T.I.P. *Current* Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

September 2026 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tips for a Safe Harvest this Fall

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 21-25, and Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. But even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant for safety.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but its impressive size, height and extensions make it vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

Avoiding electrical accidents

To ensure a safe harvest season, follow these tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If equipment does make contact with a power line:

- Do not leave the cab.
- Immediately call 911.
- Warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Rest is important for safety

For many farmers, fall requires long days in the field and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible, combined with fatigue and looming deadlines, increases the risk of injury. In fact, most injuries occur during the spring and fall when stress and fatigue are common among farmers.

The safety and health of workers, including making time for sleep, should be a priority when considering a farm's productivity, according to Josie Rudolphi, University of Illinois Extension associate research scientist. "Rushing and cutting corners can lead to injury, which no one has time for, especially during the harvest," Rudolphi says.

In addition, she says that getting proper rest can make a huge difference in staying safe, but during the time crunch of harvest season, farmers sacrifice sleep to work late into the night. "Sleep deficiency has been associated with increased injury, reduced reaction time, and reduced concentration," Rudolphi says. "All of which could impact health and safety, as well as productivity."

The demands of harvest are stressful, and a lack of sleep can intensify that and lead to errors in the fields or even on the roads.

To improve sleep, Rudolphi advises farmers to go to bed and wake up at regular times when possible. They can use rainy days to catch up on sleep.

Other sleep health tips include:

- Create a bedroom environment that encourages sleep; keep it quiet, dark and cool.
- Limit electronic device use.
- Avoid large meals, caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.

Managing stress is also an important component to injury prevention, health and safety, according to Rudolphi. "By using the 'Four A' Method of avoid (planning ahead), adapt (changing expectations), alter (changing the situation when you can) and accept (acknowledging that a situation is what it is), farmers can successfully manage the stress of long hours and unpredictability," she adds.

2025 CIPCO Power Supply Report: Action Today. Impact Tomorrow.
By Craig Stallman, T.I.P. REC Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

As a representative of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the significant progress CIPCO made in 2025 to strengthen the reliability and future of our power supply system. In recent years, CIPCO has been committed to pursuing cooperative solutions to the generation challenges facing us. Today, that commitment is turning into action.

Guided by its Integrated Resource Plan, CIPCO moved forward with several major generation projects last year that will help meet growing energy demand, support economic development, and ensure long-term reliability for the communities it serves. Together, these projects will add nearly 400 MW of generation resources to CIPCO's portfolio in the years ahead.

One of the most important developments was the announcement of a new 240 MW natural gas-fired peaking facility in eastern Iowa. This plant will provide dependable energy during periods of high demand and help balance intermittent resources like wind and solar generation. Significant progress has already been made and, once completed, the plant will become the largest capital project in CIPCO's history and a critical reliability resource for T.I.P. REC.

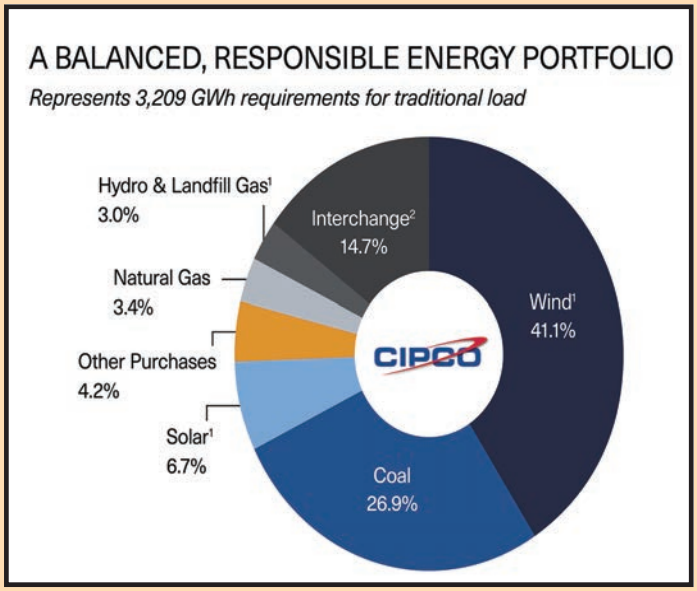
CIPCO also reaffirmed its commitment to the Coggon Solar project, a 100 MW solar facility in Linn County. After overcoming regulatory and legal hurdles, the project is now moving forward with construction expected to begin soon and completion targeted for 2028. This project reflects CIPCO's continued commitment to a balanced, all-of-the-above generation strategy.

Another major milestone came with the announcement that Duane Arnold Energy Center, Iowa's only nuclear facility, will return to service through a collaboration involving CIPCO, NextEra Energy, and Google. CIPCO secured a long-term agreement to purchase a portion of the plant's output once operations resume in 2029. Nuclear energy has long played an important role in Iowa's energy mix, and restarting DAEC will provide CIPCO Member-owners like T.I.P. REC with reliable, carbon-free baseload generation for decades to come.

CIPCO's strong financial performance in 2025 also demonstrates responsible stewardship of member resources. Strong margins allowed CIPCO to defer revenue and create financial flexibility that will help maintain stable and affordable rates while these major investments move forward. Both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings affirmed CIPCO's 'A' rating as a result of this financial strength. In 2025, CIPCO realized a net margin of $28 million, well ahead of budget. This in turn allowed margins to be returned to CIPCO Member-owners in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. For 2025, CIPCO returned patronage totaling $462,440 to our cooperative.

We are already seeing the impact of increased electric demand throughout our communities. CIPCO's energy sales reached an all-time high in 2025, driven by growth and economic development opportunities across the system.

At the heart of all this progress is cooperation. CIPCO exists to serve its Member-owner cooperatives, and these accomplishments reflect what can be achieved when cooperatives work together with a shared purpose. I am confident that together, CIPCO and T.I.P. REC will remain steadfast in delivering stable power at stable rates today and in the decades to come.



[1]CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity

output from wind, solar, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

[2]A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.

We're Looking for Students Interested in Public Service and Leadership

Guided by our commitment to community, Iowa's electric cooperatives are excited to again host an online program for high school students. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is geared toward high school students with a passion for leadership and promises to open their eyes to how cooperatives impact our daily lives and the opportunities available to them through cooperatives. They'll learn how to advocate for issues important to them and hear from dynamic speakers.

Zoom sessions (45 minutes – 1 hour):

Oct 4 – 7 p.m. > Why Cooperatives Matter and How to Effectively Advocate

Oct 18 – 7 p.m. > Being a Leader

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a $500 scholarship. Students who attend both sessions will be entered into a drawing for a $1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online receives a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

2026 Annual Meeting

Make sure to check out the annual meeting highlights in the October newsletter or on our website: tiprec.com/annual-meeting. There will be reports, prize winners, and results from the election of your Board of Directors.

Be prepared and take a few simple steps to keep you and your loved ones safe in an emergency.

1. Make a plan. Talk with your family about where you will go and how you will stay in touch during an emergency.
2. Build an emergency supply kit. Gather supplies like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications and first-aid supplies.
3. Stay informed. Sign up for local weather alerts and other important updates.

Haven't Signed Up for SmartHub Yet?

By signing up for SmartHub you have so many options to manage your electric account at your fingertips.

1. Sign up for SmartHub e-bill to receive your bill electronically. An e-mail notice around the 10th of each month will notify you that your monthly electric bill is now ready to be viewed. (you will not receive a printed billing statement in the mail) Saving paper and the advantage of knowing how much your bill is sooner.
2. The ability to access your electric information at all times online – view your billing and payment history with bill details.
3. View your electric usage and history - giving you the ability to manage your electric usage.
4. Report outages directly from your SmartHub account - eliminating the need to make a phone call.
5. Sign up to receive an e-mail or text alerts for power outages.

Easy sign up for SmartHub at www.tiprec.com or download the free app available for Android and iOS Apple devices. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 800-934-7976.

Sometimes Energy Bills Rise Without a Rate Increase

When an electric bill rises, many people assume their electric cooperative raised its rates. Sometimes that's the case. But more often, the biggest reason is simple. You used more electricity.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, nearly 90% of U.S. households use air conditioning. During hot weather, cooling systems run longer and more often. Even if the price of electricity stays the same, using more electricity means a higher bill.

Heat waves such as those we had this summer can have a bigger effect than you might realize. A few extra days of very hot weather may cause an air conditioner to run for hours longer each day. Refrigerators, freezers and dehumidifiers may also work harder during extreme heat.

If your bill seems unusually high, compare your electricity usage with the same month last year. Your utility bills show the number of kilowatt-hours used. That number can tell you whether the increase came from higher usage, higher rates or a combination of both.

You can also look for simple causes if you notice an unexpected jump in your energy use. A clogged air filter, a thermostat set a few degrees lower than usual or windows receiving direct afternoon sun can all increase cooling costs.

The next time your electric bill arrives, don't just look at the amount due. Check how much electricity you used. The answer to a higher bill is often hiding in that number.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, September 9 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

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