

heartland LINK



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

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East-Central Iowa Rural
Electric Cooperative

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Nov. 11
Closed in honor of Veterans Day

OUR COOPERATIVE SPIRIT



Photo credit: IAEC

YOUTH TOUR RECAP

STORY ON PAGE 3



MESSAGE FROM CEO TERESA FLOYD

The Power of Cooperation

What does it mean to be a cooperative?

A **COOPERATIVE (OR CO-OP)** is a jointly owned, democratically managed enterprise operated for the benefit of its members rather than outside shareholders.

That simple definition is at the heart of everything we do. As your member-owned electric cooperative, every decision we make is focused on providing reliable, affordable electricity and improving the quality of life in the communities we serve.

October is National Cooperative Month, an annual celebration that has recognized the cooperative business model since 1964. It is a time to celebrate the unique difference cooperatives make and the value of organizations that are owned by the people they serve.

While ECI REC is your local electric cooperative, we are also part of a much larger cooperative network. Many of the organizations we partner with every day are cooperatives themselves. These relationships strengthen our ability to provide dependable service, advocate for rural communities, invest in new technologies, and create opportunities that benefit our members.

In this issue, you'll learn more about several of the cooperative partners that work alongside ECI REC to support our mission. Together, these organizations demonstrate the power of cooperation—working together to accomplish more than any one organization could achieve alone.

One example of this partnership is the Iowa Youth Tour. Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students on an unforgettable weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. Through our cooperative partnerships, ECI REC is proud to provide this experience at no cost to two local students each year. Participants explore our nation's capital, learn about government and leadership, and gain a deeper understanding of the cooperative business model.

This year was especially memorable as we had the privilege of sending twins—a first for us! We are excited to share more about their Youth Tour experience in this newsletter.

Thank you for being a member-owner of ECI REC. Your membership connects you not only to your local cooperative, but to a nationwide network of cooperatives working together to strengthen rural America. 🌱



OCTOBER IS
**COOP
MONTH**

America's electric
cooperatives
power more than
22 MILLION
businesses,
homes, farms,
and schools
and serve
42 MILLION
people across
48 STATES.



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Electric Co-op Facts & Figures, updated June 25, 2025.

CONNECT WITH ECI REC

Emails

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

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(closed Saturdays,
Sundays, and holidays)

Website

ecirec.coop

Facebook

[facebook.com/
eastcentraliowarec](https://facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec)
(operations news and
general updates)

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Youth Tour helps local students discover leadership, service, and the cooperative difference

a Community Connected feature

WHEN TWINS JENNA AND NORA GROVERT

boarded a plane for Washington, D.C., they expected to visit famous landmarks and learn about our nation's history. What they didn't expect was to return home with a new understanding of leadership, community, and the role electric cooperatives play beyond providing electricity.

Representing East-Central Iowa REC, the Vinton-Shellsburg juniors joined 33 other Iowa students and more than 2,100 students from 44 states for the 2026 National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. During the weeklong trip, they explored historic sites, participated in leadership development activities, met elected officials, and discovered how electric cooperatives work together to strengthen their communities.

For Jenna, one of the most memorable moments of the week came at Arlington National Cemetery, where she was one of four students selected to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"It was such an honor," Jenna said. "I was nervous at first, but once I was standing there, it really hit me how meaningful the moment was. Hearing 'Taps' and being part of that ceremony is something I'll never forget."

One of Nora's favorite experiences was attending the U.S. Marine Corps Sunset Parade.

"The precision, professionalism, and teamwork were incredible," she said. "Watching everyone work together in perfect sync really stood out to me."

While the monuments, museums, and historic sites left a lasting impression, both students said the biggest takeaway wasn't a particular destination—it was discovering what electric cooperatives stand for.

"Before Youth Tour, I thought electric cooperatives were just about providing electricity. I came home realizing they're also investing in people and giving back to their communities," said Jenna.

Leadership sessions challenged the twins and their fellow students to think differently about what it means to serve others and work together toward a common goal.



Photo credit: Katie Stadheim

Washington, D.C., photos credit: IAEC

"We learned that leadership isn't about having a title," said Nora. "It's about listening, accepting feedback, working with others, and making your community better."

When asked if they would recommend Youth Tour to other students, Jenna and Nora answered without hesitation that they absolutely would. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," they said. "You'll meet people from across the country and experience things you never imagined."

Programs like Youth Tour are one of the many ways EC I REC puts the cooperative principles into action by investing in future leaders and strengthening the communities we proudly serve.

INTERESTED IN YOUTH TOUR?

Applications for the 2027 Youth Tour are now available! Current high school sophomores and juniors can learn more and apply at ecirec.coop.

Another Opportunity for Civic-Minded Students!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVICE, ADVOCACY, OR LEADERSHIP?

The Youth Leadership Academy—a two-part webinar series in October—is an opportunity for students to learn more about advocating for things they care about and rural electric co-op careers. Attendees have a chance to win college scholarships!



Learn more at
IowaYouthTour.com.

BEHIND EVERY FLIP OF THE SWITCH

How the cooperative network works for you

a Keeping the Lights On behind-the-scenes look

When you flip a light switch, you probably think about ECI REC—but there's an entire network of cooperatives and organizations working behind the scenes every day to help deliver reliable electric service!

From generating electricity to providing technology, supplying materials, financing infrastructure, advocating for rural communities, and supporting employee training, these partnerships help us better serve our members.



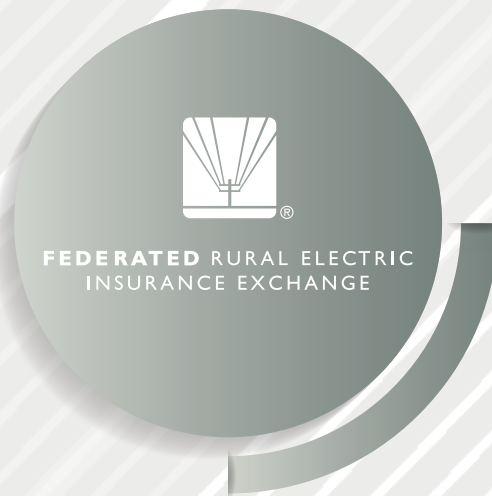
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE NETWORK

NRECA provides research, education, leadership development, cybersecurity resources, and federal advocacy on behalf of electric cooperatives across the country.



POWER GENERATION

CIPCO generates and transmits wholesale electricity to ECI REC while maintaining a balanced and reliable energy portfolio.



SAFETY & INSURANCE

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange provides insurance, safety resources, training, and risk management tailored specifically for electric cooperatives.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ ECI REC is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives nationwide.
- ✓ One of the seven cooperative principles is cooperation among cooperatives.
- ✓ Working together helps keep service reliable while controlling costs for members.



**Iowa Association of
Electric Cooperatives**

STATEWIDE ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

IAEC supports Iowa electric cooperatives through advocacy, communications, Youth Tour, leadership development, and safety education.



Cooperative Response Center, Inc.

**Cooperative
Response
Center (CRC)**

MEMBER SUPPORT

CRC provides after-hours member service and outage support, so our members can get assistance whenever they need it.

RESCO
SUPPLYING THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

**Rural Electric
Supply
Cooperative**

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

RESCO supplies the poles, transformers, meters, line materials, and equipment needed to maintain and build our electric system.

nisc

**National
Information
Solutions
Cooperative**

TECHNOLOGY

NISC provides the technology behind many of the systems we rely on every day, including SmartHub, billing, member information management, AML, and outage management.

CFC

Cooperative Finance

**National Rural
Utilities Cooperative
Finance Corporation
(CFC)**

FINANCING

CFC provides financing that allows cooperatives like ECI REC to invest in long-term infrastructure while helping keep electric rates affordable.

MEMBER PATRONAGE SPOTLIGHT

Many of ECI REC's cooperative partners also operate as cooperatives. Like ECI REC, they allocate patronage to their member-owners. Because we are members of these cooperatives, that patronage is included in our annual margins, strengthening ECI REC and supporting the value we return to our members. It's another example of cooperation among cooperatives.

2025 CIPCO POWER SUPPLY REPORT: ACTION TODAY, IMPACT TOMORROW

From Gary McKenna, Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors
a Cooperative Difference feature



As ECI REC’s representative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I 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.

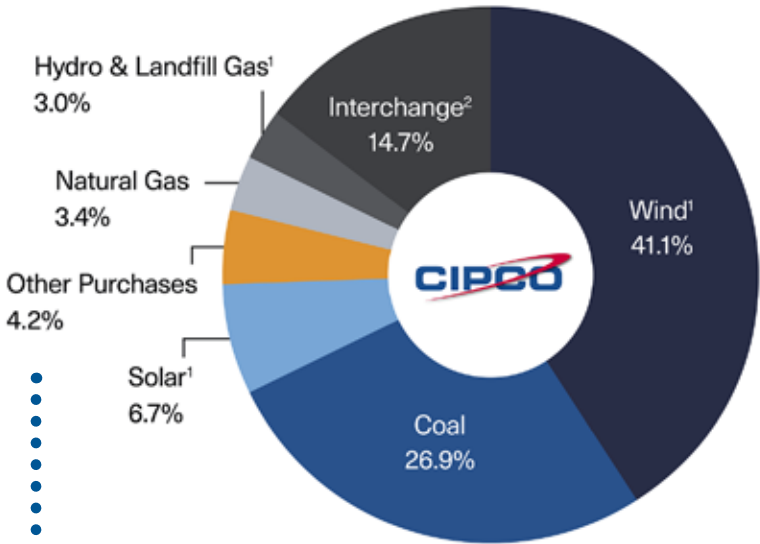
One of the most important developments was the announcement of a new 240 MW natural-gas-fired peaking facility in eastern Iowa. This plant will provide dependable energy during periods of high demand and help balance intermittent resources like wind and solar generation. Significant progress has already been made. Once completed, the plant will become the largest capital project in CIPCO’s history and a critical reliability resource for ECI 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. Construction is expected to begin soon, and completion is 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 the 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 the DAEC will provide CIPCO member-owners like ECI 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

A BALANCED, RESPONSIBLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO Represents 3,209 GWh requirements for traditional load



- 1. CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. They operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities they serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. They 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 their supply portfolio, as they 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), they not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, but they also generate revenue to help them lower their wholesale power rate to their 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.

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 \$685,217 to ECI REC.

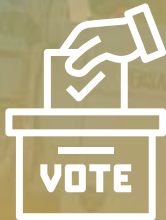
Living Our Cooperative Principles

Being a cooperative means more than having “co-op” in our name. ECI REC is guided by seven cooperative principles that shape how we operate, make decisions, serve our members, and invest in our communities. Here’s what those principles look like in action.



Voluntary & Open Membership

Cooperatives are open to those who can use their services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership. At ECI REC, those receiving electric service within our territory become member-owners.



Democratic Member Control

You have a voice in your Cooperative. ECI REC members elect directors to represent them on the Board and help guide the direction of the Cooperative.



Autonomy & Independence

ECI REC is an independent, member-owned organization. Decisions are made with the needs of our Cooperative, our members, and the communities we serve in mind.



Member Economic Participation

Members contribute to the financial strength of ECI REC. When revenues exceed expenses and financial obligations are met, margins are allocated to members as capital credits and may be retired over time.



Concern for Community

Our commitment extends beyond delivering electricity. ECI REC works to strengthen the communities we call home through youth programs, community partnerships, energy efficiency programs, member assistance, and other initiatives.



Cooperation Among Cooperatives

We’re stronger when we work together. ECI REC partners with cooperative organizations locally, statewide, regionally, and nationally to access resources, expertise, technology, materials, financing, advocacy, and more.



Education, Training, & Information

We invest in education and training for our employees and directors while helping our members understand their Cooperative and the electric industry. Programs like Youth Tour also provide opportunities to educate and develop the next generation of leaders.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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. With this in mind, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.26 hours per consumer, well under the target of one hour per consumer. In 2025, ECI REC’s outage rate was 0.15 hours per member-consumer.

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 East-Central Iowa REC will remain steadfast in delivering stable power at stable rates today and in the decades to come.

Members Save With ECI REC Weatherization Incentives

an Energy Wise reminder

Requirements (with or without LIHEAP)

- » Rebates based on heating source.
- » Home must be built prior to 2000.
- » Must be an upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify).
- » Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Electric Heat (with or without air conditioning)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 60% up to \$600
- » Wall Insulation - 60% up to \$600
- » Foundation Insulation - 60% up to \$600
- » Infiltration Control - 60% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing - 60% up to \$200

Maximum rebate per home: \$2,200

Central AC Only (non-electric heating)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 15% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation - 15% up to \$150

Maximum rebate per home: \$300

LIHEAP QUALIFIED

(See LIHEAP weatherization income guidelines to the right)

Electric Heat (with or without air conditioning)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Wall Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Foundation Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Infiltration Control - 80% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing - 80% up to \$200

Maximum rebate per home: \$2,800

Central AC Only (non-electric heating)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 20% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation - 20% up to \$150

Maximum rebate per home: \$300

STATE RELEASES 2026-2027 LIHEAP REQUIREMENTS

an Energy Wise update



Photo credit: Adobe Stock / Pixel-Shot

THE 2026-2027 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 211 or visit hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/LIHEAP to contact your local community action agency.

You may also write to: **LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.** 

HOW TO APPLY FOR LIHEAP

WHEN TO APPLY

- » Elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027
- » All other households: November 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027

WHAT TO PROVIDE

- » Proof of income for all household members age 18 and over; depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or the last calendar year—which ever is easier or more beneficial for you
- » Proof of Social Security numbers for **all** household members (documentation required)
- » Most recent heat bill
- » Most recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS

Please provide copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME

This income may include: Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, veteran's assistance, and pensions. Please provide copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS

Please provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

Note: Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$31,920
2	\$43,280
3	\$54,640
4	\$66,000
5	\$77,360
6	\$88,720
7	\$100,080
8	\$111,440

For households with more than eight members, add \$11,360 for each additional member.



Photo credit: Adobe Stock / Pixel-Shot

Choose the Heat Plus Rate for Winter Savings

an Energy Wise reminder

FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MAY 31, ECI REC offers a special Heat Plus rate that can save qualifying members up to 50% on winter heating costs.

The current Heat Plus rate is \$0.05/kWh. To qualify, your heating system must:

- » Be electric and separately metered.
- » Use the primary electric heating source first, with the backup system operating only when the primary system is unable to satisfy the thermostat setting.
- » Use the primary electric system to heat an area of at least 400 square feet.
- » Use an electric water heater to provide 100% of the home's domestic water heating (except for energy supplied by an electric heat pump desuperheater).

A system where the building is totally unheated during unoccupied times is not eligible.

Heat Plus is primarily a residential option, but your business may also qualify! Call 319-443-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop to learn more. 🐾

DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other **equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab.** Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1** and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait to exit** your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. **If you must get out:**

- **Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- **Hop away as far as you can**, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.



SAVE ENERGY THIS Fall and Winter

Follow these simple DIY tips to reduce energy use and keep you warm this season:

- Seal gaps around windows and doors with caulk or weatherstripping.
- Close curtains and blinds at night to keep the cold out.
- Open window coverings on sunny days to let the sun in.
- Clean or replace furnace filters.
- Run ceiling fans clockwise to push warm air down.
- Check insulation in your attic, attic hatch and crawl space.
- Use a smart thermostat to lower temperatures when asleep or away.
- Close the fireplace flue when not in use.
- Schedule a home energy audit to find and fix energy wasters.

For more tips, visit:

SafeElectricity.org



Meet Our Team

a Keeping the Lights On spotlight



Tom Schmitt, Operations Manager

What do you enjoy about working at ECI REC?

I've always enjoyed the work and the people. Starting out in the field and moving into different roles has given me a good understanding of how the Cooperative operates as a whole. We have a strong team, and there is a lot of pride in doing the job right and serving our members well.

What's something members might not realize about the work you do?

A lot of what we do happens before any work reaches the field. There's planning, coordination, and decision-making that goes into making sure the projects are done safely, efficiently, and in a way that best serves our members.

How does your role help support safe, reliable power for our members?

My role is focused on planning ahead and maintaining the system so we can prevent issues whenever possible. That includes developing work plans, prioritizing system improvements, and making sure crews have the resources they need to do their job safely. All of that contributes to keeping power reliable and affordable for our members.

What has changed the most at the Cooperative during your time here?

Technology has changed how we approach the work. When I started, much of it was manual. Today, we have better tools, better data, and more efficient systems in place, and it allows us to make more informed decisions and respond more quickly. 🛠️

KEVIN WALTON, Line Foreman

Thank you for 31 years
of service!



Welcome New Team Members!

a Keeping the Lights On spotlight

Tatum Bohlsen, Accountant



Tatum Bohlsen joined ECI REC as an accountant on June 8. Originally from Maple Grove, Minnesota, Tatum now lives in Independence. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Iowa State University.

Tatum assists with accounts payable and a variety of monthly accounting responsibilities, including reconciliations, payments, budgeting tasks, and other financial activities that help keep us running smoothly.

Tatum learned about the opportunity at ECI REC through her boyfriend's mom and was excited about the chance to work for an electric cooperative. She enjoys the variety her new position offers and the opportunity to learn more about the cooperative world.

Outside work, Tatum enjoys gymnastics, baking, fishing, skiing, and snowboarding. She also has an eight-year-old cat named Leo.

Fun fact: Although Tatum considers Minnesota home after living there for 17 years, she was born in Pennsylvania and spent several years living in Ohio.

Brody Mundt, Apprentice Lineworker



ECI REC welcomed Brody Mundt to the team as an apprentice lineworker on May 26. Brody lives in Dike and graduated from Waverly-Shell Rock High School before attending Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, where he earned a degree in electrical power distribution.

As an apprentice, Brody's days are filled with learning and gaining hands-on experience. No two days in the trade are exactly alike, and he works alongside ECI REC's journeyman lineworkers to help the crew operate safely and efficiently.

Brody came to ECI REC after hearing great things about working here. He attended line school with the goal of beginning his career at an electric cooperative.

Outside work, Brody enjoys working on vehicles—or just about anything with a motor. On the weekends, he likes traveling to the Mississippi River and has recently been spending more time golfing. He also has a four-year-old black lab named Axle.

Fun fact: Before beginning his lineworker career, Brody spent three years after high school working as a plumber and is one test away from becoming a journeyman plumber. 🛠️



AS COOLER DAYS ARRIVE, there's nothing quite like a warm bowl of soup or a favorite comfort food shared around the table. Thank you to everyone who submitted recipes for this issue of the *Heartland Link*! We always enjoy seeing the dishes and traditions that make their way into our members' kitchens.

Congratulations to our winners, who have received \$25 bill credits! We hope you find a new recipe to try—or one that reminds you of a favorite from your own kitchen. 🍲

..... Soup & Comfort Food Recipes

Vegetable Beef Stew

Submitted by Monica Bengton, Fairbank

I enjoy this recipe because it's easy to make and tastes good!

1 lb. ground beef (or sausage, if you prefer)	2 cups sliced carrots	1 tsp. garlic salt
1 cup chopped onions	½ cup sliced celery	½ tsp. marjoram
6 cups water	4 cups diced potatoes	1 cup sweet corn, drained
4-6 cups tomato juice	½ cup rice	1 cup peas, drained
4 bouillon cubes	1 Tbsp. sugar	1 cup green beans, drained
	2 tsp. celery salt	

Brown meat with salt and pepper to taste. Drain. Add the rest of the ingredients and cook for about an hour or until vegetables are done.

Extra Creamy Crock Pot Mac & Cheese

Submitted by Porcia Grover, Independence

I got this recipe from the Spend With Pennies website. Holly Nilsson is the author. I've made it many times, and it's so good!

2 cups uncooked macaroni noodles	10.5 oz. cream of chicken soup	½ tsp. pepper
1 tsp. onion powder	½ cup sour cream (regular or light)	3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
½ tsp. dry mustard powder	½ cup mayonnaise	1 cup shredded gruyere cheese

NOTE: I use 4 cups cheddar, no gruyere.

Boil macaroni noodles according to directions to make them very al dente. (I boil mine for 5 minutes.) Drain and rinse under cold water.

Combine all ingredients in the slow cooker and cook on high for 2 hours or low for 3 hours, stirring once or twice.

Serve hot. Yields 6 servings.

This can be baked in the oven in a 9" x 13" greased pan at 350°F for 30 minutes covered and 30 minutes uncovered.

Photo credit: Adobe Stock / gpointstudio



What's Next? From Our Kitchen to Yours!

For the November/December issue, we're giving our members a peek inside our kitchens. ECI REC employees will be sharing some of their favorite holiday recipes, from dishes that have been passed down through the family to treats that have become part of their own holiday celebrations.

Watch for From Our Kitchen to Yours in the next issue of the *Heartland Link*!

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East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CLIP AND MAIL

See below for Member Challenge questions.

Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Account No. _____ We cannot accept answers by phone.

PERIODICALS

FIND TOOLS FOR MEMBERS AT ECIREC.COOP



24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub

See account information at ecirec.smarthub.coop or download the app.



Outage Center & Map

View current outages on our website or in the SmartHub app.



Online Forms

Access rebate, service request, and program sign-up forms.



Call Before You Dig

Notify utilities before you dig at www.iowaonecall.com or call 811.



Co-op Connections®

Get discounts on everyday expenses. Visit www.connections.coop or download the mobile app.



Heartland Link E-Newsletter

Email ecirec@ecirec.coop and ask to receive our newsletter via email.



Iowa Rural Power

Join grassroots advocates for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Visit www.iaruralpower.org.

take the member challenge

1. CEO MESSAGE: A cooperative (or co-op) is a jointly owned, democratically managed enterprise operated for the benefit of its members rather than _____.

2. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: CIPCO also reaffirmed its commitment to the _____ project, a 100 MW solar facility in Linn County.

3. ENERGY WISE: From October 1 through May 31, ECI REC offers a special Heat Plus rate that can save _____ members up to 50% on winter heating costs.

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answers to ecirec@ecirec.coop. Or, print the word(s) at the top of the page, cut it out, and send it to: ECI REC, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue must be received by October 1. Ten names will be drawn from all correct entries.

last issue's challenge winners

The following names were drawn from the July/August 2026 Heartland Link entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Lee DeMoss

Walter A. Hickey

Russell Lindberg

Dennis R. Sanders

Matt Dulin

George Smith

Lois J. Rinderknecht

Charles W. Pettit

Loras Overmann

Nicholas J. Nie