

FARMERS *Open Lines* ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024



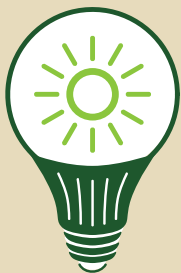
Office Closed July 23

The Farmers Electric Cooperative office will be closed Tuesday, July 23 due to RAGBRAI.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homeandgardens.com



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

AMID DESTRUCTION, WE RISE



Neighboring co-op Clarke Electric Cooperative of Osceola sent mutual aid to assist with power restoration. Photo courtesy of Clarke Electric Cooperative.



Farmers Electric Director of Finance and Accounting Lori Kinyon took this shot of what's left of her sister-in-law's home and farmstead following the May 21 storm.



An aerial view of Greenfield that clearly shows the tornado's path through the town. Photo by Paul Heineman.



Workers from Clarke Electric and Farmers Electric work along a road to replace broken poles. Photo by Kevin Pickrell.

CIPCO Power Supply Report: Powering Progress Together

As the energy landscape continues to shift around us, I'm happy to report that our cooperative renewed our long-term commitment to Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) by signing a new wholesale power contract. Negotiations lasted several years until CIPCO and its Member-owner electric cooperatives came to an agreement on the updated terms that provide a framework to integrate new technologies and serve as a foundation for critical long-term resource decisions while maintaining flexibility.

Although 2023 began amid a backdrop of economic uncertainty, persistent inflation, and ongoing supply-chain disruptions, the wholesale power markets somewhat calmed and CIPCO's financial results reflected a year of strong performance and competitive rates. CIPCO is proud to maintain competitive rates that, today, remain below rates charged to Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., more than 10 years ago.

As your representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors, I was involved in discussions around the challenges we expected to come from the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants, released in April this year. As expected, this barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation's ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time in our nation's energy future. Additionally, these rules push additional essential "always available" generating resources such as coal off the grid just as the nation is depending on electricity to power more of the U.S. economy.

On behalf of its Member-owners, CIPCO

stands united with its cooperative and industry peers to challenge detrimental regulations and advocate for sensible energy policies. Intermittent generation resources such as wind and solar are a valuable and growing portion of CIPCO's energy mix, but coal and natural gas generators are critical to preserve reliability, minimize emissions and keep electricity rates at an affordable level for Farmers Electric Cooperative and its members.

Severe weather events underscored the need for a robust transmission system in 2023. On March 31, a widespread tornado outbreak swept through the eastern part of Iowa, causing 23 system outages and 47 damaged transmission structures for CIPCO. In August, CIPCO reached a new all-time peak demand of 675 MW during a period of sustained high temperatures. I'm pleased to report that CIPCO met all its generation requirements as requested by the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and did not need to call on any of its Member-owners to shed load.

Despite these events and others, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of

0.209 hours per customer, one of the best years for reliability in CIPCO's history. For 2023, Farmers Electric Cooperative's was 0.02 hours per member.

In 2023, 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 2023, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$332,048 to Farmers Electric.

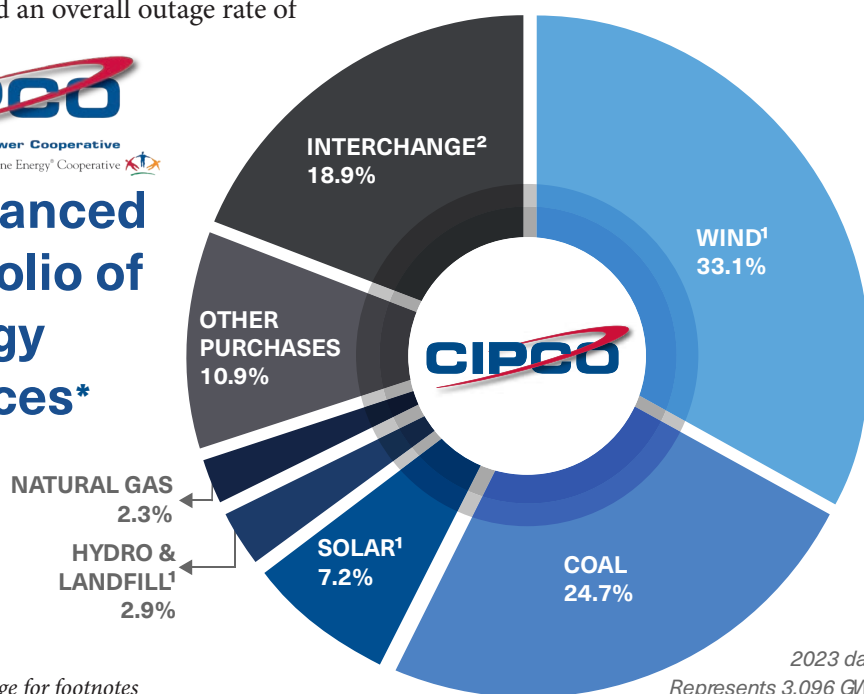
I can assure you that the CIPCO Board, member CEOs and the CIPCO management team are focused on finding solutions that balance the reliable, affordable and sustainable energy our members expect and deserve. No matter the complex issues before us, cooperative solutions are the answer.



DAN WESTPHAL
Representative on
the CIPCO Board
of Directors



A Balanced Portfolio of Energy Sources*



2023 data
Represents 3,096 GWh

* See next page for footnotes

Youth Tour 2024



Delaney Blomme, left, and Bailey Carstens, take a moment to thank Farmers Electric Cooperative during the 2024 Youth Tour.

Delaney and Bailey enjoyed the sites and activities around Washington, D.C., including the Washington Monument, pictured, during last month's trip. They were joined by 34 students sponsored by electric cooperatives in Iowa.

The all-expenses paid trip brings youth sponsored by electric cooperatives across the country to our nation's capital to build leadership skills, engage with congressional leaders, tour the sites and most of all, have fun!

Delaney and Bailey have been invited to share more about their trip during the Farmers Electric Annual Meeting Sept. 24. We hope to see you there!



We Are Stronger Together

For 86 years, Farmers Electric has called the communities within its service territory home. We call it “home” because we see ourselves as more than an electric cooperative. We are the friends and neighbors who work and live alongside you – in good times and bad.

Tuesday, May 21 began like many other spring days: with an eye on volatile weather headed our way. Like any storm, our co-op staff gathered to review and communicate plans for possible power outages or post-storm clean up. But unlike any other storm, the day would end with devastating loss and a community struggling to figure out what to do next. Media attention was intense as residents surveyed the damage, searched for precious belongings, and generally mourned the town of Greenfield that would never look the same.

Farmers Electric is grateful for the mutual

aid assistance from a neighboring electric co-op, Clarke Electric in Osceola, whose linemen helped the co-op begin the recovery process of replacing approximately 40 broken poles. In the cooperative spirit, they came ready to work a long day and with their help, widespread outages were resolved by Friday, May 24.

Though several co-op employees including myself either completely lost or had damage to their properties, all were safe. In times like these, I am proud of my community, my coworkers, my family and friends, and our fellow RECs that didn't hesitate to jump in and help. It's because of them that we can restore hope – along with power – to those who need it most.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

Footnotes from pg. 2

¹CIPCO 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, solar, 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.

²A 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.



Bacon Ranch Grilled Potatoes

- 1.5 lb. of potatoes
- 1/3 c. ranch dressing
- 4 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/4 c. shredded cheddar or colby jack cheese
- 2 T. fresh parsley, chopped finely
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Black pepper, to taste
- Non-stick cooking spray



gatherforbread.com

Preheat grill to 350 degrees. Scrub and slice potatoes. Using heavy duty foil if you have it (or double layer of regular foil), cut off a piece large enough to fold over potatoes on all sides. Spray evenly with non-stick cooking spray. Mix potatoes with ranch dressing. Layer on foil. Top with bacon, shredded cheese, salt, pepper and parsley. Grill about 15 minutes. Flip over and grill for another 15-20 minutes or until potatoes are fork tender.

Every month, Farmers Electric makes a call for recipes to appear in this newsletter. Submissions are entered to win \$5 off their next electric bill. Just mail your entry with your bill to Farmers Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or email it to HWeston@farmersrec.com.

August - Vegetables
September - none
October - Pumpkin
November - Thanksgiving
December - Holiday Treats



Grilled Kansas City Pork Chops

- 6 thin center-cut pork chops
- 6 T. packed brown sugar
- 3 T. paprika
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. onion powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/3 c. BBQ sauce



plainchicken.com

Preheat grill to medium high. Combine dry ingredients. Place pork chops in a sealed plastic bag. Add brown sugar mixture. Seal bag and shake to coat pork chops. Refrigerate 2 hours to overnight. Remove pork chops from bag and grill until done, 4 to 5 minutes per side. Brush pork chops with BBQ sauce on each side before removing from grill.

ANNUAL MEETING SEPT. 24
Adair Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building
Registration and free meal begins at 5 p.m. with the business session following at 6 p.m. Those in attendance will be eligible for the prize drawing beginning at 7 p.m.



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CEO:
Holi Weston

2389 Highway 92 | P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-0330
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.
24 hour outside depository
Ph: (800) 397-4821
Fax: (641) 343-7187
www.farmersrec.com

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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.