

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

June 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Substations and switching station dedicated in Butler County REC service territory

Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Butler County REC honored three long-time cooperative leaders on April 11 at the Waverly Area Veterans Post.

Donald Feldman, former Corn Belt Power board president, now has a switching station in his name. Feldman dedicated 29 years of service to Corn Belt Power's board of directors and 36 years to Butler County REC.

"Don left behind a great legacy, working with industry partners to further enhance the quality of life of those in Corn Belt Power's footprint and beyond," said Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power. "Don is just the kind of person who makes everyone around him better. And that is a true testament to his leadership abilities. He was supportive of our employees and his fellow directors and always a positive influence."

Butler County REC chose to name two new substations after Robert Bauman, former CEO/general manager, and Rick Whalen, former economic



Dedication honorees (l to r): Robert Bauman, Donald Feldman, and Rick Whalen

development director. Bauman worked at the cooperative for 41 years, while Whalen spent 25 years helping to develop the rural economy in Butler County REC's footprint.

Craig Codner, CEO and general manager of Butler County REC, commented, "Bob's ability to lead was paramount in our economic development growth. He realized the importance of bringing companies and employment to our service territory for our members and surrounding communities. In addition, our board and employees have participated in culture training for years due to Bob's leadership and vision. He

understood that creating a team was a benefit to not only employees, but members, as well. His leadership, along with his integrity and accountability, are the reasons the substation was named for him.

Partnerships are a cornerstone of economic development and of cooperatives, and Rick's understanding of this was instrumental in the success of our program. His knowledge of economic development was invaluable. He always went the extra mile to ensure that our economic development efforts were realized—that both loan recipients and Butler County REC benefited. He helped to secure numerous loans and always conducted himself with integrity.

We appreciate the numerous contributions of both Bob and Rick."

The substations and switching station are located inside the Butler County Logistics Park. The new infrastructure serves load that includes TrinityRail Maintenance's expansion and the new Shell Rock Soy Processing facility.

Meter deployment update

Preliminary work for the Butler County REC meter deployment is underway, and according to John Endelman, operations manager, "Everything is on schedule."

Poles have been set at a number of our substations, and programming has begun on the data collecting devices, to be installed by our line crews.

This month, the meter software will be operational and five of each type of meter in use by our members will be deployed and tested. Once we are certain each is working as it should, our line crews will begin full deployment. After Labor Day, Van Wert of Grundy Center will be installing meters, as well, to ensure a timely completion.

As always, please feel free to contact our office at 888-267-2726 with questions.



Adjust your thermostat this summer

The U.S. Department of Energy and most electric utilities recommend that you set your thermostat at 78 degrees during the summer to save energy, if you have a central air unit.



For additional savings, before you leave for work, crank it up to 85 degrees. When you turn in for the night, nudge it up to 82.

If that sounds a bit toasty for summertime, consider inching your thermostat up one degree at a time rather than all at once.

Take the remembering out of it and consider replacing a manual thermostat with a programmable model so the settings will change automatically.

Contact your heating and cooling specialist if you have a heat pump, as there are special considerations for those units.



5 ways to help save the earth

Want to be part of the solution rather than the problem when it comes to protecting the earth? Consider these suggestions:

1. Throw less away. Reuse it, recycle it, or donate it. Or collect fewer disposable items.
2. Use less water. That saves water but also energy if the water you save would have been hot water.
3. If you still have any incandescent light bulbs lingering around your home, switch them out for LED bulbs or fixtures.
4. Buy energy-efficient electronics and appliances when it's time to replace your old ones. Be sure to look for the Energy Star label.
5. Turn off and unplug electric devices when you're finished using them for the day.



**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$2,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com



**Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives**

The power of human connections[®]

70% of
lightning fatalities
occur June through August

- National Weather Service



There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service advises, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from rain, even if you don't see clouds.

Learn more at

 **Safe
Electricity.org**

Storm safety tips: Before, during, after

By Abby Berry, NRECA

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Share these tips with your loved ones:

Before the storm

- *Discuss the dangers* of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors. Talk to your family about the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home.
- *Make a storm kit*, and include water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies, and pet supplies.

During the storm

- *Pay attention to local weather alerts* and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- *If you find yourself in the path of a tornado*, head to your safe place to shelter and cover your head with your arms or blankets and pillows.
- *If you're driving during a severe storm* or tornado, pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the storm

- *If the power is out*, try to conserve your phone battery.
- *Stay off the roads* if trees, power lines, or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized.
- *Wear appropriate gear* if you're cleaning up storm debris. Thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves will help protect you.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared.

Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.





LED security light installed

Steven Mosher, Sumner, (pictured above) was the lucky winner of an LED security light at the Butler County REC annual meeting held in March.



Butler County REC line crews installed the light in April.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Deanna Underwood, Aplington, who won a \$25 bill credit from *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine when her recipe for cashew lettuce salad was published in the April 2022 issue.



Consider sending your favorite recipe to *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine. If yours is chosen, you will earn a \$25 power bill credit. Page 9 of every issue details how to submit your recipe either by email or by mail to the magazine's headquarters.

If you're looking for a new recipe, visit ieclmagazine.com, click on Recipe and Recipe Archive at the top and search by main ingredient and/or category.

Let's get cooking!

CHARGE™ POWERED BY CO-OPS

A group of electric co-ops has created a regional electric vehicle (EV) charging network named CHARGE EV, LLC. Butler County REC has joined this network.

Planning for future growth in EV technologies, the infrastructure is just the start. The group plans for additional investments in member education on encouraging members to test drive EVs and installing home chargers.

EV charger locations and other information can be found at www.charge.coop.

In addition, Butler County REC offers a rebate for members installing a level-2 charger on their property.

Contact us at 888-267-2726 for more information on electric vehicles, chargers for electric vehicles, and our level-2 incentive. We are your trusted source.

Help support renewable energy with our EnergyWise Renewables program

Butler County REC's EnergyWise Renewables program was established in 2006 to give co-op members the opportunity to support member-owned renewable energy projects in its service territory. This program supports any type of distributed generation that provides an alternative or enhancement to the traditional electric power system. All contributions support small-scale distributed generation in our service territory. Butler County REC does not charge for the administration of this program.

To take part in this voluntary program, complete the information below and return to Butler County REC. If you already contribute, there is nothing you need to do now. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



EnergyWise Renewables Participation Form

I wish to support (the amount you select will be automatically added to your monthly power bill):

- 100 kilowatt-hours (\$1.50 per month)
- 200 kilowatt-hours (\$3.00 per month)
- 300 kilowatt-hours (\$4.50 per month)
- 400 kilowatt-hours (\$6.00 per month)
- Other per month _____. Maximum contribution is 3,000 kilowatt-hours (\$45.00 per month)
- One-time contribution. I wish to support EnergyWise Renewables with a one-time contribution. My check for _____ is enclosed.

Name _____ Account Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

INtouch is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative
521 North Main • PO Box 98 • Allison, IA 50602
PHONES: 319.267.2726 or 888.267.2726 • FAX: 319.267.2566
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
WEBSITE: www.butlerrec.coop • E-MAIL: butler@butlerrec.coop
Craig Codner, CEO • EDITOR: Anne Gardiner, CCC

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