

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Taxpayers Energy Cooperative

JUNE 2017

Move over, slow down around utility vehicles – It's the law! ▶ See page 5

Boating this summer? Keep electrical safety in mind



Take your
favorite sandwich
on a picnic!

Guthrie County
REC names 2017
scholarship winners

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop

Substation
of the future
will fortify the
smart power grid

JUST FOR KIDS

Guthrie County third-graders attend Farm Safety Days

Third-grade students from area schools learned about electrical safety and other aspects of farm safety during the Progressive



Agriculture Farm Safety Days on May 2-3. Around 200 students from Coon Rapids-Bayard, West Central Valley, Adair-Casey, Guthrie Center and Panorama schools attended the program at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Guthrie County REC lineman Brian Marso presented a program on electrical safety during the event. Other topics included animal safety, bicycle safety, ATV safety and grain safety.

For more information on farm safety topics, please visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop or go to www.progressiveag.org and www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org.



Office

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Website

www.guthrie-rec.coop

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ABOUT ENERGY

2016 CIPCO Power Supply Report

BY MARCEL FETT

2016 was another successful and exciting year for Guthrie County REC and Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO). I'm privileged to serve as your cooperative's representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors.

As our cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO has made significant investments in emission- and carbon-free resources of energy, including the development and launch of a 5.5-megawatt utility-scale solar system – Iowa's largest. Wind, hydroelectricity, nuclear, solar and landfill gas now make up nearly 60 percent of CIPCO's total energy portfolio.

CIPCO is committed to providing electricity at the lowest possible cost to its members. While other generation and transmission co-ops across the country have implemented rate increases over the past few years, the rate at which Guthrie County REC purchases wholesale electricity from CIPCO has remained relatively flat, even decreasing during 2016. At the same time, CIPCO continues to invest in its overall system to ensure our electricity is reliable. In fact, CIPCO's 2016 outage rate was only 0.22 hours per member, the lowest since 1980.

An important part of Guthrie

County REC's budget is the money each of CIPCO's member systems receives in the form of patronage

dividends. These funds represent CIPCO's margins for the year that are passed on to our member-owners.

CIPCO and Guthrie County REC are committed to ensuring members are using energy wisely and making the changes necessary to reduce excess

energy consumption. As a result, CIPCO and its member systems issued over \$2.8 million in energy-efficiency rebates for upgrades that saved approximately 31.5 million kilowatt-hours of energy.

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 energy industry over the next several years, allowing both CIPCO and our cooperative to thrive. We remain steadfast in delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you, our member-owners, and to 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.

Happy Father's Day!



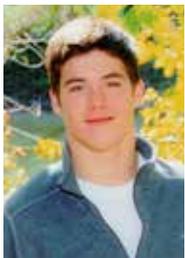
What are you looking forward to most about having a new baby and fatherhood?

"Doing all the things my dad did with me: sports, riding a bike, hunting, fishing, camping or just driving around the countryside. Seeing them develop and become their own person."

Journeyman lineman Todd Tinken is expecting his first child with wife, Lindsay, in July.

Guthrie County REC names 2017 scholarship winners

One of the seven principles that govern all cooperatives is “Concern for Community.” Your electric cooperative embodies this principle each year by offering scholarships to high school students in the communities we serve. This year, Guthrie County REC is proud to support three young members who wish to continue their education after high school. Each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward their goals.



Garrett Simmons
Panorama

Garrett is the son of Dave and Tami Simmons of Panorama. He will attend Marshalltown Community College

in August to pursue an Associate in Applied Science degree in the powerline program. After college, Garrett wants to work for a local electric cooperative and provide great service to members. Throughout high school, Garrett took classes at Panorama and DMACC to prepare

himself for power lineman school, while also participating in golf, wrestling, co-ed drill team and football. He has worked part-time for Scott’s Outdoor Supply, Wood Duck Tree Farm and Merical Farms to save money for college.



Nelson Zach
Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton

Nelson is the son of Jamie and Sarah Zach of Exira. He has been accepted into the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon and upon completion hopes to return to his home community and work for a local electric cooperative. Nelson’s goal for college is to be the best student he can be by investing his time into studying, learning and bettering himself as a future lineman. He has always taken pride in his work ethic and has saved money for college by working for R&B Feeds, Nelson Mowing, Anita Supply Center and now Viking Construction

in Exira. Throughout high school, Nelson was involved in football, track, student council, FFA, Leo/Leadership Club, NHS and 4-H.



Jeremiah Randol
Panorama

Jeremy is the son of Andrew and Amy Randol of Panorama. He will pursue a sports administration major and sports communications minor at Simpson College. While at Simpson, he hopes to participate in an internship that will possibly lead to a full-time position with a semi-professional or professional sports team. While in high school, Jeremy was active in football, basketball, NHS, drill team, large group speech and Eagle Scouts. While growing up, he came to appreciate Guthrie County REC as he witnessed how dedicated it was to its members. He also feels the seven cooperative principles that guide all cooperatives have taught him what it takes to be successful. ⚡

IN THE NEWS

Move over, slow down around utility vehicles



In April, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad signed into law language that further clarifies Iowa’s “Move Over, Slow Down” law by including the definition of a utility maintenance vehicle.

Supported by Iowa’s electric cooperatives and passed with bipartisan support, this law is meant to protect electric cooperative employees from stationary vehicle accidents while working on power lines. While utility workers have been covered under the law, the Iowa Code lacked a comprehensive definition that detailed specific industry sectors that are considered “utilities” for the purposes of the Move Over or Slow Down law. The new language now states, “... Utility maintenance vehicle

means a motor vehicle operated by an employee or contractor of an entity including, but not limited to ... an electric cooperative association ... in connection with the provision of utility services.”

The law states that drivers must change lanes or slow down when approaching a stationary emergency, tow or utility maintenance vehicle that has its flashing lights activated. It also states that drivers must yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle displaying flashing lights. The fine for violating this law is \$100, plus any surcharge and court costs and additional fines if someone is injured or killed as a result of violating this law. ⚡

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a large-capacity food dehydrator!

You can make lots of nutritious dried fruit, vegetable snacks and jerky with Cabela’s 10-Tray Deluxe Dehydrator. The unit features a rear-mounted, 900-watt heater and 6.5-inch fan for even drying, along with side air slots that eliminate the need for rotating the trays.



To enter this month’s contest for the \$200 Cabela’s dehydrator, please go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and complete the entry form no later than June 30, 2017. ⚡

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Co-op leaders take issues to Washington

Every year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association welcomes co-op grassroots advocates to Washington, D.C., for the annual Legislative Conference. Directors, managers and employees of member-owned electric cooperatives come from across America to spend time on Capitol Hill, talking to their congressional delegations and congressional staff about legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and their member-owners.

Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) and Guthrie County REC board member Marcel Fett attended the event in April. While there, he participated in groups that met with Reps. Steve King, Rod Blum, David Young, Dave Loebsack and Sen. Joni Ernst. ⚡



Guthrie County REC and CIPCO board member Marcel Fett (seated, far left) listens to Rep. Steve King at a meeting during the event.

OFFICE CLOSING

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday!

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Vegetation management optimizes electric service reliability

BY ELDEN WOLFE

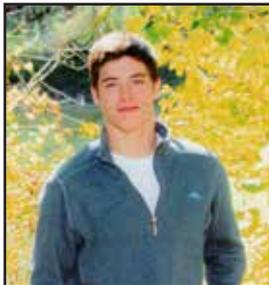
Guthrie County REC's management and staff recognize and appreciate that trees are valuable assets to our members' landscapes and to the quality of life in our area. However, these aesthetic qualities must be balanced with the constant threat from trees and tree branches to our members' electric service. As the most frequent cause of power outages for your cooperative, trees and overgrown vegetation that grow into Guthrie County REC's right-of-way must be kept pruned and clear of power lines. This helps us provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to your home.

While the cooperative does everything it can to prevent overgrown vegetation from causing outages, we also understand that it may be an inconvenience to our members when we do so. If you have

any questions about why we do what we do – or when we do it – regarding our vegetation management program, please give us a call. It's also helpful if you can contact us when you're planning to plant a tree in the vicinity of electric lines. Our staff or your tree nursery staff can help you select a tree that won't interfere with power lines at full height, as well as offering advice on where it should be placed to ensure it doesn't grow into the cooperative's right-of-way.

Remember: Tree limbs can break and fall onto power lines at any time of the year – not just in the winter when they're covered with ice. By staying on strict vegetation management cycles, your cooperative can greatly reduce costs and keep your rates affordable. ⚡

Elden Wolfe is the line superintendent for Guthrie County REC.



Garrett Simmons
Panorama



Jeremy Randol
Panorama



Nelson Zach
Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton



Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to the 2017 recipients of the Guthrie County REC scholarship!



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