

Southwest lines

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

July 2025

Stanton Office to Close on August 1st More details on page 2

Corning Teen Attends National Youth Tour Program

Ray Helvie of Corning recently participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by Southwest Iowa REC through a statewide contest. She traveled to Washington, D.C., in mid-June with 34 other student leaders from Iowa.

Every summer, this weeklong leadership development program provides high school students opportunities to learn about government, the electric cooperative business model and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students meet their elected officials, tour historic sites and run their very own snack cooperative.



The annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of locally owned electric cooperatives, including Southwest Iowa REC, statewide trade associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for over 65 years.

Ray said she had the experience of a lifetime. "The Youth Tour was so amazing. It was really cool to meet our elected officials and learn about politics up close. Plus, I made friends and experienced history firsthand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American and shows that people my age do care about this country."

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for the Rural Electric Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world Wheelchair Basketball champion. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students on Youth Tour for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

For more information on how you can participate in Southwest Iowa REC's 2026 Youth Tour program, visit www.iowaYouthTour.com. Search for "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook or Instagram to see the group's recent adventures from 2025.



Good luck to all the 4-Hers in the surrounding county fairs this summer!



Moving Forward Together: Preparing for Our Next Chapter



Phil Kinser CEO

Stanton Office to Close on August 1st

As your cooperative continues to grow and adapt to meet the evolving needs of our membership, I want to share an important update with you about a change that will take place in the months ahead.

On August 1st this year, we will be closing our Stanton, Iowa office as part of a broader plan to consolidate our existing office locations in Corning and Stanton into a single facility that will better serve our members and employees for years to come. Line crews stationed in Stanton will continue operations there until the new location is ready for occupancy.

This decision was not made lightly. The Stanton office has a long history in our cooperative family — one rooted in service, relationships, and pride. We're grateful for the community's support over the years and for the employees who have worked out of that location with such commitment. It's been an important part of our operation for a long time.

Why We're Consolidating Offices

So why this change? Simply put, we're positioning our cooperative for long-term efficiency, cost savings, and improved service delivery.

Maintaining multiple smaller offices in close proximity creates duplication in equipment, staffing, and facility expenses. By combining our Stanton and Corning locations into a common location, currently being readied for our occupancy just west of Corning at 2248 Avenue of Industries, we'll be able to streamline operations, improve coordination between departments, and create a work environment built for modern needs — including technology integration, improved logistics, and better fleet and crew management. The size of the new facility, 35,000 square feet, will give us ample space for our combined operations and provide for future growth.

This move will reduce overhead costs and give us the flexibility to grow alongside our membership — all while continuing to provide the high level of service you expect from your cooperative.

What Members Can Expect

We want to reassure you: our commitment to the Stanton community — and every community we serve — remains strong.

- Line crews will continue to respond promptly to service interruptions across our service area and we will continue to provide Operations & Maintenance support to the City of Stanton and its residents through contract services just like we have for many years.
- Our member service team will still be just a phone call or a click away, and our new office will offer a convenient, modern member lobby for in-person service. Stanton area members requiring in-person service can find us at 1801 Grove Avenue in Corning until we move to the new location later this summer/fall.
- We will continue to support local events, organizations, and others in the Stanton area — as we always have.

This is not a retreat from any one community; it's a step toward a stronger, more efficient future for the entire cooperative.

Looking Ahead

The new facility is expected to be completed in late August or early September, and we will share more details about the move as we get closer. In the meantime, our team is working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible — for our members and for our employees.

We'll continue to keep you informed through newsletters, our website, and social media. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. This cooperative belongs to you, and your voice matters.

Thank you for your trust, your patience, and your partnership as we take this next step forward — together.

What's the fuss about PEAK ENERGY USAGE?

Peak energy demand is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to increased energy demands for heating and cooling spaces.

In the summer: Energy use spikes from mid- to late afternoon until evening.

In the winter: Energy use is higher in the early morning and then again in late afternoon/evening.

Adjusting when you use electricity can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

Source:
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS AVAILABLE

Southwest Iowa REC has a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) available and we are accepting applications. We will accept and consider applications for loans from the RLF for projects that will significantly benefit rural areas. The RLF is not intended to compete with other public and private lenders but to collaborate with them to provide the financial package necessary to make the project happen. The RLF seeks to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to the long-term improvement in the economy, including job creation and retention, diversification, improving skills of the rural workforce, and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety, and/or medical care of rural residents.

A Loan Review Committee (LRC) appointed by the REC Board of Directors and consisting of both Cooperative and community leaders reviews all RLF loan applications. The LRC performs necessary credit analysis and due diligence in order to make a written recommendation to the REC Board of Directors which has final authority regarding all actions of the RLF. The LRC will make a recommendation concerning the term of the loan depending upon project need, the expected life of the security, and the applicant's ability to pay. RLF loans will be collateralized as determined necessary by the REC Board of Directors to secure its participation in the project, and can include, but, is not limited to mortgages, liens, letters of credit, and/or personal guarantees.

Uses of RLF loan proceeds may be for buildings, real estate, equipment or computer needs. Ineligible uses of RLF funds include pre-development costs, refinancing of existing debts, illegal activities, general improvement loans related to normal replacement needs of a business and unrelated to business expansion/job creation, and loans to projects which have alternative sources of financing at reasonable interest rates.

The minimum RLF loan will be \$25,000 and the maximum will be the amount of funds available and must include a minimum of 20% funding from other sources. If you believe you have a project that qualifies for the RLF, contact one of our offices for an application or download one from our website at <http://www.swiarec.coop/content/loans>.

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2024 CIPCO Power Supply Report: Member Driven. Reliability Focused.

By: Dale Walkup

Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

The reliable and affordable power we benefit from today is the result of careful planning and prudent investments that occurred decades ago. To be sure, when Southwest Iowa REC was formed in 2004, its predecessors, Rideta (1940), Adams (1936), and Nyman (1940) Electric Cooperatives, had a quite different energy landscape than it does today. Once in its infancy, our bulk electric system has now matured with the assistance of diversified power generation sources and improved technology.

As your representative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I am committed to the critical work of continuing the stewardship of your electric service that began all those years ago. Decisions made then, and decisions made now will determine our future path to success. To get there, we need to keep our eyes focused on the horizon.

For that reason, the CIPCO Board of Directors began 2024 by refreshing our strategic plan. Safety and security, reliability, strategic partnerships and financial strength were the pillars upon which we weighed every action we took on behalf of our Member-owner electric cooperatives. We mindfully and conservatively deliberated plans for much-needed new power generation, fortified by the findings of an updated Integrated Resource Plan, which clearly asserted the demand for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. Basically, the sooner we can have new generation up and running, the better.

Rising demand for electricity across our region stems from industrial expansion of manufacturing facilities, data centers, mining cryptocurrency, small businesses and ongoing residential growth and general electrification. While it certainly presents an opportunity, it is not risk-free. Today's complex regulatory environment complicates our business and has threatened the affordability and reliability of the generation we need to serve these large loads. Our ongoing partnership with fellow CIPCO Member-owners to mitigate some



of these risks through innovative rates and contract structures has prepared us to welcome new businesses and industries and expand existing ones.

As a CIPCO Board member, I am excited about what the future holds for CIPCO, and Southwest Iowa REC, as we pursue opportunities to bolster our balanced and diverse portfolio with reliable energy and capacity that will consistently serve us for decades to come. The planning for the development and construction of new generation assets in 2024 will be remembered as the launch of the latest capacity expansion for CIPCO.

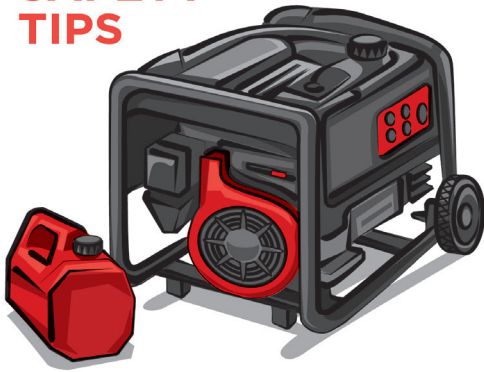
CIPCO's positive financial standing is due to the long-term support of its Member-owners like Southwest Iowa REC. For 2024, CIPCO realized a net margin of \$30.4 million, well ahead of budget. Throughout the year, CIPCO maintained stable rates, returned patronage capital to our cooperative, and strengthened the balance sheet as we planned for major capital additions.

Despite May 2024 tornado outbreak that caused widespread damage across the CIPCO system, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.84 hours per consumer, still under the target of 1.00 hour per consumer. For 2024, Southwest Iowa REC's was 7.90 hours per member-owner.

On the financial side, in 2024, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings once again maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength. This was echoed in the sound financial practices that allowed margins to be returned to CIPCO Member-owners in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2024, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$409,051 to Southwest Iowa REC.

CIPCO was created for one reason: to serve its Member-owner cooperatives. Its transmission system remains reliable, and its growing power supply resources enhance the value of membership. We are proud of our accomplishments and remain confident that the path ahead will bring continued reliability and opportunities for your local electric cooperative.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

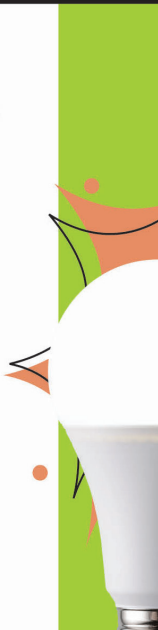
Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



Summer Berry Jello Lasagna

Ingredients

Golden Oreo Crust:

- 36 Golden Oreo cookies
- 1/2 cup unsalted melted butter
- 2 Tablespoons red sprinkles- optional
- 2 Tablespoons white sprinkles- optional
- 2 Tablespoons blue sprinkles- optional

Blueberry Cheesecake Layer:

- 6 oz. sweetened berry blue gelatin
- 2/3 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt-cold
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries
- 8 oz. cream cheese-softened

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 3/4 cups whipped cream (Cool Whip or homemade whipped cream)



Strawberry Jello Layer:

- 6 oz. Strawberry Jello
- 1 1/4 cup boiling water+3/4 cup iced water
- 4 cups sliced strawberries

Topping:

- 2 cups whipped cream(Cool Whip or home-made whipped cream)
- Red, white, and blue sprinkles, stars, and confetti

Instructions

Oreo Crust:

1. To make the crust, ground whole Oreo cookies with the filling in a food processor to make fine crumbs. Add sprinkles and stir with the fork.
2. Add melted butter and stir with the fork until evenly moistened, then press the mixture into the bottom of the 9 x 13-inch dish, and set in the freezer to firm while making the next layer.

Blueberry Cheesecake Layer:

3. In a heat-proof bowl, place berry blue Jello, add 2/3 cup boiling water, and stir to dissolve completely. Set aside to cool.
4. In another bowl, beat softened cream cheese, 1/2 cup powdered sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Add 1 1/2 cups Cool Whip and mix to combine.
5. In a food processor, pulse Greek yogurt and fresh blueberries. Then, pour the mixture into the Jello and whisk to combine. Add in cream cheese mixture and stir to combine. Spread over chilled crust, then place in the fridge or freezer to set.

Strawberry Jello Layer:

6. In a heat-proof bowl, combine strawberry Jell-O and boiling water until the Jell-O is dissolved. Add the iced water and stir well. Allow mixture to sit at room temperature until completely cooled.
7. Place sliced strawberries over the cream cheese mixture. Pour cooled Jell-O over strawberries.
8. Refrigerate until firmly set, at least 4-6 hours or overnight.
9. Top with whipped cream and garnish with sprinkles or fresh fruits

Bravo!

Dear Southwest Iowa REC,

I am writing to sincerely thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I deeply appreciate your support for my educational journey. This fall, I will be attending ISU to major in elementary education.

Sincerely, Anna Bolinger

Southwest Iowa REC,

Thank you for the scholarship. I will use the money to attend Northwest Iowa Community College for the powerline program.

Thank you, Devin Greenwalt

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive a REC scholarship. I appreciate the help your scholarship will give me in paying for my college tuition.

Anna Peterson

Dear REC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your generous scholarship. I will be attending Southwestern Community College to pursue a career in nursing.

Thank you, Lauren Inman



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