



CONTROL YOUR CONTROLLED BURN

When 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 city 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

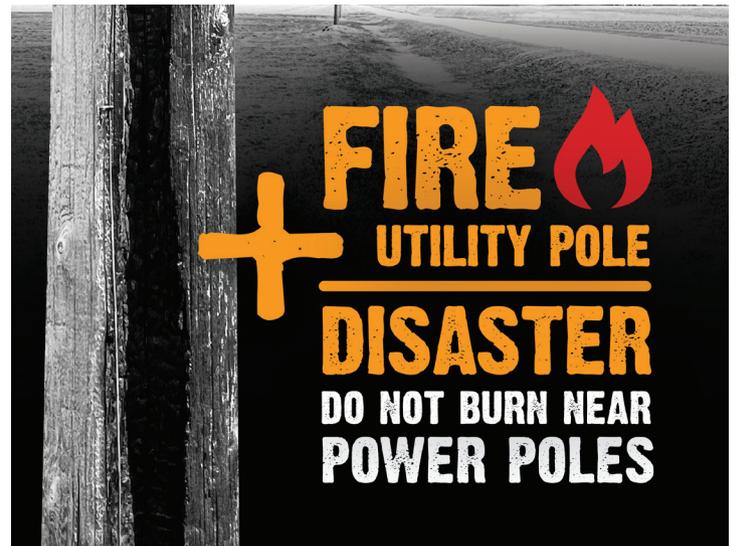
slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

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.

In addition to safety and replacement costs, damage to utility poles can create widespread impacts for other member-owners. A burned or weakened pole can fail unexpectedly, causing power outages, service disruptions, and potential safety hazards for surrounding homes, farms, and businesses. What may begin as a small, localized burn can quickly turn into a system-wide issue, impacting many members beyond the original burn area. Protecting utility infrastructure helps ensure reliable service not just for one property, but for everyone connected to the electric system.

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 CCECA at 712-297-7112.



COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The Iowa Utilities Commission requires that all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its membership:

If a member-consumer has a problem with his/her service, please write or call the office headquarters:

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association - PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or 712-297-7112

If Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling (515) 725-7300, or toll-free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iuc.iowa.gov.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AG WEEK - March 15-21, 2026

National Ag Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the vital role agriculture plays in our communities, our economy, and our way of life. In the counties we serve, agriculture is more than an industry - it's a foundation of our local identity, supporting families, businesses, and generations of hard-working producers who help feed our nation.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative (CCECA) is proud to serve and support the agricultural community that depends on reliable electricity every day. From powering grain systems, irrigation equipment, and livestock operations to supporting ag businesses and rural homes, dependable electric service is essential to modern farming. Our cooperative is committed to maintaining strong infrastructure, investing in system improvements, and providing reliable power that producers can count on through every season.

Beyond reliable service, CCECA supports agriculture through community involvement, local partnerships, and programs that strengthen rural life. We recognize that when agriculture thrives, our entire community thrives. During National Ag Week, we extend our appreciation to the farmers, ranchers, and ag workers who work tirelessly to sustain our region and our country. Thank you for the dedication, resilience, and commitment you bring to the surrounding communities every day - CCECA is proud to stand with you and power your success.



LIHEAP END NOTICE

Please take note that the winter moratorium ends April 1, 2026. 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.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is currently conducting our 2026 database survey. When you receive your postcard in the mail, we encourage you to take a few moments to complete the survey. Your participation helps us gather the information we need to better serve you! Thank you for being a valued member-owner and for your continued support of the cooperative.

DON'T OVERLOOK OVERHEAD POWERLINES

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

Always be aware of the location of power lines around your home, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles. Lower long tools before moving or transporting them.

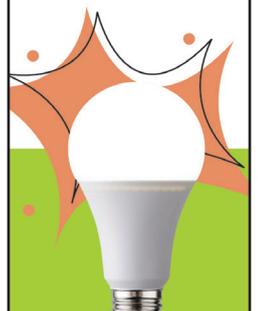
When farming, review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety discussions. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

Always remember not to come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away and call 911 to report it.

It is important to stay safe and stay aware - don't overlook what is overhead.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



CCECA 2026 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 Curt Batta, Energy Services Manager, 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. CCECA member pays for rating.

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

Some exceptions may apply. Ask CCECA 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.

If you have any questions about CCECA's 2026 rebate opportunities please call our office at 712-297-7112. Rebate forms and additional information can be found by visiting our website at www.calhounrec.coop/rebate-forms-and-specifications.com.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG THIS SPRING

As warmer weather arrives and spring projects begin, many homeowners and landowners are preparing for outdoor improvements. Before starting any digging project - no matter how small - it's important to take one simple but critical step: call before you dig.

Underground utility lines are often buried just below the surface. Accidentally striking a utility line can cause serious injury, costly property damage, service outages, and major disruptions for you and your neighbors. Even simple projects can pose risks if utilities aren't properly located beforehand.

By calling 811, you can have underground utilities professionally marked at no cost before you begin digging. This free service helps protect you, utility workers, and the entire community by preventing dangerous accidents and unnecessary outages. It's a simple step that takes very little time but can prevent major consequences.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative encourages all members to make calling 811 a routine part of every spring and summer project. Whether the job is big or small, planning ahead helps keep everyone safe and ensures reliable electric service for our members.



811
**DIG SMART
DIG SAFE**
Before you dig,
call 811 or visit
call811.com.

Calhoun County Electric
Cooperative Association
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

READY TO START DIGGING?

What is 811?
call811.com

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:

General Phone:
(712) 297-7112

Toll Free:
(800) 821-4879

Visit us online:
www.calhounrec.coop

Email:
info@calhounrec.coop

DIRECTORS:

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Secretary – Somers

Duane Beschoner,
Treasurer – Lohrville

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Joe Parker – Lohrville

Steve Pelz – Manson

Keaton Hildreth, CEO

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 April 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:

**Pauline Lange, Marnie Hansch,
and Donna & Doyle Lott**

1. If there are power poles in the planned burning area clear all vegetation and weeds at least _____ feet around the base of the pole.
2. CCECA is proud to serve and support the _____ community.
3. By calling 811, you can have underground utilities professionally marked at _____ cost before you begin digging.

Name _____



**Know what's below.
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

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.