

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month: Beat the Peak!

The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home.

Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.



### OUR COOPERATIVE FAMILY:

## Dunn Announces Departure

**E**xecutive Vice President & CEO Charlie Dunn has announced he is leaving the cooperative effective Aug. 12. He has accepted the job of CEO at Warren County REMC in Williamsport, Ind., and will begin his duties there Aug. 15. The move will allow Charlie and wife, Julie, to be closer to his children, grandchildren and parents.

"I have greatly enjoyed my time at Farmers and working with our board to ensure our cooperative provides safe, efficient and affordable power," he said. "I will miss our members and being part of this community that quickly made me feel welcome."

Dunn joined Farmers Electric in June, 2014. He previously served as the Director

of Member Services and Economic Development at Mountain Electric Cooperative in Mountain City, Tenn. He also spent six years on active duty in the Army and served in both Operation Desert Storm and Iraq.

Throughout his tenure, Charlie was vocal proponent of hiring military veterans in the electric cooperative industry. In 2021, he was a featured guest on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) podcast, *Along Those Lines*, where he spoke on the growing emphasis of emotional intelligence and soft skills as co-ops emerged from the pandemic.



## Weston Graduates from MIP

**C**ongratulations to Director of Member Services & Communications Holi Weston who successfully completed the Management Internship Program (MIP) through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

MIP is a comprehensive, six-week program that provides in-depth analysis of the functions and processes of co-op management and helps participants better understand the mix of functions necessary for cooperative success. At the end of the course, participants present the results of an individual project that applies the MIP classroom learning experience to issues at their cooperative.



Holi Weston accepts her certificate of completion from Gary Pfann, director of Executive and Staff Education, NRECA

Save the Date!  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Sept. 13, 2022



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# 2021 CIPCO Power Supply Report

In 2021, CIPCO reaffirmed its commitment to moving forward with operations and strategies that ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective power for our 13 Member-owners.

In 2021 we witnessed multiple new generation sources come online to support the power needs of CIPCO's member systems, like Farmers Electric Cooperative. The \$85 million Summit Lake expansion, the largest project in CIPCO's 75-year history, realized a successful "first fire" of the new natural gas-reciprocating engines. As CIPCO continued testing electrical systems, tuned emissions control equipment and completed the final performance test, full commercial operation of the new engines was achieved on April 15. The repowered 110 MW peaking facility has performed well.

Adding to CIPCO's generation mix through Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) were the commercial operation achievements of both Wapello Solar, LLC, a 100 MWAC solar facility owned by Clēnera, and Independence Wind, a 54 MW facility in Delaware County owned by BHE Renewables. Both projects enhance CIPCO's generation mix as a source of low-cost power, providing needed energy and capacity across the system. This diversity in generation is critical to CIPCO's ability to effectively serve Farmers Electric Cooperative.

On the heels of Wapello Solar's launch in April, CIPCO and Clēnera announced plans for a new 100 MW<sub>AC</sub> PPA, Coggon Solar, in northern Linn County. The announcement drew resistance from local residents who made a public push to retain the solar site's 640 acres of land for agricultural use. Diligent work between CIPCO and Clēnera moved the project forward.

Farmers Electric Cooperative and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to our consumer members across the system. High-profile generation projects are often in the news, but projects essential to CIPCO's transmission operations are key components of CIPCO's mission. Each year, CIPCO completes a number of line and substation projects to ensure safe and reliable electric delivery across the system, including nearly 44 miles of transmission line work in 2021.

Weather continues to test rural electric cooperatives across the state, and 2021 was no exception. In February, a large portion of the country experienced a major snow and ice event, followed by record cold temps that debilitated utilities across the country. Energy demand and associated prices quickly moved upward as a number of generation assets were rendered unusable in parts of the country not accustomed to such cold weather. While CIPCO and its members largely escaped power outages, the financial impacts were felt throughout the year. Toward the end of the year, Iowa experienced the first-ever recorded derecho in the month of December that brought tornados with it as well. While system damage did not equal that of the August 2020 derecho, the one-day event caused significant damage to 69 kV and 161 kV lines and structures.

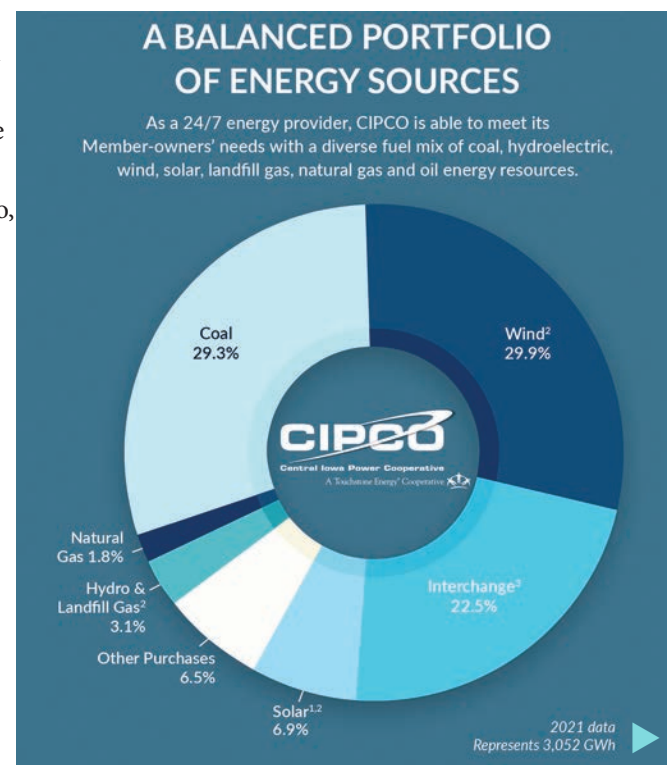
CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.29 hours per consumer without the December derecho and 1.31 with the derecho included. For 2021, Farmers Electric's was 0.19 hours per customer with and without the December derecho weather event.

Despite rising energy costs in 2021, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength. Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. In 2021, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$379,723 to Farmers Electric Cooperative.

CIPCO celebrated its 75th year in 2021, and I want to thank you for the privilege to serve on both the Farmers Electric Cooperative and CIPCO board of directors. The actions we take are designed to strengthen the systems and ensure CIPCO is well-positioned to serve member-owners now and into the future.



**DAN WESTPHAL**  
Representative on  
the CIPCO Board  
of Directors



# Welcome Mike Auten



Please help us welcome Mike Auten as the newest apprentice lineman at Farmers Electric. Mike began his duties at the beginning of June following his graduation from the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College.

Mike grew up in Mallard and is a 2020 graduate of West Bend-Mallard High School where he was active in wrestling, football and track.

As an apprentice lineman, Mike will complete 7,000 hours on the job, which equals four years of full-time training and instruction under the supervision of Farmers' journeymen linemen. The time allows Mike to develop his skills working with electricity, circuits, power lines and other electronic equipment.

Welcome, Mike!

# Extreme Temps Could Affect Members

**U**nder normal summer conditions, Farmers Electric members can anticipate the strong reliability they have come to expect from their cooperative. However, in certain extreme conditions, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), may be forced to initiate temporary controlled load curtailments.

MISO faces a potential generation shortfall this summer, resulting in a higher risk of energy emergencies during peak summer conditions. This shortfall is due to several factors including a significant increase in electric usage and power plants that are closing faster than new, dispatchable sources of generation can replace them. The growing number of wind and solar resources in Iowa greatly assist in overall energy production, but they only provide intermittent power.

MISO acts like an air traffic controller of the electric grid to manage real-time generation within its footprint across the middle U.S. and parts of Canada, including about 90% of Iowa, and ensures electric supply and demand are balanced. Farmers Electric's power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO),

participates in MISO to buy and sell generation as needed.

"CIPCO has a diverse 24/7 generation portfolio and has met all capacity requirements for member-owners like Farmers Electric," said CIPCO CEO Bill Cherrier. "While CIPCO has done its part, we are part of a larger regional grid that could be impacted by activities outside of Iowa. We are prepared to implement energy conservation methods and follow steps that align with MISO criteria to strategically, temporarily reduce load, and follow all protocols to ensure the grid stays balanced and stable through the summer months."

## You Can Help Beat the Peak!

"The more members we have conserving energy, the better for our cooperative," said Charlie Dunn, CEO. "Energy prices are high during peak periods and that impacts the power supply cost to everyone. If we all become more energy aware and make a few modifications in when we use energy, we can make a difference together."

We will notify our members of peak alerts and provide tips on conserving energy on our Web site, [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com), and Facebook page, [@FarmersElectricGreenfield](https://www.facebook.com/FarmersElectricGreenfield).



## Blomme Attends Youth Tour

**E**than Blomme was selected to represent Farmers Electric Cooperative on this year's NRECA Youth Tour. He joined 33 other students from electric cooperative across Iowa on the trip to Washington, D.C. in mid-June.

Ethan was one of 23 fellow Iowa YT representatives on an early morning, two-mile run with Senator Charles Grassley through the streets of Washington. A highlight of the annual trip, Grassley, 88, happily answered questions from the students on his favorite foods, his re-election, and his accomplishments.

Ethan is a senior at Nodaway Valley and is currently pursuing an AAS in automotive engine repair and automotive restoration. He is the son of Lora and Matthew Blomme of Bridgewater.

▶ 1 CIPCO's purchase power agreement for Wapello Solar LLC locks in stable, long-term pricing and avoids the risks associated with rising fuel costs. Renewable energy certificates (RECs) are not included in this agreement.

2 CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

3 A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.



## Grilled Caramelized Brown Sugar Pineapple

1 pineapple (cut into large wedges or chunks)

1/4 c. brown sugar

1/4 c. butter melted

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 T. honey

Preheat grill to a medium-high temperature. Thread pineapple onto skewers (if using wooden skewers, soak in water for at least 30 minutes before threading pineapple on). Combine brown sugar, butter, cinnamon, vanilla, and honey. Place skewered pineapple on a large plate or pan. Using a spoon or a brush, thoroughly glaze each piece of pineapple with the brown sugar mixture. Place skewers on preheated grill and cook for 5-10 minutes on each side, or just until the sugar-glaze starts to caramelize. Serve warm.



*therecipecritic.com*

## Smoked Queso

2 lb. Velveeta® cheese, cubed

2 lb. breakfast sausage, cooked and crumbled

1 8 oz. bag shredded Mexican cheese blend

2 10 oz. cans diced tomatoes and green chiles, undrained

1 c. pickled jalapeño slices

2 T. minced garlic

2 T. minced onion flakes

1/2 c. milk or beer

3 c. hickory wood chips, soaked for 30 minutes



*zgrill.com*

Place all ingredients except wood chips in a 9x13-inch disposable aluminum pan. Prepare grill. Place charcoal in a charcoal starter and light. When the coals start to turn gray, dump into the grill, placing all the coals to one side. Top the hot coals with some of the wood chips. Place the pan with the dip on the side of the grill without coals. Close grill. Cook the queso for 30-45 minutes, up to several hours, stirring periodically and adding wood chips to the top of the coals every 20 minutes. Add milk or beer to queso as it cooks to reach the desired consistency. Serve the dip with chips and/or veggie slices.

**Want a chance to get \$5 off your next electric bill? Enter a recipe in our recipe contest each month!**



Winners receive a \$5 credit on their account, with their recipes appearing in the next month's issue. Plan now to participate by mailing your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mailing it to: [HWeston@farmersrec.com](mailto:HWeston@farmersrec.com). **August: Summer Veggie Recipes**



**Farmers Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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The mission of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., is to deliver safe, reliable, affordable electricity and other services to improve the quality of life within our communities. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.