




# LIVE LINES

## Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 2025

### Rate Increase May 1, 2025

To maintain the reliability and quality of the electric service Woodbury County REC provides, on May 1, 2025, the price of electricity will increase approximately 9.91% to generate \$1,023,000 of additional revenue to cover the cost of purchasing and delivering electricity to the membership. The last electric price increase for Woodbury County REC member-consumers went into effect April 1, 2018. The U.S. Consumers Price Index increased approximately 25% from 2018 to 2024.

As a not-for-profit electric Cooperative, the price of electricity is based on the cost of operating the cooperative and delivering reliable, affordable and safe electricity in an environmentally responsible manner to all the co-op's member-consumers. We pride ourselves on being responsible stewards of your resources, and we do everything within our power to control costs. However, there are several factors in which we have limited to no control, that contributed to this price increase. Wholesale power costs is the largest increase of our operations and the main driver of this rate change.

In August of 2024, we informed you that our wholesale power provider would be experiencing a substantial rate increase from its power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration. We recently informed you that the rate increase resulted in a 10.2% increase to our wholesale cost of power. Woodbury REC has absorbed the rate increase starting on January 1, 2025 to May 1, 2025.

A professional third-party utility consulting firm has been conducting an in-depth cost of service study for several month now. A cost of service study is used in conjunction with budgets and forecasts to guide the financial decisions of the cooperative. The study is used to analyze expenses and assigns them to appropriate cost components and electrical service classes. A cost of service study is an important and necessary piece in setting rates to ensure rates are set equitably and fairly to all members.

The consultants presented its analysis to Woodbury REC's Board of Directors at the January board meeting and made rate recommendations. Following the presentation and discussion, the Woodbury REC Board took action to implement the recommended rate change as of May 1, 2025.

### Notice of Rate Increase

May 1, 2025

Dear Members:

On February 24, 2025, Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved an increase in rates and charges affecting prices for electric service that you receive.

This increase will apply to your usage beginning on May 1, 2025.

The increase in annual revenues will be approximately \$1,023,000 or 9.91%.

Although the effect of the increase on your bill will vary depending upon the type and extent of usage, the average monthly increase per customer for the primary customer classes will be as follows:

<u>Customer Class</u>	<u>Current Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Monthly Increase</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
Single Phase	\$196.47	\$19.14	\$215.61	9.74%
Multi Phase	\$693.05	\$70.96	\$764.01	10.24%
Large Power	\$8202.98	\$859.06	\$9062.04	10.47%
Irrigation Controlled	\$132.03	\$13.89	\$145.92	10.52%
Irrigation Uncontrolled	\$111.64	\$12.29	\$123.93	11.01%
Street Lighting	\$7.19	\$0.73	\$7.92	10.10%

A written explanation of current rate schedules and charges is available without charge from our local business office. If you have any questions, please contact our business office at (712)873-3125 or (800)469-3125.

Sincerely,  
Ronald Steinhoff  
Board President

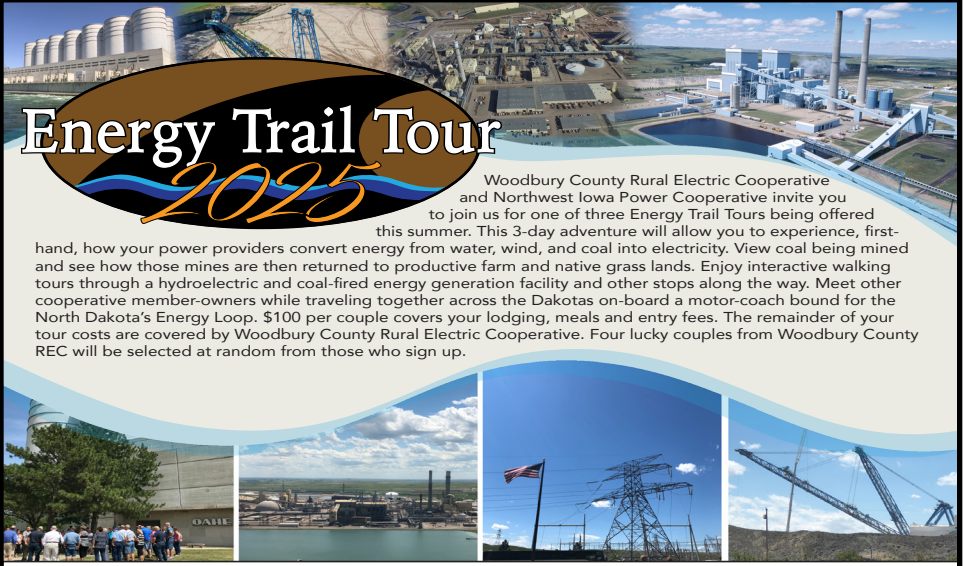
# The Recipe Corner

## Banana Fudge Walnut Brownies

- ¼ cup butter
- 1 6-ounce package chocolate chips
- ¾ cup flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup nuts
- 1/3 cup mashed ripe banana

In a 2-quart saucepan over low heat, melt butter and chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Beat in the remaining ingredients thoroughly. Grease the bottom only of an 8x8-inch baking pan. Spread batter evenly in a pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes or until cake test done. Cool completely and cut into 2-inch squares.

# Ready to Hit the Road, Energy Trail Tours 2025



**Energy Trail Tour 2025**

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 18-20	1st	2nd	3rd	(please circle)
June 25-27	1st	2nd	3rd	
July 9-11	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 25, 2025.*

## 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. Two Directors will be elected at the 87th Annual Meeting of Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative which will be held on August 20, 2025.

### 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.

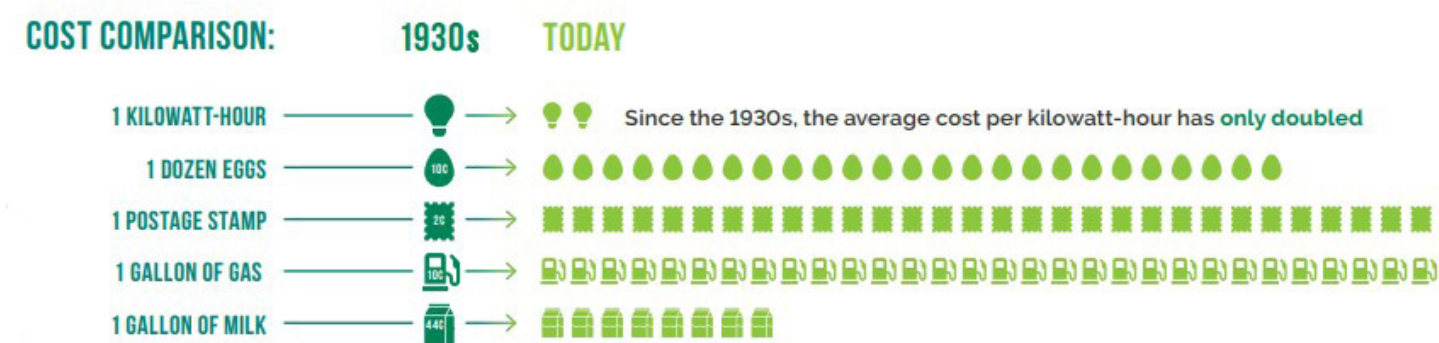
# Electricity Remains a Powerful Value for Our Members

By Kent Amundson

Like many families, it's easy to fall into a daily routine grabbing a specialty coffee in the morning, picking up lunch on the go and settling in at night with a favorite streaming service. These small conveniences feel routine, but when you start adding up the costs, they can really make an impact on the monthly budget. A specialty coffee can run \$5 to \$6 each day, fast food adds another \$10 or so, and a monthly Netflix subscription now costs between \$8 and \$25. Over the course of a month and year, it adds up quickly. And if your kids also enjoy coffee shop stops, the tab only grows.

In today's economy, families are looking more closely at where their money is going and asking, "Is this really worth it?" That's a smart question – and one that led me to think about the value we all get from electricity. For less than the cost of a single cup of specialty coffee, you can power your entire home for a day. Light your rooms, keep food fresh, charge your devices, run the dishwasher and relax with your favorite shows – all for just a few dollars a day.

That's real value, especially when so many other costs are climbing. And at Woodbury County REC, we work hard to keep it that way.



## Your co-op, working for you

At Woodbury County REC, we take our role seriously. As a member-owned cooperative, every decision we make is centered around serving you – our members. We're not here to make a profit; we're here to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your homes, farms and businesses.

Of course, we face many of the same challenges you face. Weather, supply chain issues, regulatory changes and global energy markets can all affect the cost of power. But we work hard to manage those variables and keep rates steady. We also invest in system upgrades, right-of-way maintenance and new technology so we can prevent outages and restore power faster when the unexpected happens.

## Helping you save even more

We also want to help you use energy wisely. Our programs and rebates are designed to encourage energy efficiency – from LED lighting and smart thermostats to electric water heaters and heat pumps. The less energy you use, the more you save – and we're happy to help you find ways to cut costs without sacrificing comfort.

## Real value you can count on

When you put it all together, electricity is one of the best values around. It's reliable, essential and surprisingly affordable. And behind every switch you flip, the dedicated team at Woodbury County REC is working to ensure the power is there when you need it.

Thank you for your continued trust. We're proud to power your lives, and we'll keep working every day to provide the service you deserve.

*Kent Amundson is the general manager/CEO of Woodbury County REC.*

# LineWorkers Are Wired For Service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Woodbury County REC crews travel across our 1140 miles of line throughout the county, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible, a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Woodbury County REC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

## Plan Ahead for a Safe Planting Season

Farming is near the top of the list of the most dangerous jobs in the United States according to Bureau of Labor Statistics. One hazard faced by farm workers, while they are also feeling the pressure to get the crops in the ground, is electricity and the equipment that carries it to homes and businesses. However, with proper planning and education, risks of and accidents involving electricity can be greatly reduced.

- Keep a 10-foot minimum distance around power lines. That means 10 feet above, below, and to the side of power lines.
- Use a spotter when moving machinery around the farm. It can be difficult to judge how close a piece of machinery is from the driver's seat.
- Use caution when handling long items such as irrigation pipe, ladders, and rods. Coming too close to a power line can cause electricity to arc, or jump to conducting material or objects.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines.
- Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators, or truck beds near power lines.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Remember, even non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.

