.

CVEC is a reflection of our local communities and their evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

Membership matters

Although every aspect that makes up a cooperative is important, our members are

at the top. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the cooperative is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Many of CVEC's leadership team and employees live in the communities we serve. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on cooperative lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like YOU.

We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input. We encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in cooperative elections. YOU empower the co-op through your membership and your participation in our cooperative programs.

We hope you will think of CVEC as more than your energy provider. We are a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people. We will continue to learn about your priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric cooperative was built for you, by you. CVEC does not have customers, we have members – YOU! Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative is YOU!

Leilani Todd is the CEO/general manager of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.



TROY AMOSS' CAREER COMES FULL CIRCLE

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) is pleased to announce that Troy Amoss has accepted a new position as the manager of operations at CVEC.

Troy is an Albia native who began his cooperative career at CVEC in the late 1980s when he was hired as part of the summer "brush crew." The hard work did not deter him from coming back after he graduated from high school in 1990 to begin working as an apprentice lineman. He completed his apprentice training and was a journeyman lineman when he left CVEC in the summer of 1996 to pursue his dream of becoming a professional calf roper on the rodeo circuit.

When Troy decided to retire from his professional rodeo career, he returned to working with cooperatives. He was hired at Ozark Border Electric Cooperative (OBEC) as a journeyman lineman in 2006. In 2016, Troy was



promoted to a staff position within OBEC as a supervisor, overseeing the operations of the Puxico and Malden, Missouri, service area. He was promoted again in 2018 to operations manager for OBEC.

In July 2020, Troy returned to his hometown and joined CVEC as a journeyman lineman once again.

When asked what he looks forward to most in his new position, he doesn't hesitate.

He says, "To serve the members and the community where I was raised and first started my career."

In his spare time, Troy, his wife Lori and their three boys, Brock, Shay and Trell, work on their family farm and attend activities at church, school, 4-H and FFA.

Please join us in congratulating Troy on his promotion. Your CVEC family is proud of your accomplishments!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Thank you to the members who participated in our recent membership satisfaction survey. Your feedback will help us plan for the future!



RYAN ROMANCO PROMOTED TO JOURNEYMAN

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) is thrilled to announce that Ryan Romanco has passed all the required assessments and trainings to achieve his journeyman lineman status. As of August, he is now part of the select group of highly skilled individuals who work both a physically demanding and challenging job each day to keep our power on!

Ryan is an Albia native who received his Powerline Technician degree from Marshalltown Community College in April 2018. He started his career right here at CVEC as a 1,000-hour



apprentice in May 2018 and was offered a full-time apprentice linemen position in October 2018. He has spent the last few years working through the steps of the apprenticeship program, where he continued coursework and learned firsthand from experienced journeymen linemen here at CVEC.

Ryan is a valued member of our team and we are proud of his commitment to the apprenticeship program and to CVEC.

Congratulations, Ryan! Your future is bright!

WHICH HEAT PUMP OPTION IS RIGHT FOR MY HOME?

BY PAT KEEGAN AND BRAD THIESSEN

Heat pumps can be a good alternative for heating homes. The technology has improved a lot over the past 10-20 years and is likely to be at least 20% more efficient than traditional home heating systems. In the summer, heat pumps can also cool your home, which is a bonus!

There are a variety of home heat pump options on the market today. Newer models of heat pumps can operate effectively in sub-zero weather, but sometimes they do so by switching to electric resistance mode, which is much less efficient. In a colder climate, it may be worth investing in a dual fuel system where propane or another fuel provides supplemental heat on extremely cold days.

The condenser for a mini-split is often mounted on an exterior wall.



A homeowner shows off his energy-efficient ductless heat pump.

Photos: Marcela Gara, Resource Media

Here are a few situations where you might use the different types of air-source heat pumps.

1 Ducted heat pump

If your home has a forced-air furnace, a centralized air-source heat pump can work well. A compressor outside your home that looks like an A/C unit is connected to your home's existing duct system. Like your furnace, the temperature is controlled through one main thermostat. This is a solid solution if your system has quality ductwork that heats and cools every room evenly, which is rare.

The ductwork in most homes is not designed to heat or cool every room evenly. Long supply runs provide little air to some rooms, and it's typical for some rooms to lack return air registers. Also, ductwork is often leaky, which creates comfort issues. If leaky ducts are in unheated areas such as crawl spaces or attics, it will increase your heating and cooling costs. Poor ductwork will render any kind of central heating or cooling system much less effective. Some HVAC contractors can repair ductwork problems if the ductwork is accessible.

2 Mini-split heat pump

If your home does not have ductwork or the ductwork is poorly designed or leaky, a ductless mini-split heat pump might be your best bet.

With a mini-split heat pump, tubes connected to the outside compressor carry refrigerant to one or more air handlers, which are mounted high on a wall to distribute air. Thermostats regulate each air handler, providing control of different zones in the home.

In climates that don't experience extreme cold, a ductless heat pump could supply all the heating and cooling in a small home. They are often used in combination with a central heating and cooling system. Ductless mini-splits are an excellent option if you don't have central air ducts, your ducts are leaking, or you only want the new ductless heat pump to heat or cool part of the home.

3 Geothermal (or ground-source) heat pump

Several feet underground, the temperature remains constant year-round, typically between 45-75 degrees F, depending on latitude. Heat is transferred into or out of the ground by pipes buried in a loop 10 feet underground or drilled up to 400 feet into the earth. The pipes carry water to a compressor, which uses a refrigerant to transfer the heat to or from your home's ducts.

A geothermal heat pump system is extremely energy efficient since the earth's temperature is warmer than the outside air in the winter and cooler than the outside air in the summer.

But this efficiency comes with a high price tag, which is the initial cost to install the pipe loop or drill the hole for a vertical pipe.

Heat pump efficiency basics

Heat pumps vary in efficiency, and this is measured in two ways. The Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) rating measures heating efficiency and the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) rating measures cooling efficiency. The minimum ratings for a new heat pump are HSPF 8.2 and SEER 14. Heat pumps with the ENERGY STAR® rating are significantly more efficient than the minimum standard. The quality of the installation also matters, and some contractors will have more experience and training than others.

This information is a good starting point for research of heat pumps, but it is also important to check with a local electric co-op for additional information and guidance. If you have a qualified energy auditor in your area, an audit could be a great next step, especially if it includes a duct leakage test. The next step is to reach out to contractors and request a few quotes.

Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency write on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



This trench shows where pipes will be buried to utilize the constant temperature of the earth for a ground-source heat pump.

Flavorful PORK RECIPES

SEASONED PORK LOIN

- 1 cup brown sugar, divided
- ½ cup and 2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 8 cups water, divided
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 handful peppercorns
- 1 4-5-pound pork loin
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- liquid smoke

Combine ½ cup brown sugar and ½ cup salt in 6 cups water, bring to a boil. Stir until dissolved and then add bay leaves and peppercorns. Lower heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Turn off heat and allow brine to cool completely to room temperature. Add pork loin and brine to a zip-top bag, squeeze out as much air as possible and seal. Put sealed bag into a large pot or bowl and refrigerate for at least 12 hours, up to 24 hours. Mix ½ cup brown sugar, 2 teaspoons salt, smoked paprika, chili powder, cumin, garlic powder, black pepper and cayenne pepper to create a pork rub. Remove pork loin from brine and generously apply rub to all sides of the loin. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Remove from fridge and remove plastic wrap. Place on a wire rack over a sheet pan with sides. Place 2 cups water and liquid smoke in the pan. Bake at 400 degrees F for 45 minutes, then turn down to 250 degrees F for 7 hours or until internal temperature is 190 degrees F. Turn off the oven and let pork rest in the oven for 1 hour. For pulled pork, shred after removing from the oven or for pork loin slices, wrap in foil and slice the next day.

Lisa Stuck • Dows • Prairie Energy Cooperative

ZESTY PORK LOIN

- 1 4-pound pork loin roast
- 1 package Hidden Valley Ranch mix
- 1 package au jus mix
- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- 1 16-ounce jar sliced pepperoncini, drained

Trim excess fat from pork loin and place roast in slow cooker. Sprinkle ranch mix on roast and then sprinkle au jus on top. Cut butter into pieces and place on top. Put pepperoncini on last. Cook on low for 5 hours. Serves 8

Donna Faga • Adair
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association

PORK CHOP BAKE

- 4 pork chops
- 4 potatoes, sliced
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- ½ can milk (use soup can)
- cheese, grated

Layer ingredients in baking dish in order listed, top with cheese. Bake covered at 350 degrees F for 2 hours. Serves 4-6

Connie Hoffman • Carroll
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

PINEAPPLE PORK TACOS

- 1 white onion, thickly sliced
- ½ fresh pineapple, cut into chunks (about 2 cups)
- 1 pound pork tenderloin, thinly sliced crosswise
- 8 corn tortillas, warmed
- ½ cup cilantro, roughly chopped
- lime wedges

Arrange oven rack about 6 inches from the heating element and preheat broiler. Arrange onion and pineapple on a large foil-lined baking sheet and broil 6-8 minutes, stirring once or twice, until softened and browned in parts; transfer to a platter and keep warm. Arrange pork on the same baking sheet and broil 6-8 minutes, stirring once or twice, until cooked through and golden brown; transfer to platter with pineapple and onion and toss gently. Spoon onto tortillas, top with cilantro and serve with lime wedges on the side.

Jamie Zomermaand • Maurice
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

BARBECUED PORK ROAST

- 3½ pound pork roast
- 1½ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- salt and pepper, to taste
- onion, to taste

Brown roast and put in slow cooker. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over roast. Cook on low all day. Leftovers make good sandwiches. Adjust the ingredients down for a smaller roast.

Janice Schneidermann • Little Rock
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

BRUNCH HOT DISH

- 2½ cups herbed croutons
- 2 cups American cheese, shredded
- 1½ pounds pork sausage, browned and drained
- 4 large eggs
- 3 cups milk, divided
- ¾ teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can mushrooms, drained (optional)

Place croutons in a sprayed 8x12-inch baking dish. Top with cheese and then sausage. Beat eggs together with 2½ cups milk and mustard. Pour egg mixture over cheese and sausage. Let set in refrigerator overnight. Before baking, dilute mushroom soup with ½ cup milk and pour over top of hot dish. Sprinkle on mushrooms if desired. Bake at 300 degrees F for 1.5 hours. Serves 8

DeeAnn Paulsrud • Danbury
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

PORK CHOPS AND CREAMY RICE

- 1½ cup instant rice
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup milk
- 1 envelope dry onion soup mix
- 4 pork chops

Heat the canned soups and milk, then stir in rice. Place rice mixture in the bottom of a greased 9x13-inch casserole dish. Lay pork chops on top of rice and sprinkle with onion soup mix. Cover and bake at 325 degrees F for 1.5-2 hours. No need to brown chops first.

Ruth Van Zandbergen • Orange City
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

SWEET AND SOUR PORK RIBS

- 1 pound pork ribs
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- ½ cup ketchup
- ½ cup water
- 2 teaspoons vinegar
- sliced pineapple (optional)

Fry ribs until brown. Mix all other ingredients in a bowl, then coat ribs with sauce mixture. Simmer for one hour. Serves 4-6

Denise Anderson • Ocheyedan
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.

WANTED:

DATE NIGHT AT HOME



THE REWARD:

\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!

Deadline is Oct. 31, 2021

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

EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com

(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes

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

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT

BY KAY SNYDER

A theme for this year's National Co-op Month is "By the Community, For the Community." Developing industrial property to support business growth and job creation is a perfect example of this in practice.

For three and a half decades, Iowa's electric cooperatives have supported the development of **95 industrial parks** totaling more than **7,250 acres** of property. Why is this important? Industrial parks are instruments for attracting business investment and for creating jobs. Established industrial parks generate comparative and competitive advantages that attract innovative businesses, leading to more jobs and a larger tax base.

Serving a growing number of commercial and industrial customers

In 1985, Iowa rural electric cooperatives established Iowa Area Development Group as their economic development organization to lead a concerted effort to grow the business and industrial base in Iowa. The number of commercial & industrial (C&I) customers the cooperatives

are serving is an indicator of this initiative's success.

Here is a snapshot of progress over the last 35 years:

- Large C&I members have grown from 67 in 1985 to 321 in 2020.
- Small C&I members have grown from 4,590 in 1985 to 28,713 in 2020.
- In 1985, C&I sales were 14% of total sales; in 2020 they were 54%.

- In 1985, C&I revenues were 12.6% percent of total revenues; in 2020 they were 45%.

Industrial parks bring unique benefits to the communities and regions in which they are located. Here are three examples from across the state.

Stanton Technology Park

Stanton recently broke ground on the 22-acre **Stanton Technology Park** located on the city's northeast side at the intersection of U.S. Highway



Stanton Technology Park

34 and Halland Avenue. Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (FMTC) will provide robust technology and connectivity capabilities to the park, which is necessary to attract high-tech companies looking to locate in a rural area. The Stanton Child Resource Center will be the first business to locate in the park. Onsite day care is a perfect amenity to attract companies to the park. Both **Southwest Iowa REC** and **FMTC** have provided financial support and will serve the park's electric power and technology needs.

Calhoun County Business Park

In early June, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to recognize the start of construction on the **Calhoun County Business Park**. This is the county's first business park and is strategically located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 20 and Highway 4 north of Rockwell City. The 16.5-acre first phase is currently under development. When all four phases are complete, the park will provide 115 acres of industrial space. Top prospects for the park include cold storage, warehouse, distribution and logistics companies. **Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** and **Corn Belt Power Cooperative** are partners in the park and are joined by **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** and **Butler County REC** in providing financial support for development.

Butler Logistics Park

The **Butler Logistics Park** is a prime example of the significant

development that can happen as a result of available industrial space. Since the creation of the 92-acre first phase in 2014, the park has seen phenomenal expansion and success. Phase one is now home to POET ethanol plant, American Colloid and Zinpro, as well as a rail classification yard serving up to 150 cars for Iowa Northern Railway.

In 2019, the 230-acre second phase was quickly purchased by TrinityRail, a \$60 million facility for rail repairs, maintenance and modifications. This project created approximately 250 jobs. Also in 2019, Valor Victoria, Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR), Watco Companies and Union Pacific (UNP), launched an internationally focused intermodal service through the newly developed Butler Intermodal Terminal at the Butler Logistics Park. This service provides an alternative to larger Midwest rail hubs and provides shippers with a cost-competitive solution that reduces long-haul trucking miles.

"Iowa Northern is thrilled to be part of this remarkable new service product for Iowa industries seeking strategic solutions to maintain a competitive global presence in the marketplace," says Daniel Sabin, president of Iowa Northern Railway.

In 2021, Shell Rock Soy Processing, a new start-up venture, purchased approximately 100 acres in the park's third phase to construct a soy processing facility. Scheduled to open

in 2022, this facility will employ 50-60 workers and is expected to crush 38.5 million bushels of soybeans annually.

Currently, 60 acres are available on the south side of the park for additional development. This is truly a "build it, and they will come" story made possible through important partnerships between **Butler County REC**, local, regional, state and federal partners.

Additional industrial and business parks in various stages of development are located across Iowa, including LeMars, Estherville, Algona, Humboldt, Marion and more. Visit www.IADG.com/sites-buildings to view available properties.

By the community, for the community

Electric cooperatives' active community involvement ensures a firsthand understanding of local priorities and enables them to make informed decisions on long-term investments.

While the theme "By the Community, For the Community" can take on a variety of meanings, it applies perfectly when recognizing the contributions electric cooperatives have made in generating business and industrial growth, which then create jobs and wages that support the people and communities they serve.

Kay Snyder is the director of marketing and communications for the Iowa Area Development Group.



Calhoun County Business Park



Butler Logistics Park

RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE,
RESPONSIBLE

ELECTRICITY

BY MARK VIGUET

Associated and the six transmission cooperatives built and maintain one of the largest co-op grids in the nation, ensuring reliability.

From the White House, a proposed plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 means power generators like Associated Electric Cooperative, which supplies power to Chariton Valley Energy Cooperative, must intensify efforts to maintain reliability and affordability with responsibly generated electricity.

Associated is owned by and provides wholesale power to six regional transmission cooperatives who provide that power to 51 local electric distribution cooperative systems in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma that serve 2.1 million member-consumers. Their priorities are clear.

“Our mission mirrors the priorities of the member-owners served by our system, who want reliable, low-cost electricity,” says David Tudor, CEO and general manager of Associated. “We have successfully navigated many changes in presidential administrations, policies and regulations over many years and will continue to do the right things, for the right reasons, at the right times.”

Renewable leadership

A cornerstone of any plan to reduce carbon includes increasing renewable power sources like wind, which are variable, not reliable – only available when the wind is blowing or, in the case of solar power, when the sun is shining. Today, no battery technology exists that duplicates the reliability of traditional generation like nuclear, coal or natural gas plants.

Associated has been a renewable power leader for Missouri, bringing the first utility-scale wind farms to the state in 2007 by contracting to buy all the power produced by the wind farms. Since then, Associated has increased its total to eight wind farms. The two most recent wind farms were added in 2020. Hydropower is another Associated renewable resource, purchased through a long-term contract with the federal government.

Reliability concerns

“Associated’s renewable resources have been carefully located and integrated into our owner’s transmission systems so they can be supported with reliable coal and natural gas plant resources,” Tudor says. “You can find no greater example of the value of those 24/7 power sources – coal and natural gas – than the February winter storm, where cooperatives avoided rolling blackouts as utilities all around our system put customers in the dark.”

Affordability is a key member priority

Rural America needs an affordable power supply for their homes, farms and businesses. That much is plain from triennial survey results where members say it’s one of their top priorities – and concerns. Associated ranks among the lower cost wholesale power suppliers in the country and that is by design, not accident.

“When we make decisions, cost is near the top of the list. We always ask ‘Does this make good economic sense for our members?’” Tudor explains. “By keeping



Associated added about 470 megawatts of wind energy in 2020, taking its contracted wind energy resources to more than 1,240 megawatts of nameplate capacity. This led to new wind production records in 2020.

that goal prominent, we’ve delivered power that is affordable while also generating responsible power with a balanced resource mix.”

Implementing a realistic plan will take time and money

Associated is working hard to preserve member benefits in a changing industry with increasing challenges. The cooperative has been educating state and federal legislators about the realities of an overly aggressive White House plan and the choices power generation companies face.

“Technology that doesn’t exist today must be developed to store renewable energy effectively and affordably, while high-voltage transmission networks need upgrades to handle the changing generation mix reliably,” Tudor says. “Both of those key elements will take time and money, and lots of both. We are working to make sure our legislators understand this.”

For more information about Associated Electric and its responsible generation efforts, visit www.aeci.org.

Mark Viguet is the senior manager of corporate communications for Associated Electric Cooperative.

This concrete tank allows fly ash to be recycled and water reused at the Thomas Hill Energy Center.



United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. **Publication title:** *Living with Energy in Iowa*
2. **Publication number:** 1935-7176
3. **Filing date:** 8/10/2021
4. **Issue frequency:** Monthly
5. **Number of issues published annually:** 12
6. **Annual subscription price:** N/A
7. **Complete mailing address of known office of publication:** 8525 Douglas, Suite 48, Des Moines, Polk County, IA 50322-2992
Contact person: Charles Soderberg
Telephone: 515-276-5350
8. **General business office of publisher:** Same as above.
9. **Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:**
Publisher – Charles Soderberg, EVP
Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives,
8525 Douglas, Suite 48, Des Moines, Polk County, IA 50322-2992; Editor – Ann Thelen, same address as above; Managing Editor – N/A.
10. **Owner:** Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, 8525 Douglas, Suite 48, Des Moines, Polk County, IA 50322-2992
11. **Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities:** None
12. **Tax status:** The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.
13. **Publication title:** *Living with Energy in Iowa*
14. **Issue date for circulation data:** August 2021
15. **Extent and Nature of Circulation:**

	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
a. Total no. of copies	55,176	55,130
b. Paid/requested circulation:	54,563	54,518
(1) Mailed outside-county mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541		
c. Total paid distribution	54,563	54,518
d. Free or nominal rate distribution		
(3) Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS	589	582
e. Total free or nominal rate distribution	589	582
f. Total distribution	55,152	55,100
g. Copies not distributed	24	30
h. Total	55,176	55,130
i. Percent paid	98.93%	98.94%
16. **Electronic Copy Circulation** 0 0
17. **Publication of Statement of Ownership** Printed in the October 2021 issue of this publication.
18. **Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager or owner:** Charles Soderberg, Executive Vice President (8/10/2021). I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

IT'S TIME TO SAVE ENERGY!

Heating season will arrive soon, making it a great time to plan to save energy.

No matter what kind of heating system you have in your house, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. But remember, an energy-efficient furnace alone will not have as great an impact on your energy bills as using the whole-house approach. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bill while reducing environmental emissions.

7 Heating Tips

- ① Set your programmable thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and lower the setpoint when you're sleeping or away from home.
- ② Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as recommended.
- ③ Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.
- ④ Eliminate trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if unsure about how to perform this task, contact a professional.
- ⑤ Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- ⑥ Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- ⑦ During the winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Source: energy.gov

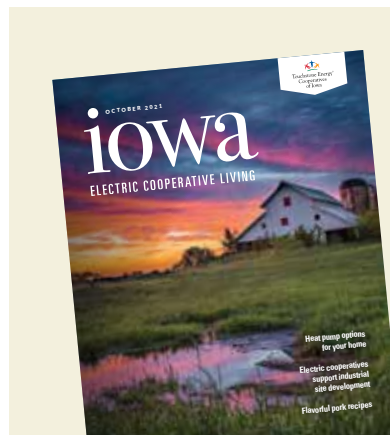


IMAGES WANTED

To have your photo considered for a future cover, email high-res images to editor@ieclmagazine.com.

If we select your photo, you'll be

awarded with **\$100.**



ADVENTURES IN BULK BUYING

BY VALERIE VAN KOOTEN

Iowa has a plethora of bulk grocery stores, many of them operated by the Amish or the Mennonites. There are the more established stores in Kalona and Hazleton, with newer ones popping up in the Albia, Troy and Chariton areas. Each has its own vibe and offerings.

I have long been an avid purveyor at bulk stores. No, that's an understatement. I need to admit my weakness – buying things in bulk makes me a little crazy. Of course, I purchase items that I will actually use, such as dried onions and whole cloves for holiday decorations. But things go haywire when I run across something novel, buy it, and then have no idea what to do with it later.

Novelty doesn't run in bulk

For instance, take a 4-pound bag of marshmallow bits, the kind that come in a favorite breakfast cereal, but just the marshmallows. The best part! My kids would love these! Which was true, for about three days. They snarfed them to a nausea-induced state and then swore off them forever. After several months in the freezer, the marshmallow bits got thrown into a snack mix and were finally consumed.

My most boggling purchase was the 3-pound bag of meringue powder. I have made precisely one meringue pie in my life – lemon – and even my home economics teacher in high school had to admit it was perfect. However, I never again have had the motivation or the time to repeat this feat.

I have no idea how many pies could be made from 3 pounds of meringue powder, but obviously this package was meant for someone manufacturing tarts on an industrial scale. Why I purchased it remains a mystery swathed in the mists of time. After incredulous laughter from my family, my grandma took it off my hands. When she died several



years later, we cleaned out her house and discovered the bag remained unopened in her cupboard.

Mountains of mums

Lest you think I only overbuy at bulk stores, I'm bound to disappoint you. A newer entrant into the bulk sales world is the Amish produce auction, held several times a week throughout the year. Everything is bid on in large lots – 36 peppers, a box of 150 pumpkins or 15 large mums.

Who can resist those mums—colorful and full, lined up in rows, just waiting to be taken home?

And so I bit. My plan was to keep six of them and sell the rest to friends and family. Great idea but transporting them in my cramped Grand Am without crushing them meant a feat of gymnastics unknown to the Olympics. First, the plants were much larger than they looked standing together bloom to bloom. I wedged them into the trunk, tucked them

onto the floorboards, folded them on either side of my legs. It looked as if Shakespeare's Birnam Wood had come to life, driving down the road.

Second, a hitherto unknown problem came hopping to life. Each mum housed at least 9.5 grasshoppers, all of which began jumping around the car – except for the .5, which dropped wings on my lap. Opening the windows sucked some of them out, but the wind also mangled the mums.

After a precarious journey, we arrived home. I kept the best mums and gave the rest away. I didn't have the nerve to charge for them in their diminished condition.

I still buy mums every year, bringing a larger vehicle along. But I've sworn off the meringue powder. I promise.

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, two incredibly adorable grandsons and a lovely granddaughter.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

October 2021

Visit our website at www.cvrec.com

POWERING EVERY MOMENT

Just like no two people are the same, no two days are the same.
And in between, we all do very different things.

But no matter when or how, your local Touchstone Energy cooperative
is there to help you power every moment of it.

To learn more, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com

YOUR SOURCE FOR POWER. AND INFORMATION.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives
of Iowa