

Live Lines

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

May 2011

Scholarship Winners for 2011

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, North Dakota and Woodbury County REC, Merville, are pleased to announce the winners of the educational scholarships for 2011.

The winner of the Basin Electric \$1,000 scholarship is Ms. Katelyn Susie, the daughter of Roger and Jean Susie, Kingsley. Katelyn will be attending Iowa State University this fall to study accounting with the goal of becoming a Certified Public Accountant.



Katelyn Susie



Justine Cleveland

Three other outstanding applicants will each receive a \$500 scholarship from Woodbury County REC. Those three winners are: Ashley Mendenhall, daughter of Jim and Heather Mendenhall, Salix; Jonathan Roberts, son of Paul and Beth Roberts, Lawton and Justine Cleveland, daughter of Scott and Nancy Cleveland, Salix.

This coming fall, Ms. Mendenhall will be working towards a degree in Business and Spanish with the goal of being involved with international business. Mr. Roberts will be attending South Dakota State University majoring in Computer Science. Ms. Cleveland will be a student at Morningside College this fall studying with an interest in psychology and behavioral counseling.



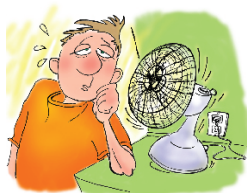
Jonathan Roberts



Ashley Mendenhall

Air-conditioning Rebates

With summer's hot and humid weather just around the corner, now is the time to be thinking about that new air-conditioner. If a new A/C is in your future, you may be eligible for rebate dollars.



The REC has rebate dollars available for new or replacement heat pumps (ground source, air source or add-on), central air-conditioners and window or portable air-conditioners. The exact rebate amount would depend on what type of system was installed and its energy efficiency rating. To qualify for any rebate the new unit must be "Energy Star" rated. Call the REC for exact rebate details.

The Recipe Corner

Sour Cream Rhubarb Squares

- 1/2 C. sugar
- 2 C. flour
- 1/2 C. chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 T. melted butter
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 C. sour cream
- 1 1/2 C. brown sugar, packed
- 1 1/2 C. rhubarb, cut in 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 C. shortening
- 1 egg

Mix first 4 ingredients until crumbly and set aside (topping). Cream brown sugar, shortening and egg. Thoroughly sift together flour, salt and soda. Add to creamed mixture alternately with sour cream. Stir in rhubarb, turn into greased and floured 13x9x2 inch pan. Sprinkle with reserved topping. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes. Serve warm.

Increased Rates Forecast

The thirteen year period from 1991 to 2004 was one of electric rate stability for the members of Woodbury County REC. A major contributing factor to that stability was the fact that wholesale electric rates were declining. That decline offset significant cost increases in poles, wire, trucks, fuel, transformers, etc.

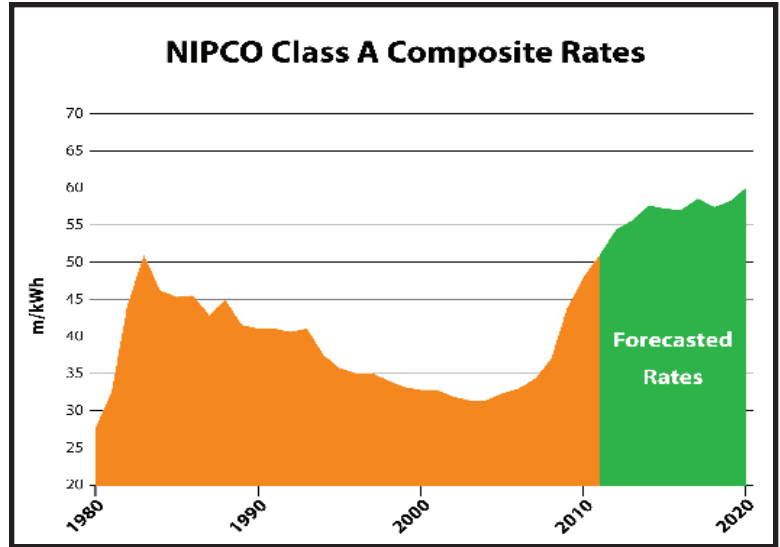
However, since 2004 wholesale power costs have been steadily increasing with those increases forecast to continue for some time. These increases are reflecting the rising cost of producing power and adding new generation facilities. Over the past decade alone, Western Iowa electric consumers have increased their electric consumption by 90 percent. To meet that demand, power plants and electric lines have had to be built. And when something is built, it has to be paid for.

A “bull-in-the-china-shop” situation is also developing caused by increased government regulation. Those regulations are being brought about by environmental concerns such as greenhouse gas emissions and the handling of coal ash and water from the generation process. The financial damage this regulation “bull” will do is difficult to forecast. What is known, though, is these environmental regulations will increase the electric rates we all pay.

Woodbury County REC, an advocate for energy efficiency, provides a multitude of programs designed to assist you in saving your energy dollar. Home energy audits have been available since the late ‘70’s. Rewards for installing efficient heating, cooling and

water heating products have been around since the early 1980’s with the Switch Makes Cents program beginning in 1985. The Switch Makes Cents program alone has saved the 1,300 Woodbury County REC members who participate thousands of dollars. Other efficiency programs have recently been implemented offering rewards to members who purchase new “Energy Star” appliances, add insulation to their buildings or recycle old inefficient appliances.

Call the REC at any time. We’re here to help.



The Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) is the wholesale electric power supplier for Woodbury County REC. This graph shows where NIPCO’s wholesale power rates have gone since 1980. The forecast is for rate increases for a number of years to come.

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers of this Cooperative. You may make a one time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even one dollar a month pledge will help.

Consumer Authorization Form

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

_____ I will make a one-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.

_____ My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Please Mail To: **RECare**

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P.O. Box 566

Moville, Iowa 51039