

intouch

WITH MEMBERS OF GRUNDY COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Vicki Daily, General Manager

Grundy County REC thanks the Iowa Legislature for passing Senate File (SF) 2311, and we applaud Governor Kim Reynolds for signing the legislation into law on May 4.

The legislation includes several sections that are beneficial to coopera-

Iowa energy bill provides affordability

tive members, especially with regard to rate affordability. Providing robust energy-efficiency programs and services has long been the foundation of Iowa's electric cooperatives' commitment to environmental stewardship. Over the past 10 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have invested more than \$120 million in energy-efficiency measures, saving at least 6 billion kilowatt-hours.

The bill signed into law by Governor Reynolds does not lessen our commitment to energy efficiency. Instead, SF 2311 provides much-needed regulatory parity and clarity for electric cooperatives. The newly signed legislation will ensure our energy-efficiency programs are cost-effective—meaning that cooperative members aren't footing

the bill for a program that isn't financially responsible.

The legislation also eliminates time-consuming and duplicative reporting to the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). It will require the IUB to consider existing federal regulations before establishing similar state mandates. This will save cooperative employees valuable time and resources, which will be directed toward further serving our members.

Many of the provisions in SF 2311 allow rural Iowans to be treated just like those who are served by a municipal utility. Governor Reynolds' signature on this bill means electric cooperative members will have the opportunity for rate stabilization and energy affordability well into the future.



New employee Tyler Paulding

Paulding joins co-op

Tyler Paulding comes to Grundy County REC from Cresco, Iowa, and will be working as a 1,000-hour lineman for the cooperative. He graduated from Crestwood High School and is also a recent graduate of the Northwest Community College's Powerline School. We welcome Tyler to our co-op family!

82nd annual meeting set for Sept. 6

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Not every electric utility invites the customers who use their product, electricity, to come to their annual meeting to elect the people that run the business. However, because you belong to a cooperative and are a member-owner, you have a chance to elect your fellow members to the board of directors of your REC.

This year's meeting will be held at the Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center, IA, on September 6, 2018. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:25 p.m.

Official notice of the annual meeting will be included with your August electric bill.



Keep utility poles clean

Everyone has seen or hung posters of miscellaneous announcements on utility poles. While it may seem like a harmless act, these items can cause harm to utility workers and are illegal in many areas.

Utility workers climb the poles to work around power lines that carry thousands of volts of electricity. Staples or nails embedded in the pole can lead to the utility worker snagging or getting a hole in their gloves, meant to insulate workers from high voltage and protect them from being electrocuted.

Foreign objects put into wooden utility poles can also cause poles to deteriorate more quickly, reducing their structural integrity and stability and increasing the risk for the pole to fall over when struck by a vehicle.

Hunting stands and basketball hoops have also been found attached to utility poles. This is dangerous for utility workers, yourself and anyone who uses these items. Keep as much distance between yourself and overhead power lines when doing any outdoor activity. In addition, under no circumstances should a satellite dish be attached to a utility pole.

Keep yourself and those in your community safe by not posting or hanging anything on utility poles. Find other alternatives such as yard stakes or online community groups.



Sen. Grassley visits Corn Belt Power

Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to your cooperative, welcomed Sen. Chuck Grassley to its Humboldt headquarters earlier this summer, where he visited about energy issues with ap-



Ken Kuyper (l), Corn Belt Power executive vice president and general manager, speaks with Sen. Chuck Grassley.

proximately 45 co-op employees, managers and directors. The visit served as part of his annual 99-county town meeting schedule.

Participants discussed the importance of the ethanol industry to Iowa's electric cooperatives, citing how 25 percent of the electricity Corn Belt Power's member co-ops deliver serves ethanol plants. Electric co-op representatives also detailed Corn Belt Power's Revolving Loan Fund.

Corn Belt Power personnel discussed the importance of 24/7 energy sources, especially in a market where tax incentives have created low cost wind generation. On May 14 when the wind was not blowing, high temperatures resulted in Corn Belt Power being called to run all of its combustion turbines and diesel generation – units that rarely operate. With early retirements of coal and nuclear plants, there is concern that the country may face a shortage of generation should there not be adequate compensation for coal and nuclear generation.

Sen. Grassley commented, "The war on coal is part of the problem. Everybody wants to do away with coal. The country won't wake up until we have some massive brownout that you're talking about. We couldn't predict on May 14 that the wind wouldn't blow. We ought to have investment that is over protection against brownouts."

Don't toy with your safety!

When you are playing outside, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations, and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



Flying kites or remote controlled toys is a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call your electric co-op immediately.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.

Geothermal incentives timetable

If you're considering a geothermal unit, now is the time to act. With the passage and signing into law of SF 2417, state-level geothermal credits are set to be eliminated beginning January 1, 2019.

Year	Federal Tax Credit Available	State Tax Credit Available
2018	30%	20% of federal tax credit
2019	30%	0%
2020	26%	0%
2021	22%	0%
2022 & Beyond	0%	0%

Contact your Touchstone Energy cooperative energy advisor today!

Skip the extended warranty

Almost one-third of consumers buy an extended warranty for a new cell phone, computer or appliance—but consumer advocates say that is most often a waste of money.



Give serious consideration as to whether to purchase an extended warranty.

Consider the average cost of a three-year extended warranty for a new dishwasher, which is \$157, according to Angie's List. Compare that with the \$159 average bill for a dishwasher repair.

They cancel each other—unless your dishwasher never breaks down during the warranty period.

Extended warranties come with exclusions, so read the fine print before you sign up. Most do not cover routine maintenance or damage that the owner accidentally causes. And some exclude parts of appliances.

You can void the warranty if you do not have your appliance regularly and professionally maintained.

Some warranties come with deductibles or charge a service fee every time you use them.

Still, in a survey by the Warranty Group, a warranty and underwriting company, consumers who bought extended warranties reported feeling more satisfied with their purchases than those who didn't.

Buyers are most likely to purchase extended warranties on exercise machines, major appliances and digital cameras, according to the survey, and least likely to buy them for mobile phones, computers and tablets.

Power to Your Community

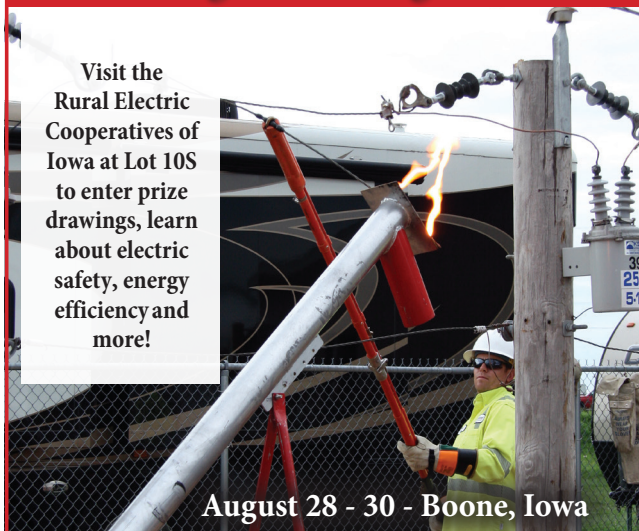
Visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth to learn more and register to win one of three Instant Pots.

Iowa State Fair
OFFICIAL SPONSOR
AUG 8-19 2018
Touchstone Energy
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Attending Farm Progress Show?

Visit the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa at Lot 10S to enter prize drawings, learn about electric safety, energy efficiency and more!



August 28 - 30 - Boone, Iowa

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

Climbing competency and basket rescue

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives Safety and Loss Control department recently conducted recertification for pole climbing and bucket rescue with our linemen. The co-op is required to document that each lineman can complete the required recertification annually. Grundy Co REC management, directors and employees feel that safety is a top priority and continually review safety procedures unique to the electric industry.



Foreman Tony Sienknecht completing pole climbing competency.



Lineman Aaron Bird completing bucket rescue competency.

Commitment to Community



Felix Grundy Days

Grundy County REC was one of the sponsors for the 30th anniversary of the Felix Grundy Festival held in Grundy Center July 6-7. Lineman Karl Nielsen (above) drove our large bucket truck in the parade. The two days of family fun activities included kids' activities, food vendors, the parade, a vintage market and a dance featuring The Pork Tornadoes.



Reinbeck's Fourth of July celebration

Despite soaring temperatures, Director Larry Rohach (above) braved the heat and drove his antique John Deere tractor in Reinbeck's annual Fourth of July parade. Way to go Larry!

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