

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. Check out our grilling recipes on pg. 4 for some tasty ideas!



YOUR COOPERATIVE:

Co-op Board Positions Open for Candidates

If you're interested in a leadership position that contributes to your community and provides important direction for Farmers Electric, consider running for a board position.

The cooperative is seeking individuals to run in this year's board election held as part of the annual meeting in September. Anyone who is a member of Farmers Electric can serve on the board of directors.

Nominees must be co-op members who reside in the district for which they are running. If you are unsure which district you are in, call our office at (800) 397-4821.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A nominating committee helps find candidates to run in each district. Call a committee representative in your district to learn more.

East District:
Michael Rhoads, (515) 468-8297
Justin Keating, (515) 468-7255

Central District:
Dave Doud, (515) 238-4207
Rob Long, (641) 344-3028

West District:
Kent Stender, (712) 779-5590
Carl Ford, (641) 745-5255

Blankenship Earns Journeyman Certification



Congratulations to Joe Blankenship who completed his apprenticeship program to become a journeyman lineman!

Joe joined Farmers Electric in 2017

after graduating from the Utility Line program at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. As an apprentice, he worked side-by-side and under the supervision of other journeymen linemen to earn his journeyman status. The program is sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Labor and requires 7,000 hours of study, online testing, skill evaluations, safety regulations and additional testing administered by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities in partnership with Farmers Electric.

If you are considering installing solar at your home or farm, please contact the cooperative before signing any contracts. As solar gains popularity, we want to be sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system can impact your current account and billing rate. Call at (800) 397-4821 to discuss your options before investing in solar.



**ANNUAL MEETING
Sept. 19**



P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, IA 50849
FarmersREC.com | (800) 397-4821

2022 CIPCO Power Supply Report: Bridging the Gap

In 2022, the American electric utility industry raised significant concerns about the stability of our electric grid amid rising calls for the early closure of dispatchable generation sources.

Dispatchable generation, namely from fossil fuel resources, can be fired up and dispatched to the grid on demand at the request of power grid operators, according to market needs. In 2022, our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), continued to study ways in which it could reduce the risk of purchasing energy in a volatile market and bridge the resource gap left by the early closure of Duane Arnold Energy Center in 2020. To do this, CIPCO won't be able to rely on the dwindling dispatchable generation supply across the industry in the next decade, but rather seek out new, intermittent renewable energy assets to meet this need.

The stability of the grid and the ability of regional grid operators to meet power demands were put to the test not once, but twice in 2022, when the Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO) forecasted potential capacity shortfalls during both the summer and winter months. MISO warned of a potential summer peak electricity demand of 124 GW, or 5 GW more than what was projected to be available, prompting CIPCO and its Member-owned cooperatives to stress the importance of energy efficient practices among its members like you.

Later in the year as many of us were readying for the holidays, we faced Winter Storm Elliott, a "bomb cyclone" of intense wind, snow and frigid

temperatures that settled in across Iowa over the course of several days.

The skyrocketing demand during those times sent energy market prices soaring. The electric industry's reaction to two instances of extreme weather over the course of one year underscored the value of an "all-of-the-above" strategy that includes coal generation as one of many options during times of intense demand. Using all its available resources – including coal – CIPCO met all capacity requirements set forth by MISO.

CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.34 hours per consumer. For 2022, Farmers Electric's was 0.58 hours per member.

Despite volatile energy costs in 2022, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength.

CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2022, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$324,386 to Farmers Electric.

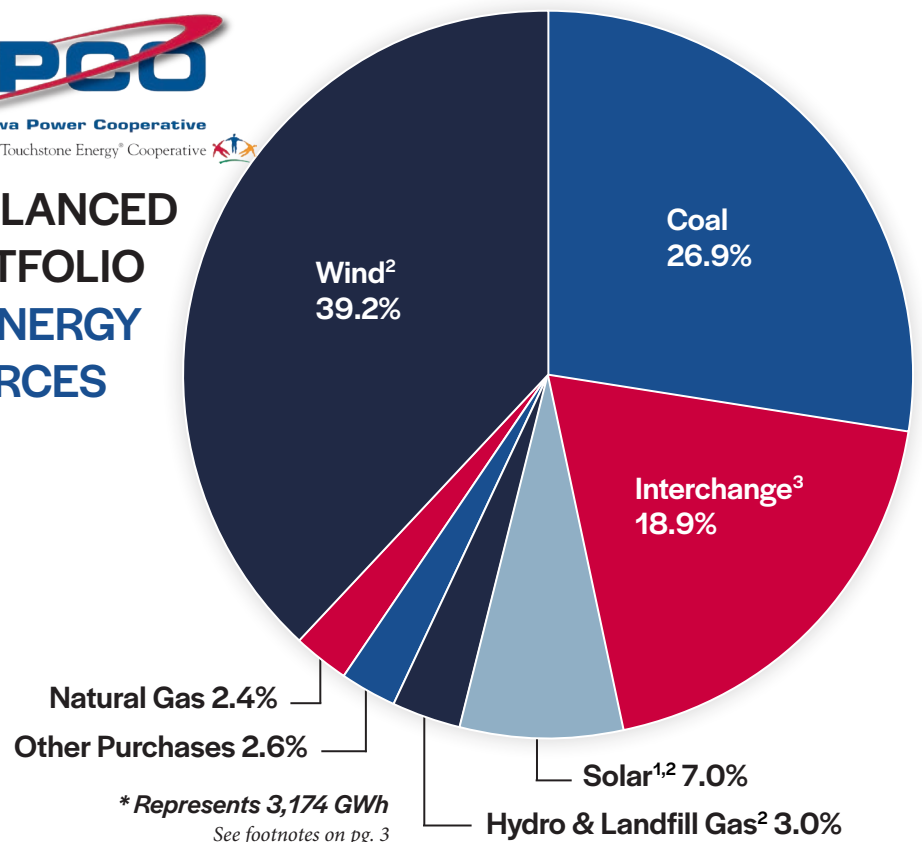


DAN WESTPHAL
Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

As a CIPCO director, I'm committed to guiding the organization through the industry challenges we anticipate in the coming years. I'm confident CIPCO is well-positioned to navigate these challenges, allowing both CIPCO and Farmers Electric to thrive. As a member, you can rest assured your electricity needs will be met now and in the years to come with safe, reliable and cost-effective power when you need it most.



A BALANCED PORTFOLIO OF ENERGY SOURCES



McCall Attends 2023 Youth Tour

Nodaway Valley High School student Megan McCall has returned from a weeklong trip to our nation's capital as part of this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

McCall was one of 38 from Iowa to attend YouthTour, along with roughly 1,800 students from across the country June 17-23. A highlight of the event is having the students create a "snack co-op" that accomplishes two things. First, it provides snacks at reasonable prices, and second, it teaches everyone about starting and operating a cooperative and being a member-owner. They even hold an annual meeting and distribute any margins leftover after the co-op is officially dissolved at the end of the event.



Megan McCall, right, is joined by Clay Morse from T.I.P. REC and Natalie Byrnes from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative enjoying the snack cooperative while in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, McCall joined the group to tour monuments, museums and historical landmarks in Washington, D.C., while learning more about electric cooperatives in American history and the electric cooperative business model.

Megan is the daughter of Diane and Ray McCall of Fontanelle.

We're Here to Serve You

Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed Farmers Electric Cooperative for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, our co-op helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting, keeping pace with changing technology and evolving needs.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, follow us on Facebook or visit our Web site, www.farmersrec.com for ideas. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the

best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, we would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for you. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we're here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle options. Farmers Electric can provide you with information about EV charging needs at home so you can make an informed decision. We also offer rebates on EV chargers.

So, the next time you hear us use the phrase "we're here to serve you," we hope you know that we mean it. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life. However you connect with us (online, in person, on social media), please let us know how we can serve you better.



HOLI WESTON
CEO



Footnotes from pg. 2

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 credits (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 credits 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.



Get Fired Up for NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH!

Aloha Burgers

- 1 8 oz. can sliced pineapple
- ¾ c. reduced-sodium teriyaki sauce
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 large sweet onion, sliced
- 1 T. butter
- 3 sesame seed or onion buns, split and toasted
- 4 slices Swiss cheese
- 4 bacon strips, cooked
- Lettuce



tasteofhome.com

Drain pineapple juice into small bowl; add teriyaki sauce. Place 3 T. in a shallow dish. Add pineapple slices; turn to coat and set aside. Shape hamburger into 4 patties and place in an 8" baking dish. Pour remaining teriyaki sauce mixture over patties; marinate for 5-10 minutes, turning once. Remove burger patties from marinade, discard marinade. Grill, covered, over medium heat or broil 4" from the heat for 6-9 minutes on each side or until a thermometer reads 160 degrees. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, sauté onion in butter until tender; about 5 minutes and set aside. Remove pineapple slices from marinade; discard marinade. Place pineapple on grill or under broiler to heat through. Layer bottom buns with lettuce and onion; top with burgers, cheese, pineapple and bacon. Replace tops.

Grilled Berry Peach Pie

- 1 pre-made pie crust, or homemade crust
- 3 c. berries and sliced peaches, fresh or frozen
- 1/3 c. granulated sugar plus more for sprinkling
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice
- Zest of ½ lemon (about 1 tsp.)
- 1 tsp. heavy whipping cream
- 2 disposable foil pie pans or square baking pans



crazyforcrust.com

Preheat grill as close to 350 as you can get. Place berries in a large bowl. Sprinkle with sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice and zest. Toss with hands. Unroll pie crust and place in disposable foil pie plate (or square pan). Place fruit in the center and fold up the edges to form the crust. Brush the edges with heavy whipping cream and sprinkle with sugar. Place a second foil pie plate or square pan upside down on the grill. Place the pie (in its pan) on top of the inverted pan and close grill lid. Cook until the crust is cooked through, about 20-30 minutes. Check it at 15 minutes and then every few minutes to avoid burning. Carefully remove pie from grill and allow to cool before slicing. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Enter to win \$5 off your electric bill!

Mail your recipe with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail to: HWeston@farmersrec.com. Send recipes by the 15th of each month to be included in the newsletter. AUGUST: SUMMER VEGETABLES



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.