



TIPS From T.I.P.

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

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

April 2024

Brooklyn, Iowa

CEO/General Manager's Update



Scott Long

Happy springtime everyone!

With some April showers we will be getting our May flowers! As I am writing this, our weather pattern has been very favorable to be working outside, as the temperatures have been well above normal.

We had a short but severe winter patch with sub zero cold temperatures and a large amount of snow I have not seen since I was a child. With that, we had very few outages due to our solid reliability plan, but a few were extraordinarily long because the weather conditions were making the roads impassable. I appreciate our members' patience as our line crews worked through the severe weather - as they always do - to get the lights back on.

As I have stated in the last couple of articles, our cost for materials and services has been increasing over the last few years to an unprecedented level and not going back down. I know you all have been experiencing this at your local stores also and a rate increase is very seldom welcomed. As was stated in our letter, we do not take a rate increase lightly as this affects all of us.

Soon our farming community will be getting their fields ready for planting. With that, please be aware of your equipment and the poles and power lines around you. Also, our construction community will be working on projects so we remind them to please follow the law by requesting underground facility locating and being aware of our underground facility infrastructure.

Our new facility is getting closer to completion. Our general contractor has been very diligent with the project. Our staff has worked closely with their team, having bi-weekly meetings on the progress. It is with considerable pride that we are staying under budget and continue to find savings on a project of this magnitude. As you can see on the back page of this newsletter, our mailing address will still be P.O. Box 534, Brooklyn, IA 52211 but our office, shop and the payment drop box will be moving to 320 Industrial Drive, Brooklyn, IA 52211.

Until we talk again this summer, please have a safe and enjoyable spring!

Lineworker Appreciation Day



BROOKLYN CREW

Pictured above back left to right: Kendig Maschmann, Apprentice Lineman, Nate Egerton, Journeyman Lineman, Nyle Kleine, Journeyman Lineman, and Joe Kriegel, Brooklyn Line Foreman. Front left to right: Landyn Haack, Apprentice Lineman, Tanner Meeks, Journeyman Lineman, and Kendall Bunn, Journeyman Lineman. Not pictured is Andrew Kloppenburg, Journeyman Lineman.



SIGOURNEY CREW

Pictured above left to right: Chase Witte, Apprentice Lineman, Sean Stutzman, Journeyman Lineman, Tyler Hanson, Journeyman Lineman, Shane Morse, Sigourney Line Foreman, Dan Roller, Journeyman Lineman and Chase Tremmel, Journeyman Lineman.

Join us on **Monday, April 8** to recognize T.I.P. REC's dedicated lineworkers. Day or night, no matter the weather conditions, they work hard to provide you with the reliable electricity that's needed to power your lives.

A lineworkers job is tough - but it's a job that's essential and must be done. So, the next time you see any of our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep your power on.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative to Pay \$336,777.00 in Property Taxes

The following is the breakdown, by county, of the property taxes to be paid by your REC for 2023-24:

Benton County	\$ 1,173.00
Iowa County	41,766.00
Jefferson County	97.00
Johnson County	354.00
Keokuk County	40,926.00
Mahaska County	794.00
Poweshiek County	38,846.00
Tama County	22,386.00
Wapello County	31.00
Washington County	41.00
TOTAL	\$ 146,414.00

In addition to these property taxes, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), our power supplier, incurred property taxes which were passed on to your cooperative to pay amounting to \$190,363.00 in the ten counties we serve.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: One-Time Payment Phone Number Changing May 9

Effective May 9, 2024, the number you call to make a one-time payment "PAY NOW" will be changed to: **833-619-0894**

April is Safe Digging Month

**CALL 811
BEFORE
YOU DIG**

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages or cause severe electrical shock.



**Safe
Electricity.org**

MORE INFO
Call811.com



Watch Cooperative Property when Burning Ditches

It is that time of the year again when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.

This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems as "in" or "out" of control fire is sometimes allowed to burn around your cooperative poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.



Burning close to cooperative property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any person involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to cooperative property.

To avoid damage to cooperative property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Operation Round-Up Donation Helps Our Furry Friends



Pictured above left to right: Lisa Tichy, Director, Kayla Kerkove, Shelter Director of the Tama County Humane Society, Randy Upah, Director, and Scott Long, CEO/General Manager. (Thanks Lisa for your donation basket.)

Our District 1 Directors, Lisa Tichy and Randy Upah, were given the task of deciding where to donate some of the Operation Round-Up Program's funds. They chose to donate \$300 to the nonprofit organization, Tama County Humane Society.

The organization was founded by a wonderful group of volunteers in 1998 under the name Have a Heart, and in 2012 the name was changed to Tama County Humane Society. Kayla Kerkove, along with the help of a dedicated board of directors, manages the humane society. They have four part-time employees and 12 plus volunteers to help with the seven dogs and 27 cats they housed in early February. Yearly, they have approximately 171 dogs and 141 cats.

When asked if they struggle to have enough money to take care of all the animals Kayla replied, "As a donation based shelter, money is always a need. But all of our animals are cared for and get everything that they need." Anyone wanting to help can donate dog and cat food, toys, cleaning supplies and their time.

We are so excited to disperse these funds to help those in our community. Thank you to all the member-owners who "round-up" their electric bill to donate to this program.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, April 18 from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

Administrative Professionals Day April 24



Pictured above back left to right: Breanna McIlrath, Office and Billing Supervisor, and Sallie Ditzler, Customer Service Representative. Front left to right: Lee Rozmus Hawkins, Administrative Assistant, Becca Stauffer, Operations Coordinator and Janet Faas, Staff Assistant/Communications.

The ladies pictured above are hardworking and dedicated to serving our member-owners and to making sure that T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative runs smoothly everyday.

Join us in celebrating them on Administrative Professionals Day!

2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week
Work Zones are temporary.
Actions behind the wheel can last forever.
April 15 - 19



We Are

MOVING

Our New Brooklyn
Headquarters address
is:

320 Industrial Drive
Brooklyn, Iowa

*Our Mailing Address is
the Same: PO Box 534,
Brooklyn, IA 52211



800-934-7976 (same)



Plan Ahead for a Safe Planting Season

Farming is near the top of the list of the most dangerous jobs in the United States according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. One hazard faced by farm workers, while they are also feeling the pressure to get the crops in the ground, is overhead power lines. However, with proper planning and education, risks of and accidents involving electricity can be greatly reduced.

The following are some safety tips for farmers and farm workers to remember:

- Keep a 10-foot minimum distance around power lines. That means ten feet above, below, and to the side of power lines.
- Use a spotter when moving machinery around the farm. It can be difficult to judge how close a piece of machinery is from the driver's seat.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting equipment on trailer beds.
- Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators, and other extending equipment near power lines.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Remember, even non-metallic materials such

as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.

Overhead electric wires are not the only source of electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call us to repair it. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, remember to always be safe and contact your cooperative.

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to www.tiprec.com and Click on the blue Pay Now tab at the top 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.