

ACEC

SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 09



WE ENJOYED OUR TIME AT THE COUNTY FAIRS!



ACEC WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

LT. GOV VISITS WAUKON AND DECORAH

RLF APPROVED FOR CITY OF WEST UNION



**A MESSAGE
FROM**
*Your
General
Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

**TREE TRIMMING IMPROVES
RELIABILITY FOR ALL**

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. I've been noting that the leaves are starting to change, and it'll soon be "leaf-looking" season. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade, and a habitat for birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a "right of way" is and how it may impact you. A right of way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights of way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance, or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, ACEC must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, trees touching power lines in our members' yards can pose a grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. In addition, electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor

We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.



like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events, making it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Reliability

Of course, one of the most significant benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability. Even though we implement methodical vegetation management, trees are still typically our #1 reason for power outages. Can you imagine if we didn't stay on top of it?

Affordability

As you know, Allamakee-Clayton Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, which means we strive to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we can better keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events, and secure the grid's reliability. ■ **792**

BOARD BRIEFS

July 25 Meeting

- Approved Resolution from The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association supporting the concept of researching and developing hydroelectric power generation through the lock and dam system on the Mississippi River.
- Received a Cyber Security update from, Jeni Kolsrud, ACEC IT Manager.
- Discussed the permitting development occurring in North Central Iowa.
- Approved the donation request to sponsor a "hole" for the Postville Fire & EMS Third Annual Golf Tournament.

August 29 Meeting

- Received a collaborative Fiber update from Matt Marting and Adam Ranseth (fiber engineer)
- Received an OCIO Appeal Process Overview
- Reviewed OCIO # 5 Grant overview
- Approved a Load Forecast resolution
- Approved revisions to the following board policies:
 - 9-1 Work Rules and Termination of Personnel
 - 8-6 Sick Leave Policy
 - 7-5 Equal Employment Opportunity
- Approved purchase of a text messaging capability for outage notifications
- Reviewed information for upcoming Sept. 12 Annual Meeting



PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

JULY

Number of miles driven: **431 miles**

Cost to Charge: **\$16.24**

Level 2 charger @ACEC: 132 kWhs x \$.123

AUGUST

Number of miles driven: **1408 miles**

Cost to Charge: **\$66.96**

Telsa supercharger: 135 kWhs x \$.26=\$35.10

Level 2 charger @ACEC: 259 kWhs x \$.123 = \$31.86



DID WE SEE YOU AT THE COUNTY FAIRS?

Our Tesla made its way to the county fairs again this year. First was the Big Four Fair in Postville on June 17, followed by the Allamakee County Fair on July 21, and the Fayette County Fair on July 22 and the Clayton County Fair on Aug. 4.

Ryan Wagner, mgr. of member services, enjoyed educating people about the unique features of the Tesla and EVs in general. “There was a great interest in our EV, and I took numerous questions about charging,” said Ryan. “People considering an EV were curious how you know where you can charge when away from home.” That’s easy! Get any of the following apps: Plug Share, ChargePoint, EVgo, ChargeHub, Electrify America, or access your EV’s built-in software.

Brenda Hackman, Mgr. of econ. dev. and comm. relations also visited the fairs walking through the show barns and visiting with people. She also snagged some awesome photos! “We had a wonderful time at the fairs,” said Brenda. Cooperatives were formed by the people and for the people and because of this, community outreach and education are so important to ACEC; I truly enjoy seeing our members and meeting new people each year.”

Check out our Facebook page for more photos!



FREE WI-FI DONATED BY ACEC

AC Skyways offered free Wi-Fi at the Big Four Fair, the Allamakee County Fair and the Fayette County Fair this year.

There is an essential need for a broadband connection in the show barns, and all three county fairs are grateful for the local support!

BY THE NUMBERS—WI-FI CONNECTIONS

Allamakee County Fair

762 unique devices connected

Fayette County Fair

1,186 unique devices connected

(Big Four Fair Wi-Fi connections were not available to report)

Cover photo captions:

1. Jennifer and Addison Bentley, Big Four Fair
2. Kennadi Butikofer, Fayette County Fair
3. Candace Fette and Diane Fette, Clayton County Fair
4. Clara Bilden with Thumper, Fayette County Fair
5. Summit with director Mike Gibbs’ granddaughter, Mariesa, Allamakee County Fair
6. Rosie Everman (Jess and Blair Everman), Allamakee County Fair
7. Paul and Julie Schlage, ACEC members, Clayton County Fair
8. Greenleigh, Breklyn, and Brayton, Big Four Fair
9. Sam Stock, Seth Stock, and Elyse Stock (Stacy Stock’s nephews and niece)
The family has our fiber internet and the three are holding a map of the fiber locations.
10. McKenzie Leiran and Madilyn Benda, Allamakee County Fair

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Postville elementary teachers and faculty were on hand last month to receive donated school supplies from ACEC board members and employees. "Some students come to school on the first day without any school supplies due to financial reasons," said Jennifer Schutte, K-6 principal. "We will add these supplies to our School Store that is organized by teachers and filled with the educational materials the students will need". Cora B. Darling Elementary school faculty and staff welcomed approximately 350 students to begin their 2022-2023 school year on August 23. ■



C30

l-r: Makenzie Clemens, student-teacher; Heather Staley, 1st-grade teacher; Jenny Schutte, K-6 Principal; Teri Wagner, ACEC; Staci Malcom, ACEC; Jason Troendle, ACEC; Aandi Deering, ACEC; Lisa Acevedo, 1st-grade teacher; Brenda Hackman, ACEC; and Callie Halverson, 1st-grade teacher

ACEC STAFF ATTEND GOVERNORS GROWING RURAL IOWA TASK FORCE MEETING

Early this month, the Growing Rural Iowa Task Force Meeting was held at Convergence CiderWorks in Decorah. Lt. Governor Gregg toured Decorah businesses and stopped in Waukon with the Task Force. The day also included a meeting open to public comment after presentations—Brenda Hackman, manager of econ. dev. and Jeni Kolsrud, IT manager, attended to share the work AC Skyways is doing in Allamakee County to deploy fiber and regarding the OCIO Mapv5 Survey Speed-Test Challenge for businesses and residential homes that the OCIO is gathering. "We are very grateful for the funding to bring fiber to the rural areas, and now the need is to have municipalities have that same speed and reliability," said Brenda Hackman. "If there is evidence from these surveys that there is a need, it could open up some funding for the municipalities to have fiber deployed."

The Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative created a partnership with the Iowa Rural Development Council, which created three task forces that develop recommendations for the Governor before each legislative session:

- Investing in Rural Iowa - created to address the rural housing shortage and develop strategies to support rural businesses and entrepreneurs
- Growing Rural Iowa - created to address leadership, recruitment, and retention in rural communities
- Connecting Rural Iowa - created to address the issue of financing broadband connectivity



Jeni Kolsrud (l.) and Brenda Hackman (r.) are pictured with Lt. Governor Adam Gregg following the Growing Rural Iowa Task Force Meeting this month.



NEW FACES AT THE CO-OP!

The Co-op welcomed **Sam Freitag** to operations as an Apprentice Lineman early last month. He received his AA degree in powerline technology from Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. Sam is from Hawkeye and resides in Clermont. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and UTV rides.

While working as an Apprentice Lineman for ACEC, Sam attends the Chippewa Valley Technical College for two weeks in the fall and two weeks in the spring for the next four years to finish his apprenticeship. Upon completing his training, he will become a First Class Lineman for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative.

Welcome, Sam!

Staci Malcom joined our FirstCall department as a Customer Service Representative on June 20. Staci is a Postville native, married to Ross Malcom, and they have a son, Collin, and a daughter, Nora. She has an AA from NICC (Administrative Assistant/EMT) and dental assisting training from SW Tech in Fennimore, Wisc. Staci worked for 20 years as a dental assistant and two years with the GrandPad program, which she continues to do.

Staci is a Postville Booster Club member and a past member of the Postville School Board. She enjoys reading, gardening, and checking out local wineries and breweries in her free time. The family also enjoys their four dogs, Gunner, Ruger, Sadie, and Remi.

We're glad you're here, Staci!



Sam Freitag
Apprentice Lineman



LINEMAN JOB SHADOW

Our crews welcomed **Kael Crawford** for a job shadow last month. Kael is a senior at Waukon High School and plans to begin powerline technology training in Sheldon, Iowa, next fall. On Aug. 10 they set poles with a track machine a few miles northwest of Village Creek Bible Camp in Allamakee County. Kael is pictured with Jack Regan. Thank you for taking a day to spend with ACEC linemen. We wish you the best, Kael!



Staci Malcom
FirstCall Customer
Service Representative

REVOLVING LOAN APPROVED FOR CITY OF WEST UNION

This summer, the ACEC Board of Directors approved a revolving loan to assist the City of West Union in replacing pavers with concrete on North Vine to Maple Street. The City completed the project before RAGBRAI came to town in July.

The revolving loan fund (RLF) program serves as gap

funding for economic development projects. Eligible applicants include public authorities along with for-profit and non-profit organizations. If you have a project and want more information on the ACEC RLF program, contact Brenda Hackman at bhackman@acrec.coop or 563-605-6026. **6427**



Pictured, l-r: Lee Barnes, Street Superintendent; Amie Johansen, City Administrator; and Brenda Hackman, ACEC's Manager of Economic Dev. and Community Relations.

FREE Installation
of FirstCall

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Requires six-month advanced payment.
Payment must be made by Sept. 30, 2022.



ELECTRICAL SURGE PROTECTION

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative has selected HomeServe as the trusted provider of surge damage protection programs in your area. HomeServe's authorized, locally-based network of contractors will promptly repair your covered electrical products in the event of a surge, with up to \$3,000 annually with multiple service calls (a 30-day waiting period includes a money-back guarantee) for covered repairs. Covered appliances, electronics, and electrical devices are protected, no matter how old they are.

While surge damage protection is not required, you can now protect yourself against potentially sudden and significant out-of-pocket expenses. For the low cost of only \$4.99 per month, you can avoid the costs of potentially hundreds of dollars if your electrical products need repair, plus enjoy greater peace of mind as a homeowner. Complete the form you received in the mail, or contact HomeServe at 833-334-1874.

If you are a contractor and want HomeServe to list your business on their contractor list, contact HomeServe at 833-334-1874 or the Co-op at 888-788-1551.
PlansACREC.com

OPERATION ROUND UP



SMALL CHANGE Changes Lives! Just round your electric bill up to the nearest dollar.

ACEC members who would like to participate in giving back to their community through Operation Round Up may **complete the enclosed form and return it to the Co-op or go to the ACEC Website**, click on the "Community" page link, and then click on "Operation Round Up." There is a sign-up form to submit. Please share with your friends and family who are ACEC members.



SAVE \$\$\$

Allamakee-Clayton Electric has a variety of rebates available to members who purchase energy efficient products.

Please review the rebate prior to purchase to ensure your item meets the rebate requirement for energy efficiency.

Full details are listed on our website at acrec.com.

MEMBER RECIPES

FRUITY SLAW

- 2 c. cabbage, finely shredded
- ½ c. carrots, grated
- 1-8 oz. can unsweetened pineapple, crushed or chunked (keep the juice)
- ½ c. raisins
- 1 ½ c. apples, coarsely chopped
- 2 T. fresh lemon juice

Toss all ingredients with lemon and pineapple juice. Marinate overnight.

Patricia Meyer, Guttenberg

GRILLED CABBAGE SALAD

- 1 head red cabbage, cut into 8 wedges
- 6 T. mayonnaise
- 2 T. chopped chives (fresh is best)
- 3 T. cider vinegar
- 2 T. water
- 2 tsp. sugar
- ¾ tsp. black pepper

Preheat grill or grill pan to medium-high. Coat grill rack and cabbage with cooking spray. Add cabbage to grill; grill 12 minutes or until lightly charred, turning occasionally. Remove from grill. Combine remaining ingredients in a bowl, stirring with a whisk. Drizzle evenly over cabbage. Enjoy!

Angela Winters, Nashua

Looking for a PAST newsletter recipe?

We've uploaded every recipe that we have printed in our newsletters to acrec.com/member-recipes. Search through hundreds of recipes by a specific name or by category.

COLESLAW



Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jmcintyre@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 intended publication.

October-APPLES December-CRANBERRIES

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – one is worth a **\$10** bill credit, and two are worth a **\$5** bill credit if found. The Service Location number must be yours to claim the bill 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

811

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Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Rural Iowa
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students
who have a
passion for
leadership

Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at:



acrec.com/iowa-youth-leadership-academy