



# NEWS *Lines*

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

## PERRY CREEK DAIRY HONORED WITH

### *Venture Award*



Steve Abma, Steve Brown, Doug Becker, Del Beyer, Tom Wagner, Lyle Korver, Iowa Ag Secretary – Mike Naig, Brad Feuerhelm, Joyce Feuerhelm, Carol Feuerhelm, Alan Feuerhelm, Jill Feuerhelm, Scott Feuerhelm, Roxie Kroese, Randy Kroese, Jeff Rehder, and Rand Fisher, IADG President

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) honored eight distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting.

Perry Creek Dairy is a multi-generational family operation in Plymouth County. By early 2019, they expect to have a second dairy operational. The new facility – also in Plymouth County – will feature an 80-stall parlor, milking up to 3,600 cows three times per day. Perry Creek Dairy milk will support the nearby cheese production facility in Hull, Iowa. The dairy will have 7.5 acres of under-roof freestall barns for cow comfort, safety, and environmental stewardship. Perry Creek Dairy was nominated by North West Rural Electric Cooperative.

"The Iowa Venture Awards Luncheon provides a forum to celebrate the courage, contribution, innovation, responsibility, and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs," said IADG President Rand Fisher. "Perry Creek Dairy is an excellent example of the innovative and productive businesses that make up Iowa's agriculture industry."

This marks the 31st year that IADG has presented Iowa Venture Awards to individuals and organizations, both large and small, in recognition of their significant contributions to Iowa's economy through entrepreneurial leadership, innovation and the creation of job opportunities. History has demonstrated that these are among the most accomplished and successful companies in the state. Together they are helping to sustain and grow Iowa's economy. The Iowa Venture Award Hall of Fame showcasing these 264 companies can be found at [www.IADG.com/HallofFame](http://www.IADG.com/HallofFame).

## JANUARY 2019

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# Consider Both Price Tags WHEN APPLIANCE SHOPPING

Before you congratulate yourself for getting a great deal on a refrigerator, washing machine or other major appliance, consider the other cost of that device: its operating cost.



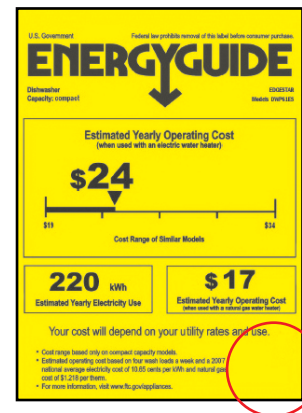
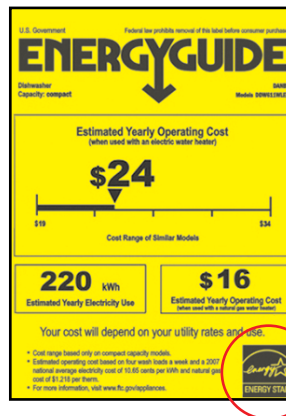
As with so many items, you often get what you pay for when it comes to electric appliances. The purchase price, as it turns out, is really just a down payment, because as long as you own the machine, you'll pay a monthly fee to use it.

Know what that monthly operating cost is before you buy.

It's not hard to figure it out. When you shop for an appliance, look for two labels: one from Energy Star, which you'll find only on appliances that exceed federal standards for energy efficiency; and the bright yellow Energy Guide label, which estimates the appliance's energy consumption.

The Energy Guide label, required on all appliances, is especially helpful because it reveals how much energy, on average, each appliance uses compared with similar models and estimates how much it will cost you to operate the appliance each year.

Note: All new appliances will have the yellow Energy Guide label attached, but please check the guide for the Energy Star logo on it before sending it to us for a rebate. Each member is limited to a maximum of \$250 in combined appliances rebates.



Our appliance rebates:

Clothes Washer	\$50 per unit
Clothes Dryer	\$25 per unit
Refrigerator	\$25 per unit
Freezer	\$25 per unit
Dishwasher	\$25 per unit

The rebate form can be found at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) or call our office to request a form.

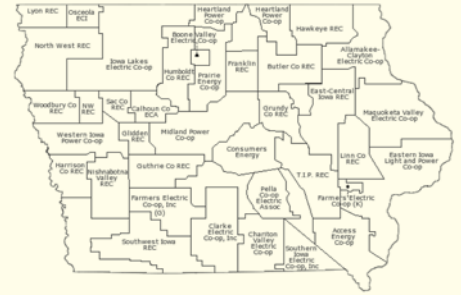
HAPPY  
**2019**  
NEW YEAR

*As we step from the old year into the new, we extend best wishes to our member-owners and their families. Health, happiness and prosperity head our list of wishes. And with our wishes comes our pledge that stays the same year in, year out – reliable service for you.*

## IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES UPDATE WEB-BASED POWER OUTAGE INFORMATION RESOURCE

Information about power outages effecting homes, businesses and farms served by North West REC is available online at [www.iowarec.org](http://www.iowarec.org), the website of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

This web resource, developed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, provides a statewide view of power outages at electric cooperatives that deliver electricity in each of the state's 99 counties to approximately 650,000 Iowans. When you log onto the power outage tool, you will see a map of Iowa, and you can view the information from a county-by-county view of Iowa or electric co-op-by-electric co-op view, including North West REC. At the website you also will be able to obtain safety information as well as link to North West REC. In addition to going to the statewide association's website to view the maps, you can check out the information at <http://outages.iowarec.org>.



When there are widespread power outages in Iowa or isolated power outages impacting large numbers of Iowans, North West REC will enter information onto the website. The website will automatically refresh every 10 minutes, so it will reflect the most recently entered information from the electric co-ops. When only a few North West REC member-consumers are without power, the website may not necessarily reflect that information.

## Check Out SMARTHUB

**SmartHub** puts the power of data in your hands through convenient account management and detailed usage information. SmartHub, a mobile and Web app, delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button, right from your mobile device or on your PC.

The two-way communication available with **SmartHub** allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know about outage information that pertains to you with text messages or emails. We can also communicate when we have special offers, programs, events and more!

**SmartHub** allows you to:

- Pay your bill
- Receive email or text alerts
- View payment history
- View current and past bills
- View your electricity usage
- Contact our office with account issues



Go to our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop). Click "Pay and Review My Bill Online".

**Would you like to receive text messages or email notifications\* for power outages and restorations?**

Notifications via text message or email can be configured through your **SmartHub** account.

When on our website and **SmartHub**, click on "Manage Contacts and Notifications". Please call 800-766-2099 if any questions.

\*The timeliness and accuracy of notifications is not guaranteed. You may disable notifications at any time.



Lyle D. Korver

# MANAGER'S *Report*

"I'm pleased to report that your Cooperative had a very successful year in 2018, and we look forward to 2019 with excitement!"

## Board Approves 2019 Capital Outlay Budget System Improvement Plan Continues

Happy New Year from the employees and directors of North West REC (NWREC)! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends, and we extend our best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy and successful 2019.

I'm pleased to report that your Cooperative had a very successful year in 2018, and we look forward to 2019 with excitement! In connection with our planning for each new year, we prepare a detailed work plan, capital outlay budget and operating budget. Management reviews the proposed budgets for the upcoming year with the board of directors to get their input and approval. Our current strategic plan, that was adopted two years ago and updated this past year, established a strategic goal of rebuilding the cooperative's original distribution plant in a planned approach within a time period approved by the board of directors. In connection with this goal, we have been more aggressive with our work plans and capital outlay budgets the last few years.

We included the purchase of an underground plow in our capital outlay budget two years ago, and this has enabled us to increase the number of miles of older single phase overhead line that has been replaced with new underground line. We also hired a contractor, for the first time, this past year to replace 12 additional miles of overhead line with underground. We have budgeted for similar projects in our 2019 Capital Outlay Budget.



The following is a summary of our Capital Outlay Budget - **Distribution Plant** - for 2019:

- **NEW SERVICES - \$275,000.** We have been adding an average of 125 new services per year over the last 10 years, and we budgeted for an average number of new services again in 2019. We now have over 10,000 services.
- **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS - \$2,983,000.** This includes projects involving the rebuilding of our older line (much of it is over 60 years old, with new overhead or underground line). In the 2019 Budget, we have included 21 miles of new overhead line and 50 miles of new underground line.
- **ORDINARY REPLACEMENTS - \$275,000.** This includes projects like replacing poles, crossarms, etc.

- **LOAD MANAGEMENT UPGRADE - \$500,000.** Our current load management system is over 30 years old, and we will be doing a pilot project on a new load management system in the first quarter of 2019. If this project is successful, we will likely begin the first phase of replacing our old system in the second half of 2019.
- **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT - \$650,000.** This includes transformers and meters.

**TOTAL DISTRIBUTION PLANT BUDGET FOR 2019 - \$4,683,000**

The following is a summary of our **General Plant** portion of the Capital Outlay Budget:

- **Boom trucks, pickups, trailers - \$427,000**
- **Computers and other technology - \$127,000**
- **Electric vehicle & charging station - \$45,000**
- **Tools, concrete replacement, etc. - \$48,000**

**TOTAL GENERAL PLANT BUDGET FOR 2019 - \$647,000**

## NWREC and Boulders Inn & Suites of Holstein Partnering on Electric Vehicle Charging Station Pilot Project

We are pleased to announce that NWREC and Boulders Inn & Suites (Boulders) of Holstein, Iowa have agreed to partner on an electric vehicle (EV) charging station pilot project. Plans are to install a duo port Charge Point EV charging station at the hotel. This EV charging station will be one of the first to be installed in northwest Iowa and is in a great location on the recently completed four-lane Highway 20.

It's exciting to partner with Boulders on this innovative pilot project, and we look forward to seeing more electric vehicles on the roads in northwest Iowa in the near future!



*Pictured left to right – Lyle Korver and Rob Driesen from NWREC; Chris and Stacy Brown from Boulders.*

## Cooperative to Purchase First Electric Vehicle

As you know, there aren't many electric vehicles (EVs) on the road yet in northwest Iowa. However, there continues to be a lot of discussion and press about the future plans of most of the auto manufacturers to significantly expand the model offerings of EVs. In an effort to educate ourselves and our members about EVs, the board of directors approved the purchase of an EV in the 2019 Capital Outlay Budget.

We are making tentative plans to showcase this EV at upcoming member engagement events in 2019. Similar to what we have done with renewable energy and specifically solar, we believe that NWREC has an important role to play in terms of sharing what we have learned about these new electric technologies with our members, legislators and others. Stay tuned!



## Sioux County Regional Airport Grand Opening

The grand opening for the recently completed Sioux County Regional Airport was held on November 14 with a great turnout. We are pleased to be the

*Continued on page 6*

electric service provider for this impressive new facility, and we assisted the project through the use of the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Program.



*Pictured – Rep. Skyler Wheeler,  
Governor Reynolds and Lyle  
Korver*

It was great to have Governor Reynolds in attendance and another special guest was the CEO of Boeing, Dennis Muilenburg. He is a native of Sioux County and actually grew up on a farm just north of the new airport site. This new facility should enhance the economic development and growth opportunities for the area for many years to come!



## WINTER INCREASES THE RISK OF POWER LINE ACCIDENTS

The winter weather brings snow, ice and wind that can bring down tree limbs and power lines. What's more, poor road conditions cause cars to lose control, slide off the road and contact utility poles. In a downed line situation, the moments after the accident can be the most dangerous because many people don't know proper safety steps.

The only real way to steer clear of trouble is to be prepared. There are specific steps to take if a power line falls on or near your car.

First, always assume a power line is energized and dangerous. Second, stay in the car.

The ground is an excellent conductor of electricity and so is your body. If you step out of a car that is in contact with a power line, the electricity will run from the car through your body and into the ground. So stay in the car, call 911 immediately and wait until help arrives. If anyone is near, caution them to stay far away from the car and the power line.

If the vehicle is on fire or there is smoke inside the car, however, you may need to leave. To avoid receiving a shock, jump away from the car so that no part of you touches the car and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together, and then shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet close together and on the ground, or hop away on two feet, keeping both feet together.



***Stay safe out there this winter!***

# SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*



## Additional Scholarships Awarded

North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will again be sponsoring four individual \$1,000 scholarships to a dependent of a member of North West REC. There will be **one winner from each of the four districts of North West REC.**

In addition to that amount, North West REC will also sponsor **four \$750 scholarships and four \$500 scholarships to the runners-up** in each district. We will be able to honor a total of 12 applicants.

The scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the eight-state region where Basin Electric of Bismarck, ND, supplies wholesale electric power.

North West REC members may qualify if their dependent meets the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Are current North West REC members
- Must be a senior in high school and planning to enroll in a full-time accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school
- Submit the application as provided by North West REC
- Return all completed forms no later than Friday, February 15, 2019

The selection will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals and a written recommendation by a third party.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, send in the registration form below, and we will then send you an application form. You can also apply online by visiting our website at [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) or you can e-mail Renee at [rwynia@nwrec.coop](mailto:rwynia@nwrec.coop) and she will mail you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than **Friday, February 15!**

### 2019 BASIN SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATION

*Yes,* I am interested in applying for the scholarship. Please send me the application form.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: North West REC • Attn: Renee • PO Box 435 • Orange City, IA 51041

# THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1. Who won the Iowa Venture Award? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The deadline for the scholarship information to be returned is \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where on our lines is the first EV charging station installed? \_\_\_\_\_

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 February 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.

NOVEMBER 2018

POWER QUIZ *Winners*



Jerry Wendt, Le Mars  
Dennis Jalas, Sutherland  
Patricia Schultz, Merrill  
Mavis Johnston, Kiron  
Dave Pick, Merrill

Lee Wiener, Kingsley  
Derek Stroman, Merrill  
Larry Back, Hartley  
Clayton Rensink, Hospers  
Dennis Baldwin, Merrill



## 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  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Mon-Fri

### PHONE:

ORANGE CITY (712) 707-4935  
(800) 766-2099

IDA GROVE (712) 364-3341

LE MARS (712) 546-4149

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