

ACEC NEWS

JANUARY 2026 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 01

WELCOME 2026!



**2026
REBATE
INFO**
PG. 4

SERVICE
ANNIVERSARIES

NEW
SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT'S ON
A POLE



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

THE POWER OF WORKING TOGETHER

In the world of electric cooperatives, collaboration is key to delivering reliable and affordable energy to our communities. At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we are proud to be part of a larger network that includes Dairyland Power Cooperative, our Generation and Transmission (G&T) partner. Together, we ensure that your homes and businesses have the power you need, when you need it.

But what exactly does it mean? If you aren't working in the industry, it can be confusing at first to understand that larger network and the role we play in it. I'd like to start 2026 by shedding light on the vital relationship between ACEC and Dairyland Power, and how this partnership directly benefits you, our members.

Understanding the Difference

To understand our cooperative network, it's important to distinguish between a distribution cooperative and a G&T cooperative. ACEC is a distribution cooperative, which means we are responsible for delivering electricity directly to your doorstep. We maintain the local infrastructure, such as power lines and other more localized equipment, and provide customer service to ensure your energy needs are met efficiently.

On the other hand, Dairyland Power Cooperative is a Generation and Transmission (G&T) cooperative. Dairyland is responsible for generating

electricity and transmitting it over long distances to reach distribution cooperatives like ours. They operate power plants and manage the high-voltage transmission lines that carry electricity across regions. This division of responsibilities allows each type of cooperative to focus on its strengths, ensuring a seamless flow of energy from generation to your home.

How Dairyland Power Assists Distribution Cooperatives

Dairyland Power plays a crucial role in supporting distribution cooperatives across the region. By generating and transmitting electricity, Dairyland enables us to focus on maintaining and improving the local distribution network. This collaboration allows us to provide you with reliable service and competitive rates.

Moreover, Dairyland Power invests in diverse energy sources, including renewable energy projects, to ensure a sustainable energy future. Their commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship aligns with our values and enhances the quality of service we provide to you. By pooling resources and expertise, Dairyland helps us navigate the complexities of the energy industry, from regulatory compliance to adopting new technologies.

The Relationship Between Dairyland and Its Distribution Cooperatives

The relationship between Dairyland Power and its member distribution cooperatives is built on a foundation of trust, collaboration, and mutual benefit. As a member of Dairyland, we have a voice in decision-making processes, ensuring that our members' needs are represented and prioritized.

Dairyland's cooperative model encourages open communication and shared goals among its members. Regular meetings and collaborative projects foster a sense of community and enable us to address challenges collectively. This partnership ensures

that we are always working towards the common goal of providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members.

The Power of Working Together

Our partnership with Dairyland Power brings numerous benefits to you, our members. By leveraging Dairyland's resources and expertise, we can offer competitive rates and maintain high service standards. The cooperative model also means that any financial benefits are returned to you in the form of capital credits, reinforcing our commitment to serving your best interests.

The partnership between ACEC and Dairyland Power Cooperative exemplifies the strength of the cooperative model. By working together, we ensure that you receive the reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy you deserve. Thank you for being a part of our cooperative family, and for your continued support as we power our community together. ■

BOARD BRIEFS December 29 Meeting

- Reviewed and approved 2025 delinquent account write-offs
- Established 2026 Patronage Discount rate
- Approved two economic development cost share applications: Harpers Ferry Heritage Society & Turkey River Recreational Corridor **6274**
- Approved appointment for 2026 voting delegates and alternates to associate organizations
- Informational updates on prospective data mining loads



Jessica Jones
Member Services Representative

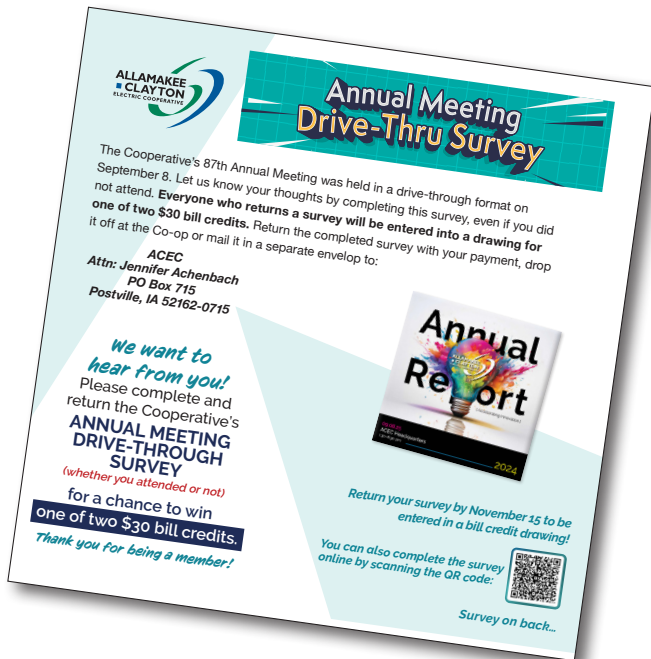
ACEC WELCOMES JESSICA JONES

ACEC welcomed Jessica Jones to the Co-op last month! Jessica is the new Member Services Representative – FirstCall employee.

Jessica spent the previous 10 years at TJ's Fencing outside of Harpers Ferry, where she served as the office manager/bookkeeper. A native of Monona, she earned her associate degree in administration from Kirkwood Community College.

Jessica and her husband, Stuart, have a 1-year-old son, Hayden. When she's not at work, she enjoys spending time with her family, relaxing by the river, taking photos and cheering for the Green Bay Packers and Iowa Hawkeyes. She also enjoys planning and coordinating, as well as decorating for any and every holiday.

We're excited to have you join the team! ■



THANK YOU!

Thank you to our members who completed and returned the Annual Meeting drive-through survey. We'll use the results as we plan for the 2026 Annual Meeting, held in early September.

Congratulations

Milford Torson, Colesburg, and Lorette Roesse, Waukon, were randomly selected to receive \$30 bill credits for returning their surveys. ■



Cold weather can be dangerous if you're not prepared.

Follow these tips to stay safe when working outdoors:

- * Keep an eye on the temperature.
- * Take frequent, short breaks indoors.
- * Dress in loose, warm layers.
- * Wear warm socks and waterproof boots.
- * Protect your head, ears, face and hands with warm gear to prevent frostbite and heat loss.
- * Keep dry and remove wet clothing as quickly as possible.
- * Drink a warm beverage, stay hydrated and eat high-energy foods.
- * Watch for signs of hypothermia.
- * Have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle.

Learn more:





2026 REBATE PROGRAM AT ACEC

The 2026 ACEC ElectricSense incentives/rebates program is under way. This year ACEC is offering rebates on a variety of items such as electric water heaters, HVAC units, lighting, EV chargers and more. The summary list of energy-efficient items that are eligible for a rebate are listed on page 5 of the newsletter and can be found in your Energy Update, as well as online at acrec.com/rebates.

Rebates start at \$0.50 and go up to \$1,000. Eligibility criteria for each item is listed on the individual form. To receive the rebate, members must purchase the qualifying item, fill out the appropriate form and return the form and documentation to the Co-op within three months of purchase or installation (clarified on each individual form). Members must install the equipment within the Cooperative's service territory and, in most cases, it must be ENERGY STAR® rated. **4706**

Some items must participate in ACEC's load/energy management program to qualify. Those items are noted on each form.

Members who made qualifying purchases in late 2025 are still eligible for 2025 rebates, as long as all documentation is submitted within three months of purchase or installation date.

For more information, visit acrec.com/rebates or call or email Ryan Wagner at 888-788-1551, rwagner@acrec.coop. ■

2025 SERVICE MILESTONES



STEVE GEHLING
Lead Equipment Technician,
5 years



JENI KOLSRUD
Manager of Information
Technology, 5 Years



JASON LEONHART
Lead Lineman,
25 years



MATT MARTING
Information Technology
Specialist, 20 years



BEN SCHULMEISTER
Fleet Service & Equipment
Technician, 5 years



BRENT SCHUTTE
First Class Lineman,
10 years



STACY STOCK
Operations & Engineering
Coordinator/Inventory Clerk,
30 years

Summary of 2026 ElectricSense® Incentives



ElectricSense®

All incentive eligibility criteria for each measure are listed under the 'Eligibility Criteria' section of this guide

Agricultural/Commercial/Industrial

Circulation Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 pounds force/kW Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 pounds force/kW	\$1	inch
Exhaust Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP	\$1	inch
Electric Forklift Battery Charger	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$200	each
Dairy Plate Cooler / Well Water Pre-Cooler		\$500	each
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery with Electric Backup	Used with controlled electric water heater as defined by co-op	\$300	each
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer	≤ 500 watts, insulated tank	\$50	each
Scroll Refrigerant Compressor	\$1,000 cap per compressor	\$30	HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	\$1,000 cap per drive, must provide motor size	\$30	HP

Appliances

All-in-One Washer/Dryer Combo	Must be ENERGY STAR, must use ventless heat pump drying	\$50	each
Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR, must be electric	\$25	each
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dishwasher	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Inductive Range	All inductive ranges qualify	\$25	each
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Recycling - Freezer	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Refrigerator	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Room Air Conditioner	Must be working appliance	\$25	each

Audits/Assessments

Audit Recommended Improvements	\$500 cap	varies	each
Energy Audit – Cost of Audit	50% of audit cost, \$200 cap	varies	each
Compressed Air Audit	\$500 cap	varies	each

Conservation

Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	50% <u>UP</u> <u>TO</u> \$500	each
EV Charging Station – Installation Costs	For secondary "controlled" meter as required by co-op, \$200 cap	varies	each
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with integrated metering (Must be compatible with Allamakee-Clayton systems)	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$1,000	each
ElectricSense® New Home	Must meet 1 of 5 program/code requirements	\$500	each

HVAC

Heat Pump - Air Source & Mini-Split	SEER2 14.3+, or HSPF2 7.5+ <u>OR</u> SEER 15+, or HSPF 8.8+	\$200	ton
Heat Pump - Commercial Air Source & PTHPs	< 20 tons: EER 11+ 20 to < 60 tons: EER 10.5+ ≥ 60 ton: EER 10+	\$200	ton
Heat Pump - Geothermal		\$400	ton
New Furnace with ECM Blower Motor	Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) <u>OR</u> Eac ≤ 670 kWh/year Member's primary heat source	\$35	each

Lighting

LED Exit Sign	50% of cost cap	\$5	sign
LED Fixture	50% of cost cap	\$0.50	per 800 lumens
LED Lamp	5 lamp minimum, 50% of cost cap	\$0.50	lamp
Occupancy/Motion Sensor	Doesn't include exterior motion detector fixtures, 50% of cost cap	\$5	each

Water Heating

Commercial Water Heater 75-99 gallons		\$250	each
Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons		\$400	each
Residential Water Heater 75-99 gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$250	each
Residential Water Heater 100+ gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$400	each
Heat Pump Water Heater	Integrated (all-in-one) units, Uniform Energy Factor 2.20+	\$500	each

The required documentation listed below must be submitted no later than 3 months after purchase or installation:

- ✓ Incentive form (found at www.acrec.com)
- ✓ A copy of your receipt or invoice for each item with purchase price(s) circled.
- ✓ ENERGY STAR label for each item, if applicable.
- ✓ Documentation showing appliance was in working order prior to recycling, if applicable.

Incentive not to exceed equipment cost.



Rebate forms
available at
acrec.com



SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

ACEC introduces new scholarship

ACEC is excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity available to member students.

Since 1997, ACEC has offered the Hauschild Memorial Scholarship to high school seniors in our service territory. Beginning this year, ACEC has added a new scholarship, available exclusively to returning post-secondary education students.

Hauschild Memorial Scholarship

The Hauschild Memorial Scholarship was established in 1995 to honor the memory of former ACEC director Robert Hauschild. This annual scholarship is provided in recognition of Bill's dedication and service as an ACEC director from his election on Sept. 10, 1998 until his death on March 17, 1993.

The Hauschild Scholarship supports graduating high school seniors who plan to enter a course of study in the electric field. Suggested study areas include electrician, electric line worker, electrical engineer, etc. Students' parents or legal guardians do not need to be members of ACEC but do need to live within our service territory.

In addition to completing the application, students must submit two letters of recommendation, an unofficial high school transcript, and a short essay on why the applicant is seeking the scholarship and their future plans. Please note, all essays found to be AI-generated will be disqualified.



Dairyland Power Cooperative Careers Scholarship

Thanks to our G&T Dairyland Power Cooperative, ACEC is pleased to announce the new Dairyland Power Cooperative Careers Scholarship. This scholarship is for one post-secondary education student annually, with preference given to students who are pursuing studies for careers found in electric utility settings (engineering, IT, communications, economics, human resources, public relations, finance/accounting, etc.). Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be ACEC members.

Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA), with preference given to those with community service and extra curricular activities. In addition to the application, students must answer one of three essay questions. Essays found to be AI-generated will be disqualified.

Deadline

The deadline for both scholarships is February 28, 2026. Applications and rules can be found online at <https://acrec.com/youth-opportunities-acec>. For more information, contact Jennifer at jachenbach@acrec.com or by calling 888-788-1551. ■ 582-5

2026 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS DUE JAN 31.

Applications for the 2026 Youth Tour to Washington D.C. are due January 31! Every year, ACEC sponsors two high school sophomore or junior member students on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. as a part of the Iowa Youth Tour. Students must complete and return the application by January 31, 2026 in order to be eligible. From there, five students will be selected to be interviewed. For more information and to download an application, visit acrec.com/youth-tour or email Jennifer at jachenbach@acrec.coop. ■

CYBERSECURITY Tip of the MONTH

Sponsored by



Clicking "remind me later" on software updates is a reflex for a lot of us. But those updates often fix serious security flaws. The longer you wait, the more vulnerable your laptop or phone becomes.

- Set up automatic updates so you get the latest security patches.
- Regularly shut down and restart your laptops, phones and tablets – once a week is good.

~ Courtesy of staysafeonline.org ■

MEMBER RECIPES

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jennifer Achenbach, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jachenbach@acrec.coop.

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before the intended publication.

February – MAIN DISHES, March – PIES, APRIL – EGGS



UNUSUAL RAISIN COOKIES

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. shortening
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. raisins
- ½ c. water
- 6 Tbsp. raisin juice
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 ½ c. flour
- 2 c. minute oatmeal
- ½ c. nuts

Directions

Cook raisins until plump in ½ c. water. Dissolve baking soda in the 6 tablespoons of raisin juice. Cool. Mix remaining ingredients and add juice mixture. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12 to 15 minutes. When baked, immediately put in empty tin coffee can. Put on lid. Best soft and moist cookie.

■ **Dorothy Lau, Fayette**

CHOCOLATE SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1 c. brown sugar
- ½ c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. cocoa
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- Additional add-ins (optional):
Chocolate chips, peanut butter chips, nuts

Directions

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs. Mix in additional ingredients and optional add-ins. Refrigerate until cool. Roll into balls. Place on cookie sheet and bake 8-10 minutes. Cool on cooling rack.

■ **Kiley Roth, Postville**

TOM SELLECK COOKIES

- 1 ½ c. brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. water
- 2 ¾ c. flour
- 12 oz. melted chocolate chips
- 2 boxes Andres mints
- ¾ c. soft butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 ¼ tsp. soda

Directions

Cream sugars and butter; add water and eggs. Then add melted chocolate chips to the creamed mixture. Add dry ingredients and mix. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Roll into balls and bake at 350°F for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and place one mint on each cookie. Return to oven for 30 seconds to one minute. Remove from oven and spread melted mint around like frosting. Cool for a few minutes and then remove from pan.

■ **Lynn Monroe, Postville**

PINEAPPLE FRAPAE*

- 1 lb. marshmallows
- 1 c. milk
- ½ c. sugar
- 1 pt. cream
- 1 medium can pineapple, crushed and drained
- 16 graham crackers

Directions

Melt marshmallows, milk and sugar. Cool, whip the cream and mix the cooled marshmallow mixture and pineapple. Roll graham crackers. Place half of crackers in bottom of 9x13 pan. Pour cream mixture over and place remaining crumbs on top. Refrigerate.

■ **Dalyn Corbin, Fayette**

* This recipe was missing an ingredient when it was published in the December Newsletter. We apologize for the error.

CHOCOLATE DROP MARSHMALLOW COOKIES

- 4 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 1 c. butter
- 3 eggs
- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3 ½ c. flour
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- (1) 10 oz. bag large marshmallows, cut in half

Directions

Mix melted chocolate, butter, eggs, sugars, milk and vanilla together. Stir in flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Drop cookies on cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F for 10-12 minutes. Place marshmallows on top of cookie and return to oven for one minute. After cookies have cooled, frost.

Frosting

- 1 lb. bag powdered sugar
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
- ½ c. butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Directions

Mix together. Add enough water for desired consistency and frost cookies.

■ **Jeanne Kruckenberg, Postville**

Looking for a recipe from a previous newsletter? Wanting to try something new? Check out the recipe section on our website - <https://acrec.com/member-recipes>.

Every recipe submitted to the newsletter is posted on the website.

Be sure to submit your recipe for publication as well – people who submit a published recipe receive a \$5 bill credit!

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to Jim and Chris Uhlenhake of Wadena, who found their service number in a recent ACEC Newsletter. They received a \$5.00 bill credit.

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **one is worth \$10.00 and two are worth \$5.00.**

The service location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715
Postville, IA 52162

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-864-7611

TOLL-FREE 888-788-1551

PAYMENT LINE 24/7 833-284-5051

UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING
811

SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS

800-864-1611

WEBSITE

acrec.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

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The parts of a POWER POLE

Ever wonder what's on a power pole and how it delivers electricity to your home? Learning about each part can help you and your family stay informed — and safe.

Here are some common parts found on power poles.

Equipment can vary depending on location and service needs.

