

Electric cooperatives advocate for affordable and reliable power as Iowa's 2025 Legislative Session begins

Nearly 170 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives, including Director Jim Miller and Director Steve Pelz from Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association, traveled to downtown Des Moines on January 14 to attend our annual reception at the start of the 91st General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. At the event, co-op advocates were able to discuss concerns and priorities face to face with their state legislators. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

Representatives from Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives covered several important issues that

could impact the affordability and reliability of electricity for the members and communities we serve.

Our top legislative priority this session is protecting the state's defined electric service territories. In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business. For almost 50 years, these defined electric service areas have provided certainty to electric cooperatives as we work to maintain affordable rates, foster a resilient electric grid and invest in economic development throughout rural Iowa. We strongly oppose any efforts to change or amend the service territory law and you can learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

In the coming months, Iowa's 91st General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities. We'll have another opportunity to advocate for our members and communities at our annual Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Day on the Hill event on March 19. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.IAruralpower.org.



L to R – CCECA Board President Jim Miller, Representative Mike Sexton, Senator Tim Kraayenbrink, Representative Ann Meyer, and CCECA Director Steve Pelz

@ Update Your Contact Information

When was the last time you updated your contact information with Calhoun County ECA?

- Call 712-297-7112 or • Send the completed form with your payment

Complete the form and send with your monthly payment or mail directly to:

**Calhoun County Electric
Cooperative**
PO Box 312
Rockwell City, IA 50579

Name: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Landline ☐ Cell

Email: _____

CCECA 2025 Rebates

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative offers a variety of rebate incentives for our residential, agricultural, and commercial member-consumers.

- Rebate qualifications vary. Please review the appropriate rebate form for the requirements prior to purchase.
- Member-consumers planning to apply for rebates should keep receipts and must fill out the appropriate rebate form.
- Rebates of less than \$100 are credited to member-consumers' accounts.
- Rebates of over \$100 are paid by check 1 to 5 weeks after the application for the rebate is approved.
- Consider our rebates in conjunction with federal tax credits to save even more!
- Rebates for new construction, which includes new buildings and additional (non-replacement) capacity — may differ. Please contact CCECA for more information.

If you have any questions about qualifying products, please contact Richard Hall, Manager of Member Services, at **712-297-7112**.

Insulation & Weatherization

Insulation

Homes with electric heat (with or without central air conditioning):

- 40% of materials cost up to \$600 max./year

Homes with non-electric heat and central air conditioning:

- 20% of materials cost up to \$300 max./year

Homes with non-electric heat and no central air conditioning:

- No incentive available

Must increase ceiling to R38, wall to R19 or foundation to R10; radiant barriers not eligible.

Weatherization and Duct Insulation

Homes with electric heat (with or without central air conditioning):

- 40% of materials cost up to \$200 max./year

Homes with non-electric heat and central air conditioning:

- 20% of materials cost up to \$100 max./year

Homes with non-electric heat and no central air conditioning:

- No incentive available

Water Heating

High-Efficiency Storage Water Heaters

Minimum .90 Energy Factor rating; electric resistance storage tank-type water heaters only (no tankless water heaters). Rebates on Marathon water heaters are applied to the retail cost when purchased.
50-79 gallon • \$400/unit
80+ gallon • \$600/unit

Heat Pump Water Heater • \$500/unit

Add-on or integrated unit; must be connected to electric water heater. Must be ENERGY STAR qualified and include a CTA-2045 port for load control. Member must sign load control agreement.

Lighting

LED Security Lights - no more than 50% of cost, up to \$15

40+ watts • \$15/fixture

Electric Vehicles

Electric Vehicle Level 2 charger • 50% of the charger price up to \$500

- Member must submit charger make, model, serial number, specifications, charger receipt and vehicle make and model, VIN and license number
- Member must sign a load management agreement
- Chargers must be 240-volt hardwired per local codes (3 charger maximum per household)
- Charger installation is subject to verification by Calhoun County ECA

Heating & Cooling

Geothermal Heat Pump • \$1000/ton • \$50/unit bonus if installed with desuperheater. Must be ENERGY STAR® rated or a minimum of EER 14 and COP 3.3; 20-ton maximum per structure without prior approval.

Geo HP replacing Geo HP • \$500/ton
Only if original 10+ years old and not covered by warranty

Air Source Heat Pump

Two units maximum per single-family dwelling or outbuilding. One rebate maximum per family in multi-family dwelling.
SEER/SEER2 15.0+/14.3+ • \$500/ton

With gas backup and load control agreement
SEER/SEER2 15+/14.3+ • \$650/ton

Mini-Split/Hotel-Type Ductless Heat Pumps

Two units maximum per single-family dwelling or outbuilding. One rebate maximum per family in multi-family dwelling.
SEER/SEER2 15.0+/14.3+ • \$500/ton

Air Source or Geothermal Heat Pump Compressor Replacement • \$100/ton

- Controllable Resistance Heat • \$20/kW
- Central or zoned • Permanently installed
- Agreement for future load management

- Minimum: 10 kW or whole-house
- Heat pump back up not eligible

Heat Pump Checkup • \$50/unit

- Air Source or Geothermal systems eligible every 3 years
- Contractor must sign a minimum requirements checklist provided by REC.

Touchstone Energy Homes

If you build a new home or extensively remodel your current home to high energy-efficiency standards, you may be eligible for an additional Touchstone Energy Home incentive.

Option 1 • Standards Checklist
\$500 rebate when your home passes prescriptive construction checklist. Completed checklist must be signed by home owner and home builder/contractor.

Option 2 • Home Energy Rating Score (HERS)
\$1,000 rebate for HERS score of 53 or lower as rated by an REC-approved home energy rater. REC member pays for rating.

Only single-family, all-electric* homes are eligible.

* Some exceptions may apply. Ask REC for details.

Appliances

ENERGY STAR Heat Pump Clothes Dryer • \$100

ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer • \$50

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer • \$50

ENERGY STAR Dishwasher • \$25

ENERGY STAR Freezer • \$25

ENERGY STAR Refrigerator • \$25

Unit must be new, ENERGY STAR rated and installed at member's location. Subject to inspection by REC

Rebate forms and additional information can be found by visiting our website at www.calhounrec.coop/rebate-forms-and-specifications.com or by calling 712-297-7112.



Control Your Controlled Burn – Burning Ditches

Don't let your controlled burn get away from you

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and keep it under check, it can quickly spread too far and wide.

If you are considering implementing a controlled burn (also known as a prescribed fire) to address vegetation or weed management, be sure to follow several precautions to stay safe:

1. Don't start one without advance planning.
2. Certain groups should be notified: check with your town or village office; notify your local fire department; let your neighbors know your plans.
3. Obtain all necessary permits.
4. Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (as a general rule, relative humidity should be 40 percent or higher).
5. If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole.
6. Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.

Even with the best laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a burn; however, planning in advance can decrease the chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

Take the time to plan ahead, or your controlled burn could get expensive. The person who causes damage to a utility pole is responsible for the fees associated with replacing it.

There are many other safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before implementing one.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact Calhoun County Electric Cooperative at 712-297-7112.

LIHEAP End Notice

Please take note that the winter moratorium ends April 1, 2025. If your account(s) is past due and you have not made payment arrangements by March 31st, you will be subject to disconnection of your electric service. To avoid disconnection, you must pay your electric bill in full by April 1st or request a reasonable payment agreement for your past due account(s).

To pay off your account or establish a payment agreement, please call our office at 712-297-7112.



NATIONAL AG WEEK MARCH 18-24, 2025

Calhoun County ECA would like to acknowledge all of our member owners that work in Agriculture during National Ag Week. From the field to the table, we are committed to you, our members.

Thank you for your hard work!



Spring Forward

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS
FORWARD ONE HOUR**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.





Energy Trail Tour 2025

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience,

first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. Two lucky couples from Calhoun County Electric will be selected at random from those who sign up.



☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 18-20 1st 2nd (please circle)
July 9-11 1st 2nd

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25, 2025.

March Member Challenge

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answer to memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop, clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: www.calhounrec.coop/member-challenge-submission. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline!

Entries for this issue **must be received by Apr. 1st**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a **\$10 credit** on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least 4 times throughout the year, will be eligible for a \$100 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

Congratulations January winners:
RDR Ag LLC, Joel & Monica Wuebker, Ron & Joyce Weiss

1. In Iowa, your _____ determines which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business.
2. Rebates of less than \$ _____ are credited to member-consumers' accounts.
3. If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least _____ feet around the base of the pole.

Name _____

Reach Us

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Monday-Friday)

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-Th
7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. F
(Memorial Day-Labor Day)

CONTACT US 24/7:

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Toll Free:

(800) 821-4879

Visit us online:

www.calhounrec.coop

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info@calhounrec.coop

DIRECTORS:

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Vice President – Rockwell City
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Keaton Hildreth, CEO



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Call before you dig.

CALL 811
IOWAONECALL.COM

EASY WAYS TO PAY BILL:

Online: Access through www.calhounrec.coop and pay online 24/7.

Mobile App: Download our app

Auto Bill Pay (ACH): Deduct from your bank account. Find the form on our website or stop by the office.

Phone: Call the office and make a payment over the phone with a card or checking account.

**Outside Drop Box/
Front Counter:**
Rockwell City, IA

U.S. Postal Mail

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