Corning | Mount Ayr

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

October 2026

Annual Meeting Recap

THANK YOU! to the members and guests who attended the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 10th at the Lenox Community Center. An enthusiastic crowd of over 200 members and guests gathered to enjoy a Ribeye Steak sandwich meal, prize giveaways, and the business meeting of your Cooperative. The main business item was the election of three (3) directors to a 3-year term each. Incumbents Marilyn Werner, Kay Fast-Deyoe, and Bonnie Larson were re-elected to the Board of Directors. Congratulations to those candidates for being elected to the board and to the other candidates who ran for a board seat.

A big thank you to the Nominating Committee of John A. Overholtzer, Jamie David, Brian Schafer, and Jamie McManis for selecting the slate of candidates and to the Election Committee of John A. and Mary K. Overholtzer, Jamie and Darian David, and Joe and Lisa Kernen for counting the ballots and certifying the election.

Congratulations to all our door prize winners and the winners of the electric bill credit drawings.



Pictured is Carson Boswell,
presenting his trip with Youth Tour to Washington DC.





$500 electric bill credit winner Judith Blay, and $1,000 bill credit winner Shirley Dilley pictured with Southwest Iowa REC Board President, Marilyn Werner. Congratulations!





August 29th, Tanner Rinehart and Cody Stackhouse participated in the Ayr Days Parade with one of the bucket trucks!



This Fall, Refresh Your Cybersecurity Habits



Phil Kinser CEO

As the leaves begin to change and we settle into the routines of fall, it's a good time to take stock of a few things around the house—preparing for cooler weather, checking our heating systems and getting ready for the months ahead. It's also a good time to refresh our cybersecurity habits.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but protecting your personal information is something that deserves attention all year long.

At Southwest Iowa REC, cybersecurity is a critical part of providing safe, reliable electric service. While much of our focus is on protecting the physical systems that operate the electric grid, we also work to protect the systems and information that help us serve you—including online accounts, payment systems, member portals and outage communications.

Unfortunately, scammers are becoming more sophisticated, too. Artificial intelligence (AI) is making it easier for cyber criminals to create convincing emails, text messages, websites and even voice messages that can look and sound legitimate. The FBI has warned that generative AI can make fraudulent schemes more believable by eliminating many of the errors that once helped us identify a scam.

That matters when it comes to utility scams.

A scammer may impersonate Southwest Iowa REC and claim your account is past due, your service is about to be disconnected or you need to make an immediate payment. The message might even include our logo, use professional-looking language or direct you to a website that appears legitimate. With AI helping scammers create more convincing communications, simply looking for spelling mistakes or other obvious warning signs may no longer be enough. And these scams are not a small problem.



According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported losing $3.5 billion to imposter scams in 2025, making these types of scams the most commonly reported type of fraud. Nearly one in three fraud reports involved an imposter scam.

So, what should you do if you receive an unexpected message claiming to be from Southwest Iowa REC?

If a message creates a sense of urgency or threatens immediate disconnection, take a moment to verify it. Don't click the link or call the phone number provided in the message. Instead, contact Southwest Iowa REC directly using our trusted methods. You can reach us by phone at 888-220-4869; through our website at www.swiarec.coop; or by email at postmaster@swiarec.coop.

You can also take steps to protect your online accounts before a scam occurs. Start with your password. Longer is generally better than simply adding more special characters. Choose a long, unique passphrase that is difficult for others to guess, and don't reuse the same password across multiple accounts.

If the accounts you access online offer multifactor authentication (MFA), consider using it. MFA adds an extra layer of protection by requiring an additional way to verify your identity, such as a code sent to your phone or an authentication app.

Most importantly, remember that you don't have to make a payment simply because someone tells you that you do. We want you to have an opportunity to verify any unexpected request.

Southwest Iowa REC is committed to protecting the systems that help us deliver your electricity and serve our members. You can help by protecting your own account, slowing down when something seems urgent and contacting us directly when you're unsure.

For questions about your account or payment options, contact Southwest Iowa REC at 888-220-4869.

Bravo……

Dear Southwest Iowa REC,
Thank you for supporting the 2026 Crush Cancer in Every Color. As a sponsor, donor, participant, and community member, you helped raise $32,716.09 for our community's cancer patients!
-2026 Crush Cancer in Every Color Planning Committee

To Southwest Iowa REC
Thank you for the wonderful meal at the annual meeting. This was my first time being able to attend. REC service is outstanding. What a surprise it was when the last ticket pulled was mine! Thank you all for the $500 electricity credit.
-Judy Blay

REC,
Thank you so much for the grand prize electricity credit and nice meal.
-Shirley Dilley

Thank you! You all do an outstanding job and always look so nice. The meeting and meal were great.
-Ann

Southwest Iowa REC,
Thank you so much for sponsoring the horse banners at the Union County Fair this year! I am truly grateful for you generous support making my last fair a very special one.
Sincerely, Kadley Bailey

Dear Southwest Iowa REC,
I wanted to thank you for your support with my rabbit project. I am proud of the success I've had this year. I look forward to continuing to better myself through this project. Thank you for supporting my goals. – Calvin Hudson

Dear REC,
Thank you so much for selecting me as one of your scholarship recipients. I can not wait to further my education. Thanks for your generosity!
Josie Millikan

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Southwest Iowa REC Scholarship. I am truly honored and grateful for your generosity. Thank you again,
Jaxon Greene

SWIAREC,
The Adams County 4H Endoument wants to say thank you for your donation for the annual tractor ride fundraiser. Your support is always appreciated.
Joyce James, Chair

We greatly appreciate your contribution to the new CTE Academy. Your continued support for our district means so much to us! – Mount Ayr Community School

Thank you so much for supporting the Grand Champion Poultry Showman! I am so proud of my achievement.
-Grace Nippert

Dear Southwest Iowa REC,
Thank you for sponsoring my dog banner. Thank you for supporting 4-H.
Riley Veitz

Rec,
Thank you for your $500 scholarship. I am so grateful for your generosity & support. This will help ease financial worries as I continue my education.
-Danielle Robinson



RECare – Customer Contribution Fund

Southwest Iowa REC's **REC**are program makes it easy to help Cooperative neighbors in need this winter. With rising heating fuel prices this season, more and more Iowans are seeking assistance with energy, heating and weatherization costs. While some federal and state dollars exist to help those in need, there are still shortfalls.

Consider a monthly contribution to Southwest Iowa REC's **REC**are program. Your contribution – whether it is $1 or $10 a month – when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can't afford winter's heating bills. To help, fill out the form:

Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of "members helping members" and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a 1-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

_____ I will contribute $_____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name_____ Account # _____

Address _____

City _____State _____ZIP _____

Mail to: **REC**are – **SW Iowa REC**
2248 Avenue of Industries; Box 367; Corning, IA 50841
OR **REC**are – **SW Iowa REC**
1502 W South Street; Box 391; Mt Ayr,IA 50854

Employee Updates



Sophia Swank

SWIAREC Welcomes New Accountant

Southwest Iowa REC is excited to welcome Sophia Swank as an Accountant in the Mount Ayr office. Sophia recently married her husband, Trenton, and the two live in Bedford with their dog, Boone. When Trenton is working, Sophia enjoys spending time shopping with her mom or grandma. In their free time, Sophia and Trenton enjoy spending time on the farm, hunting, and cruising gravel roads in their Polaris. Sophia says, "I have enjoyed getting to know my coworkers and the friendly environment this office brings. I have lots to learn and large shoes to fill. Chelsea has already taught me so much."

Pumpkin & Vanilla Cheesecake

The RECipe

Ingredients

- Pumpkin & Vanilla Cheesecake
- 226 g cream cheese (1 c.) room temperature
- 75 g granulated sugar (¼ c. + 2 tbsp.)
- 1 egg room temperature
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tbsp. all purpose flour
- 2 tbsp. heavy whipping cream
- 60 g pumpkin puree (¼ c.)

Fudge Brownies

- 113 g unsalted butter (½ c.)
- 180 g semi-sweet chocolate chips (1 c.)
- 24 g dutch process cocoa (⅓ c.)
- 2 eggs
- 200 g granulated sugar (1 c.)
- 80 g all purpose flour (⅔ c.)
- ½ tsp. salt





Instructions

Pumpkin & Vanilla Cheesecake

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F / 175°C. Butter and line an 8" square pan with parchment paper.
2. Add the cream cheese and sugar to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. (Alternatively, you can use a hand mixer). Beat the cream cheese and sugar together for 2 minutes, until the mixture is smooth and fluffy.
3. Add in the egg, vanilla and flour. Beat on low speed just until combined.
4. Transfer ½ of the batter to another bowl. To one bowl, gently mix in the heavy whipping cream. To the other bowl, gently mix in the pumpkin puree. Set aside.

Fudge Brownies

1. In a small microwave safe bowl, melt together the butter and chocolate chips in 30 second intervals, stirring in between each interval until the mixture is smooth.
2. Whisk in the cocoa powder and set aside.
3. In a medium sized mixing bowl, vigorously whisk together the eggs and sugar until the mixture is pale & fluffy.
4. Add the chocolate mixture into the egg mixture, and mix until combined.
5. Add in the flour and salt. Use a rubber spatula to lightly fold the flour into the ingredients just until no flour streaks remain.
6. Reserve ¼ c. of brownie batter for swirling on top. Pour the remaining brownie batter into your prepared pan.
7. Place alternating dollops of the vanilla and pumpkin cheesecake batters on top of the brownies to form a flat, even layer. Use a spoon to gently spread out the cheesecake to cover the brownies if needed.
8. Dollop the reserved brownie batter on top of the cheesecake layer, then use a knife to gently swirl it together.
9. Bake the brownies for 40-45 minutes, until they are set on the edges and only slightly wobble in the center.
10. Allow the brownies to fully come to room temperature, then slice, serve, and enjoy!

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Complaints Resolution Process

Southwest Iowa REC makes every effort to resolve all complaints brought to its attention.
You can contact us at:

2248 Avenue of Industries, Corning, Iowa 50841
1502 W South Street, Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854
Or you can call (888) 220-4869.

If your complaint is related to the Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative's service rather than its rates, and Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling (515) 725-7321, or toll free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Find us on Facebook

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Mount Ayr
1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854

Phone Number: (888) 220-4869

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Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.