

ACEC NEWS

JUNE 2026 | VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 06

Celebrating Dairy Month



IT'S PICNIC
TIME

ANNUAL
MEETING DATE

LET THE LIGHT
SHINE



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Holley McCormick
EVP/General Manager

THE VALUE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CFC

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, strong relationships help us do our job well. In previous columns this year, I've talked about some of those relationships. I've highlighted how we work with Dairyland Power Cooperative, The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Cooperative Response Center.

This month I'd like to highlight another important relationship we've developed – with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

It's possible you've never heard us mention our relationship with CFC. However, that doesn't mean it is any less vital to our operations. CFC plays an important role behind the scenes in helping electric cooperatives like ours remain strong, reliable, and financially sound.

A brief history of CFC

CFC was founded in 1969 by America's electric cooperatives. At the time, the rural electric system was growing, and cooperatives needed reliable access to financing to build and improve the infrastructure required to serve their communities. Electric cooperatives had already transformed life in rural America by bringing electricity to areas that investor-owned utilities had not served in the 1930s and 40s. However, maintaining and expanding that system required long-term capital.

CFC was formed to help meet that need. It was built by cooperatives, for cooperatives, with the goal of providing a dependable source of financing and financial services tailored to the unique needs of electric co-ops.

Over the years, CFC has grown into a strong, nationally respected financial

institution that continues to support electric cooperatives and the communities they serve.

What CFC Does

At its core, CFC helps electric cooperatives access the capital needed to build, maintain, and improve their systems. That includes financing for major infrastructure investments such as substations, power lines, system upgrades, technology improvements, and other long-term projects that are essential to reliable electric service.

But CFC's role goes beyond lending. It also provides a wide range of financial products, services, and expertise designed specifically for cooperatives. Because CFC understands the cooperative business model, it is able to offer support that aligns with the way co-ops operate and the long-term responsibilities we have to our members.

In addition to financing, CFC offers:

- financial and economic insight
- industry expertise
- education and training opportunities
- support for strategic planning and risk management
- resources that help cooperatives adapt to changing conditions in the energy industry

This cooperative-focused approach is one of the reasons CFC remains such a valuable partner.

How ACEC works with CFC

Like many electric cooperatives, ACEC relies on strong financial planning to ensure we can continue providing reliable service today while preparing for the future. Infrastructure investments in the electric utility world are significant, and they must be planned carefully over many years. Electric infrastructure is not something that can be built or replaced overnight. Poles, wires, substations, vehicles, equipment, and technology systems all require substantial investment, and those investments must be made responsibly. Our relationship with CFC helps support that work.

Having a trusted partner like CFC helps us manage those needs in a thoughtful and strategic way. In addition to financing, CFC also provides insight and resources that help cooperatives evaluate options, plan ahead, and respond to industry changes.

That matters because the electric utility environment continues to evolve.

Costs change. Technology changes. Member expectations change. Reliability and resilience remain top priorities. Through all of that, ACEC must continue making sound decisions that support both today's operations and tomorrow's needs.

Why This Relationship Matters

As a cooperative, our mission is to serve our members, not generate profits for outside investors. That means every major decision we make is guided by what is best for the membership and the communities we serve. To do that well, we need partners who understand the cooperative model and the unique challenges and responsibilities that come with it. CFC is one of those partners.

Because CFC was created by cooperatives to serve cooperatives, it understands that our focus is on reliability, affordability, and service. It understands the importance of long-term planning, local control, and financial stewardship. That shared understanding strengthens the relationship and helps ensure that the services and support CFC provides are aligned with our mission.

Maintaining this relationship is important not only for today, but for the future. The electric industry will continue to face new challenges and opportunities, from infrastructure needs and cybersecurity to evolving technology and changing energy demands. Meeting those challenges requires careful planning, strong partnerships, and access to reliable financial resources.

CFC helps provide that foundation.

Looking Ahead

At ACEC, we are committed to making wise investments in our system and continuing to provide the reliable service our members count on. That work depends on many things: dedicated employees, strong governance, thoughtful planning, and trusted partnerships.

Our relationship with CFC is one part of that larger picture, and it is an important one.

While CFC may work mostly behind the scenes, its impact is felt in the strength of the cooperative network and in the ability of cooperatives like Allamakee-Clayton to continue investing in the systems and services our members depend on every day.

We value that partnership and the role it plays in helping us serve our members well — now and into the future.

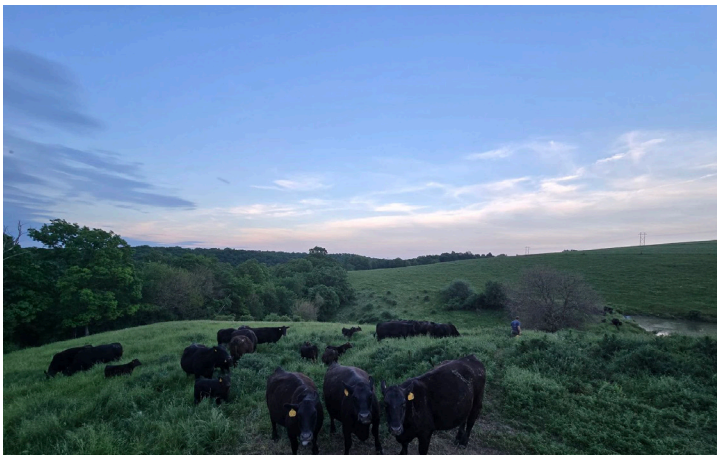


WELCOME KYLE!

ACEC welcomes Kyle Kuboushek to the team as our summer 1,000 hour employee. Kyle just graduated from South Winn High School. He is involved in the Outlaw Wrestling Club and has worked at Calmar Manufacturing and Decorah High School. He enjoys being outside, wrestling and watching the races. He plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College this fall for the powerline program. Welcome Kyle! ■

THROUGH A MEMBER'S LENS

Nothing is better than spring on the farm. This month we asked for photos from Memorial Day weekend. We selected this photo taken by Becky Rea, showing a day on the farm. Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo!



BOARD BRIEFS

May 28 Meeting

- Reviewed allocation of 2025 New Earnings
- Routine review of Board Policies 9-2 Harassment, 9-3 Safety & Occupational Health and 9-4 Ethics and Conflict of Interest
- General Manager annual review

See You at the Picnic!

5th Annual Member Appreciation Picnic

Thursday, June 25 3:30-6:30 PM

Postville Big Four Fairgrounds

All ACEC members are invited to this fun, family event. Enjoy a complimentary meal, an opportunity to win prizes, activities for the kids and conversations with fellow ACEC members, staff and the Board of Directors.

ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE! MONDAY, SEPT. 14 ACEC HEADQUARTERS

A NEW ERA OF MILKING AT ENYART DAIRY



Monica and Brian Enyart with two of their children, Bradley and Jacob, pose with their new robotic milking machine.

For the Brian and Monica Enyart family of rural Postville, dairy farming has always been about hard work while caring for their herd and raising their family. Recently, the family took a major step: adding robotic milking machines. The new technology is helping streamline dairy chores, improve cow comfort and support the family's long-term vision for their dairy operation. This June for Dairy Month, we're highlighting the Enyarts and the changes they've made recently.

Building their operation

Brian is a graduate of Postville High School while Monica graduated from Waukon High School. Brian started milking in 2001 at their home farm, Enyart Dairy, on Highway 51, just a few miles north of Postville. Brian and Monica were married in 2006.

Today, they farm around 750 acres of corn, alfalfa and occasionally soybeans.

They also currently milk around 150 cows. They've been able to increase their herd due to recent changes.

Monica said for the past five to six years, they've discussed adding robots. Robotic milking has been part of the U.S. dairy industry for more than two decades, with adoption growing steadily over the past 10 to 15 years as farmers look for ways to improve efficiency, address labor challenges and support cow comfort.

Previously, Monica said milking took about six hours with the morning and evening chores. When their kids – Olivia, Bradley and Jacob – were younger, the Enyarts had full-time help. Now, their family of five handles the chores.



Setting up for changes

Monica is familiar with robotic milking. Her parents, Mark and the late Sandra Ehrhardt, were the first in Northeast Iowa to start milking cows using the Lely Astronaut Robotic milking system.

The transition began several years ago when the Enyarts went to a different system and added SCR collars, a wearable monitoring collar that collects data such as activity levels, rumination, eating behavior and movement patterns. Monica said the collars could also tell them how much they were milking at a time, providing a more accurate way to manage the cows.

At the time, Monica said they debated adding robots, but they also wanted to expand their acres by purchasing a neighbor's farmland.

In the fall of 2024, Monica applied for an Iowa Dairy Innovation Grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The grant was to purchase two Lely A5 robotic milkers and one Lely manure collector. As a part of that grant, Monica created a budget and a plan, contacting contractors and getting bids for all phases of the project.

The design was for a 100 by 60 foot shed added onto the original parlor. During construction, they also replaced the roof over half of the previous facility. The layout provided the potential for four robots, a sorting pen and a sick animal pen.



Prior to adding the robots, ACEC was brought in to make the necessary electrical upgrades.

"We were notified of the upgrades starting from the electrician in needing to move some anchors for the project to allow for some grading to be done to the building site. We also happened to be doing a line rebuild due to the age of the line and wanting to upgrade our overhead high voltage line and eliminate some of the old right-of-ways to get it out to the road where we were able for better access," said ACEC Staking Engineer Aandi Deering. "The engineering department works closely with the members to try to help better the system while meeting the codes needed for the new line while doing their best to make the line placement where everyone would agree. While doing the project, the service was upgraded and changes made in a timely manner to ensure we were not holding up the project for them, which is a key reason to reach out about the projects ahead of time."

In March 2025, the Enyarts were notified they had received the grant. They began construction in April. Ultimately, they added three Lely milkers, with the potential to add a fourth down the road. They also added 2 Lely Discovery Collectors, 1 Juno feed pusher and a Luna cow brush.

The final milking in the old set up was Sept. 30. Then the Enyarts began the process of training the cows to go to the three robots. Like anything, it took a while to get into a new routine and get the cows comfortable.

"The first couple of weeks were very tiring. Everyone told us we'd be tired and we'd be living in the barn. We had multiple nights of sleeping in the barn, helping the cows get used to it," she said. "The first week we were pushing the cows through. We split them into three groups so every eight hours we were forcing them through the barn to make the schedule so the cows could get used to milking when they want to."



A new normal

It's been over six months since robots were added to the farm. It's made a big difference for the way of life for the cows and for the Enyarts.

"Now it's probably about half the time to do milking, but it's completely different. We're walking the barns. We're still cleaning off the mats but while we're cleaning we're looking at the cows," said Monica. "I feel like we're giving the cows a little bit more attention now. We can manage them better because it's not just the labor of milking. We're taking that labor time and really focusing on the cows and changing some things management-wise to make life easier on the farm."

They've also been able to grow their herd. They've gone from 120 cows to 160. The robots can support milking about 60 cows each so Monica said they'd like to naturally flow to around 180 by the end of 2026.

Recently, the manure collectors were added to the barn. They are similar to Rumbas by going through the barn and sucking up the manure to later be deposited in the collection area. Monica said they've made a huge change, saving the Enyarts at least two hours a day. **959**



The Enyart family - Brian and Monica with children Bradley, Olivia and Jacob.

For the Enyarts, the investment has been about more than efficiency it's also made the daily work more manageable.

"It's been a good change. I'm glad we did it. Before, we were getting to the point where we either needed to hire someone full time and I'm just there to help, or we needed to do something different," said Monica, who noted she's also experience less overall body pain. "I'm so very thankful. Human-wise, it's been very good for us."

Thank you Enyart family and all our local dairy farmers for all you do. ■

OPEN HOUSE

Please Join Us!

The Enyarts will be hosting an open house on Tuesday, June 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They ask for people to RSVP using the QR code or online at: tinyurl.com/mmm8abzz



SHINING THE LIGHT ON COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

ACEC is pleased to announce details for the sixth annual Shine the Light contest, which celebrates our cooperative commitment to community. The statewide contest accepts nominations for local volunteers from now until the end of June. Three winners will be awarded a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or community organization.

"We're excited to again participate in this cooperative effort to shine the light on community volunteers," said ACEC General Manager Hollee McCormick. "So many friends and neighbors throughout our service area deserve to be recognized for making a positive impact."

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the Shine the Light contest will accept entries online during the month of June; three winners will be announced in September. In addition to receiving a \$3,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit, the winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media. **4837**

How to nominate

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from ACEC, you're a co-op member-consumer and can nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Additionally, nonwinners from previous years can be nominated again.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com from now until June 30 to make a nomination and review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide some basic contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less: How has your nominee made a difference in the community and how might their local charity/nonprofit use the \$3,000 donation? ■



As part of the process for our Annual Meeting, the current ACEC Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee to select candidates to run for the board. This year's nominating committee met on May 21 to choose candidates for election at the September Annual Meeting. Look for the candidate biographies in the ACEC Annual Report, hitting mailboxes in August. Pictured are members of the 2026 Nominating Committee, from left, front row – Jeff Molitor, Dorchester; Joan Schwartz, Waterville; Cindy Berns, Postville; Roger Arthur, Sumner. Back row – Andy Moore, Waukon; Michael Anderson, Elkader; Mark Brase, Garnavillo; Eric Boehm, Wadena. ■



Our Condolences

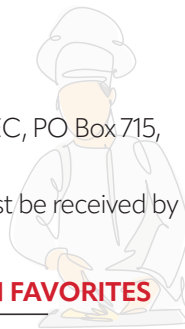
Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of former ACEC employee Robert Dull (pictured in the center). He passed away on May 17. Bob began working for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative on October 27, 1952 and retired as the line crew foreman on March 6, 1992. After retirement, Bob continued to work driving school bus for the Postville School District for 21 years. ■

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.

JULY – ICE CREAM/COLD DESSERTS, SEPTEMBER – HARVEST SEASON FAVORITES



GRILLED ITALIAN CHICKEN

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into strips
- ½ c. vinegar
- 1 tsp. grated onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. mustard
- 1 tsp. basil
- 1 tsp. oregano
- ¾ c. olive oil
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper

Directions

Pierce chicken with a fork. Mix other ingredients and pour over chicken. Cover and refrigerate for several hours. Grill until juices run clear (about 15 minutes).

■ *Maranda Knobloch, St. Olaf*

GRILLED ONIONS

- 4 large onions
- ½ c. butter
- 4 cubes chicken bouillon

Directions

Preheat outdoor grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Peel outer layer off onions. Slice a small section off of one end of each onion, and make a small hole in the center. Fill the center of each onion with a bouillon cube and 2 tablespoons of butter. Replace the top of the onion and wrap in aluminum foil. Place onions on preheated grill over indirect heat and close the lid. Cook until tender, about 1 hour. Remove the tops and cut into bite size chunks. Place in a serving dish with all the juices from the foil.

■ *Allrecipes.com*

GRILLED PEACHES AND CREAM

- 4 peaches, halved and pitted
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 Tbps. Clover honey, or as needed
- 1 c. soft cream cheese with honey and nuts
- Chopped nuts (optional)

Directions

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat and light oil the grate. Lightly brush peaches with oil. Place pit-sides down onto the preheated grill. Grill until peaches have nice grill marks, about 5 minutes. Flip peaches. Drizzle with honey. Place dollop cream cheese where pit was. Grill until cream cheese is warm, 2-3 minutes more. Serve immediately with additional honey and chopped nuts, if desired.

■ *Allrecipes.com*

MINI PIES

- 1 roll sugar cookie dough – cut into 12 slices
- Any pie filling (you can use one, two or three flavors)

Directions

Spray a regular size 12 muffin tin with cooking spray. Put a slice of cookie dough in each slot and press down. Bake at 350°F for 11-12 minutes. While cookies are still warm, use a shot glass and press the bottom into each cookie to make an imprint. Using a small ice cream scoop, melon baller or a spoon, add pie filling. Put back into 350°F oven for 5-6 minutes. Garnish as you wish, such as on lemon filling, put raspberry.

■ *Becky Engelhardt, 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!

CYBERSECURITY Tip of the MONTH

Sponsored by



Whether lounging on a beach or hiking through the mountains, chances are you're staying connected online during your trip. Travel and technology go hand in hand. The bad news? Criminals know that too. The good news? A few smart habits can keep your personal information safe.

- 1. Bring only what you need.** Travel with fewer devices when possible.
- 2. Update your devices and apps.** Install the latest updates on your phone, laptop and apps before your trip, especially operating system updates. Turning on automatic updates can help you stay protected while you're away.
- 3. Use strong device MFA.** Enable strong PIN, password and biometric multifactor authentication on all devices.
- 4. Turn on "find my device" features.** Activate tracking tools like Apple's Find My or Google's Find My Device. These tools let you locate, lock or erase your device remotely if it goes missing.
- 5. Review privacy and location settings.** Disable location tracking for apps that don't need it while traveling.
- 6. Back up important data.** Back up photos, documents and contacts to the cloud or an external drive before you leave.

~ Courtesy of staysafeonline.org

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to Bryan and Erika Fish, who found their service number in a recent ACEC Newsletter. They received a \$10.00 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

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WEBSITE

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

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IOWA'S ELECTRIC CO-OPS POWER UP D.C.

While King Charles drew global attention during his historic US state visit in late April, another delegation was in our nation's capital with a powerful mission of its own. Twenty-five advocates representing Iowa's electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., not for ceremony, but for service—bringing the voices of their communities straight to Capitol Hill. **5548**

The co-op representatives attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) annual Legislative Conference and met face-to-face with lawmakers to champion the needs of rural America and the members they power every day. The group included **ACEC Director Jerry Keleher**.

During the NRECA Legislative Conference, more than 1,500 electric co-op leaders were briefed on key legislative priorities, including a push for smart energy policy to ensure reliable, affordable power for the member-consumers we serve. ■