

Lyon REC News



Rock Rapids

SEPTEMBER 2021

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop

Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Lyon Rural Electric has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to offer a new opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at www.iowaYouthTour.com.

"This new program is really designed for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Ross Loomans. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7:00 p.m. – Civic Involvement and Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our line-up of speakers and presenters. Students will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and learn about leadership development from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear from former Iowa Youth Tour students who pursued their passion for government service and leadership after attending the weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is slated for June 18-24 next summer.

Learn more at www.iowaYouthTour.com or contact Larry Wibben at 712-472-2506 for more information.



WANTED:
Rural Iowa
high school
students
who have a
passion for
leadership

Attend our webinar
series in October
for a chance to win
Apple AirPods and
a \$1,000 college
scholarship! Learn more
at iowaYouthTour.com



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



PRICE CHANGE:

Our water heater prices will be increasing effective September 1, 2021. The water heater prices are unfortunately changing frequently, so our prices could be changing monthly.



COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative values our members and their membership. Should you have concerns regarding your membership, electric service, or other issues, please contact Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative at 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 and our staff will be happy to assist you.

If your complaint is related to the Lyon REC service rather than its rates, and Lyon REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll free 1-877-565-4450, or by writing to: 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

FALL CHECKLIST: CHECK FOR SAFETY, MAINTENANCE ISSUES

The blistering summer heat isn't far behind us, but it won't be long until heating season arrives and the house is full of company for the holidays.

Head off any potential problems by scheduling maintenance and safety checks for your home's heating and electrical devices now. Here's where to start:

Furnace. A qualified HVAC tech should do a twice-a-year check of your system: once in the fall for heating and again in the spring for air conditioning. Before you need to turn on the heat, make sure yours is in good working condition. The tech can spot problems before they ruin your system or shut down when your house is full of company.

Thermostats. If your home doesn't have a programmable thermostat, you could be paying more to heat and cool your home than you have to. Programmable thermostats automatically turn the heat up or down, depending on the times of day when your family is home or away.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters. A licensed electrician can install GFCIs in your bathroom, kitchen and laundry room, and around hot tubs, pools and under windows. All of those areas have the potential to get wet. A GFCI will shut off the electricity to an appliance that does. In addition, it can interrupt a circuit if it's overcharged.

Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. If you don't have them near all bedrooms in your home, it's time to install them. Then, check them twice a year to make sure they're still working and that they have fresh batteries.

Overloaded outlets. You can overload an electrical circuit by plugging an appliance that uses a heavy amount of electricity—like a range, a dishwasher, a refrigerator or even some entertainment systems and exercise equipment—into a circuit that is designed for a smaller load. You can also overload a circuit by using a power strip to plug too many appliances into a single outlet. Ask a licensed electrician to inspect your home for potential circuit overloads. They can cause fires.

Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ⇒ Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- ⇒ Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- ⇒ If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- ⇒ Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My Check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

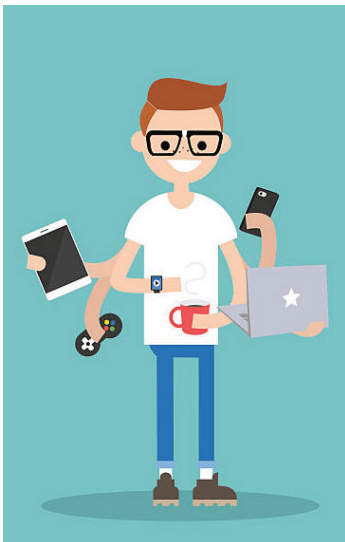
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to: RECare | Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 629 | Rock Rapids, IA 51246

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in weatherization of homes of low income consumers of this Cooperative. You may make a one-time contribution, or you may make a monthly contribution. Even one dollar a month contribution will help others.

MULTITASKING WITH TECH AFFECTS QUALITY OF WORK



Parents: You were right. It turns out that your teenagers do not learn as well when they distract themselves with texts and TV while trying to do their homework.

A report by the nonprofit research organization Common Sense confirmed that productivity suffers when a student switches between tasks. The reason: The brain has to refocus with each switch, so it affects his or her ability to focus.

The report revealed that more than three-quarters of teens listen to music while doing homework; half of them believe it helps them concentrate. But research says that music with lyrics can hinder a student's reading comprehension and ability to perform complex tasks.

In addition, 60% of the children often or sometimes text during homework, and half use social media or watch TV while working. Those activities tend to prolong the time it takes for homework to get done, the study said.

Teens who flip between work and tech can develop problems having face-to-face conversations, the report noted.

The authors advised parents to monitor their teenagers' grades; restrict phone use until after homework is finished; and use tech time as a reward for finishing assignments.

JULY OPERATING STATISTICS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
KWH Purchased	11,424,569	10,925,379
KWH Sold	11,418,394	10,819,591
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.87%	2.46%
Total Demand	18,484 KW	19,898 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,847 KWH	2,590 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$267.03	\$258.48
Income Per Mile	\$1,149.37	\$1,131.71
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,098.97	\$1,130.64
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) ..	5.90¢	6.35¢

STUDY: KIDS GET PHONES AS YOUNG AS INFANCY

In a study of parents with children younger than 12, one-third revealed that their kids started using smartphones before they turned 5.

Another 31% admitted they introduced the devices to infants and toddlers.

Nearly one in five parents of children younger than 12 said their child has a smartphone of his or her own, according to the survey. About half of them said they gave phones to their kids between ages 9 and 11.

The reasons for giving phones to their children so young range from enabling kids and parents to easily contact each other; caving to peer pressure from classmates who have phones; and simply keeping them entertained.

The parents said their children use the devices to play music and games, hear jokes and get information. The majority said the kids use a voice assistant to retrieve information and entertainment rather than typing on the phone's keyboard.



Mid-Sioux Opportunity to help with HEAT bills!

Your local Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. office will be taking applications for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) **starting November 1, 2021 until April 30, 2022.**
Please call your local outreach office or 800-859-2025 for an appointment time to apply.

ELIGIBILITY

A household may qualify for assistance in this program if the total household income falls within the income range listed below:

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD	ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME
1	\$ 25,760
2	\$ 34,840
3	\$ 43,920
4	\$ 53,000
5	\$ 62,080

For family units with more than five members, add \$9,080 for each additional member.

APPLICATION

- **Social Security Card or I-94 Card** - We require a copy of the original card for each household member.
- **Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill** - This may be two separate bills.
- **Proof of Income.** This includes total household gross income from all sources. We must have complete proof of income to process your application.
 - Fixed Income: Includes Social Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or F.I.P., Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.
 - Wage Earners: Attach copies of your check stubs for 30 days preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return 2020 or 2021.
 - Self-Employed / Farmers: A copy of your 2020 or 2021 Federal Income Tax Return.
 - Other Income: Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LiHEAP:

Ida County
712-364-2175
or 712-225-3322
Thursday
9:00 – 4:00

Cherokee County
712-225-3322
Mon-Wed-Fri
8:00 – 4:30

Plymouth County
712-546-6603
or 712-225-3322
Tues & Thursday
9:00 – 4:00

Sioux County
712-722-3611
Mon-Tue-Th-Fri
8:00 – 4:30

Lyon County
712-472-3746
or 712-722-3611
Wednesday
9:00 – 4:00

Visit us on the web at www.midsioux.org
Central Office 1-800-859-2025 / Hearing Impaired call 711

Non-Discrimination Statement

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.