



**Calhoun County Electric  
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Monthly publication for member-owners

# CCECA NEWS

Visit us online at [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

## Linemen Appreciation Day

**April 10, 2023**

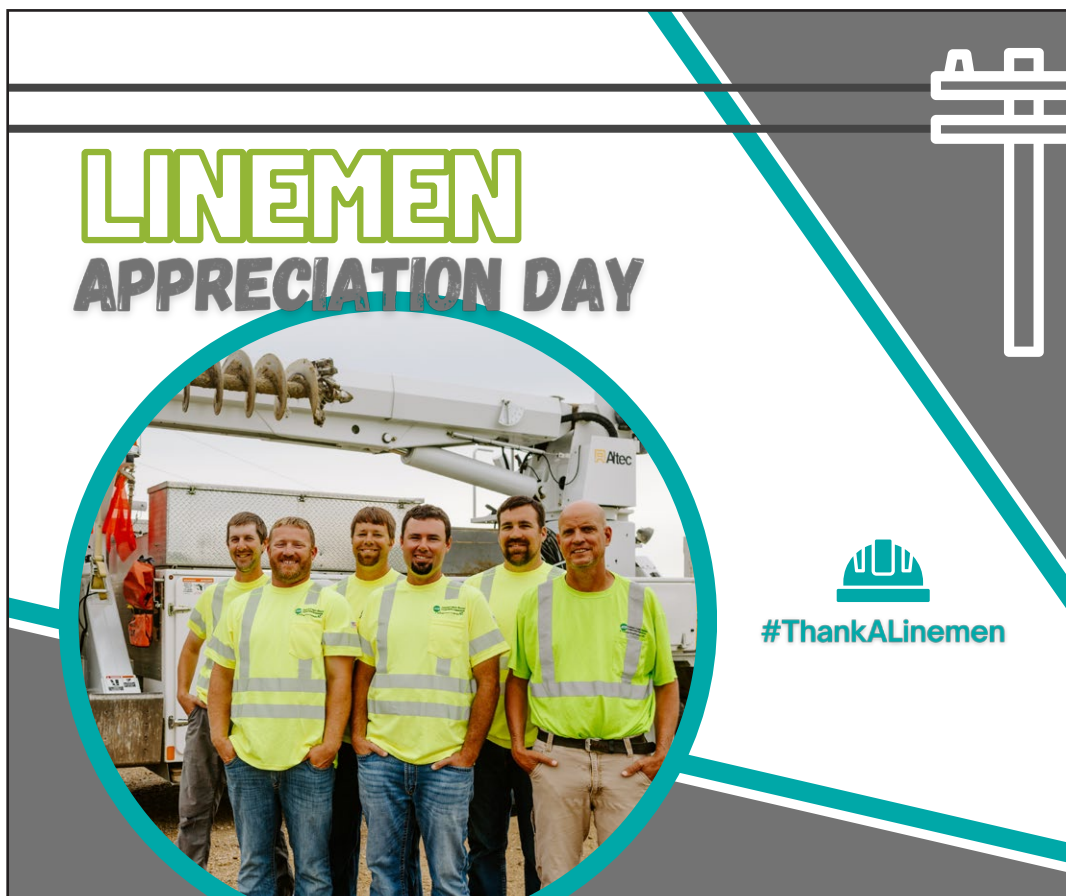
When people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on.

Electric linemen provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Linemen work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow, wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold. The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, linemen go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned linemen who have earned journeyman status.

CCECA has 6 linemen that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 758 miles of power lines across 5 counties. In addition the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire.

Although everyone at Calhoun County Electric Cooperative works hard to provide reliable service, we salute our linemen who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.



L to R: Jared Kuhlers, Chad Krukow, Doug LeMonds, Ben Wiederin, Reid Galloway, and Bret McAlister

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Calhoun County Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Rockwell City, IA 50579  
(712) 297-7112 • (800) 821-4879  
[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** Richard Hall  
**Title:** Member Services Rep/Energy Advisor  
**Years of Service:** 3 years

**Tell us about your family** - I am married to my wife Heidi and we have one child - Asher (1.5 year old). We live in Manson.

**Favorite Coop Memory** - The December 2021 storm - Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative came and assisted in storm recovery. Seeing the other crews work together and help restore power was an awesome site to see.

**If you could travel anywhere, where would it be?** - New York City to visit the 9/11 Memorial and Ground Zero.

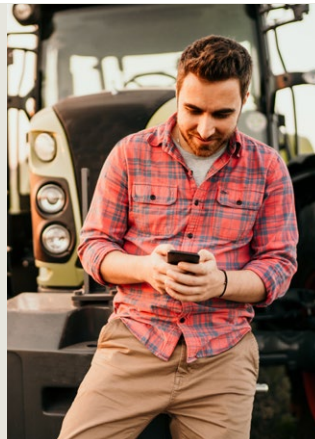
**What food could you eat every day?** - Chicken Bacon Ranch - anything!

**Outside of work, you can find Richard** volunteering for the Manson Fire Department.

**Thank you for your commitment to our electric cooperative!**

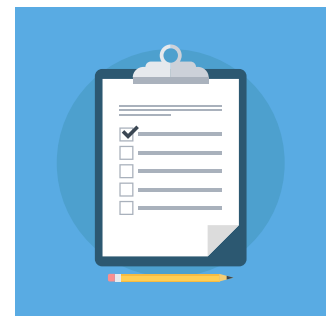
## Access your CCECA account anywhere!

Step-by-step instructions on how to download the CCECA app can be found at [www.calhounrec.coop/how-use-our-mobile-app](http://www.calhounrec.coop/how-use-our-mobile-app). Features: Pay Your Bill, Report Outages, Notification Sign-Ups, Usage History.



## Satisfaction Survey

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association is a member-owned utility that's purpose is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. As a member-owned entity, we rely on your feedback to ensure we are meeting your needs and providing the best service possible. This is where surveys come in.



Surveys provide electric cooperatives with valuable insights into how their members feel about the services they are providing. By surveying members, we can identify areas we are excelling and areas where they need to improve. This feedback can be used to make important decisions about how to allocate resources and improve operations.

In April, many of you will be randomly selected to take part in a satisfaction survey. This is an anonymous survey that will help us better serve you. If you're selected, please take the time, and share with us your honest feedback. By understanding your needs, we can provide stronger service and ensure the long-term success of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association. If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact our office at 712-297-7112.

## Welcome, Rachel!

Rachel Frederick joined our team on March 1. Frederick will be working as the Member Account Manager which is responsible for the monthly billing and accounts receivable process and new services inquiries. Rachel resides near Rockwell City with her fiancé, Lance. Join us in welcoming Rachel to the Cooperative family!



# LIHEAP End Notice

Please take note that the winter moratorium ends April 1, 2023. 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).



Call our office at 712-297-7112 or 800-821-4879.

## Electric Heat Rate Ends

The electric heat rate ends with energy used through April 30th and will reflect on your May bill. The electric heat rate will go from .053/kWh to .095/kWh. The electric heat rate will return in October.



## Pole Testing Begins

The pole testing treatment and replacement program will soon begin. This spring Star Energy Services will be testing around 1,000 poles for the Cooperative.

Don't be alarmed if someone starts digging around CCECA's poles. By changing out the rotted poles and extending the life of the treated poles we will be able to provide you with even more dependable electric service in the future.

Star Energy Services will be testing poles in the following townships: Sherman, Lincoln, Twin Lakes, Center, and Logan. Since 2003, 23,729 poles have been inspected and 392 have been replaced.



## OVERNIGHT FRENCH TOAST



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 loaf day-old French bread
- 2 cups whole milk
- 7 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of salt

### Topping

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter, cut into cubes
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar
- 1 cup berries (fresh or frozen)

### Homemade Whipped Cream

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 TB sugar

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Grease a 9x13 casserole dish and set aside.
2. Cut the French bread loaf into cubes and layer in the casserole dish. You want two layers of bread.
3. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, milk, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt together until combined. Pour egg mixture over the bread layers and make sure to cover all the bread.
4. Cover and place in the fridge overnight or at least 3 hours.
5. To make the topping: place the cubed butter, flour and brown sugar in a small bowl. Using a pastry cutter or two forks, combine the mixture together until it forms crumbles. Refrigerate until ready to bake the French toast.
6. To bake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour crumble mixture over the top of the casserole evenly. Then top with berries. Bake for 45-50 minutes uncovered.
7. To make whipped cream: in a medium bowl, pour in heavy cream and sugar. Mix with a stand mixer until stiff peaks form.
8. Serve with whipped cream and maple syrup.



# \$500 Scholarship Winners!

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 CCECA Scholarships. We would like to congratulate those who were selected this year.

Our scholarship program supports two of our cooperative principles: Education, Training and Information, and Concern of Community. As part of the scholarship application, students were asked to explain how CCECA makes an impact on the local community.



Paige Melohn is the daughter of Troy Melohn. Paige is a senior at Pocahontas Area. She plans on attending Concordia University.



Tyler Lightner is the son of Zach and Darci Lightner. Tyler is a senior at South Central Calhoun. He plans on attending Iowa State University.



Zach Mercer is the son of Paul and Barb Mercer. Zach is a senior at Newell-Fonda. He plans on attending Kirkwood Community College.

## April Member Challenge

1. April \_\_\_\_ is Lineman Appreciation Day.
2. How many poles have been tested since 2003? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name one of CCECA's scholarship winners:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answer to [kwiederin@calhounrec.coop](mailto:kwiederin@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](http://www.calhounrec.coop). 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 May 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 three times throughout the year will be eligible for a \$100 bill credit, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

***Congratulations to the February member challenge winners:  
Vanessa & Jared Solko, Steve Gutshall, and Doug Kruchten***

## Reach Us

### OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(Mon-Fri)

Contact 24/7 with the following numbers:

### General Phone:

(712) 297-7112

### Toll Free:

(800) 821-4879

### Fax:

(712) 297-7211

### Visit us online:

[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

### Email:

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(800) 292-8989  
BEFORE YOU DIG**

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**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/  
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Rockwell City, IA

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