

# Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : [www.lyonrec.coop](http://www.lyonrec.coop)  
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rock Rapids MARCH 2026

## REMINDERS

### Annual Meeting: March 30, 2026

The 87th Annual meeting of the members of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Central Lyon High School, located on Greene Street in Rock Rapids at 7:15 PM. Meal will be served from 5:00-7:00 PM in the commons of the high school.

Registration begins at 5:00 PM.

Attend the Annual Meeting and get a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill.

expenses paid tour at our annual meeting, March 30. Call Lyon Rural Electric today at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 to reserve your seat!

## Basin Bus Tour – August 5 - 7, 2026

Join us on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine August 5-7. In addition, tour the Garrison Dam.

We will depart from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative August 5 on an air-conditioned charter bus. We will have plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is August 6. We will depart Bismarck, North Dakota, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take an elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the

bus ride into the lignite open pit mine, weather permitting. In the evening, we will enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River.

On August 7 we head back home. We will have frequent rest stops to break up the day. We will return back to Lyon Rural Electric in the early evening.

The cost is only \$150.00 per person. The fee includes the cost of the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat and snack breaks. Lyon Rural Electric shares the tour bus with two other cooperatives so just 15 seats are available. Sign up today or register to win all



## 2026 Board Leadership Certificate

We're excited to share that David DeBoer recently earned a Board Leadership Certificate through National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, demonstrating a strong commitment to continued education.

This program enhances knowledge of board responsibilities, strategic planning, and leadership best practices.

This strengthens our board and benefits our organization. Congratulations David on this outstanding achievement and your ongoing service to our members.

# Board of Director Nominees

The members below were nominated by the Nominating Committees from their districts. Voting ballots will be included in the annual meeting packets that will be mailed out in early March.

Ballots can be mailed in, dropped off at the Cooperative office or you may bring them to the annual meeting on Monday, March 30, 2026.

## District 1



### **ALLEN POPPENS - SIOUX TOWNSHIP**

Allen has lived in Lyon County for 40 years and is married to Stacie, with four children. He owns and operates Northland Seamless Gutters and enjoys raising horses and roping calves.

Allen has four years' experience on the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative board, he is also the Vice President of Plum Creek Rodeo and serves on the Iowa High School Rodeo board.



### **HOLLY SCHOLTEN - LYON TOWNSHIP**

Holly and her husband Kyle live on his family farm in Lyon County, where they raise hogs, cattle, and crops. They have three children who keep them busy!

Holly works part-time as a bookkeeper for Scholten Inc. and is actively involved in the community, serving on the Inwood Summer Rec board, coaching T-Ball and soccer, and leading Vacation Bible School. Holly has six years board experience on the Lyon County Pork Producers board, including two years as Co-Fair Chair and 2 years as Secretary.

## District 2



### **DUSTIN HOOGENDOORN - LOGAN TOWNSHIP**

Dustin has lived in Lyon County his entire life and farms southwest of Lester, where he raises corn, soybeans, and hogs. In addition to farming, he also works at Lester Feed and Grain buying grain and selling feed.

Dustin is married to Andrea, and together they have 3 children. Dustin has served on the Lyon County Pork Producers board for six years. He is an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Inwood serving on many boards over the years.



### **JESSE ROEMEN - LOGAN TOWNSHIP**

Jesse farms southwest of Larchwood, where he raises corn and soybeans and manages a cattle and hog operation.

He is married to his wife, Becky, who works at Sanford in Rock Rapids and together they have three children-two sons and one daughter. Jesse has served on the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative board for the past eight years.

## District At Large



### **DUSTIN ACKERMAN - GRANT TOWNSHIP**

Dustin lives northeast of George on the Ackerman family farm with his wife Rachel, and their three children. He raises corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs.

Dustin is currently serving on the Cooperative Farmers Elevator Board and has previously served on the George-Little Rock FFA advisory committee and various church boards.



### **NOLAN KOOIKER - GARFIELD TOWNSHIP**

Nolan has lived in Lyon County his entire life. He has been farming for thirty-four years. He raises corn, beans and wean to finish pigs.

He has served on the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative board for the past eight years and the L & O Board for the last six years. He also serves as the financial secretary at First Baptist Church in George.

## MAKE A SPRING ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST.

Spring is a good time to give your home's electrical system a basic safety check before heavier summer use begins.

Start by testing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms and replacing batteries if needed. Check outlets and switches for warmth, buzzing sounds or discoloration, which can indicate wiring problems.

Inspect power strips and extension cords and replace any that are damaged or overloaded. Power strips should never be daisy-chained together. Make sure cords are not pinched under furniture or stretched across walkways where they can be damaged.

In kitchens and bathrooms, confirm that outlets near sinks are protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters. These outlets help prevent shocks and should be tested monthly.

Spring is also a good time to clear clutter away from electrical panels and make sure breakers are clearly labeled. Never block access to the panel.

If you notice flickering lights, frequently tripped breakers or burning smells, contact a qualified electrician. Addressing small issues early can prevent fires and costly repairs later.

## Use electric tools safely for spring cleaning, home projects

As you get to the business of spring cleaning, inspect your tools—vacuum cleaners, pressure washers, carpet cleaners and power tools—to make sure they are in shape for another season.

- ▶ Before starting any project, inspect cords and plugs for cracks, fraying or exposed wires. Damaged equipment should be repaired or replaced. Using tools with ground-fault circuit interrupter protection is especially important in garages, basements and outdoors.
- ▶ Follow manufacturer instructions and avoid overloading outlets or power strips. High-powered tools should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, not extension cords, unless the cord is rated for the tool's electrical load.
- ▶ When cleaning or repairing appliances, unplug them first. Water and electricity are a dangerous combination, so keep tools dry and avoid using them with wet hands or on damp surfaces.
- ▶ For outdoor projects, use extension cords labeled for outdoor use and keep connections off the ground. Wear appropriate protective gear, including gloves and eye protection, and keep tools away from children and pets.
- ▶ Taking a few extra minutes to check equipment and follow basic precautions can prevent injuries and electrical hazards while tackling spring projects.

# 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



## Prep home before warm weather begins

The arrival of spring can mean a spike in your electricity use, as you turn on fans, spend weekends doing spring cleaning and dust off outdoor power tools to get your home and yard ready for warm weather. Before temperatures start to rise, you can take some small steps to prep your home and appliances for spring and summer.

- ▶ Schedule a home energy audit. Audits can identify air leaks, insulation gaps and inefficient appliances that quietly drive up costs. Look for programs offered by your electric cooperative or local government that might reimburse you for energy-efficiency upgrades like smart thermostats, heat pump water heaters and ENERGY STAR-certified appliances.
- ▶ Review your family's thermostat habits. As outdoor temperatures rise, resist the temptation to turn on the air conditioning sooner than it's needed. Instead, use ceiling fans to avoid high cooling costs without sacrificing comfort. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turning them off when leaving a room saves energy.
- ▶ Replace dirty air conditioning filters. Clear debris from outdoor units. And schedule professional maintenance to improve efficiency and extend the life of the system.
- ▶ Read your energy bills carefully. Understanding how rates work, including time-of-use or seasonal pricing, can help households adjust use to avoid peak charges. Ask about budget billing or for alerts when your electricity use spikes.

Taking advantage of co-op programs and forming smart habits now can make a noticeable difference when summer temperatures arrive.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



## Storm season is coming: Protect electronics

Lightning, high winds and torrential downpours can put your home and neighborhood at risk of power surges and outages. And those can damage your expensive household electronics.

So prepare for spring storms to protect yourself and your electronics from harm.

- ▶ First, install surge protectors as a first line of defense. Use them for computers, televisions, exercise equipment and other sensitive devices. Look for protectors with indicator lights that show when protection is active.
- ▶ During severe storms, unplug electronics and turn them off—excluding things like the refrigerator and medical oxygen tanks. Even the best surge protectors cannot block a direct lightning strike.
- ▶ If your home experiences frequent outages, consider installing whole-house surge protection, which is installed at the electrical panel. An electrician can explain whether this option makes sense.
- ▶ Backup power options, such as battery packs or portable generators, can help keep essential devices running in case the power goes out. Portable generators should only be used outdoors and far from windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ▶ After an outage, wait a few minutes before turning electronics back on. This helps protect devices from voltage spikes as power is restored.

## Operating Statistics

### JANUARY

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
KWH Purchased	13,288,149	13,489,780
KWH Sold	12,811,507	12,993,974
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	3.59%	3.68%
Total Demand	19,127 KW	24,599 KW
Average Farm Consumption	4,256 KWH	4,249 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$463.85	\$521.31
Income Per Mile	\$1,423.44	\$1,681.00
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,410.38	\$1,510.26
Miles Energized	872	872
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.70¢	7.15¢

### Nondiscrimination Statement

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

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)