June 2023 Vol. 7 Issue 6
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

MiNews

A time-honored tradition at the county fair

How your co-op goes *beyond the wires* every summer

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Summer Shift, Peak Alert and Max Generation explained

Energy-saving projects for the weekend warrior

 Brian Krambeer, president/CEO | 800.432.2285 | bkrambeer@MiEnergy.coop

Be on the lookout for power lines while in the field or after storms

It has been a busy spring for area farmers getting the crops in the ground. Unfortunately, it has also been a dangerous spring with eight incidents of broken electric distribution poles due to farm machinery contacting our electric equipment. Thankfully, no one was injured.

Today's farm machinery is not getting any smaller. As a result, farmers traveling down sideroads or in fields with electric distribution lines need to be extra careful. Most of our electric distribution lines are in public rights-of-way along roads, but we still have easements crossing fields – that may have been a field fence line at one time. So while our farming members may have heard this a hundred times, be careful around electric distribution lines. If you come in contact with a power line, stay put and call MiEnergy to disconnect the power line and avoid coming into contact with connected equipment.

Farm accidents involving power lines are life-threatening incidents and expensive for the farmer. Damaged poles, overhead lines, anchors and other equipment needing replacement are billable expenses. For example, a broken pole clipped by a disc can cost several thousand dollars. It also causes an inconvenience to your neighbors when you create a power outage.

MiEnergy wants to keep you safe, so we consistently run public service announcements related to electrical safety. Look up, be careful around overhead power lines, and don't dig without an underground locate are just some of our recent safety messages.

Education is our cornerstone to making a long-term impact on improving safety practices with our employees and our membership. Last month, MiEnergy participated in three safety days for elementary students in Fillmore, Houston, and Winona counties. Our lineworkers demonstrated what happens when objects like tree limbs or farm machinery come into contact with power lines.

With the conclusion of Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer begins. Unfortunately, it also marks the season of thunderstorms and severe weather, when we remind people to be safe around downed power lines. We naturally tend to walk around the yard to inspect the damage from a severe storm – remember to watch for downed power lines.

Members should sign up for our outage texting notification. This free service texts you when our outage management system predicts power at your location has been interrupted. It also sends a text when it predicts power is restored. It's an excellent service to use, especially if you are out of town.

Members are reminded to call when electric service is interrupted. Yes, our outage management system is dialed in for very accurate predictions, but sometimes isolated outages occur or a separate individual outage is causing your power to be out. After-hours calls are answered by the co-op owned Cooperative Response Center, which has four regional call centers across the United States. Our cooperative was part of a group that opened its first office in the late '90s, which remains in Austin, Minnesota. While they have had some growing pains over the years, the added facilities and increased staffing is expected to improve after-hours outage reporting. If you do have issues, please let us know.

Finally, a tip of the hard hat to our employees as we begin the summer season. I have the privilege to work with a staff of the very best in our electric cooperative industry. Our outside crews are moving to four 10-hour days as a pilot program to evaluate reducing transportation and operating costs. This pilot will be for the summer months of June, July and August. Crews will always be available 24/7 in the event of a severe storm, and we always have crews on standby. Let's hope for a quiet storm season.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer season. Please play it safe around electricity.

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits.

Board room highlights | May 25, 2023

- Received a favorable financial report.
- Approved the bid from Tjader & Highstrom for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Project.
- Reviewed and approved a loan application through Dairyland and MiEnergy for the Evans Memorial Home for the Aged.
- CEO Krambeer provided an update to subsidiary organizations.

The next board meeting will be held at the Cresco office on June 29 at 9 a.m.

ICONIC SIGHTS, SOUNDS & SMELLS OF THE FAIR

Annual week-long celebrations of agriculture, 4-H, FFA, food contests and more

BEYOND THE WIRES

For over 200 years, people have come together to celebrate livestock, prize winning produce, horticulture, culinary treats, entertainment and so much more by gathering annually at county fairs across the United States. Summertime fairs offer the chance to see friends, try new foods and participate in numerous contests or you might find yourself in the judging ring. Both the young and old can make the most of all the sights and sounds during the week. There is something for virtually everyone to take part in and experience. And the best part is knowing that your local electric cooperative is right there amongst all of that excitement! We're going *beyond the wires* to make a difference in our communities, one local fair at a time.

Exhibits, demonstrations and competitions bring out the best in local residents vying for bragging rights on their much deserved blue ribbons. Can you call fame to the 'best salsa maker' in the county? Ever had your kids or grandkids turn an old lightbulb into a creative masterpiece? How about making your Scandinavian ancestors proud by presenting tasty lefse rounds or perfecting your family's favorite homemade apple pie recipe in the fair goer competitions? If this sounds like fun, or maybe you're up for a challenge, be sure to check out the competitions sponsored by MiEnergy at this year's county fairs in Iowa on page 10. We hope to see an abundance of familiar faces there!

COUNTY FAIR CO-OP CONTRIBUTIONS*

**List includes past, present and ongoing events*

- Blue Ribbon sponsors of the Mighty Howard County Fair in Cresco (June 21-25), Winneshiek County Fair in Decorah (July 11-15), Winona County Fair in St. Charles (July 12-16), Fillmore County Fair in Preston (July 17-23), and the Houston County Fair in Caledonia (August 16-20).
- Support the 4-H by donating Moo Mobile malt coupons and providing volunteers to work in their food stands and for kids day events.
- Sponsor fair-goer contests.
- Giveaways for fair packages on MiEnergy's social media pages.
- Operating the Moo Mobile malt booth for the day and donating profits to local organizations and back to the fair.
- Howard County Cancer Association dunk tank fundraiser participants and sponsors.
- Participant in commercial exhibits building with educational materials about co-op programs and products.

MiEnergy proudly showcases our blue ribbon support for our strong commitment to local communities. We can't wait for fair season 2023! Thank you to the co-op employees and directors who volunteer their time and talents at county fairs and local youth groups to go *above and beyond the wires*. After all, that's the co-op way of doing things.

Share the fun—MiEnergy Fair Connections

"We come together from such diverse backgrounds and views on the fair board to create a week of fun and excitement for all at the Mighty Howard County Fair."

—Mike Walton, vice president of engineering and system planning. Walton is the president of the Mighty Howard County Fair Board.

"I really enjoy helping with the 4-H programs, especially the dairy project, as 4-H was such a major part of our family growing up. It's very rewarding watching the kids improve their leadership skills and gain confidence in themselves. Young people are our future and they gain many life long friendships as they work together. It's a pleasure to be able to give back to my community."

—Beth Olson, MiEnergy board member.

Students awarded $1,000 scholarships for their dedication to community

MiEnergy Cooperative awarded $70,000 in scholarships to 70 local high school students who exemplify commitment to their local community. MiEnergy's scholarship program reflects the core cooperative principle of commitment to community by recognizing high school seniors who demonstrate cooperative spirit through service to others. The scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits that would otherwise be turned over to the state. A video of the award winners can be viewed on the cooperative's website, MiEnergy.coop, at https://www.mienergy.coop/scholarships. This year's 2023 MiEnergy Cooperative Community Service Scholarship winners are as follows:

Caledonia: Kennedy Kruse, child of Dan and Suzanne Kruse; Jenna Mann, child of Curt and Stephanie Mann; Alec Weinbender, child of Lorrie and Matt Weinbender; Miranda Schroeder, child of Daniel and Sheila Schroeder; Elenore Milde, child of Andrew and Leah Milde; Bronson Knutson, child of Joyce and Mark Knutson; Jovial King, child of Amanda and Luke King; Madelyn Meyer, child of Joyce and Scott Meyer; Mackenzie Morey, child of Matt and Beth Morey.

Chatfield: Kelsi Goldsmith, child of Chris and Kari Goldsmith.

Cotter: Carver Heiring, child of Robert and April Heiring; Olivia Moore, child of Nathan and Sara Moore.

Crestwood: Ethan Rice, child of Kathy and Tim Rice; Christopher Bigalk, child of Scott and Terra Bigalk; Quinna Ollendieck, child of Todd and Gena Ollendieck.

Decorah: Mairi Sessions, child of Erik Sessions and Sara Peterson; Morgan Moen, child of Ron and Kathy Moen; Thea Schissel, child of Todd and Lara Schissel; Benson Newhouse, child of Ben and Rebecca Newhouse; Alexandra Irwin, child of Stacey and Chris Irwin; Britann Mettille, child of Matt and Julie Mettille; Jackson Knoke, child of Amy and Fred Knoke; Hailey Bohr, child of Jeremy and Denise Bohr.

Fillmore Central: Madelyn Bergey, child of Jodi Hellem and Jerry Bergey; Bryce Corson, child of Traci and Carlisle Corson; Madison Simon, child of Josh and Angie Simon; Dillon O' Connor, child of Derek and Janet O'Connor; Regan Hanson, child of Heidi and Doug Hanson; Oliver Hoeltzle, child of Michelle Van Hee; Jake Fishbaugher, child of John and Kristina Fishbaugher.

Homeschool: Lucca Sween, child of Shawn and Patrick Sween.

Houston: Ashtyn Meyer, child of Kenny and Morgan Meyer; Olivia Beckman, child of Neil and Pam Beckman; Nicole Beckman, child of Jeff and Tina Beckman; Kayleen Kulas, child of Jonathan and Amy Kulas; Sydney Torgerson, child of Rod and Joalyn Torgerson.

Kingsland: Anika Reiland, child of Sarah and Matt Reiland; Garrison Hubka, child of Jim and Sally Hubka; Cole Kruegel, child of Todd and Chari Kruegel.

Lanesboro: Ariana Huntington, child of Angie and Troy Huntington; Kaci Ruen, child of Nick and Trista Ruen.

Lewiston-Altura: Elliana Nelson, child of Melissa and Jeff Nelson; Olivia Barkeim, child of Jason and Emily Barkeim; Halle McElmury, child of Peter and Heidi Lehnertz; Zachary Schultz, child of Ron and Jen Schultz.

New Hampton: Aydin Ries, child of Lonnie and Amy Ries; Elaina Rosonke, child of Al and Nikki Rosonke; Kandice Eggerichs, child of Jamie Wickham and Jim Eggerichs; Quinten Reicks, child of Troy and Shelly Reicks.

Riceville: Morgan Fair, child of Patrick and Andrea Fair.

Rushford-Peterson: Hannah Highum, child of Steve and Jody Highum; Hannah Ronnenberg, child of Jason and Crystal Ronnenberg; Chason Mierau, child of Dean and Kim Mierau; Kenna Gallion, child of grandmother Sharon Horton.

South Winneshiek: Dawson Wenthold, child of Jodi and Jess Wenthold; Billie Wagner, child of Edward and Tiffany Wagner; Morgan Kleve, child of Darin and Mary Kleve; Isabelle Kipp, child of Julie and Richard Kipp.

Spring Grove: Lydia Solum, child of Aaron and Lynn Solum; Lawrence Skauge, child of Christy and David Skauge.

St. Charles: Lane Waller, child of Ted and Tammy Waller; Todd Mueller, child of DJ and Carrie Mueller; Adam Paul, child of Biswajit Paul and Jenny Putz.

Stewartville: Conner Lohmann, child of Karri and Eric Lohmann; Tressa Smith, child of Ron and Kathy Smith.

Turkey Valley: Breanna Moudry, child of Amy and Brad Moudry; Troy Schmitt, child of Peter and Susan Schmitt; Alison Leibold, child of Mark and Susan Leibold.

Winona: Abigail Russell, child of Kent and Tina Russell; Brooke Calteaux, child of Brian and Annette Calteaux.

ENERGY-SAVING PROJECTS FOR THE WEEKEND WARRIOR

Are you a weekend warrior? If you're considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money, we've got a few project ideas for you—all of which can be completed in a day or less.

Here are three energy-saving projects you can easily tackle whether you're a weekend warrior pro or a DIY dabbler.

GET SMART ABOUT HOME COOLING AND HEATING

Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable (as little as $70!), this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Of course, smart thermostats offer a variety of bells and whistles. Still, the average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from anywhere by using your phone and learn your cooling and heating preferences over time.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions. Still, this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi.

Play it safe: read the installation instructions carefully before you start.

GO GREEN AND BOOST YOUR GREENERY WITH A RAIN BARREL

If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for outdoor plants. Rainwater is free of minerals, salts and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.

Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to harvest large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water use—it's a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

Most residential rain barrels range in size from 50 to 90 gallons. The size you purchase will depend on your watering needs.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is to position a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, but this is an easy way to harvest rainwater, and the barrel won't take up much space. Also, consider a cover for the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your harvested water.

CREATE FRESH SAVINGS WITH A DIY CLOTHESLINE

If you have enough outdoor space, installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs—in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home (which makes your air conditioner work harder). Additionally, air drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your clothesline with two T-posts, wire and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need some Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing a line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you determine the best location.

If an outdoor clothesline isn't an option, no sweat! You can easily create an indoor drying rack that folds to save space. Home improvement websites like thespruce.com and hgtv.com offer step-by-step tutorials for various indoor clothes racks.

Check out MiEnergy's website at www.MiEnergy.coop for additional energy-saving ideas and tips.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

Emerging technologies for generating power

Electric cooperatives have been adapting to changing times by embracing advantageous economic conditions and increasing technological innovation, resulting in a shift towards renewable energy sources on the nation's electric grid. Cooperatives understand that the efficacy and durability of the electric grid require diverse power generation sources. Electric co-ops invest in cutting-edge technologies to meet members' energy needs and constantly monitor new advancements. They also develop strategies to adapt to these changes and share best practices with fellow co-ops for better service delivery.

Several revolutionary technologies for creating electricity are reshaping the future of power generation. Let's take a look at a few that are currently on electric co-ops' radars.

OFFSHORE WIND

Offshore wind farms hold significant promise. These farms offer renewable energy production, employment opportunities and environmental benefits by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. With offshore wind turbines positioned miles out at sea, they are barely visible from land and located away from sea routes and ecologically sensitive areas. An offshore wind farm has several turbines dispersed across a vast ocean. Each is solidly attached to a foundation piece on the seafloor and has a tower that extends into the air, where the blades may take advantage of stronger, steadier, and less turbulent wind speeds offshore. These conditions result in consistent energy production. Slight changes in wind speed result in substantial improvements in energy production: a turbine operating in winds of 15 mph can produce twice as much energy as one operating in winds of 12 mph. Additionally, advancements in energy storage near wind farms will allow wind to deliver electricity when it is most needed.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE

Renewable energy solutions have their challenges. For example, we need electricity around the clock, yet we don't have sunlight and wind 24 hours a day. This means we need greater investments in energy storage projects to store the electricity created by renewable sources. Energy storage will play an important role in creating a more flexible and resilient power grid.

Energy storage is expected to expand significantly in 2023, following robust growth in 2022. As governments at all levels and companies broaden their carbon reduction goals, demand for storage to hold energy produced by intermittent

resources like wind and solar is rising. Developers and power plant owners plan to increase utility-scale battery storage capacity in the U.S. nearly fourfold in the next three years, reaching 30 GW by the end of 2025, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

SMALL NUCLEAR

Nuclear energy has been a source of power generation for a long time, constituting about 15% of the fuel mix for 661 electric co-ops in the U.S. In total, 93 commercial nuclear reactors are operational in 28 states.

As the nation and the world work toward new sources of always-available electricity, many in the industry are keeping an eye on the development of a new wave of nuclear power plants that may be on the horizon, known as small modular reactors, or SMRs.

SMRs can generate carbon-free, reliable baseload power on a footprint comparable to a conventional coal-fired power plant. SMRs currently being developed in the U.S. come in a variety of sizes, technological options, capabilities and deployment situations. These advanced reactors, ranging in size from 10 MW to 300 MW (or more), can be utilized for power generation, process heat, desalination and other industrial applications. SMRs also provide numerous other benefits, including lower capital expenditures, the flexibility to be sited in regions inaccessible to larger nuclear facilities and the capacity for additional power expansions.

As our nation's energy sources continue shifting, electric co-ops remain committed to exploring the best sources and technologies for their local communities and their members.

Jennah Denney writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Efficiency tips for residential well pumps

If you own your well, you may ask yourself how can I use less electricity.

A residential well system's energy use depends on the equipment and water use. The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the well, ensuring safe drinking water and paying for the electricity needed to run the well pump. Here are steps to improve and maintain your residential well and use less electricity.

GET YOUR WELL SYSTEM INSPECTED

If you're concerned about how much you pay to pump water from your well, start with an inspection.

Similar to heating and cooling systems, well pumps are put to work daily, and parts will wear over time. Regular maintenance can improve efficiency and increase the lifespan of the system.

The proper system design and sizing can save energy. Oversizing equipment can waste energy. Ask a professional if your well equipment is sized correctly for your needs. In some cases, adding a variable-speed drive can save energy. Keep in mind, well systems don't last forever. Consider design and sizing before the existing system fails.

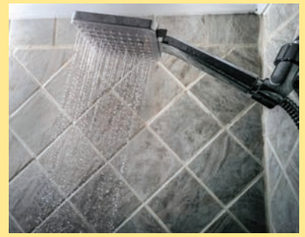
Things can go wrong with your well that are hard to spot. The water system may even act normally with good water pressure and flow while using more energy and causing higher bills.

One of the most common causes of increased energy use is underground water line leakage between the pump and the home. Water lines can freeze, break or be damaged by digging or a vehicle driving over underground lines. Other issues can include waterlogged pressure tanks and malfunctioning equipment. Even if your well is in good working order, there are practices you can implement to save on your electric bill.

SAVE MONEY BY LOWERING YOUR WATER USE

The less water you use, the less energy you use. Here's how you can conserve water and electricity with your home appliances:

Toilets. Check your toilet for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank; if the color appears in the bowl without flushing, your toilet leaks. It is likely caused by a worn flapper, which is an inexpensive and easy do-it-yourself fix.



If your toilets were installed before 1994, they are likely using more than 4 gallons per flush, which is well above new energy standards of 1.6 gallons. So the average family can save nearly 13,000 gallons per year by replacing old, inefficient toilets with WaterSense-labeled models.

Another option is the tried-and-true plastic bottle method. Place sand or pebbles into a one- or two-liter bottle and place it in your toilet tank or buy toilet tank bags. This results in less water filling the tank and less water being flushed.

Dishwasher. If you wash dishes by hand, start using your dishwasher instead. Did you know new ENERGY STAR®-certified dishwashers use less than half the energy it takes to wash dishes by hand? According to the Department of Energy, this simple change in habit can save more than 8,000 gallons of water annually.

Washing machine. Run your machine only with full loads to save water and energy. You may also consider upgrading to an ENERGY STAR®-certified washing machine, which uses about 20% less energy and about 30% less water than regular washers.

Showerheads and faucets. Get leaky showerheads and faucets fixed. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a leaky faucet that drips one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year.

Faucets and shower aerators are inexpensive devices that reduce the amount of water flow. For maximum water efficiency, look for faucet aerators with no more than 1 gallon per minute flow rates and low-flow showerhead flow rates of less than 2 GPM.

Understanding proper well system design, maintenance and water conservation will help you save.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home, and she writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

MiEnergy crews, along with two Dairyland employees, are pictured removing all overhead lines exiting the Saratoga substation and converting them to underground electric feeders. This is the last of four substations including Alta Vista, Lime Springs and Schley to complete the same process in Iowa. Crews changed 69-kV insulators and failing fuse brackets. They also removed other deteriorating equipment to improve system reliability.

The updates eliminate congestion in and around the substations resulting in a safer working environment. The improved overhead clearances will allow for cranes to bring in future communication station equipment.

This size and scope of a project like this requires a great deal of communication and steps to complete the job safely: back-feeding all circuits from two adjoining substations, de-energizing 69-kv transmission line and a 161-kv transmission line put in hot line tag.

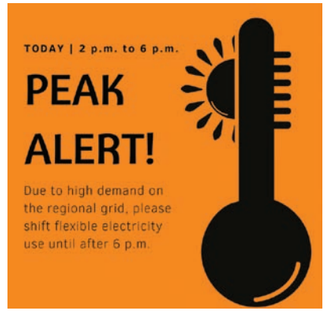
What's the difference between the Summer Shift, a Peak Alert & Max Generation?

Helping members save on energy costs is important to MiEnergy Cooperative. Reducing electric use during times of high demand helps all members save money. Here is a breakdown of each program notice that MiEnergy communicates during the summer months:

SUMMER SHIFT

The Summer Shift is an annual seasonal campaign to help the cooperative avoid buying power during high electric use time periods. During June, July and August, MiEnergy encourages members to get in the habit of reducing energy use between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays. This is done by conserving or by shifting electric use to before 11 a.m. and after 7 p.m. Turn up the thermostat, shift the start of laundry and delay the dishwasher. When demand for electricity is high, costs are high too. Doing the Summer Shift helps keep electric rates stable and affordable for all members.

PEAK ALERT



You may occasionally hear a message on the radio from your cooperative, see posts on its social media pages or see a local media story when a Peak Alert is issued. At those times, we encourage our members to take note of the important message and conserve electricity. Normally, there is an advanced warning of an hour or two.

A Summer Peak Alert is issued when there is high demand for electricity on the regional grid. MiEnergy asks members to conserve electricity from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Members with air conditioning, dairy water heaters, irrigation and grain drying on the co-op's energy management programs will have them activated during that time.

Elevated peak demand leads to higher power costs. Members can help keep electricity rates stable and affordable by shifting electricity use to after 6 p.m.

SUMMER SHIFT VS PEAK ALERT

A Peak Alert is communicated only when necessary and is issued when the electric system is close to experiencing record high demand. MiEnergy asks members to conserve electricity from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. the day the alert is issued.

Both messages (those for Summer Shift and Peak Alert) help reduce demand. By avoiding peak demand, MiEnergy can potentially save thousands of dollars each year, which in turn, helps keep electric rates affordable for members.

MAX GENERATION (MAX GEN) WARNING OR EVENT

If there is a severe imbalance between supply and demand for electricity, a Max Gen Warning is issued by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to Dairyland Power and MiEnergy. A warning is just that, a warning that MiEnergy may need to reduce its electric load. Devices on energy management may be activated which include auto-start generators, residential electric water heaters, air conditioning, dairy water heaters, irrigation and manual-start generators and it could happen with little notice. A warning may not advance to an event. A Max Gen Event occurs when there is a shortage of generation resources and the amount of electricity on the grid is critical and may not be able to meet demand. Members should reduce all non-essential electricity use to avoid serious consequences to the grid's power supply because it could advance to rolling power outages. In December 2022 and June 2021, MISO advanced to a Max Gen Event, and MiEnergy's members with devices on energy management programs had them activated. However, the event did not escalate to activation of energy management programs outside normal parameters or rolling power outage situations.

AT THE MARINA

...the water is NOT fine

Marinas are not meant to be swimming areas because docks and boats can carry sources of electricity. If this electricity seeps into the water due to faulty wiring, the water becomes energized.

If you are exposed to water that is charged with electrical current, **you can be shocked and even drown** — this is known as electric shock drowning. There are also other dangers of swimming near a marina.

DANGERS of swimming at a marina include:

1. **Electric shock drowning.**
2. **Carbon monoxide poisoning from boat exhaust.**
3. **Contaminated water from a storm or spill.**
4. **Impact from a boat or its propellers.**

Ensure marinas have ground fault circuit interrupters installed and that they are tested often. Keep your boat's electrical system well-maintained and **have it inspected regularly.**

Learn more at: Safe Electricity.org®

IOWA COUNTY FAIRS

MiEnergy is sponsoring the following contests. Entries are judged on appearance, taste and texture.
Prizes: 1st Place - $25 cash; 2nd Place - $15 cash; 3rd Place - $10 cash

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR | JUNE 21-25

Featherlite Center at the Howard County Fairgrounds

Homemade Salsa Contest
- Judging at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21.
- Entry Times: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

One pint per entry. Limit of two entries per individual. Chips will be furnished.

Strawberry Dessert Contest
- Judging at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21.
- Entry Times: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Must be in a disposable container. Limit of two entries per individual.

Light Bulb Decorating Contest
- Judging on Thursday, June 22.
- Entry Times: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21.

Open to kids 12 years of age and under. Each child entering will receive a new LED light bulb. Entries picked up between 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 25.

WINNESHIEK COUNTY FAIR | JULY 11-15

Fontanelle Shelter at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds

Homemade Apple Pie Contest
- Judging at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11.
- Entry Times: 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Please use disposable pie tins for entries. Limit of two entries per family.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest
- Judging at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11.
- Entry Times: 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Any type of chocolate chip cookie allowed. One dozen cookies on a disposable plate or tray per entry.

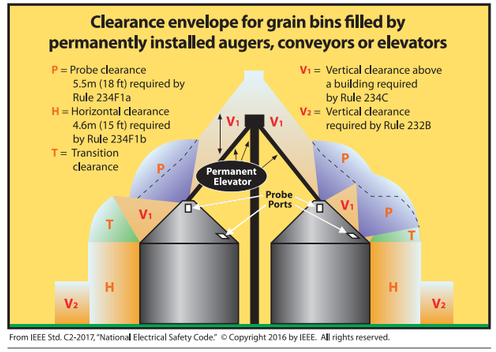
Grain bin clearance notice for Iowa members

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact MiEnergy. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins.

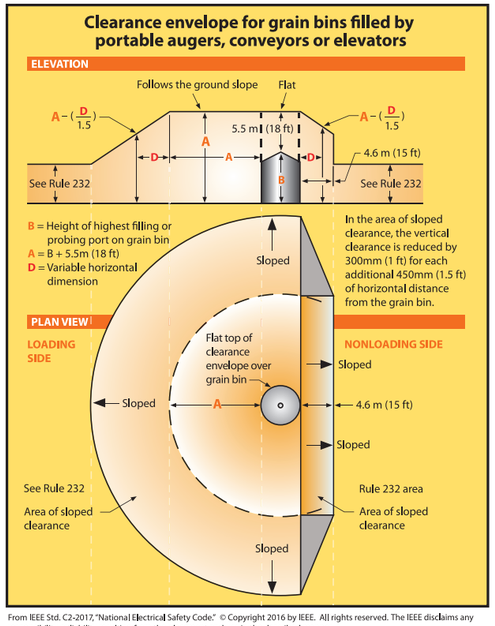
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012, page 120. "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234f. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators built after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

MiEnergy is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call MiEnergy at 800-432-2285.

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

out & about in your COMMUNITY

TESMER FARM SAFETY DAY FILLMORE COUNTY—PRESTON

Pictured at right, MiEnergy's Brian Bauer (l) and Justin Svoboda (r) gave electric safety demonstrations at this event held in Preston at the Fillmore County Fair Grounds on May 16. Approximately 250 kids attended and heard presentations on ATVs, general farm safety, weed ID, tractor rollovers, lawnmowers, electric safety, grain bin drowning, bicycles, 911, PTO, fire safety, first aid, livestock safety and horse safety.

WINONA COUNTY PROGRESSIVE AG SAFETY DAY—WINONA

Pictured at left, MiEnergy's Tyler Eide (l) and Lucas Gravos (r) gave electric safety demonstrations at this event held at Winona's Farmer's Park on May 18. Approximately 209 kids attended and heard presentations on ATVs, general farm safety, weed ID, tractor rollovers, lawnmowers, electric safety, grain bin drowning, bicycles, 911, PTO, fire safety, first aid, livestock safety and horse safety.

TESMER FARM SAFETY DAY HOUSTON COUNTY—CALEDONIA

Pictured at right, MiEnergy's Randall Ashbacher (l) and Greg Becker (r) gave electric safety demonstrations at this event held in Caledonia at the Houston County Fair Grounds on May 18. Approximately 250 kids attended and heard presentations on ATVs, general farm safety, weed ID, tractor rollovers, lawnmowers, electric safety, grain bin drowning, bicycles, 911, PTO, fire safety, first aid, livestock safety and horse safety.

KESSEL KIDS TRANSPORTATION DAY—CRESCO

Kessel Kids Childcare Center recently organized a transportation theme week for their kids and invited MiEnergy to bring two boom trucks. Pictured at right, MiEnergy's Caleb Steiner (l) and Kyle Quam (r) showed the many different parts of our trucks, tools and equipment used at the local electric cooperative.

mienergy™ COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION
Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.
IOWA 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA 31110 Cooperative Way, PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PHONE NUMBERS
LOCAL 563-547-3801 (Cresco); 507-864-7783 (Rushford)
TOLL-FREE & 24/7 OUTAGE REPORTING 800-432-2285
PAYMENT LINE 24/7 877-853-6517
UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

ONLINE
WEBSITE www.MiEnergy.coop
SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT 1 Dennis Ptacek, secretary and Jeff Redalen
DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer, Skip Wieser and Dennis Young
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

MANAGEMENT STAFF
BRIAN KRAMBEER president/chief executive officer
SHELLY HOVE chief financial officer
STEVE OIAN vice president of electric operations
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology
MIKE WALTON vice president of engineering and planning
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

MINEWS STAFF
MEAGAN MOELLERS communications specialist, editor
ANNIE HOILAND communications specialist
BRENDA TESCH marketing and communications manager

2023 OFFICES CLOSED
JUL 4 Independence Day
SEP 4 Labor Day
SEP 20 Employee Development Day
NOV 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC 6 Employee Development Day
DEC 22, 25 Christmas Holiday
DEC 29 Close at 11:30 a.m. (New Year's Eve Observance)

MiEnergy Cooperative is closed Tuesday, July 4. Call 800-432-2285 at any time day or night, even holidays to report power outages.

To make payments, visit www.MiEnergy.coop or call the payment phone line at 877-853-6517.

SHINE THE LIGHT

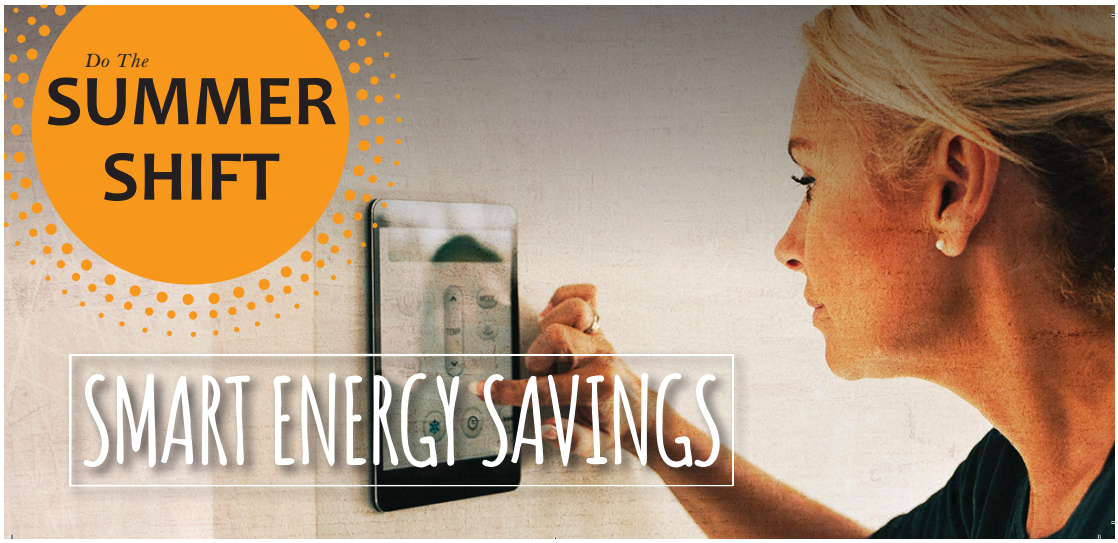
Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa

Nominate a local volunteer and they could win $2,500 for their charity!

Contest entries accepted during June at **IowaShineTheLight.com**

mjenergy™ COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971



While using electricity is inevitable, how members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive.

If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider – Dairyland Power Cooperative – did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

The price of electricity purchased on the grid is always changing, based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need – or demand – rises during the day, the price of electricity increases as more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, etc.) are needed to power homes, businesses and other buildings or devices. When temperatures cool and things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do prices for electricity.

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread out electricity use throughout the day. It helps keep our retail rates stable for all members. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become.

SUMMER SHIFT TIPS:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal).
- Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer.
- A ceiling fan or table fan will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Washing dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand can save a home $111 per year.
- Delay the start of dishwashers and washing machines so they run before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let dishes air dry.