

NEWS *Lines*

THE **Power** NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **Quiz**

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 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 November 10.

- 1) When conducting an energy assessment, it is important to know there needs to be at least a ____ to ____ degree difference between the inside and outside temperatures.
- 2) The partnership organization between North West REC and Evertex is called _____.
- 3) _____ is the theme for this year's celebration of National Co-op Month in October.

Name _____

Acct. # _____

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 a **\$500 bill credit** at the end of the year.

SEPTEMBER • 2017 POWER QUIZ *Winners*

Myron Klein, Sheldon
Rod Douma, Sanborn
Zelda Christensen, Archer
Terry Fitzgerald, Le Mars
Robert Benson, Remsen

Wilbert Postma, Sanborn
Galen Beyer, Sanborn
Ralph Feller, Le Mars
Wilbur Wittrock, Battle Creek
Dennis Oldenkamp, Sheldon



OCTOBER 2017

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IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Need help with your heating bill?

The 2017-2018 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), offered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 1, 2017 through April 28, 2018. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past three months (13 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or most recent federal income tax return.

Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for the help will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing. No mail applications are allowed this year.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income	Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$21,105	5	\$50,365
2	\$28,420	6	\$57,680
3	\$35,735	7	\$64,995
4	\$43,050	8	\$72,310

For family units with more than eight members, add \$7,315 annually for each additional family member.

APPLICATION

Social Security Card or I-94 Card – We require a copy of the original card for each household member.

Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill – This may be two separate bills.

Proof of Income – This includes total household gross income from all sources (for all household members age 19 and over). We must have complete proof of income to process your application.

- **Fixed Income:** Includes Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.
- **Wage Earners:** Attach copies of your check stubs for three months (13 weeks) preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year federal income tax return.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** A copy of your most recent federal income tax return.
- **FIP Recipients:** Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.
- **Other Income:** Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LIHEAP:

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
Iowa County - Iowa County Courthouse 712-364-2175
401 Moorehead • Iowa Grove
Tuesday (Oct-Dec)/Thursday • 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Cherokee County
921 So 2nd St • Cherokee 712-225-3322
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lyon County
302 S Lincoln • Rock Rapids 712-472-3746
Wednesday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Plymouth County
180 10th St SE • Le Mars 712-546-6603
Tue & Thurs 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sioux County
618 14th St NE • Sioux Center 712-722-3611
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Continued on page 3

Central Office
418 S Marion St • Remsen 712-786-2001
800-859-2025
Fax:712-786-3250
Mon -- Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Visit us on the web at: www.midsioux.org
Hearing Impaired Call 711

Upper Des Moines Opportunity

O'Brien County Outreach Center 712-957-1023
140 2nd St SE • Primghar
Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Wed – open until 6:30 pm

Keep Safety in Mind

DURING HARVEST SEASON

It's that time of year again when combines are plugging through fields and tractors with wagons are busy carrying loads to and from the grain elevator. It's time for harvest and time for safety, especially overhead power line safety.

Farmers need to be alert when working with farm equipment. Many pieces of farm equipment, such as grain augers or elevators, can reach heights that exceed power lines. Before harvest even starts, it is a good idea to walk around your farm to see where overhead lines are located and check the height of farm equipment.

Other tips to remember this harvest season:

- Be alert to power lines when you reach the end of your field.
- Inform family members and hired hands about safety procedures.
- Keep all objects at least ten feet away from power lines.
- Contact your local REC before you build or move a grain bin.



What you should do if you're inside a tractor that touches a power line:

- Try to back away from the line.
- If you can, stay put and have someone call NWREC.
- If you must leave your tractor, jump clear (putting both feet forward) so you won't make contact with the ground and the vehicle at the same time.

Safety tips for handling loose grain:

- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment.
- Never work alone. If you must go into the bin, use a lifeline and have someone assist you.
- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Be especially careful when working with old grain.

Being aware of the dangers could mean the difference between a safe harvest season and a disaster. Take that extra minute for safety – the life you save may be your own! Stay alert and stay alive!

MANAGER'S *Report*



Lyle D. Korver

“We are happy to play a role in helping to deploy improved Internet access to more of our members.”

HIGH SPEED WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE AREA CONTINUES TO EXPAND

North West REC has been partnering with Evertek, a telecommunications provider based in Evely, for nearly fifteen years in providing wireless high-speed Internet service in some of our rural service areas. Our partnership organization is called N.E.T. Broadband, LLC and we initially offered wireless Internet in the Sheldon, Ida Grove and Holstein areas. Our next service offering was WildBlue and Exede satellite Internet throughout our service area.



We are pleased to announce that our boards of directors have approved the expansion of wireless high-speed Internet to additional areas in our service area that are currently underserved or not served with broadband Internet. With the ever-changing advancements in technology and the ways that we work, communicate, access information and educate our children, access to reliable and affordable broadband Internet service is becoming increasingly important. We recognize this is a key to keeping more of our young people in rural Iowa. We also see a growing trend of people working from home and requiring broadband Internet.

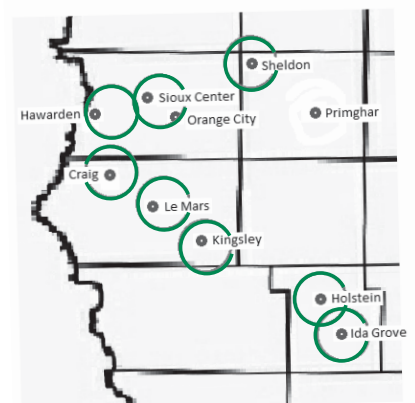


We are happy to play a role in helping to deploy improved Internet access to more of our members. In the last several months, our N.E.T. Broadband partnership has installed or upgraded equipment in the following areas:

Sioux County - Hawarden, Sioux Center and Orange City
Plymouth County – Craig, Le Mars and Kingsley
Ida County – Ida Grove and Battle Creek
O’Brien County – Sheldon

The map shows the general coverage areas where we currently offer service. It's important to note that this is a “line of sight” Internet service and the terrain and trees do impact our ability to get a strong enough signal to certain areas. It may be necessary for a tech to come out to your home or business to check if signal strength is adequate.

We hope to expand into other areas in the future, but this will be dependent on our ability to lease space on towers in the areas we need to reach. One of the keys to our ability to increase our service area for broadband Internet is the NIPCO fiber ring and their towers. This has been a tremendous asset to us, and as NIPCO expands their fiber ring, it will make it more feasible to deploy Internet in other challenging to serve areas of our rural service area.



N.E.T. Broadband offers several packages ranging from \$35.95 per month to \$65.95 per month and with speeds up to 15 Mb. Some of the advantages of our N.E.T. service include:

- No contracts
- Unlimited usage – no data limits or caps
- Locally owned and operated

Please call our office at (800) 766-2099 if you have any questions. You can also call our partner, Evertex's office at (800) 242-0154. Let us show you why N.E.T. Broadband can be a partner in your success!



North West REC observing *National Co-op Month in October*

North West Rural Electric Cooperative (NWREC) is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. "Co-ops Commit" is the theme for this year's celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

"Our cooperative delivers electricity to almost 10,000 member-owners in our four-county service area of northwest Iowa," says Lyle Korver, Manager. "Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Revenue generated by North West REC goes back to Main Street, not Wall Street."

Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, North West REC engages with local communities with electrical safety demonstrations, Youth Tour, Operation Round-Up, etc.

We are driven by service, not profit. We are owned by the members we serve, and we pride ourselves on providing you with at-cost electric service. ***That is the cooperative difference!***



NOW IS AN IDEAL TIME FOR *Home Weatherization*



Though temperatures are still warm and most people don't like to think about winter's arrival just yet, now is an ideal time to weatherize your own home.

In addition to saving money on utility bills over time, home weatherization can make people much more comfortable in their homes, especially during temperature extremes. One of the simplest and cheapest means to reduce energy use this winter, and throughout the year, is to seal air leaks on a home's exterior walls. Caulk and weather-stripping materials are relatively inexpensive and available at hardware and department stores.

It is usually relatively simple and inexpensive to complete some basic weatherization on a home's exterior. Doing so will save energy for many years. Most homes can be weatherized around windows, doors, and at the base of exterior siding using primarily caulk and weather-stripping.

Do-it-yourselfers should remove dirt and grit or any loose paint from areas to be caulked (small cracks and gaps). Try not to caulk in rainy weather or when the temperature is below 40 degrees. Consider also that caulk sets faster on hot days, leaving less time to trim or clean up messy spots.

Remember to caulk around new holes or disturbances to outside walls whenever additional pipes or cables are installed. You can also use caulk to seal any gaps between the wall and the trim on your windows. Apply caulk in a continuous motion, forcing it into cracks around windows, by holding the caulk gun at a 45-degree angle to the work surface.



MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN

When you see a stationary utility maintenance vehicle with flashing lights, you need to move over or slow down.

Move over or slow down. It's that simple, and it's a new Iowa law. 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. You can even show your support of this new law by signing a simple pledge to obey the law at www.moveoveriowa.com.

ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

Available To Members

North West REC is continuing to place more and more emphasis on energy efficiency. In addition to offering energy efficiency rebates, our member service department offers energy assessments to our members.

Your Cooperative has an infrared camera to help with these energy assessments. This camera creates images of temperature and points out where cold air leaks into a home, or where electrical circuits might be dangerously hot.

When scheduling appointments, it is important to know that there needs to be at least a 20 to 30 degree difference between the inside and outside temperatures for the camera to work effectively.

There will be a charge of \$45 to the member, applied to your electric account. We will provide the member with an energy efficiency kit as part of this program. Included in this kit are several kinds of caulk, a showerhead, faucet aerators, two CFL bulbs and energy efficiency information.

One of our member service personnel will conduct a walk-through of the house, with the member present, to

look for possible ways to save energy. They will review a detailed list of energy efficiency ideas for potential savings. Simple changes in both lifestyle and in the home will pay you back year after year. Some of those improvements won't cost you a lot of money to put into effect.

For non-residential buildings, we will do the energy assessment for \$95 for up to four hours. If the member requests longer than that for using the infrared camera on a number of motors, panels, etc., there will be an additional cost per hour.

To help co-op members cure air leaks, North West REC also offers an insulation rebate of 30 percent of the insulation cost, up to a maximum of \$500 for professionally installed insulation.

Fill out the coupon below and mail back to our office to get your name added to our list.



YES, I am interested in having an energy assessment of my home.

Please call me at _____ to set up an appointment.

Name _____ Address _____



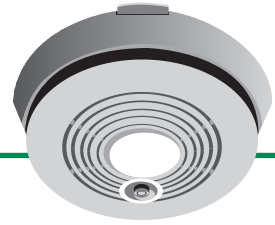
Moving?

Please notify our office if you are planning to move from our line BEFORE the date of the move. We need to contact the new member and have them sign the necessary forms.

We will also need your forwarding address so your dividend files can be correctly updated.

Thanks for your cooperation!

FALL INTO A *New Habit*



With daylight savings time coming this fall, you should remember to change something other than your clock. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you change the batteries in your smoke detector. According to the NFPA, smoke detectors have reduced the number of home fire deaths by half since they were installed in homes during the 1970s. Ninety five percent of homes have at least one smoke detector.

Unfortunately, a third of those smoke alarms won't sound due to dead, missing or disconnected batteries according to NFPA.

While changing your batteries this fall, keep these other smoke alarm tips from NFPA in mind:

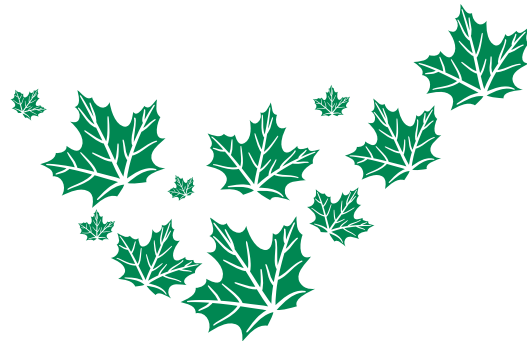
- Don't paint the smoke alarm or place decoration near it, which might cause it not to work properly.
- Test smoke alarms monthly by using the alarm's "test button".
- Replace the batteries for your smoke alarms every fall or when the alarm "chirps".
- Regularly clean your smoke alarm to keep it in proper working order.
- Your smoke alarms should be replaced once every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.

There are many steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances of an electrical fire. We encourage all members to conduct a basic assessment of their electrical systems, including all electrical cords, extension cords, power plugs and outlets.

Be aware of warning signals, such as:

- Flickering lights
- Unusual buzzing sounds
- Circuit breakers that trip repeatedly
- Mild shock or tingle when touching an appliance
- Warm or hot ceiling light fixtures
- Light switches or electrical outlets not working
- Burning odor from outlets or switches

Have an electrician check the wiring in your house if you are experiencing any of these things. Also remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family. Prevent electrical fires and stay safe around electricity!



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

Outside Depository Available
for After Hours Payments

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