



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**July 2021**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## Drive-Thru Annual Meeting Saturday, August 28th



Due to Covid-19, your management and board of directors has decided to again hold a drive-thru annual meeting in the **BGM High School parking lot.**

This year we will be giving away **1 - \$250.00 Bill Credit, 3 - \$100.00 Bill Credits and 75 - \$50.00 Bill Credits along with a 6,500W Predator Gas Powered Generator, a Storm Preparation Kit which consists of a 58V 16" Echo Battery-Powered Chainsaw, bar oil, LaCrosse Weather Radio, and a LED Lantern, and an Air Fryer.** Winners will be randomly drawn from the registration cards received the day of the meeting. **Winners will be notified by a phone call.**

The guide to how the drive-thru annual meeting will be held is the same as last year:

- 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 2021 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 an umbrella.
- 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 member-owners are very important to us and we encourage you to participate in the annual meeting of **your** cooperative.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## General Manager's Update



**Dean A. Huls**

Hello member-owners, I'm Dean Huls, your General Manager, and this is the first of many articles I will be writing to keep you updated on the activities and challenges we face as your cooperative.

We have a long list of items on our Priority list for both the Brooklyn and Sigourney districts. Here at T.I.P. REC we are busy working on our 2021 construction projects. We are upgrading the line from Hwy 21 going on 420th Ave about 4 miles east to V38. In our Sigourney district, the line crew is busy changing out the poles that were marked as rejects by SBS Inspections on our Lancaster and Ollie substations. You may have seen our crews in your neighborhood.

As you have seen the stability in your power bills, your cooperative has been able to keep a strong financial position through 2020. In 2020, we performed a Cost-of-Service Study to help the board of directors and staff determine how our margins will affect our financial requirements through 2021 and into the future. This study indicated the need to raise our rates to meet our financial requirements in future years. We are currently working with our financial partners and engineering firm to study how this will affect each rate class. Your cooperative has not had a rate increase since 2012, though we did a rate adjustment in 2016 which was reflected in your monthly facilities charge.

As a member-owned cooperative, we need to meet certain financial criteria along with our commitment to provide affordable, reliable power to you, our member-owners. I will keep you informed as we move forward with our rate study.

Earlier this year we began the process of updating our website and hope to have it completed this fall. Our goal was to make it more streamlined so that you can find information easier. You can also like us on Facebook to find more information about your cooperative.

We are busy preparing for this year's annual meeting which will again be a drive-thru at the BGM campus on Saturday, August 28th, so please mark your calendars to attend.

Have a safe summer and I hope everyone is enjoying this warm summer weather we are having!

## July TIPS from T.I.P.

### Seniors Receive T.I.P. Scholarships

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to wish all the students who submitted an application the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The following are the remaining high school seniors who were awarded \$500 scholarships:

#### Belle Plaine Jr/Sr High School



**Kamryn C. Hoskey**  
Iowa State University  
Agribusiness

#### BGM Jr/Sr High School



**Taylor Callahan**  
University of Iowa  
Nursing

#### Keota Jr/Sr High School



**Luke Hammen**  
DMACC, Agribusiness

#### Williamsburg Jr/Sr High School



**Cassandra Parsons**  
University of Iowa  
Tourism & Mass  
Communication



**Max Meade**  
Associated  
Builders &  
Contractors of  
Iowa  
Electrical

### Schools Receive Electrical Safety Materials and Electrical Safety Video



Cole Calkins, T.I.P. REC Staking Technician/Member Service, delivered the electrical safety materials pictured above and a electrical safety video (which he narrated) to the schools in our service territory in May. We hope to go back to in-person safety presentations at the schools next year.

#### NOTICE:

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

## Linemen Review Safety Procedures Annually



**T.I.P. linemen pictured above in the back of the truck are reviewing basket truck rescue.**

As just one part of your cooperative's comprehensive safety program, all T.I.P. linemen review basket rescue procedures annually. During this review they practice how to rescue a fellow lineman using a basket truck who may have had electrical contact, heat exhaustion, an allergic reaction to a bee sting or heart complications while working on the lines.



**Pictured to the left is Kendall Bunn, Apprentice Lineman, practicing his pole climbing competency.**

They also review and practice pole climbing competency as seen in the picture above. The linemen check their harnesses, climbing gear and lanyards to ensure they are in proper working condition. Each lineman then takes his turn climbing the pole to practice his pole climbing skills.

The linemen also watched an informational video on chain saw safety to ensure they are being safe when they trim trees around power lines.

## Your Cooperative Continues its Aggressive Brush Control Program



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 Brooklyn, Homestead, Lancaster and Parnell 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.

**\*\*\*Effective July 1, 2021, the fee to make a trip out to your service to post it for an unpaid electric bill is raising to \$85.00.**



## 2020 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report

By: Craig Stallman  
T.I.P. REC's Representative on the  
CIPCO Board of Directors



2020 will long be remembered as the year of the coronavirus – a pandemic that became the center of our world. We watched the effects unfold country by country, then coast to coast in the U.S. We wondered when and how it would affect our members,

employees, family, and friends. After battling fear and a lack of information initially, it didn't take long to feel the impact in our communities.

Despite the pandemic, CIPCO had planned an ambitious year including the continued repowering of the Summit Lake plant, CIPCO's largest construction project in the history of the cooperative. Wapello Solar, LLC was under construction by Clēnera with an anticipated early 2021 completion date. With the planned closure of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), CIPCO worked to identify the right, cost-effective generation resources through power purchase agreements and market buys to fill anticipated gaps in the resource plan.

While the pandemic tested our strength in 2020 as a whole, the massive derecho that swept across the state in August with hurricane force winds tested our systems, but it also demonstrated the power of cooperation. CIPCO received overwhelming support from Dairyland Power Cooperative, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative with exhaustive restoration activities for critical transmission lines. Unfortunately, the derecho brought an additional casualty; the early loss of DAEC due to catastrophic storm damage.

Despite the unexpected challenges during 2020, such as derecho costs topping \$5 million, and lower energy sales, CIPCO's financial results reflect another year of stability and competitive rates. The year represents the fifth consecutive year of declining rates and is the lowest rate in more than 10 years. Even with the challenges of 2020, we successfully executed on the long-term strategy of re-investing in the system to maintain and improve reliability. Capital expenditures for the year were more than \$93 million, one of the largest capital additions

in CIPCO's history. This included significant work on Summit Lake.

T.I.P. REC and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to our member-owners across the system. Despite the attention given to high-profile issues and events in 2020, other projects are crucial to the successful operation of the CIPCO system. Throughout the year, a number of substation projects were completed. And despite the disruption of the derecho in the second half of the year, CIPCO finalized work on more than 32 miles of line. CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.34 hours per consumer without the derecho and 23.19 with the derecho included. Without the derecho, this would be the ninth consecutive year in which CIPCO's average outage total was below the target of 1.00 hours per consumer. For 2020, T.I.P. REC's service reliability was 99.98% without the derecho and including the August derecho it was 99.34%.

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 2020, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$556,690 to T.I.P. REC.

I'm proud of the actions taken in 2020 to sustain and grow our connections within the rural electric industry during a tumultuous year. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's mission to provide member-owners 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 and actions taken in 2020, T.I.P. REC's member-owners, as well as the entire CIPCO system, are well-served now and into the future.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.**

**Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and Click on Rapid Pay or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.**

### Non-Discrimination Statement

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

**TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.**