

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Tractor Energy Cooperative

JULY 2016

Win a thermostat that can help you save energy from anywhere! ▶ See page 5

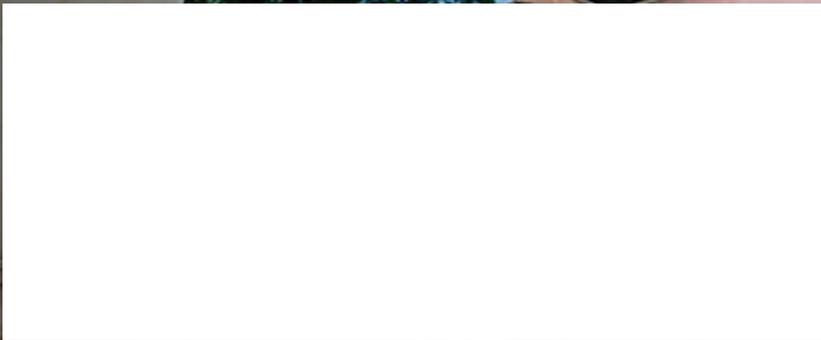
**Youth
Tour**
students
were part
of the big
picture in
Washington,
D.C.



New
cybersecurity
standards
**protect your
co-op –
and you**

Fix
**firecracker
foods**
for family
functions

**Rooftop solar
systems**
aren't entirely
maintenance-free



2015 CIPCO Power Supply Report

BY MARCEL FETT

In 2015, CIPCO released a new Five-Year Energy Plan to support the energy-efficiency programs and rebates for its members. The program aligns incentives with new technologies and evolving efficiency standards, while providing economic benefits for Guthrie County REC. The programs are designed to “buy back” energy from the consumer at a cost that is below the energy market price. Additionally, CIPCO launched a redesigned rebate portal for its members that offers a new set of commercial energy solution services, including power quality consultation, compressed air leak audit and thermography services.



Over the last several years, the CIPCO Board has demonstrated a strong commitment to an aggressive capital program. This dedication to maintenance and system upgrades has had a positive effect on system outages. Currently, the overwhelming majority of system outages are weather related only. In 2015, CIPCO received a \$59.8 million RUS loan for transmis-

sion projects associated with the 2016 Capital Program. The transmission activities include low and high voltage new-to-replace-old projects, substation upgrades and conversions and much more. This work is done to help revitalize an aging system and keep ahead of our members’ energy needs.

Supporting economic development and expansion efforts in the communities served by CIPCO is an important aspect of our work. In 2015, seven projects that created 73.5 jobs and brought a total of \$27,956,700 in investment to Iowa were supported by CIPCO. This includes a \$250,000 loan through a new relationship with Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust (CRBT). This allows CIPCO to support those members who have projects that don’t

qualify for the traditional USDA loan and grant programs.

In my role as a CIPCO director, I’m committed to guiding the organization into its next chapter while ensuring it’s stronger today than ever before. I believe board actions have positioned CIPCO well to navigate the changing industry over the next several years. This becomes even more important as we look down the road to the various risk factors we’re likely to encounter: economic, regulatory, political, demographic and technological, to name a few. Together, CIPCO and Guthrie County REC remain steadfast in delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you, our member-owners, and ensuring your needs are met now and in the years to come. ⚡

Marcel Fett is a director at Guthrie County REC and the co-op’s representative on the CIPCO board of directors.

How Your Co-op Works

Get to know a director of Guthrie County REC



NAME: Don Schwartz.
MY FAMILY: Wife, Carolyn; three sons and two daughters.
OCCUPATION: Farmer.
MY FIRST JOB EVER: Walking beans.
WHAT’S ONE THING THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: Pickles.
SOMEONE I ADMIRE AND WHY: My father passed in 2008. He taught me respect, hard work and to have faith!
HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Deer hunting, touring, breeding

cattle herds and camping.
RECOMMENDED READING: *Overwhelming Odds* by Susan and Denny O’Leary.
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT AND WHY: Mountains of Wyoming (peaceful).
SOMETHING NOT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT ME: I am a grandfather to four grandchildren.
WHAT’S ONE THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT GCREC AFTER BECOMING A DIRECTOR THAT YOU DIDN’T KNOW BEFORE? That the REC is a vital part of our communities through economic development opportunities.
WHAT’S HARD ABOUT BEING A COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR? Finding enough time to educate myself to make informed decisions.
WORDS TO LIVE BY: Be honest to others and to yourself! ⚡

Guthrie County REC
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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 641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206
 Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Website
www.guthrie-rec.coop

Mark Your Calendar!

Find us at the Iowa State Fair and sign up for a chance to win

You'll want to be sure to stop by the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa booth in the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building during this year's Iowa State Fair.

While there, you can register to win a Nest Learning Thermostat, a state-of-the-art self-programming thermostat that learns the temperatures you and your family like and then automatically follows those preferences. The thermostat turns itself down to save energy when nobody's home, and you can also connect it to Wi-Fi to control temperatures remotely from your phone, tablet or laptop. One winner will be chosen at random.

While visiting our booth, take pride in your cooperative by placing a magnetic marker showing where you're from on a large map of Iowa. Additional energy efficiency and savings information will be displayed in the booth.

Be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy display when you're at the fair Aug. 11-21, and visit www.touchstoneenergy.com for more information on saving energy and the value of cooperative membership. ⚡

FOCUSSED ON YOUR STREET. NOT WALL STREET. YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative is owned by our members, not shareholders.

Visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth to learn more and register to win a Nest Smart Thermostat!

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa

Iowa State Fair OFFICIAL SPONSOR AUG 11-21 2016

Editor's Choice Contest

Win a thermostat that can help you save energy from anywhere!

With the Honeywell Model RTH8580WF

Wi-Fi Thermostat, you can adjust the comfort level of your home from anywhere at any time. All you need is a Wi-Fi enabled device like your smartphone, tablet or laptop computer; the app is free for Apple and Android devices.

You can install the unit yourself. It will learn your cooling and heating cycles and optimize them to deliver the exact temperature at the right time – plus save you an estimated \$100 or more in energy costs every year.

To enter this month's contest, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and fill out the entry form no later than July 31, 2016. ⚡



Operations Update

Spring maintenance helps hold costs down

BY JIM TERWILLIGER

Every year, your cooperative undergoes a thorough pole inspection process to ensure we're serving our members with the safest, most reliable and most affordable electricity. I'm pleased to report that the company we hired to do this, Osmose Utilities Services, has completed its inspection for 2016 and reported that only .2 percent of all Guthrie County REC poles require replacement. This is good news for us – and a confirmation of the work we do to properly maintain all our lines throughout the year.

A few minutes west of Guthrie Cen-



ter, GCREC line crews worked to build 10.4 miles of new single-phase line in Bear Grove Township. Further west and south, our crews have completed 2.1 miles of three-phase line in the Exira area, with 3 miles left to go. Also, ITC Midwest, the company that operates more than 6,600 circuit miles of transmission in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Illinois, is building a new transmission line to the Exira substation. Guthrie County REC is assisting with this work.

Strong winds in the Perry area during the Memorial Day holiday weekend

left a few three-phase poles leaning. Thankfully, these particular poles were placed just last year, and because they're new, no major damage occurred. April and May were very good months, with minimal outages experienced by our members.

Lastly, your cooperative has made the investment in a new digger truck that we anticipate receiving in January 2017, as well as a service truck we replaced in May. This new equipment is essential for being able to provide our members with excellent service. ⚡

Jim Terwilliger is the line superintendent for Guthrie County REC.

Your bill includes a wealth of information

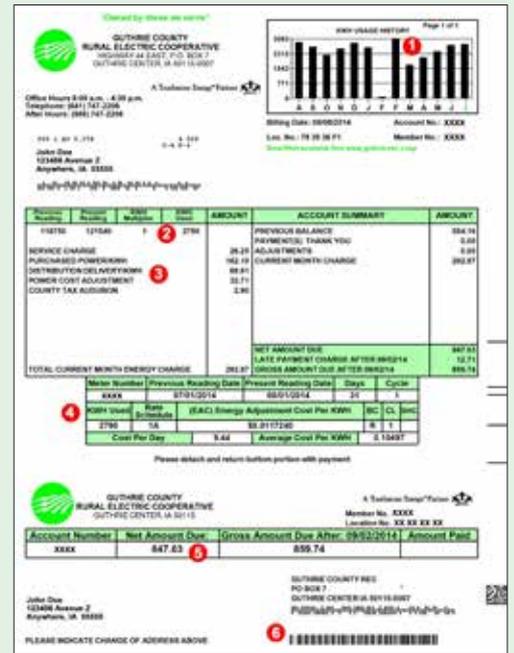
Understanding the electric bill you receive each month is an important first step in lowering your energy costs. If you take a moment to review when you're using the most electricity throughout the day, the week or the month, you can then start making some simple changes that will shrink your bill, but not your wallet.

The first thing to know about your electric bill is that Guthrie County REC uses an automated reading system that reports usage to our billing system daily. This helps eliminate any human error that can result in incorrect bills and eliminates estimated consumption that doesn't accurately reflect real use.

More than the billing amount, your bill contains a lot of details about how the amount you owe is calculated. It also gives you a snapshot of how much electricity you've used during the last 13 months, so you can compare seasonal peaks or other anomalies. For instance, did you host overnight guests for Thanksgiving last year, and was the month of November colder than normal? Be aware of anything out of the norm that may affect your billing amount.

The picture (right) shows a typical

- 1 Your electric usage during the previous 13 months.
- 2 The kilowatt-hours used for the month the bill covers.
- 3 Total Current Monthly Energy Charge
 - Service Charge: A fixed monthly charge covers the costs for billing and collections, metering and meter reading.
 - Purchased Power/kWh: The cost of your electricity alone for the month.
 - Distribution Delivery/kWh: The cost to distribute electricity to you.
 - Power Cost Adjustment (PCA): This adjustment is made monthly, based on the fluctuating fuel costs for generating power.
 - County Tax: The county you live in collects a tax on your electric service.
- 4 Summary of your account, including average cost of electricity per day and per kWh.



- 5 Net Amount Due: This is the total charge for all the services you receive through Guthrie County REC over the billing period.
- 6 This bar code is used by the post office for sorting by area.

electric bill from Guthrie County REC. You'll notice a series of circled numbers on this example. Check the

definitions and information for each entry to help you understand your bill more completely. ⚡

In the Community

Co-op participates in Career Day



In April, two of Guthrie County REC's linemen participated in a Career Day at Adair-Casey High School. Journeymen linemen Brian Marso and Jalen Spack spoke with students about working on electric lines, what kind of schooling and training they've undergone, what a normal day on the job is like – and they demonstrated their safety gear.

Celebrating Our Freedoms

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY FROM GUTHRIE COUNTY REC

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