

MiNews

November 2025 Vol. 9 Issue 11
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

POWER UP
YOUR BILL
with heart



JOIN OPERATION ROUND UP TODAY!



Rounding up your electric bill to
the next dollar today, builds
strong communities tomorrow



Learn more about this
program and how member
participation helps local
organizations



Check out how you can
contribute to help
organizations in your
community



Sign up in November and
have your donation
matched, plus a chance at
a \$25 bill credit

Growing our cooperative together

Earlier this year I shared the importance of growing MiEnergy Cooperative, as we've observed limited growth in new members and largely flat or declining energy sales. This topic was part of my remarks at our annual meeting in April, where I emphasized our commitment to fostering growth and strengthening our cooperative.

We are actively collaborating with local communities and businesses through our economic development loan program, aimed at promoting business growth. We're also working with our broadband cooperative partners to extend fiber optic infrastructure across our service territory. Not only does this enhance the quality of life for our rural residents through improved connectivity, but it also helps encourage development and growth in those areas.

Growth from new services, housing developments and businesses plays a vital role in our cooperative's ability to distribute "fixed" costs across more members and energy users. MiEnergy is fortunate to serve 10 municipal communities and two highly energy-intensive ethanol plants, which operate within a rate structure that incentivizes energy-efficient practices. While our margins on these accounts are limited, the benefits they provide to all MiEnergy members are significant.

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOAD GROWTH

To encourage load growth, we are exploring opportunities to attract an edge data center to our service territory. Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider responsible for generating and transmitting the electricity we deliver to our members, has identified a potential site for this initiative. The site is located on a 69-kilovolt line at the northern edge of the City of Harmony, adjacent to Dairyland's new outpost.

Let me be very clear: this is not a proposal to recruit a hyperscale data center like those operated by major tech companies such as Microsoft, Google or Amazon. These large-scale facilities have sparked controversies nationwide due to concerns over their size, environmental impact and water use.

Board room highlights | Oct. 30, 2025

- CFO Hove provided the financial report which is tracking to budget.
- Dairyland Power Cooperative presented an informative overview of the MariBell transmission project.
- Management provided updates on operations that included large load opportunities and member events.
- Appointed two members to serve as Operation Round Up trustees.
- CEO Krambeer provided an update on cooperative subsidiaries.
- Received director updates from recently attended meetings.

The next board meeting will be at the Rushford office on November 25 at 9 a.m.

Instead, we are focusing on attracting an edge type data center — a decentralized facility designed to process data closer to its point of origin. This type of center minimizes latency and improves performance for critical applications. Its design typically involves air cooling or closed-loop water cooling systems, ensuring it operates efficiently without consuming excessive water. Edge data centers typically require 10 to 30 acres of land, produce noise levels comparable to grain bin fans (around 60–80 decibels), and can be constructed as brick-and-mortar facilities, metal buildings or modular container units.

The modular approach is particularly appealing due to its quick deployment, flexibility and suitability for remote areas where larger data centers would be impractical.

COMMUNITY INPUT AND COLLABORATION

After discussions with the City of Harmony, a public information meeting was held on October 7 to engage community members. The meeting drew over 160 attendees and provided a valuable forum to understand community expectations and concerns. Following this dialogue, the city will establish planning and zoning requirements in the coming months. These guidelines will define parameters that influence the type of data center we aim to attract.

Dairyland Power Cooperative has already developed a retail rate structure that avoids peak energy use periods, and we are committed to operating under policies that prevent stranded investments in equipment or infrastructure.

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE OF LOCATION

The strategic placement of MiEnergy's service territory, our proximity to major institutions like Mayo Clinic, Winona State University, Luther College and NICC, positions us as an ideal location for data processing and storage. These entities currently outsource much of their data needs, and it's possible that Harmony could meet this demand through the establishment of an edge data center.

Our partnership with Harmony, and our other nine municipal communities, has flourished since 1940. Both MiEnergy Cooperative and Dairyland Power Cooperative are committed to collaborating with the city to align with their goals and stay within the established guardrails.

As discussions progress, we look forward to working closely with the city, community members, and stakeholders to achieve shared success.

Your thoughts and questions are always welcome, whether through calls, visits or emails.



BOARD ELECTIONS 2026

MiEnergy seeks members from District 1 to serve

Are you interested in serving as a board member for MiEnergy?

Preparations for director elections for District 1 begin now and will conclude with the results being announced at the annual meeting on April 8, 2026.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MiEnergy must appoint three members from District 1 to serve on the nominating committee. The committee will meet on January 7 to review submitted director applications and to nominate individuals for placement on the election ballot. Members of the committee are given a \$50 bill credit and mileage for the meeting. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, contact Heather Larson by December 18 at 800-432-2285 or hlarson@MiEnergy.coop.

BOARD DIRECTORS

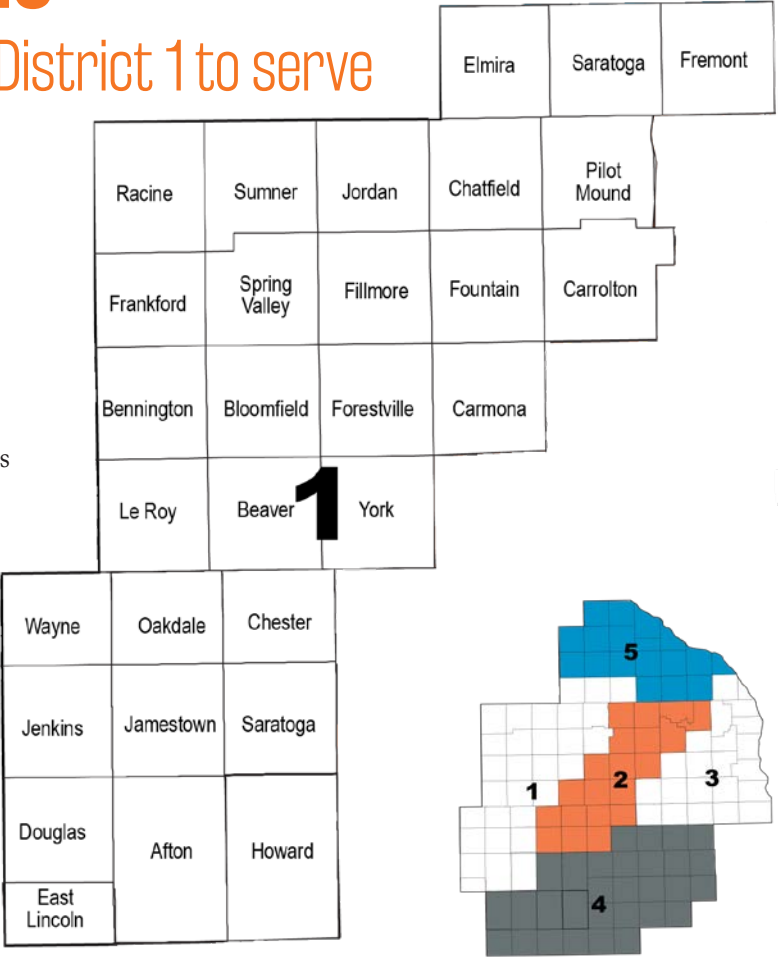
Co-op board directors must commit to attend monthly board meetings, special meetings and educational seminars designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of MiEnergy and the electric utility industry. Terms are for three years. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership. Directors are compensated for their time commitment. For a director application packet contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or hlarson@MiEnergy.coop. The director application deadline is December 30, 2025.

Current District 1 Directors

Dennis Ptacek | Elma, Iowa
Kim Nelson | Spring Valley, Minn.

MiEnergy Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Mabel Community Center | Mabel, Minn.



Join the Advisory Committee!



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICITY PROVIDER

MiEnergy is looking for members to serve on its Advisory Committee. It meets two to three times a year. It is a three-year commitment and members are paid a \$50 per diem and mileage. It is an opportunity to learn more about the cooperative and electric-related topics. It also allows us to learn more about our members. Members interested in serving on the committee or who have questions should contact Heather Larson by November 14 by calling 800-432-2285 or emailing hlarson@MiEnergy.coop. The MiEnergy board will appoint committee members at its December board meeting.

SEND IN YOUR 2025 REBATE FORMS

MiEnergy has a variety of rebates available to members that purchase energy efficient products and appliances that meet or exceed specific criteria. Rebates are only available until funds are depleted, or December 31, whichever comes first. Rebate forms are available online at www.MiEnergy.coop or by calling 800-432-2285.



Make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient

Lighting is something most of us don't think much about—until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb or fixture looks good without considering how it will actually perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient.

WATTS VS. LUMENS

When you're shopping for lightbulbs,

it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output. For example, an 800-lumen bulb gives off about the same amount of light as an old-fashioned 60-watt incandescent bulb. You've likely replaced all incandescent bulbs with long-lasting, energy efficient LEDs, but if not—it's time to make the switch!

A helpful rule of thumb: higher

lumens mean brighter light, while lower watts mean less energy consumed. Remember to check wattage ratings for fixtures and only install bulbs that meet the fixture's wattage safety requirements.

COLOR TEMPERATURE AND CONSISTENCY

Light bulbs also vary in color temperature, which ranges from warm yellow to cool white or even bluish tones. This detail often gets overlooked—until you replace one bulb and notice the new light doesn't quite match the others. If mismatched tones drive you crazy, consider buying and installing bulbs of the same brand and wattage in a room at the same time. That way, the look stays consistent, and you won't be stuck hunting for a perfect match later.

DIMMERS AND SWITCHES

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches can be a game changer. Dimmers give you more control over brightness, help save energy and create a more comfortable atmosphere. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double check labels before buying.

While you're thinking about switches, consider whether you have enough of them—and in the right places. A light you can only turn off from one end of a hallway quickly becomes annoying. For new installations or upgrades, it's best to hire a licensed electrician to ensure everything is wired safely and efficiently.

FIXTURES: FORM MEETS FUNCTION

Bulbs are only part of the equation—fixtures matter too. Each type serves a purpose. Ambient lighting, like sconces or glass-covered ceiling fixtures, provides general illumination. Task lighting, like pendants, desk lamps or track lighting, focuses light where you

need it most.

When choosing a fixture, think beyond looks. Ask yourself: does this light provide the right amount of brightness for the space? A beautiful chandelier might look perfect over the dining table but leave the rest of the room too dim. Alternatively, an oversized fixture could flood the room with more light than you need, wasting both energy and money.

SMART LIGHTING: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEETS CONVENIENCE

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors—all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant. Want the lights to dim automatically for movie night? Or to turn on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy.

Smart lighting also lets you personalize your space. You can go classic with warm white tones or experiment with colors to set the mood—anything from a soft glow for winding down to vibrant hues for a party. Remember, smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch, which needs to stay in the “on” position for remote controls to work. If you prefer using a physical switch, consider pairing smart bulbs with a smart light switch. Many of today's smart switches also come with motion detectors, adding another level of efficiency and convenience.

Good lighting doesn't just make your home look better—it makes it feel better too. With a little planning, you can create spaces that are welcoming, functional and energy efficient. Whether you stick to traditional bulbs and fixtures or explore the flexibility of smart lighting, thoughtful choices today will brighten your home for years to come.

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

MINNESOTA MEMBERS NOTICES

MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE LAW

When a household member has been ordered into active duty for deployment or for a change of duty station, some members may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota Law protects military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their bill when certain conditions are met. For more information, visit www.MiEnergy.coop or call 800-432-2285.

ELECTRIC HEAT SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Electricity sold for residential use is not taxable for the billing months of November through April when sold to metered customers in Minnesota who use it as their primary source of residential heat according to Minnesota law. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable if it is the primary source of heat. Primary source of residential heat is the source that supplies more heat than any other sources for the largest period of time during the heating season.

If your property has both residential and commercial operations and only one meter for the entire building for electricity, square footage is used to determine if the residential exemption applies and is determined if more than 50 percent of the square footage of the building is residential.

If you have filed an exemption card with us in the past, you do not need to file again. If your electric heat is used in conjunction with wood or another fossil fuel, please re-evaluate your heat status.

Members who receive a tax exemption when electric heat is NOT the primary source of heating are in violation of the Minnesota law. Please contact us if your heating has changed and you should be taken off the tax exemption as it is your responsibility to notify us of any changes when you are no longer eligible.

Home Lighting Guide <i>The following information outlines recommendations for home lighting, however, additional options for bulbs, fixtures and spaces in your home may be available. Sources: Home Depot, Alcon Lighting</i>			
Room/Area	Recommended Lumens	Fixture Types	Smart Tips
 Living Room	15-30 per sq. ft. 150 sq. ft. room 2,250 - 4,500 lumens	Ceiling fixtures, can lighting, lamps/ accent lighting	Use smart bulbs to adjust color temp and control remotely.
 Kitchen	30-40 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 3,000 - 4,000 lumens	Recessed ceiling lights or flush mounts	Smart switches can be used to control zones (dining vs. prep); undercabinet motion lights offer late-night illumination.
 Dining Room	10-20 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 1,000 - 2,000 lumens	Pendant or chandelier fixture	Smart, dimmable bulbs allow various levels of brightness for ambiance.
 Bedroom	10-20 per sq. ft. 120 sq. ft. room 1,200 - 2,400 lumens	Ceiling fixtures or recessed lighting	Motion sensors are great options for nighttime use.
 Bathroom	50-80 per sq. ft. 60 sq. ft. room 3,000 - 4,000 lumens	Over-vanity fixtures and/or recessed lighting	Cool LED bulbs provide brighter light for shaving, applying makeup, etc.
 Porch/ Home Entry	100-200 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. entry 10,000 - 20,800 lumens	Wall lanterns, ceiling mount and/or floodlights	Motion-activated flood lights and/or smart outdoor bulbs are energy efficient and boost home security.



Relax

Is your house ready for the holidays?

- ✓ You have the meal planned.
- ✓ The big game is programmed.
- ✓ Extra guests, cooking and dishes.

We've got you covered with discounts on electric water heaters for co-op members!





A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads

WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

THE LITTLE PROGRAM WITH A BIG HEART

We truly appreciate our members who have rounded up their monthly electric bill as part of our Operation Round Up program and donate those few cents each month. Those pennies become powerful! We thank those members who are giving back with heart. The focus of our "Power Up Your Bill With Heart" campaign is to reach more members who want to donate with their hearts along MiRoads. Let's make November the month of gratitude and blessings, and smile because it continues throughout the year as well! The little program with a big heart, because that's the co-op way of doing things.

WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?

Operation Round Up (ORU) is a 501(c)3 that is funded by donations made by members of MiEnergy Cooperative who sign up to have the cooperative round up their electric bill to the next dollar.

The program is based on the idea

that small change adds up. The average donation is \$6 per year. Currently, the program gives approximately \$16,000 each year to local organizations. Donations to Operation Round Up are tax deductible.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

Since the program's inception in 2002, over \$190,000 has been awarded to local communities and worthy causes. Operation Round Up has the privilege of supporting a wide array of local community organizations, fostering growth, resilience and opportunity where it is needed most. Donations generally fund the following:

- Programs, projects and equipment which are components of a community's overall quality of life in our local area.
- Community-based environmental education programs and projects.
- Programs and projects that enhance the cultural environment of communities in our local area.
- Hardship relief (food shelves, crisis

centers, emergency assistance, disaster assistance, etc.)

- Youth programs designed to combat critical social problems affecting children and youth.
- Organizations with programs to assist disadvantaged children and youth.

The donations help support programs, projects and equipment in our local communities.

The Operation Round Up Trust Board meets twice each year in March and September and is made up of MiEnergy members. They choose where the funds get donated and the amount of the donation based on an application process.

Current trust board members:

Neil Broadwater, Winona; Dan Dietzenbach, Fort Atkinson; Beth George, Houston; Sandy Gronwoldt, Riceville; Roy Kryzer, Lewiston; Dennis Ostwinkle, Decorah; Teresa Ross, Hokah; Tom Tibor, Minnesota City; and Jay Wheelock, Fountain.

HOW DO ORGANIZATIONS APPLY?

Organizations receive grants through an application process. The next application deadline is February 15. Applications are available online at www.MiEnergy.coop/operation-round.

The website also lists by county what organizations have received grants in the past.

IF YOUR BILL IS \$129.72,
IT IS ROUNDED UP TO \$130
WITH 28 CENTS GOING INTO
THE TRUST FUND
TO BE DONATED.



Members joining Operation Round Up during the "Power Up Your Bill With Heart" campaign in November are entered into a drawing to win one of four \$25 bill credits.

Ways to sign up:

- Complete the online form at: www.mienergy.coop/operation-round or scan the QR code at the bottom.
- Complete the form on this page and submit it to the cooperative.
- Log in to MiEnergy's SmartHub.

Deadline to enter is November 30, 2025.

ALREADY PARTICIPATE?

Current participants will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of eight \$25 bill credits.

Drawing is by membership, not by account. Winners will be notified by December 3.

ALL BILL AMOUNTS ROUNDED UP DURING NOVEMBER WILL BE MATCHED BY THE COOPERATIVE!



Support your local community through Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up supports local organizations. Members who sign up choose to have their electric bill rounded up to the next dollar with the extra change going to the Operation Round Up trust fund. The average annual contribution is \$6. The trust board reviews grant applications twice a year to determine which local, worthy causes to support.

Name _____ Account number _____

Service address _____

Zip _____ Phone number _____

Thank you for your contribution!

Mail to: MiEnergy Cooperative, P.O. Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

*I understand my electric bill will be rounded up to the next dollar each month with the extra amount going to Operation Round Up.



POWER UP
YOUR BILL
with heart
JOIN OPERATION
ROUND UP TODAY!

mienergy
COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

“ROUNDING UP COSTS US ONLY PENNIES, BUT EVEN A SMALL CONTRIBUTION CAN HELP THOSE WHO NEED A BOOST. PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS.”

-Dan & Julie

WHAT MEMBERS SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM

“FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX DOLLARS A YEAR, WE MAY BE HELPING SOMEONE A LITTLE.”

-Merle

“OPERATION ROUND UP HELPS MANY IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS. FOR JUST A FEW CENTS PER MONTH WE CAN HELP FUND SO MANY WORTHY CAUSES, SUCH AS FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT, FOOD PANTRIES, AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES. THOSE FEW PENNIES CAN ADD UP TO QUITE A BIT WHEN A LOT OF PEOPLE EACH GIVE A LITTLE”

-Sharon

“WHEN WE COLLECTIVELY WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY, EVERYONE WINS. ROUNDED UP IS A SIMPLE WAY TO GIVE BACK AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO TAKE PART.”

-Nick & Katie

Members give \$7,497 in local donations

MiEnergy's Operation Round Up Trust Board met in September and elected to donate \$7,497 to the following local organizations:

- \$1,000, Fillmore County DAC, Preston, Minn., to purchase a TV with a stand and dishes for group activities.
- \$1,000, Project Flo Association, New Hampton, Iowa, to assist with providing free home repairs for low-income seniors, families, veterans and disabled individuals.
- \$917, Houston County Sheriff's Posse, Caledonia, Minn., to purchase batteries and a new remote for a drone used for emergency situations.
- \$800, Ostrander Rural Fire Association, Ostrander, Minn., to help purchase updated air packs.
- \$750, St. Teresa of Calcutta Childcare Center, Ossian, Iowa, to purchase room safety shades and a safety gate.
- \$700, Mabel/Newburg United Methodist Church, Mabel, Minn., for Mabel-Canton K-2 teachers to purchase books for their students.
- \$700, Riceville Food Pantry, Riceville, Iowa, to purchase equipment to assist with scanning and data management.
- \$630, Driftless Fiber Arts Collective, Lanesboro, Minn., to support the Helping Handicraft Workshop Series.
- \$500, Lanesboro Arts, Lanesboro, Minn., to purchase audio and lighting accessory upgrades.
- \$500, St. Charles Public Schools, St. Charles, Minn., to purchase an ice machine for the elementary school.



Congratulations

to our Co-op Month winners!

BASKET WINNERS

Edward & Karen Amundson, Chatfield
Nancy L Appel, Fountain
Michelle Barth, Decorah
Clinton Berg, Decorah
Kristie Brincks, Lawler
Bernie Christen, Decorah
Karen E Christiano, Houston
Colleen & Robert Cushman, Dakota
Doug & Carissa Eagan, Cresco
Ken Ehler, Calmar
Wayne C Frank, Spring Valley
Diane Grabau, Wykoff
Robert L Green, Winona
Lucas Heying, New Hampton
Gary Lee Hovey, Ridgeway
Shannon Ingvalson, Rushford
Richard F Jones, Cresco
Larry A Johnson, Brownsville
Marc T Johnson, Houston
Shari L Johnson, Chatfield
Debra Klinski, Caledonia
Deb Kloberdanz, Cresco
Conrad Kriener, Fort Atkinson
Diane E Larson, Houston
Fred Marlow, Decorah

Keith & Charlene Meiners, Caledonia
Stanley & Bev Meyer, Caledonia
Paula Michalowski, Rollingstone
Russell Myers, Elma
Mark Nelson, Decorah
Don Nitti, Winona
Michelle Obitz, Lewiston
Nick Oevinger, Winona
John E Overland, Lanesboro
Janice Owens, Spring Valley
Cheryl Perez, Lewiston
Steven & Robyn Phillips, Houston
Patricia Potter, Winona
Patricia L Price & Chad Benzing, Fort Atkinson
Stephen W Reiman, Caledonia
Carl Sackreiter, Chatfield
Richard/Greg Sargent, Spring Valley
Shannon Schmelzer, Cresco
Barbara Schnepfer, Riceville
Glen E Schossow, La Crescent
Richard Schuchhardt, New Hampton
Robert A Sebastian, Preston
Lorna Steil, New Hampton
John T Tschumper, Houston
Richard H Wardwell, Winona

FALL EVENT ATTENDANCE WINNERS

\$50 bill credit:

Lynn & Jim White, Decorah
Kyle Klepper, Decorah
James & Connie Zahasky, Cresco
Barb & Joe Nelson, Mabel

\$100 bill credit:

Deb & Dennis Sobolik, Cresco

Battery-Powered Electric Power Washer:

Robert & Jackie Pitel, La Crescent

MiEnergy hosted its **5th Annual Fall Event** on October 17 at Pinter's Gardens & Pumpkins. The family-friendly event provided attendees with hours of "agritainment" with numerous outdoor activities. Congratulations to our members who won an attendance prize.

Over **1,600** members entered our **6th Annual Co-op Month Basket Giveaway**. Congratulations to our winners!



BASIC VANILLA ICE CREAM MRS. LAVAYNE URBAN, ST. CHARLES

1 (14 oz. can) sweetened condensed milk
3 t. vanilla extract
1 pint heavy cream
1 9"x5" loaf pan

Combine the sweetened condensed milk and vanilla in a large bowl. Place the heavy cream in a separate bowl; beat with an electric mixer at high speed until soft peaks form. This should take about two and a half minutes. Pour the whipped cream into the bowl containing the sweetened condensed milk and vanilla, and gently stir the ingredients together until well mixed. (Do this carefully, though. You don't want to deflate the whipped cream too much). Pour into the loaf pan. Cover with foil. Freeze six hours or overnight.

For strawberry, add 2 c. chopped fresh or frozen strawberries and ½ to 1 c. sugar to the sweetened condensed milk and vanilla.

For chocolate, you could use several packages of Swiss mix hot chocolate or a package of cook and serve pudding mix (not instant).

PUMPKIN DESSERT WILMA LENSING, NEW HAMPTON

2-½ c. graham crackers (crushed)
¼ c. sugar
¼ t. cinnamon
½ c. butter (melted)

Mix and put in 9x13" pan, refrigerate. Save a few crumbs for the top of the dessert. Mix 2 boxes of instant vanilla pudding with 1½ c. milk. Add 1 can of pumpkin, 1½ t. of pumpkin pie spice, fold in 6 oz. of Cool Whip. Put on crust, set in refrigerator to set up. Put rest of Cool Whip on top and then put the crumbs on top of Cool Whip. Sets up best if left in refrigerator overnight.

CHICKEN ALFREDO BUBBLE UP TANYA JOHNSON, ELMA

1 lb. chicken (cooked, either shredded or chopped)
1 (15 oz. jar) alfredo sauce
2 c. mozzarella cheese (shredded)
1 (16 oz.) tube of refrigerated biscuits
½ c. parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 350° and prepare a 9"x13" baking pan with nonstick spray. Mix chicken, 1 c. mozzarella, parmesan, and alfredo sauce in a large bowl. Next, open your tube of biscuits and cut them into 6 or 8 pieces. Place the cut biscuits into the bowl with chicken and alfredo and stir together gently. Spoon into the prepared baking dish. Top with the other cup of mozzarella cheese. You can add extra cheese or even a seasoning such as basil, oregano or parsley on top. Place into the oven and bake 35-40 minutes or until golden brown. Check the biscuits and make sure the middle is cooked.

MiRecipes Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the February 2026 newsletter. Deadline is January 15. Send to Meagan at PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 or email: mmoellers@MiEnergy.coop. MiRecipes will be printed quarterly in this publication. If we publish your recipe, you will receive a \$5 credit on your next electric bill. Limit one recipe published per member annually.

PASTA WITH ASPARAGUS BARB LARSEN, CALEDONIA

5 garlic cloves (minced)
1 t. dried red pepper
2-3 dashes hot pepper sauce
¼ c. olive oil
1 T. butter
1 lb. asparagus (cut into 1½" pieces)
Salt to taste
¼ t. black pepper
¼ c. parmesan cheese (fresh grated)
½ lb. mostaccioli noodles (boiled)

In a skillet, add olive oil and butter on medium low heat. Add garlic, red pepper flakes and hot pepper sauce, stir for 2-3 minutes. Add asparagus, salt and pepper. Sauté until crisp and tender. Approximately 8-10 minutes. Add parmesan cheese and mix well. Pour over hot pasta and toss to coat.

PINA COLADA ZUCCHINI BREAD OR MUFFINS ARDIE NIERLING, DECORAH

4 c. flour	4 eggs (large)
3 c. sugar	1½ c. canola oil
2 t. baking powder	1 t. coconut extract
1½ t. salt	1 t. rum extract
1 t. baking soda	1 t. vanilla extract

3 c. zucchini (shredded, approx. 2-8" squash)
1 c. (20 oz. can) crushed pineapple (drained)
½ - ¾ c. walnuts or pecans (chopped)

Line the bottom of 3 greased and floured 8"x4" loaf pans with waxed paper and grease paper, set aside; or line muffin tins with muffin liners, no need to grease. Makes approximately 3 dozen muffins.

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. In another bowl, whisk together the eggs, oil and extracts and stir into the dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in the zucchini, pineapple and nuts. Transfer to pans or fill muffin cups 2/3 full. Bake at 350° for 45-55 minutes for bread or 20-22 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to wire rack to finish cooling. Gently remove wax paper from loaves of bread. Enjoy.

FRESH APPLE CAKE SUE ROPPE, MABEL

4 c. apples (sliced)
Add 2 c. sugar and let mixture set for 1 hour, stirring frequently.

Beat:
2 eggs
¾ c. veg. oil
1 t. vanilla

Add to apple mixture:
2 c. and 1 T. flour
1½ t. soda
1 t. salt
1 t. cinnamon

Mix all ingredients together and bake in greased 9x13" pan for 30-40 min. at 350°.

Caramel Topping:
½ c. white sugar
2 T. flour
1 c. brown sugar
1 c. butter

Cook until boiling. Boil for a short time. Take off burner and add ½ c. whipping cream and 2 t. vanilla and mix. Serve warm sauce over cake and add a dollop of whip cream.

Preparing for the deer hunting season

As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Power lines and utility equipment are often out of sight — and out of mind — especially in wooded or rural areas. Ignoring them can lead to serious injuries or even death.

KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND TO STAY SAFE AND AVOID COSTLY OR DANGEROUS INCIDENTS:

- **Scout the area.** Before hunting, take time to scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.
- **Power safely.** If you're using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.
- **Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.** Never fire near or toward poles, lines, substations or transformers. A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.
- **Keep your distance.** Always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.
- **Never climb a utility pole.** Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines, and climbing them can be deadly.
- **Don't use utility poles for support.** Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.



KNOW THE DANGER OF DOWNED LINES

If you come across a downed power line or damaged electrical equipment, stay at least 50 feet away, even if it doesn't appear to be live. Power lines can still carry electricity when on the ground, posing a risk of shock or electrocution. Call 911 or your utility right away to help prevent a dangerous situation.

Whether you're a seasoned hunter or heading out for the first time, staying aware of your surroundings could save your life.

For more tips on staying safe around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.



FARM SAFETY DAY – CRESCO

MiEnergy gave electric safety demonstrations to 170 fifth-grade students from Crestwood, Notre Dame, Riceville and Trinity schools on October 1. ISU Extension and Outreach Howard County hosted the event at the Howard County Fairgrounds as part of the annual Farm Safety Day. Tom Hart and Kyle Quam MiEnergy provided the kids with information about the dangers of electricity. The youth rotated through different farm safety educational stations throughout the day.



CONSERVATION DAY – PRESTON

MiEnergy's Jamie Breeser and Brenda Tesch were invited to take part in the Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Conservation Day for 145 sixth graders from Fillmore Central, Kingsland and Rushford-Peterson at Forestville State Park on October 2. They presented on what equipment lineworkers use to stay safe on the job and ways for students to stay safe around electrical hazards they may see.

LEGISLATIVE FORUMS – CRESCO & RUSHFORD



Our local representatives and senators recently attended the annual legislative forums held at the Cresco and Rushford offices. Thank you to Representatives Michael Bergan (IA) and Greg Davids (MN), and Senator Jeremy Miller (MN) for participating in our annual event as it is a great opportunity for legislators to talk with co-op employees and directors about issues affecting the cooperative and our local communities.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT – RIDGEWAY

MiEnergy's Kim Larson handed out snacks to nearly 200 kids on October 26 during Ridgeway's Community Trunk-or-Treat event at the Ridgeway Community Center.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT – CRESCO

Kenzie Moellers, daughter of MiEnergy's Meagan Moellers, Emma Godman, Iowa's Youth Tour Representative, Nancy Franzen and Kyle Quam and his family handed out snacks to more than 600 kids on October 31 during Cresco's Trunk-or-Treat event at the Cresco Fitness Center.

BUSINESS TRICK-OR-TREAT – RUSHFORD

MiEnergy's Heather Larson, Wendy Jacobson and Brenda Tesch handed out candy to over 350 trick-or-treaters during the Rushford Peterson Valley Business Trick-or-Treat event on October 31.



mienergy
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION
Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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2025 OFFICES CLOSED
NOV 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC 16 Employee Development Day
DEC 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
DEC 31 New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.
JAN 1 New Year's Day

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov



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Snowbirds and vacationers

If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time this winter, remember to make billing arrangements while you are away. MiEnergy has a number of options to offer:

- Automatic checking/savings withdrawals or credit/debit card payments.
- Online payments, readings, account management and daily/monthly power usage available through MiEnergy's SmartHub at www.MiEnergy.coop or download the SmartHub App for Android and iOS users.

Just like pulling out your winter gear before you need it, prepping your home for the coming winter season is a great idea.

First, let's consider your home's layers. Just like layering up those winter flannels, fleeces and down jackets with waterproof, wind-stopping shells, gloves and hats, your home needs layers, too. Air sealing and insulation protect your home from the elements while locking in the warm air to keep you cozy. The same applies to hot weather, making air sealing and insulation a year-round efficiency upgrade.

To offset the costs, federal tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades are available through Dec. 31, 2025. Homeowners can claim a total of 30% of the cost of installation, up to \$3,200. Tax credits are available for insulation, heat pumps, air conditioning systems and more. There's even a tax credit for electrical panel upgrades, which might be needed to accommodate new energy efficient equipment.

There's also a \$150 tax credit for an energy audit, which allows a pro to help determine what your home needs and how to prioritize potential projects. Visit www.energystar.gov for more information.

When it comes to do-it-yourself projects, there are a few upgrades you can take care of yourself. Lock in savings with window cleaning and maintenance. Make sure sash locks and window cranks are in good working order and cleaned



of any dirt and leaves. Debris can keep them from closing snugly. I find the crevice tool attachment on my vacuum cleaner, combined with a small, dry scrub brush or an old toothbrush, works great. The locks should pull the top and bottom window sashes together tightly. For casement windows, the locks should pull the window tightly to the frame.

Although it might not seem like a significant difference, reducing airflow through and around windows can make your home more comfortable in the winter. Replacing broken or nonfunctional sash locks can be a reasonable DIY project, but it's best to avoid doing it when the winter winds are blowing. Also, use caulk to seal all gaps around the window trim. If you have operable storm windows, make sure they close.

If you have a forced-air heating or air conditioning system, replace the filter. First, turn the system off to check it. If your filter is dirty, leave it in place until you have a replacement. Running your system without a filter can send any dust or dirt in the ductwork directly into the components and damage your equipment. Make a note of the filter's size on your shopping list or take a picture of the filter with your phone so you can reference it when running errands.

Also, stocking up on filters can save you money. Buying in bulk can help bring the cost down. Don't see a bulk pack at your local hardware store? Ask at the customer service desk. They may be able to order them for you.