

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



REMINDERS

If you are planning on working on an outdoor project, don't forget to call 8-1-1 first for safe digging.



Congratulations 2024-2025 Scholarship Winners:

Graham Eben – Rock Rapids, IA • **Matthew Helkenn** – George, IA
Mathias Knoblock – Rock Rapids, IA

2024 Annual Meeting

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting on March 25, 2024 at the Central Lyon High School in Rock Rapids. Approximately 475 people were served at the evening meal that was catered by Tony's Catering. Members attending the business meeting were entered into a drawing for numerous prizes and following the meeting they all received a complimentary gift. The election results were David Griesse was reelected as the director for District 4 and Damon Pedersen will continue to be the director for District 5. The vote to amend the Articles of Incorporation and extend Director term limits was also approved. A big thank you to all who voted and attended the Lyon Rural Electric Annual Meeting.



2024 Board of Directors

Left to Right: Jerry Mulder, Jesse Roemen, Nolan Kooiker (Vice President), David DeBoer (Secretary), Allen Poppens, Rodney Mogler (Treasurer), David Huff (President), Damon Pedersen and David Griesse

Remember to #ThankALineworker

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 8, 2024, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, honored the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays,

Continued on page 3



Left to Right: Dustin Timmerman, Bryan Herum, Gavin Johnson, Patrick Wubben, Tony DeSmet, Tanner Church, and Larry Wibben

Basin Bus Tour –

June 12-14



Join us on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine June 12-14. In addition, tour the Garrison Dam.

We will depart from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative June 12 on an air-conditioned charter bus. We will have plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is June 13. We will depart Bismarck, North Dakota, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take an elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace

and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine, weather permitting. In the evening, we will enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River.

On June 14 we head back home. We will have frequent rest stops to break up the day. We will return back to Lyon Rural Electric in the early evening.

The cost is only \$150.00 per person. The fee includes the cost of the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat and snack breaks. Lyon Rural Electric shares the tour bus with two other cooperatives so just 15 seats are available. Call Lyon Rural Electric today at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 to reserve your seat!

Add Lawn Tools to

Spring Cleaning

To-Do List



As you open the windows and start spring-cleaning your home, add another item to your to-do list: Clean your lawn tools.

Your electric lawnmower, weed trimmer and hedge trimmer have been cooped up and unused for months. And you'll need to do more than knock the dust off of them.

Cordless lawnmowers and power tools need regular cleaning and maintenance so they operate properly. Good news: They're easier to take care of than gas-powered tools.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning your specific models. Generally:

- ▶ Remove the tool's battery before you get started, and slip on a sturdy pair of gloves to protect your hands.

- ▶ Use a dry cloth to wipe down the device and remove cobwebs, dust, loose dirt and dead bugs.
- ▶ With a plastic scraper or a bristle brush, scrub off dried mud and grass all over the device, even underneath.
- ▶ Damp-clean the machine all over with a wet cloth, but steer clear of the motor. Take extra care around the blade.
- ▶ Look for cracks on the casing and determine if the tool is still usable. Check that the handle is tight and sturdy. Inspect the blade for rust.

Fully charge the tool, replacing the battery if it has gotten damaged over the winter

It's Time for an Electrical Safety Check



As you ready your house for warmer weather, take some time to check these items off your list:

- ▶ Test the ground-fault circuit interrupters—or GFCIs—in bathrooms, the laundry room and other spaces where you use running water. Plug a hair dryer or any device into the outlet, turn it on, and then push the “test” button. The hair dryer should turn off. Press “reset,” and it should turn back on. If that doesn’t happen, call a licensed electrician to check it out.
- ▶ Replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Push the “test” button, and the alarm should sound. Or light a match and hold it next to the fire alarm. It should sound.
- ▶ It’s almost air conditioning season, which means it’s time to change your a/c filters. Dirty filters make the a/c work too hard and can even wear your HVAC system out before its time. Replace filters about once a month during the summer.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov



Lineworker Appreciation

Continued from page 1

vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative is proud to honor the 7 lineworkers that maintain around 900 miles of power lines in our service territory. Our lineworkers include Dustin Timmerman, Patrick Wubben, Bryan Herum, Tanner Church, Gavin Johnson, Tony Desmet and Larry Wibben.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do.

Operating Statistics

FEBRUARY

	2023	2024
KWH Purchased	11,257,460	10,480,849
KWH Sold	10,853,058	10,157,299
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.88%	3.43%
Total Demand	22,050 KW	19,162 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,861 KWH	3,171 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$294.10	\$352.71
Income Per Mile	\$1,194.79	\$1,165.74
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,198.68	\$1,150.11
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.35¢	6.27¢



Save Money on Energy This Spring

You still have plenty of time before you'll need to crank up the air conditioning at home. Use the spring season to do some maintenance that could help your a/c run more efficiently and reliably this summer.

Spring is a great time to save energy at home when most days are neither cold nor hot, so you don't need to turn on either the heat or air conditioning.

Take advantage of the nice weather to use less energy now and prepare your home to be more efficient this summer. Some tips:

1. Open the windows—all of them—to create a cross-breeze all over the house. This keeps the home cool without air conditioning.
2. Call an HVAC service tech to inspect your air conditioning system. A springtime check will give you a chance to repair any problems before the weather gets hot and a poorly maintained system leaves you without cool indoor air.
3. Switch your ceiling fan blades so they rotate counterclockwise. This will create a downward breeze, which will keep anyone in the room comfortable.
4. Use a caulk gun to seal cracks and openings on the indoor side of exterior walls—like around cable and phone lines and electrical outlets.
5. If you don't have a programmable thermostat, now is a great time to install one. This device can save you 5% to 15% on heating and cooling bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, because it adjusts the temperature for times when the family is sleeping or away from the house.

Clean Your Windows; Save Energy



Here's a quick and free way to save a little energy this spring: wash your windows and clean the windows screens.

Bright, sunny days can really magnify dirt, streaks and whatever the winter weather has blown against your home's windows. Cleaning the windows inside and out just as spring arrives can make them sparkle while letting the sun shine a little bit brighter into your home.

The more light you let inside on a sunny day, the less you'll need to turn on lamps and overhead lights. Plus, you may be able to nudge your thermostat down a couple of degrees as the sun warms your rooms.

Cleaning window screens allows more air to pass through, freshening your home and recycling the stale indoor air.

During this in-between weather season, clean windows and screens will invite comfortably warm, fresh air into a home that's been mostly closed up during the chilly winter.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Nondiscrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: program.intake@usda.gov