



**Southern Iowa  
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# The Amp

May 2018

Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, PO Box 70  
Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070  
Phone: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027  
Phone Payments: 800-927-5341  
Report Outages: 800-607-2027  
Call Before You Dig: 800-292-8989  
Website: www.sie.coop  
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-4:30pm  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

**Management:**

Greg Proctor, CEO/General Manager  
Jo Altheide, CFO/Economic Development  
Ross Hunter, COO/Systems Analyst

**Board of Directors:**

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Darrell Downing, President | Travis Harris |
| Paul Wells, Vice President | Beth Sullivan |
| Joy Evans, Secretary       | Earl Trachsel |
| Dave Yahnke, Treasurer     | Ben Koellner  |
|                            | Fred Zeitler  |

**What to Do in Case of Trouble**

\*Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.  
\*Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage.  
If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc. and report the problem 24 hours a day:  
641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

**Service Charges**

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| ACH (Electronic Payment) | No Charge |
| Bill Collection          | \$ 50     |
| Disconnect               | \$ 50     |
| Posting                  | \$ 50     |
| Returned Check           | \$ 30     |
| Reconnect                | \$ 75     |
| Trip Charge              | \$ 50     |
| Meter Tampering          | \$150     |
| Overtime Service Call    | \$150     |

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Proactively Providing Safe and Reliable Service**

When electric cooperative member-owners are asked what they value most about their electric service, two things consistently rank near the top – reliability and affordability. With an annual average reliability rate of 99.97%, we know reliability doesn't happen by chance. It takes constant effort to maintain systems, improve where necessary, and anticipate our member-owners' increasing needs for electric service.

During the winter months, reliability is under greater scrutiny from our member-owners. Old Man Winter's fury of snow and ice storms, combined with strong winds, can put our systems to the test in a significant way. When outages occur, the most frequent cause is trees or other vegetation coming into contact with power lines. These types of outages are not only inconvenient for our member-owners but also costly to your cooperative's bottom line, which impacts affordability over the long-term.

We know that vegetation – especially trees – are valued parts of our landscape. Beyond enhancing the beauty of an area, they provide important functions like cool shade, noise barriers, supplying vital oxygen to the atmosphere, and providing a habitat for many animals. But trees also grow, which can cause problems with power lines if they are not properly planted or if volunteer trees rise in unintended areas.

When branches and limbs break off, they often land in roadways or bring the power lines down with them – posing a safety risk to cooperative employees and the public. Because our distribution system connects thousands of people across our service territory, one tree coming in contact with a power line may impact your neighbors near and far. The Iowa Electrical Safety Code requires electric utilities, including cooperatives, to have a schedule and procedures for regular tree trimming and vegetation management, which is critical in minimizing these instances.

Both federal and state policies require that vegetation must be cleared from power lines as a safety measure for member-owners and our employees. These groups also have strict guidelines, including prohibiting trees from being planted certain distances away from power lines.

Under our vegetation management program – which means that trees and other vegetation are inspected and trimmed on a 2.5 year cycle – maintaining line clearance is our primary objective. We do this while ensuring we trim vegetation in an environmentally responsible manner. The tree trimming process has two purposes – to remove elements that may already be coming into contact with utility equipment, such as wires and conductors and to create a clearance that will provide hazard-free operation of electric service for at least two years.

Using the established standards as the guide, we also know that a methodical, proactive approach is important to ensure the safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible delivery of service. Like many things in life, preventative maintenance is a key to health – oil changes are vital to the longevity of a vehicle and annual inspections and maintenance will likely extend the life of your furnace. Left to chance – rather than being proactive – your vehicle or furnace would likely suffer. The same is true with your cooperative's electric system. By proactively clearing vegetation before it reaches power lines, SIEC will be less impacted during severe weather and we'll avoid longer, more costly outages.



## Youth Tour trip winners selected!

The 2018 Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. trip winners were selected from contest interviews held in March at Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative's office in Bloomfield. Students were scored for their knowledge on rural electric cooperative history, ambitions, speaking ability, appearance and poise/personality.

This year's contest winners are Courtney Merrill and Abby Rotole. Courtney is a junior at Van Buren County Community Schools. She is the daughter of Charles and Jennifer Livesay of Keosauqua. Abby is a junior at Davis County Community Schools. She is the daughter of Dave and Jennifer Rotole of Bloomfield.

Courtney and Abby will receive an all expense paid trip to our nation's capital along with 40 other students from across Iowa. They will have an opportunity to visit with Iowa's senators and representatives, spend a day on Capital Hill, explore the Smithsonian museums, take a cruise on the Potomac River and make new friends from Iowa and across the nation.

Congratulations girls, we can't wait to hear all about your adventures at our Annual Meeting in September!

**Courtney Merrill**



**Abby Rotole**



## Recipe of the Month...

### Turkey Salad

|                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 stalks celery                      | 3/4 lb. cooked turkey meat |
| 2 green onions                       | 1/2 red bell pepper        |
| 1/4 tsp. salt                        | 3 Tbsp. mayonnaise         |
| 1 tsp. white sugar                   | 1 Tbsp. cider vinegar      |
| 2 Tbsp. prepared Dijon-style mustard |                            |

Place celery, cooked turkey meat, green onions and red bell pepper in a blender or food processor. Finely chop using the pulse setting. Transfer the turkey mixture to a medium bowl. Mix in salt, mayonnaise, white sugar, cider vinegar and prepared Dijon-style mustard. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours before serving on crackers or as a sandwich.



## Take Care When Burning Ditches!

It's that time of year when many of you may be burning off the weeds and grass in your ditches. This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems if a fire is allowed to burn around SIEC's poles, anchors, guy wires and underground cabinets.

Burning too close to SIEC's property cannot only cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and cause electric service problems. Anyone involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to SIEC property.

To avoid damage to SIEC property, electric service problems and danger to yourself and others, PLEASE be careful where you burn.



## Annual Pole Inspection Notice

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative takes pride in the reliability of the electric service that we provide to our member/owners. A portion of this achievement can be attributed to an aggressive system wide maintenance program that includes an annual pole inspection completed on a 10 year cycle. In 2018, SIEC has procured the services of RAM Utilities, LLC pole testing to complete this task. They are a respected company within the industry who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the SIEC electric distribution system.

The process of pole inspection requires that a representative from RAM Utilities physically tests every pole within the designated substation area. As a result, in many cases, it is necessary to enter onto private property to complete the test. Personnel will be required to have the appropriate identification and will be making an attempt to contact land owners before or at the time of the inspection.

Our members', the general public, and employees' safety is a priority at Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative which can only be achieved through hazard recognition. Identifying poles in need of replacement is the purpose of this inspection process. Those deemed inadequate will be replaced in a timely manner to insure both electric service reliability and safety. Starting in late March, Ram Utilities personnel will be in the Belknap substation area to begin the pole inspection process. If you have questions or concerns in regards to pole testing, please contact our office at 1-800-607-2027.