



TIPS From T.I.P.

Published By The T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

July 2020

Brooklyn, Iowa

Drive-Thru Annual Meeting To Be Held Saturday, August 29th



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing effort to practice social distancing, your management and Board of Directors has decided to hold a drive-thru Annual Meeting in the **BGM High School parking lot**.

In an effort to boost participation, the Board of Directors has approved to give away **150 - \$50.00 Bill Credits and 4 - \$500.00 Bill Credits** which will be randomly drawn from the registration cards received the day of the meeting. **Winners will be notified by a phone call.**



The following is a guide to how the drive-thru Annual Meeting will be held:

- You will drive up and hand your registration card with your name on it to a cooperative employee to process it.
- The employee will then hand you an election ballot for the 2020 election. There will be parking space available to stop and complete your ballot.
- The second stop you will turn in your ballot and receive your door prize. This year we are giving away a rain gauge and a microfiber dusting mitt.
- The annual reports and other meeting content will be available on our website and Facebook. Election results will be announced on Facebook and also posted on our website.

Your Annual Meeting booklet will be mailed the beginning of August. A map of the drive-thru route, the candidates running for the Board of Directors, reports and much more will be in the booklet so please make sure to read all the information.

Our consumer-members are very important to us and we encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting of **your** cooperative. So please mark your calendar to attend the drive-thru Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 29th.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is online at www.tiprec.com and check out the cooperative's Facebook page



End-Use Survey Winners

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank our member-consumers who participated in the End-Use survey. The following are the winners of a \$25.00 electric bill credit which was applied to their June bill: William Jefferson, Brian Huedepohl, Shannon Parker and Chris Willett.

NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, July 22nd from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

Important Notice

Our front door is now open to the public. We have done some remodeling to continue practicing social distancing around cooperative employees. Thank you for your cooperation.

T.I.P. Rural Electric

Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays.....641-522-9221
or Toll Free.....800-934-7976
After Hours (Outages & Emergencies Only) ..641-522-9223
or Toll Free800-934-7976
website: www.tiprec.com

2019 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report

By: Craig Stallman

T.I.P. REC's Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors



well as connections to CIPCO's proud past and future vision. The organization rolled up its sleeves and got to work implementing new strategic priorities along with new generation projects designed to partially replace output from one of CIPCO's primary sources of energy, the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), set to close in October of 2020.

These new generation projects fall right in line with CIPCO's goal of providing a diverse, 24/7 energy portfolio. In particular, progress continued on Wapello Solar, a 100 MW facility on 850 acres in Louisa County, from which we will purchase 100 percent of its output. Developed by Clēnera, LLC, Wapello Solar is Iowa's largest solar project. In 2019, we completed a transmission system impact study for when Wapello Solar is placed into service and worked with the developer as they obtained zoning approvals along with a generating certificate from the Iowa Utilities Board. We expect Wapello Solar to come online in late 2020. In addition, an \$85 million repowering project is taking place at the existing Summit Lake Generating Station in Creston. The modernization project for the 70-year-old plant will add 55 MW of efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines to CIPCO's portfolio, while retiring the old steam engines. Significant work took place throughout the year, with Creston transmission crews rerouting substantial lines in preparation for the Summit Lake North substation deconstruction and rebuild. Demolition work is complete on the substation, the office building, the transmission garage and diesel plant. The new engines are expected to be in place and operational in late 2020.

If 2018 was a groundbreaking year for Central Iowa Power Cooperative, then 2019 was a year of executing on strategy. The opportunities afforded by change produced strategies to sustain connections within our broad electric cooperative network as

T.I.P. REC and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable and reliable power to our consumer-members across the system. When it comes to safety, we're proud of CIPCO's achievement of two million hours worked over 10 years without a lost-time injury. In addition, the implementation of the Low Voltage New-To-Replace-Old (NTRO) program in 1986 and the expansion of it in 1995 includes over 845 miles of rebuilt line. NTRO, along with sound operating and maintenance programs, helps ensure our power supply system attains the high degree of reliability our consumer-members expect and deserve. CIPCO's system-wide 2019 outage rate was 0.44 hours per consumer. This is the eighth consecutive year in which outage totals were less than the target of one hour per consumer.

Financial strength is integral to our success and has led to strong credit ratings, stable rates that are now the lowest among G&Ts in the Midwest, and access to borrowing capital to complete system upgrades and enhancements cost effectively. Fitch Ratings recently completed its annual review and affirmed CIPCO's "A" Issuer Default Rating and its Rating Outlook as Stable. The unexpected early closure of DAEC underscores the important actions taken over many years to manage risk and position CIPCO to withstand the loss of a vital generation resource. As a result, CIPCO has managed through this period of change by adjusting its future resource strategy while maintaining stable or declining rates as new cost-effective resources are secured.

CIPCO's 2019 average system rate was the lowest in more than 10 years.

Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. During 2019, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$555,581 to T.I.P. REC.

In today's energy-conscious world, CIPCO and T.I.P. REC are committed to ensuring consumer-members use energy wisely and utilize available options to reduce excess energy consumption. As a result of these efforts, CIPCO and its member systems issued energy-efficiency rebates saving approximately 13,233,348 million kWh. In comparison, the average house uses nearly 11,000 kWh a year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That includes 814,392 kWh savings for T.I.P. REC members.

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I'm proud of the actions taken in 2019 to sustain our connections within the rural electric industry. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's mission to provide consumer-members with wholesale power and services in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors. I am proud to say, as a result of decisions made in 2019, T.I.P. REC's consumer-members, as well as the entire CIPCO system, will be well-served now and into the future.

Ronald Hoffman Receives Board Leadership Certificate



Pictured above is Ronald Hoffman, Board Secretary-Treasurer, holding the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) he received from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The NRECA Board Leadership Certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Directors who have attained the BLC have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model.

Your cooperative has a commitment to our consumer-members to ensure that your Board of Directors has the proper training and education to conduct cooperative business.

Your Cooperative Continues its Aggressive Brush Control Program



Evidence for the need to control growth of vegetation along power line right-of-way is easy to see in rural areas. Overgrown right-of-way can cause problems during severe weather and can make it difficult

to reach trouble spots to make repairs. This brush control program enables your cooperative to provide you with more reliable electric service.

In a continuing effort to control brush growth, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative has hired Midwest Spray Team & Sales, Inc. to treat vegetation in power line right-of-way with governmentally-approved herbicides. They will start the program the first part of July, using the foliage herbicides of Krenite S and Escort XP, which are foliage absorbed and are non-volatile. The herbicides will be applied with a hand-held nozzle. Midwest Spray Team & Sales, Inc. will follow up in the fall with a basal treatment, using Religate, Polaris SP and basil oil to treat the areas they could not foliage spray. Growth in county road ditches will be sprayed, but if the Midwest crew has any questions, they will attempt to contact the landowner before spraying.

This year, Midwest Spray Team crews will be treating power line right-of-way in the Marengo, Hayesville, Webster, and Madison substation areas.

Midwest Spray Team handles all questions concerning types of chemicals to be used. If you have any questions or complaints, contact Scott Long, Operations Manager, or Becca Coover, Operations Assistant, in our Brooklyn office at 800-934-7976.

You can also contact Midwest Spray Team by mail or phone at:

Midwest Spray Team & Sales, Inc.
PO Box 65668
West Des Moines, IA 50265
Phone: (515) 238-1616

Brush control is yet another way that T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative keeps service reliability as one of our most important goals.

Moving? Don't forget to notify your Cooperative.

Bear Creek Dairy LP Drive-Thru Provides a Welcome Break During the Covid-19 Pandemic

On a beautiful, sunny day in May the Jan and Dorine Boelen family, (five kids and their wives, fiancé, girlfriends and grandkids are very involved in their family business), owners and operators of Bear Creek Dairy LP, invited everyone to jump in their vehicles and take a drive in the country for an enjoyable break from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Approximately 500 people attended the drive-thru dairy farm event which gave everyone a chance to view their dairy farm operation, enjoy homemade chocolate chip cookies baked by their daughter, Dieuwertje, who is better known as Dee's Dutch Delights, and to sample their Hiland Dairy white and chocolate milk. They also gave out bags with tattoos, crayons and coloring books donated by the Brooklyn Farm Bureau. Their daughter-in-law, Katherine, is a board member on the Brooklyn Farm Bureau.

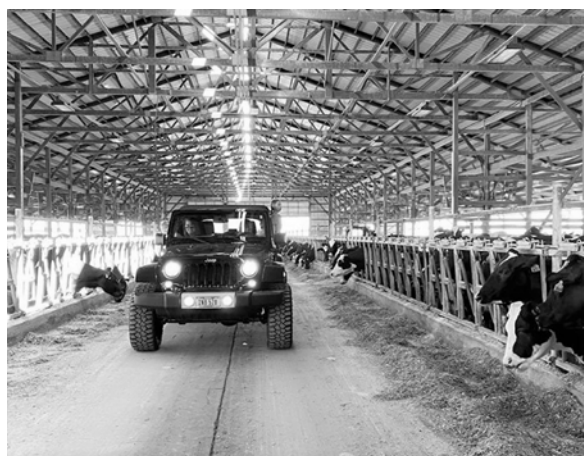
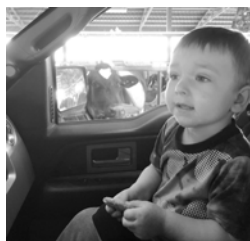
The Boelens family moved to Iowa from the Netherlands in 2009. In the Netherlands, they had 160 milking cows along with heifers with bloodlines in their herd from over 60 years old. Jan's dad, Jo, bought his first milking cow in 1947. They started with 235 cows when they moved here and today their family dairy farm operation has grown to milking between 1550 and 1600 cows. They have over 2,000 replacement heifers which vary in age. The youngest are at home with several at their heifer raiser in Durant, WI, and 10 miles north at the Poweshiek/Tama county line in a feed lot.

Katherine came up with the alternative idea for the drive-thru event since kindergarten classes and day care groups could not tour the farm due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since it was such a success they plan to have it next year in June to celebrate Dairy Month.

Their free-will donation was a great success! They were able to donate \$1,300 to PIE (Partners in Education) at the BGM School to upgrade their playground. (picture to the right)

The Boelens would like to thank all that came out and their sponsors: Hiland Dairy, Farm Bureau and Dee's Dutch Delights.

"Hopefully you will find your way to our Facebook page: Bear Creek Dairy (give us a like!) and watch for our coloring contests. (we have nice prizes) We hope to see you and others back at our event next year," says Dorine.



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