



# NEWS *Lines*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## JUNE 2022

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## Help Shine the Light on Community Volunteers this June

### Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference?

Nominate them for our Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$2,000 for their local charity or nonprofit.

We're really excited to participate in this statewide effort to celebrate our cooperative commitment to community. There are many volunteers throughout our service area who deserve to be recognized.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this contest debuted last year and celebrates the people who make our communities better. Three winners will be announced in September and each will receive a \$2,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit. The winners will also be featured in the September issue of Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine.

### How to Nominate

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from North West REC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://www.IowaShineTheLight.com) by June 30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less: How has your nominee made a positive difference in the community and why do they deserve to be recognized?

Help us shine the light on our community volunteers; make a nomination by June 30! If you have any questions or need assistance with filling out the nomination form, please contact the office and we would be happy to help you!



Nominate a local volunteer  
and they could win  
\$2,000 for their charity!

Contest entries accepted during June at  
[IowaShineTheLight.com](http://IowaShineTheLight.com)

# Stay Safe, Follow These Grain Bin Guidelines

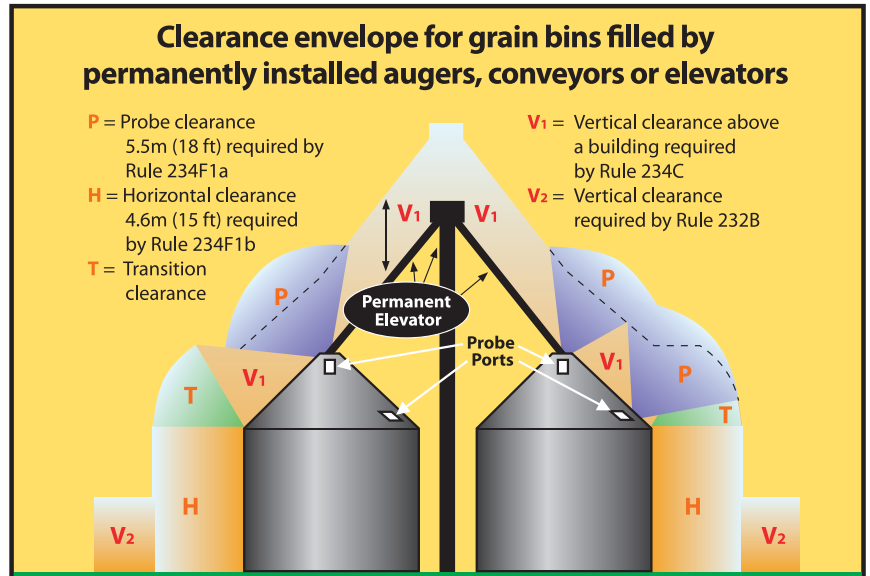
Safety is an important part of living and working on a farm. One important aspect for creating a safe environment on your farm is proper clearances for electric lines around grain bins.

When starting to plan for a new grain bin or moving an existing bin, please contact North West REC at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative at 712-546-4141 to ensure you are meeting the National Electric Safety Code requirements. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins.

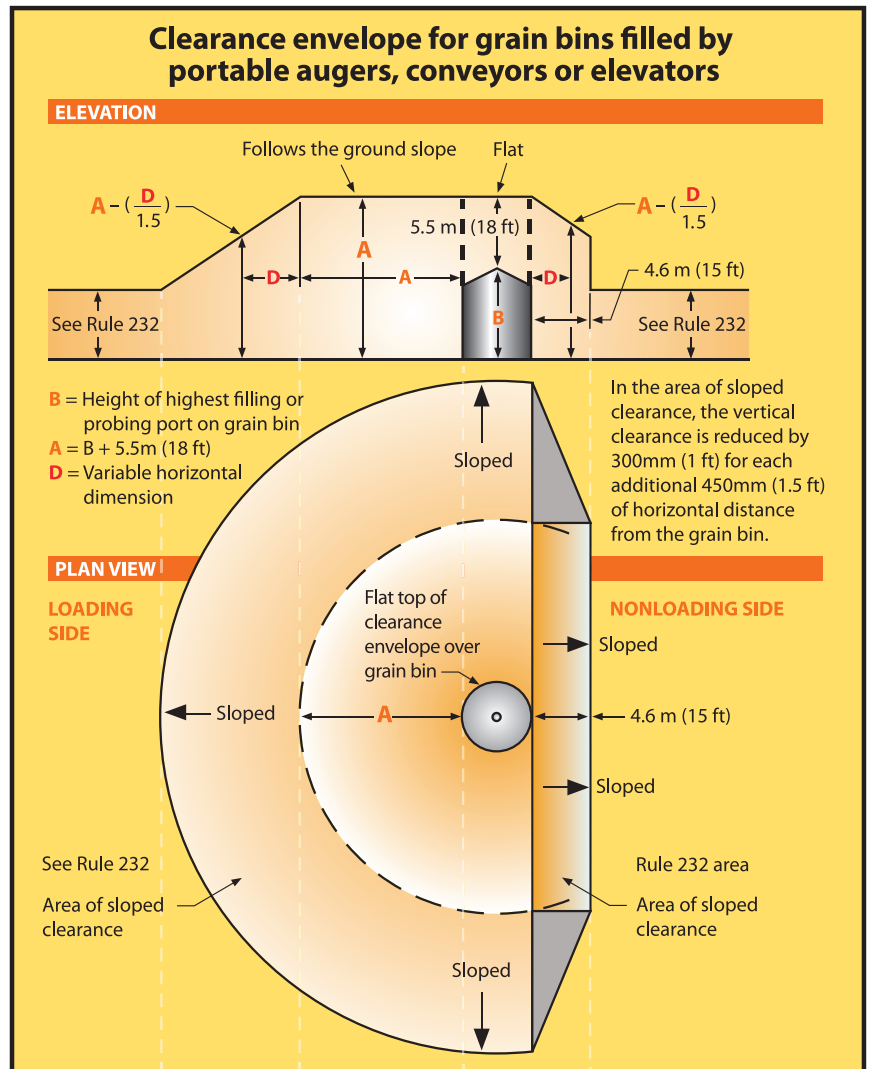
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations – or what needs to be done before you begin placing a new grain bin or moving an existing one – please call our office at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 for the safety of everyone involved.

*Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.*



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# Water Heater Warranty

Many of our members have purchased Marathon water heaters from us. Here are a few warranty facts when purchasing the water heater for your home (residential):

- The tank has a lifetime warranty if owned by the original purchaser.
- The parts (elements, thermostats, valves) are under warranty for six years.

If you are not the original purchaser of the water heater and are uncertain of your warranty, please contact our office as there are different warranties depending on the year it was purchased.

If the tank does leak under warranty and you need a replacement, we will need you to bring in the original silver sticker, with the serial and model numbers, off the water heater for us to send to the company to receive the replacement unit.

- Marathon water heaters are sold only to our members and have to be installed on our lines.
- You must have a load management switch installed to receive the rebate. Must have a switch installed to purchase an 85 or 100 gallon water heater.

Call the office for current prices, WH's are sold at a rebated price so members do not need to apply for them. The rebates for our Marathon Water Heaters are listed below.

- 50 gallon..... \$300 rebate
- 85 gallon..... \$700 rebate
- 100 gallon..... \$700 rebate
- 105 gallon..... \$700 rebate
- Hog Bldg (50 gallon only) Full Price - Please contact office for that price
- New Home with all electric heat .....\$1,000 OFF (this is off of an 85 gallon water heater and must have electric primary heat & electric backup heat)

If you have any questions about our Water Heater program give us a call at 800-766-2099!



**MOVE OVER**  
**SLOW DOWN**

## MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN

It's that simple, and it's the law in Iowa. By following these two rules of the road, you can help save lives and avoid receiving a traffic ticket – or even losing your driver's license. It's necessary to move over or slow down when approaching stationary emergency, maintenance, and utility vehicles with flashing lights activated.

# Security Light Program to Change July 1<sup>st</sup>

Security Lights and maintenance are available to our members at the prices below.

### Security Light Service Work

- High Pressure Sodium (HPS) - maintenance..... \$50

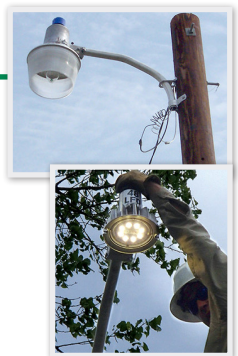
**As of July 1st, 2022, or until we run out of parts, we will no longer provide maintenance for the old style HPS security lights, due to the parts no longer being available. Members will have to upgrade to a LED light if they want it fixed.**

- LED - maintenance ..... \$80
- will retrofit mercury vapor or HPS lights to LEDs when maintenance is necessary ..... \$190
- Move security light to new pole..... \$100
- Move security light and pole..... \$175
- Remove security light from pole or disconnect light ..... \$100

### Sell security light to member - includes installation

- LED security light (will not install on anything but a pole)..... \$225
- Replace a HPS light with an LED light ..... \$190

LED lights have a 5-year warranty, but if we find something wrong on the members side causing an issue with the light not to work, we will charge a \$50 service call fee.





Lyle D. Korver

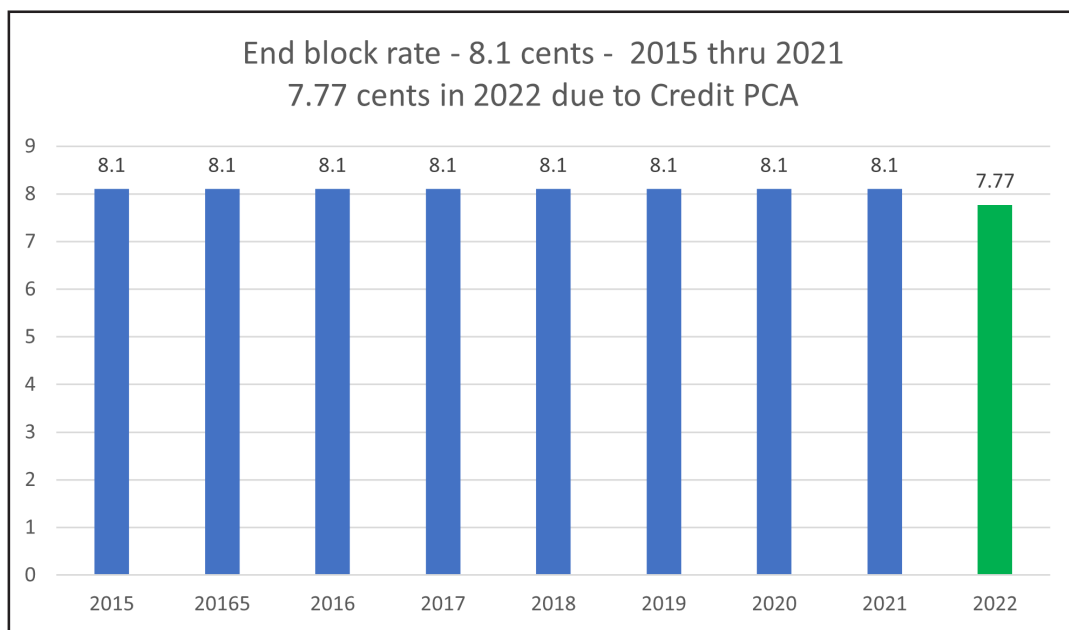
# MANAGER'S *Report*

*"We have reached a seven year milestone of stable rates for members... rates should be able to remain stable for at least the next couple of years."*

## Electric Rates Continue to Remain Stable

During this time of high inflation, we are pleased to share with our members that we continue to enjoy an extended period of rate stability. We have reached a seven year milestone of stable rates for members and I'm pleased to report that our most recent forecast is projecting that rates should be able to remain stable for at least the next couple of years.

May of 2015 was the last time a rate increase was implemented. We actually have a lower rate this year as we are passing along a bill credit from our power suppliers of \$2.2 million through a 3.3 mill credit on our power cost adjustment (PCA) each month this year. The result is that our members are paying approximately 4% less on their overall rate than they were in 2015.



Our Mission Statement is:

***We will safely, efficiently, and innovatively provide reliable and affordable electric service to our members.***

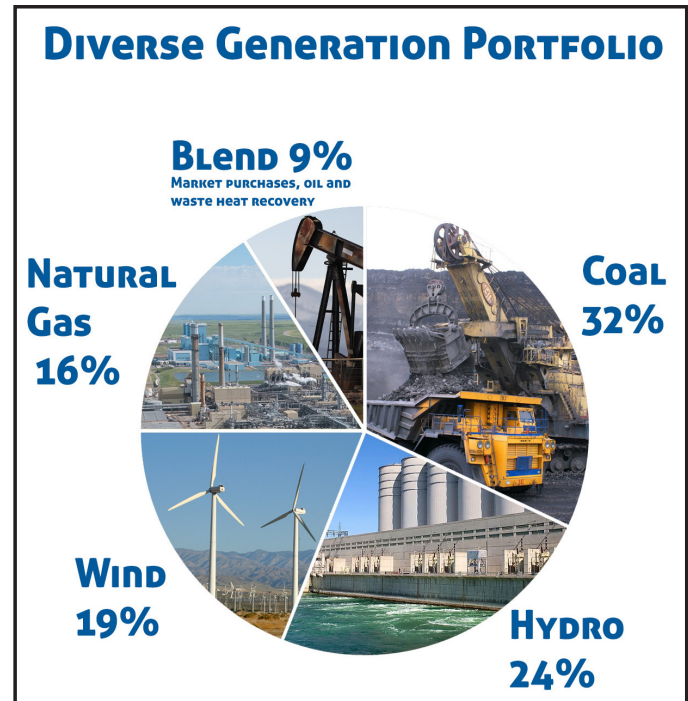
Through the efficiencies we have gained from our two consolidations, the use of technology, and a stable and reliable wholesale power supply system, we continue to work hard to carry out our mission.

## Power Supply Update

One of the most frequently asked questions submitted by our members for the annual meeting panel was regarding our power supply generation mix. We purchase our wholesale power requirements from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO). NIPCO has an allocation for hydro power from the hydro facilities on the Missouri River that makes up approximately 24% of our wholesale power supply.

The remaining 76% is purchased through an “all requirements” contract with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin). Basin has a diverse generation mix that includes coal, wind, and natural gas, and they will soon be adding some solar. The overall mix of the wholesale power that we purchase through NIPCO is 32% coal, 24% hydro, 19% wind, 16% natural gas, and a blend of market purchases, oil and waste heat recovery that comprise the remaining 9%.

Our power suppliers believe in an “all of the above” strategy and have done a very good job of planning for adequate resources to meet the growing demand of their member cooperatives. Purchased power expenses account for nearly 80% of our total operating expenses. One of our directors, Tom Wagner, represents NIPCO on the Basin Electric board and does a great job of keeping us well informed about the important decisions and planning that Basin does to keep our wholesale power rates stable.

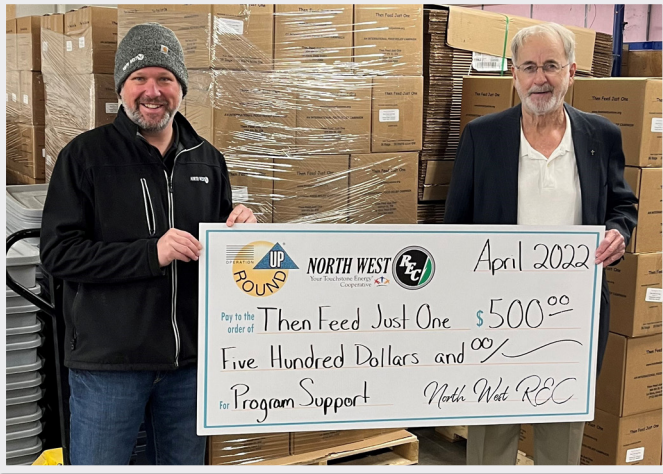


The following is a brief summary of the discussions and decisions from the board meeting that was held on April 28, 2022:

- During the annual reorganization meeting, the following officers were elected: President, Jeff Rehder; Vice President, Doug Becker; Secretary, Steve Brown; Treasurer, Tom Wagner; Asst. Sec-Treas, Dale Ullrich; CEO, Lyle Korver.
- Manager Korver provided an update on operations, kWh sales, staffing, service reliability and interest rates.
- The annual meeting was reviewed and some preliminary planning for next years 25th anniversary annual meeting since the last consolidation.
- Staff members Derrick Haak and James Vondrak reported on the NRECA Management Internship Program that they participated in.
- Plans and dates for the Member Appreciation Day events were reviewed. Tentative dates are:  
Aug. 23 – O’Brien County Fairgrounds;  
Aug. 30 – Ida County Fairgrounds;  
Sept. 1 – Terrace View Events Center;  
Sept. 8 – Plymouth County Fairgrounds.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Received monthly safety and financial reports from staff. Curt Ahrenholz reported that the first quarter was very good from a financial standpoint for the Cooperative.
- The Board approved a patronage retirement in the amount of \$2,044,026. The remaining 2009 allocation, 10% of the 2010 allocation, and 25% of the 2021 allocation will be retired. Patronage checks will be handed out at the Fall Member Appreciation Day events.
- Derrick Larson, auditor with the accounting firm of Eide Bailly, presented the annual CPA audit report. It was a clean audit and there were no adjusting entries.
- Manager Korver reported on several economic development projects that are underway.
- Heard reports from Director Wagner on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board Meetings.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.

# Operation Round-Up Update

The Operation Round-Up program is designed to provide benefits to individuals, organizations and communities in our service area. These funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, to assist worthy causes right in your local county area.



One of the recipients this spring was Then Feed Just One based out of Le Mars, IA. Then Feed Just One is a not-for-profit organization that packages nutritious meals for starving children and their families in Honduras, Central America. Pictured below is Member Energy Advisor, Lee Galles, presenting a \$500 Operation Round-Up check to a volunteer from the organization.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call our office for information or sign up on our website. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



**CALL 811 OR 1-800-292-8989**

# 2022 Youth Tour Delegates

Congratulations to the three students from North West REC who were chosen as the 2022 delegates for the Iowa Youth Tour. They will attend an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in June. On the weeklong tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government.



Addison Arens - Le Mars



Hudson Oolman - Sutherland



Leah Langel - Le Mars

# Hit a Powerline Pole?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can and in an instant.

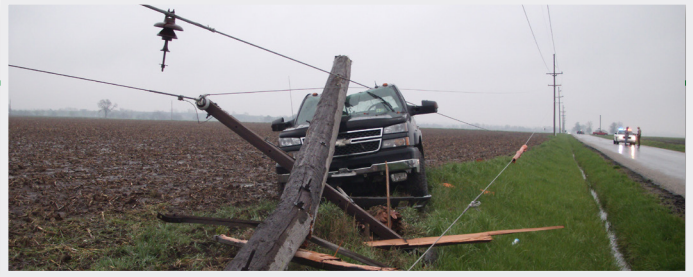
Drivers veer off the road and run into a power pole. Farmers make contact with a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower their bed and snag a power line.

People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life. Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified.

If you hit a power pole, pad-mounted transformer ("green box"), or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle or cab. Instead, call 9-1-1 and wait for utility crews to come and de-energize power.

**Here are some examples - in all instances, call 9-1-1:**

- You see an accident that involves a downed power line. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a pad-mounted transformer or other type of electrical box.
- Your vehicle hits a substation.
- You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.
- Your tractor or car strikes a guy wire (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility poles). Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened, pulled out of the ground, or damaged, it could become energized.



- You hit a powerline pole with your vehicle. Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck (without touching it), and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 30 feet to safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, this is called step potential and it can electrocute you.

### Other situations:

- You get something stuck in power lines (drone or remote-control device): Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers: Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole: Look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above: Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.
- You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause backfeeding into the line and kill a lineworker or neighbor.



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

### What is Load Management?

The electric load on our system does not remain

constant 24 hours a day, instead electricity use varies from hour to hour creating peaks and valley in the load pattern. By installing a load management switch on your equipment, we are able to send a signal to your switch interrupting the power during peak demand periods to *manage the electrical load on the system*. By participating in Switch Makes Cents, you help us to level the load, avoid peak costs, and provide more stable rates. This allows us to offer a cheaper Switch Makes Cents electric heat rate to the participating members which saves you money! For more information about our Switch Makes Cents program, visit our website: [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop). Contact the office if you have any questions: 800-766-2099.

Sign up for  
**smart choices** 

Each month North West REC hides a code in our Smart Choices news stories. Find the code below in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win a Honeywell® QuietSet Whole Room Tower Fan in June.

**EJF66107JUN**

Don't receive Smart Choices? Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website: [www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up](http://www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up)



# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How much does the Shine the Light winner receive for their charity?
2. What is the only type of security light we will sell and service after July 1st?
3. Who recently received a \$500 Operation Round-Up Check?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize of \$10 off your electric bill. Send your answers to [powerquiz@nwrec.coop](mailto:powerquiz@nwrec.coop) or you can send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is July 10. Each month, ten names will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$10 bill credit. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for 2 - \$250 bill credits, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

**Our offices will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day**



## ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What is load management?

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

What do you know about the Switch Makes Cents program? Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize. Send your answers to [switchsmart@nwrec.coop](mailto:switchsmart@nwrec.coop), fill out the question form online, or send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is June 30. At the end of the quarter one name will be randomly drawn from all the correct entries for a prize. With a new question every month, you can participate up to 3 times each quarter!

## North West Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 435  
1505 Albany Place SE  
Orange City, IA 51041-0435

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Orange City office open during noon hour

Le Mars office closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Ida Grove office open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays only

PHONE:  
(800) 766-2099

24/7 outage reporting using the SmartHub app or [nwrec.smarthub.coop](http://nwrec.smarthub.coop) Or call 800-766-2099 anytime

Pay your bill online any-time using SmartHub



Outside Depository Box Available For After Hours Payments

This institution is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Lyle D. Korver  
CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz  
Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde  
Editor



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