



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

April 2026

Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives Advocate for Lineworker Protections During 2026 "REC Day on the Hill"

Green was the dominant color at the Iowa State Capitol on March 17, but it wasn't only for St. Patrick's Day. Nearly 200 advocates were wearing green in support of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives during their 2026 "REC Day on the Hill" advocacy event.

"Our annual advocacy day at the state house is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact the members and communities we serve," remarked Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).



(L to R) Kim Brouwer; Brett Baldwin; Senator Kevin Alons; Kent Amundson; Chris Countryman; Hailey Greene

The advocates were in full force on the rotunda floor to discuss utility worker protections as outlined in SF 2400. Through this legislation, those who harass, threaten or assault utility workers out on the job would face stronger penalties. Lineworkers are required by law to enter dangerous situations and work in hazardous conditions and should be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

Additionally, electric co-op representatives talked with their legislators about concerns with third-party solar provisions outlined in HF 2672. Iowa's electric cooperatives support solar development when it makes sense locally, but allowing third-party programs sets a concerning precedent statewide. Additionally, third-party solar developers would not be held to the same consumer protection standards or regulatory oversight as Iowa's public utilities.

During the event, co-op advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model including local ownership, member governance and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, investments in technology, electric safety, reliable power generation and student programs.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at www.iaruralpower.org.



The Recipe Corner

Lemon Tropical Cake

- 1 (20 oz. can) Dole crushed pineapple in juice (undrained)
- 1 pkg. (2-layer size) yellow cake mix
- 1 (3.4 oz pkg.) Jell-O lemon flavor instant pudding
- 1 ½ c. cold milk
- 2 c. Cool Whip whipped topping (thawed)
- ½ c. Baker's Angel Flake coconut (toasted)
- ½ c. chopped Planter's pecans

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Drain pineapple, reserving 1c. juice. Prepare cake batter as directed on package, substituting reserved juice for 1 c. of the water. Pour into greased 15x10x1-inch pan. Bake 15 to 18 min. or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely.

Beat pudding mix and milk with whisk 2 min. Stir in pineapple. Spread over cake, cover with cool whip. Top with coconut and nuts. Keep refrigerated.

Ready to Hit the Road, Energy Trail Tours 2026



Energy Trail Tour 2026

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, firsthand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative. Four lucky couples from Woodbury County REC will be selected at random from those who sign up.






☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 24-26	1st	2nd	3rd	(please circle)
July 8-10	1st	2nd	3rd	
July 15-17	1st	2nd	3rd	

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 24, 2026.

Nominating Members For Election To The Board of Directors

The following is the process involved in the nomination of R.E.C. members for election to the Board of Directors. Three Directors will be elected at the 88th Annual Meeting of Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative which will be held on August 19, 2026.

Bylaws Article III, Section 3. Nominations

It shall be the duty of the Directors to appoint, not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred fifty (150) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed as a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least forty-five (45) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. A ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names of all the nominees posted, alphabetically arranged and stating the residence of each, shall be mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition. Such statement of the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this Section. Any member may vote by mail for directors by marking the ballot opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing the member's name and addressed to the Secretary. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any member, it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such member at such meeting. A member may only vote once on each item to be voted upon, regardless of voting method selected. The provisions of this section shall not be mandatory in the case of recall of one or more directors as provided in section 8 of Article I of these bylaws. Individuals who hold a joint membership may vote by mail for directors by jointly marking and enclosing the ballot hereinabove provided for.

Answering Call For Mutual Aid Following Ice Storm

With Iowa experiencing bitterly cold temperatures at the end of January and early February, our area was spared the devastation snow and ice storms that struck the eastern and southern portions of the country. These storms left considerable damage and caused power outages affecting hundreds of thousands of people.

A particularly hard-hit area was the state of Mississippi, which is unaccustomed to dealing with large amounts of snow and ice. Following a storm on Jan. 25, a call went out for mutual aid to assist Mississippi electric cooperative restore power to their members. Four Woodbury County REC linemen answered the call for mutual aid. Andy McGill, crew foreman; Brady Crichton, journeyman lineman; Tom Brockhaus, journeyman lineman; and Zach Rocha, apprentice lineman left January 31, with a basket truck, digger-derrick truck, and skid steer with tracks to assist Twin County Electric Power Association in west-central Mississippi.



Twin County had 10,000 of its 12,659 members without power and more than 1,000 downed poles immediately after the storm. Crews from two other Iowa electric cooperatives, Eastern Iowa REC, and Midland Power Cooperative, were also part of the team from Iowa that answered the call for help.

They worked with Twin County crews and other mutual aid crews until mid-February to help restore power to Twin County members before returning home.

We have experienced large-scale outages from storms in the past, including the March 2025 ice storm. We were very grateful for the assistance we received from other local electric cooperatives who answered our call for mutual aid.

This willingness to lend a hand to our fellow electric cooperative organizations follows the 6th Cooperative Principle “Cooperation Among Cooperatives” as well as the 7th Cooperative Principle “Concern for Community.”

Cooperative Principles are a key element that allows cooperatives to maintain their unique identity and balance economic success with social responsibility. We are not in business to increase profits for shareholders. Woodbury County REC, like all cooperatives, are here to serve our members and support fellow cooperatives.

Cooperatives are often more resilient in serving local communities than traditional businesses because they prioritize the needs of their members and the community over maximizing profits.

Serving our communities remains our clear focus today. We stand ready to help other electric cooperatives in that mission. While knowing if we need assistance in the future, we are able to reach out to our cooperative community family across the country.



(Ice storm recovery from Mississippi Storm Fern)

Thank a lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing.

These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

Electric power line installers and repairers typically

- o Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- o Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- o Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- o String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- o Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- o Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- o Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service.

We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on.

To you, a power pole may look like a place to post a sign. To utility crews, it's critical equipment. Nails, staples and tacks can create hazards for lineworkers. Please don't post signs on utility poles.

It's garage sale season but power poles aren't bulletin boards. Posting signs can put utility crews at risk and interfere with maintenance work. Help protect lineworkers by keeping poles free of signs, staples and nails.

