

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Tractor Energy Cooperative

OCTOBER 2016

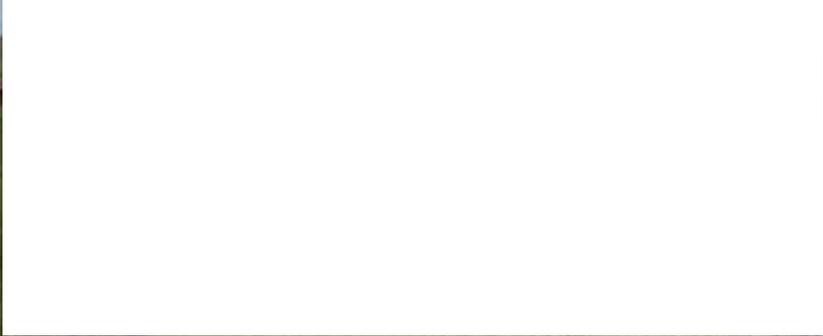
Win our Energy-Saving Gift Card and winterize your home before the snow flies! ▶ See page 5

October is National Co-op Month!

Elden Wolfe
named
new line
superintendent

Do you know the
pros and cons of
heat pump
water heaters?

Balance
technology and
common sense
for maximum
energy
savings



How Your Co-op Works

Attention, electric heat users:

The electric heat rate went into effect Oct. 1. Guthrie County REC would like to remind you that if you turned off your heat meter during the warmer months, please turn it back on in order to receive the discounted heat rate.

Thank you!



ABCs of Electricity

Line work completed near Exira; fall projects are underway

Guthrie County REC line crews finished upgrading and adding new service lines and poles in the Exira area at the end of July (*below*). Crews replaced 8 miles of line, bringing the total to 22 miles of rebuilt line completed this summer. Keith Hise (*right*) was one of the linemen working to energize the new lines.

The line crews have started on fall projects, including installation of a new transformer for the Yale substation. ⚡



Financial Matters

Members will receive capital credits in 2016

At its Aug. 23 meeting, the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors voted unanimously to allocate \$1 million of the 2015 margin into the patronage account of GCREC members. As a member, you should have received a postcard from the cooperative that stated your individual allocation amount. Please call the cooperative at 888-747-2206 if you have any questions.

At the end of each operational year, capital credits are allocated based on the margins (profit) achieved in a given year – and then prorated among Guthrie County REC members. The



allocation of capital credits is merely a notification to a cooperative member that the cooperative realized a margin (profit) for the fiscal year 2015 and, in accordance with its bylaws, is allocating a pro rata share of the margin to you, the member, based on your kilowatt-hour usage. ⚡



Guthrie County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Office

1406 State Street • P.O. Box 7
Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007

Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone Number

641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206

Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Website

www.guthrie-rec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Cooperative participates in annual Farm Progress Show

Member service clerk Marlene Chalfant (*right*) helped staff the electric cooperatives exhibit during this year's Farm Progress Show in August. The event is the nation's largest outdoor farm event, hosting nearly 600 exhibitors that display farm equipment, tractors, seed and crop protection products, and more. The Rural Electric Cooperatives booth provided safety demonstrations, energy efficiency tips, and a chance to win a chest freezer and portable generator. ⚡



Notice of alternative energy production is required by law

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology, including:

- Solar
- Wind turbine
- Waste management
- Resources recovery
- Refuse-derived fuel
- Agricultural crops or residue
- Wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line



Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide written notification to the electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of a generator. If you're considering installing an alternate energy system, please contact Guthrie County REC at 888-747-2206. Let us provide information and assistance, before you decide to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid. ⚡

Editor's Choice Contest

Win \$100 in products to winterize your home!

Use this \$100 Energy-Saving Gift Card to buy things

such as caulking and weather stripping from your favorite local hardware or building supply store. To enter this month's contest, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and submit the entry form by Oct. 31, 2016. ⚡



Operations Update

Elden Wolfe named new line superintendent

Guthrie County REC proudly announces that Elden Wolfe has been named line superintendent. Elden replaces Jim Terwilliger, who retired in early September.

Elden has been an employee of the cooperative for 42 years. In 1974, the year he started, he helped clear brush and vegetation in the co-op's right of way. He moved onto the positions of apprentice lineman, journeyman lineman and, most recently, line foreman. As a knowledgeable and the most senior member of the cooperative's line department, Elden's promotion to line superintendent was an easy decision.

"We're pleased to be able to announce this internal promotion and entrust Elden to handle his new responsibilities as line superintendent," said Cozy Nelsen, CEO. "Elden is a dedicated employee of Guthrie County REC and has a vested interest in serving all cooperative member-owners with the most affordable, safe and reliable electric service."



Although he's only been on the job a short while, Elden has been adjusting to his new role and keeping his eye on one simple goal.

"Personally, the biggest adjustment for me will be to try to keep myself from doing everything," he said. "My goal for the line crew is simply for everybody to continue to go home safely every day."

Decisions on Elden's replacement as line foreman and other line crew job realignments are yet to be made. In the meantime, Elden looks forward to meeting the challenges ahead and keeping busy – always busy.

"I like to work. I'm a workaholic," he said. "When I'm not at work at GCREC, I'm working somewhere else. I mow grass at the golf course, do jobs for other people – always working. But when I do have spare time, I enjoy golfing." ⚡

Your cooperative cares about veterans

A commitment to service is a hallmark of local electric cooperatives. That explains why the electric cooperative system supports and welcomes veterans as cooperative members, employees, board members and more. Guthrie County REC is dedicated to honoring and welcoming veterans across its service territory.



“Guthrie County REC is committed to serving our communities,” said Cozy Nelsen, CEO. “What better way than to recognize and honor our veterans who exemplify commitment to community?”

Serving as a local resource for veterans as it relates to things such as electrical safety and energy efficiency is an important component of our co-op’s work. Guthrie County REC is proud to be a part of the cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. For more information on the services provided by Guthrie County REC, visit www.guthrie-rec.coop.

Office Closing

Guthrie County REC will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving.

Co-ops build a better world

BY COZY NELSEN

Every October, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, our member-owners, about Guthrie County REC’s purpose.

I must admit that occasionally, I too have been somewhat cynical of the many different “days” and “months” that are celebrated, but National Cooperative Month isn’t one of them. This month, we take the opportunity to inform others about our unique business model, which is

based on Seven Cooperative Principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members’ Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information

- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
 - Concern for Community
- “Cooperatives Build” is the theme of



this year’s National Cooperative Month. And it’s appropriate, because there are so many ways that cooperatives help build a stronger rural America. Cooperatives like Guthrie County REC generate jobs in our communities, keep profits local and pay taxes to help support

community services. We’re open to all and give our members a voice in our policies and decisions. We’re involved in community improvement programs and economic

development projects – and we support our schools.

In short, cooperatives build better businesses, better communities and ultimately, a better world. ⚡

Cozy Nelsen is the CEO of Guthrie County REC.



ELECTRIC VS. GAS WATER HEATERS

WATER HEATING ACCOUNTS FOR UP TO 20% OF A HOME’S MONTHLY UTILITY COSTS. GET THE FACTS BEFORE YOU BUY.

NEEDS NO EXHAUST VENT

CAN BE INSTALLED IN SMALL SPACES

LIFE EXPECTANCY IS LONGER THAN GAS

NO FLAME
NO CARBON MONOXIDE
NO POTENTIAL LEAKS IN EXHAUST FLUES OR FUEL LINES

COST LESS THAN GAS FOR THE SAME SIZE



OR



NEED 6-18" OF VENTILATION AROUND ALL SIDES AND TOP SO IT WON'T FIT IN MOST SMALL SPACES

COST OF INSTALLATION IS HIGHER THAN WITH ELECTRIC

MANY GAS WATER HEATERS USE AN ELECTRIC IGNITION, MEANING WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT, SO DOES THE WATER HEATER



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CALL OUR OFFICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WATER HEATERS (888) 747-2206