



**Harrison County
Rural Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Harrison County REC – 2010 Christmas Parade Winner!



Pictured from L to R: Jimmy Olson, Linda Williams, Lori Barry, and Elliot Milovich

Four employees of Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative donated about three hours Saturday, December 4th to decorate and walk in the Woodbine Christmas parade sponsored by the Woodbine Chamber. This year's theme was "Lighting the Way". The REC was awarded a \$50 prize for first place that was donated back to a lucky REC member. Great job REC employees!

Board To Give \$198K To Members In 2010

The Board of Directors has voted to retire approximately \$198,000 of capital credits to members, and the checks should reach you in December 2010! Members of the cooperative in 1989, 1990, and 2008 will receive their share of the capital credits allocated in those years. Please cash your check immediately, and enjoy this benefit of being a member-owner of Harrison County REC.

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

If your home is more than 10 years old, it likely needs more insulation. Insulation is one of the lowest cost options for improving the energy efficiency of your home. There are rebates for cooperative members and adding more insulation can be easier than you think. Check out www.simplyinsulate.com to find out more.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Preparing your Home and Family for Outages

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative works very hard to keep the power on for its members, but severe weather can sometimes put us in the dark. You'll be safer and less inconvenienced if you prepare an emergency kit for severe weather. Keep the follow-

ing items together for unexpected outage situations:

- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Candles
- Matches or lighter
- Firewood and kindling
- Charcoal grill and charcoal
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Radio with fresh batteries
- Blankets
- Wind-up clock
- Manual can opener
- Paper plates and plastic utensils
- Extra batteries



Operations Department – FEMA Update

By David Stevens, Director of Operations

Staking and line design are progressing. Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative will have seven staking and line design electrical engineers on site Monday, December 13, 2010. Four design engineers have been working with us the past 60 days.

The new line is being designed at a level B+ construction to withstand heavy ice load. Larger diameter poles, closer spanning (225') between poles and larger (heavier) conductor.

The first contract will consist of 80 miles of newly designed line, staked and ready for bid by February 1, 2011. Contractors will be mobilized (on site) and material delivered and ready for construction by April 18, 2011. The line design engineers will continue staking and designing new line for contract two, which will consist of 125 miles of new line construction. Contract three, consisting of the last 125 miles will follow in 2012-2013.

There will be some scheduled outages during working hours while old line is disconnected and energizing new line. A plan is being put into place to minimize and isolate those areas. Members will be notified in advance (by phone) of any planned

outages.

An additional 25 miles of new line is being planned through FEMA program (404 Mitigation) for work in 2012-2014. All construction (330 miles) must be completed by April 2014.

NOTE: Staking engineers working

for Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative are employed by Stanley Consultants. Their vehicles will have out of state license plates, but show Harrison County REC magnetic signage. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Dave Stevens director of operations.



Staking engineers from Stanley Consultants meeting with co-op Manager Joe Farley, Dir. of Operations Dave Stevens, and 1st Class Lineman Kert Barnum.

Dear cooperative members:

Nearly one year ago two catastrophic snow and ice storms left your electric cooperative in serious condition requiring extensive work. These repairs will make our system more resistant to weather-related damages. The work will take up to four years, and we ask your understanding for weather-related outages until we complete the construction.

The two snow and ice storms -- in less than a month -- damaged 40 percent of Harrison County REC's overhead distribution lines. I'll never forget those long days as your cooperative employees, with help from other cooperatives and contractors, worked diligently to get your lights back on.

Our power lines were built to withstand one inch of ice build-up. Last December and January, we saw up to six inches of ice on the lines. In a 300-foot span of wire, the weight of that ice was like hanging a pickup truck between two poles. The result was broken, stretched and weakened lines, as well as broken poles and cross arms. We have replaced broken lines, but many miles of stretched line remain. Some damaged lines gave

way again in the Nov. 12 storm when 750 members lost power.

That's the problem. How is your cooperative going to solve it?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Iowa Homeland Security will provide financial assistance for work completed within three years. The cooperative has qualified for 85 percent reimbursement of \$20 million in line upgrades. When completed, our lines will be considered "heavy ice loading lines." That is a huge savings to you as owners of the cooperative.

Repair plans divide the work into 24 projects. Contracts will be awarded in March on the first six projects. Seventy-eight miles of overhead line will be replaced east and west of Woodbine, and north Hardscratch.

While contractors complete the 24 FEMA-funded projects, cooperative employees will be working on other construction projects to make your electric system even more reliable and to reduce future maintenance expense.

That's what the next three years looks like for your electric cooperative. We ask your understanding as we develop an electric distribution system that will



be able to withstand the snow and ice of Iowa's winters.

Over your cooperative's 75-year history, the directors you chose to lead the utility have been looking out for you -- balancing the need to provide safe, reliable electricity with protection from excessive rates. In fact, barring another storm in December, the 2010 reliability rating will be about 99.98 percent, far above the state's acceptable threshold.

Your electric cooperative directors and staff will continue to look out for you. That's the only reason we're here: to provide you with reliable electric power at the lowest possible cost.



Joe Farley, Manager/EVP

Scholarship Available in 2011

Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be sponsoring a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to the son/daughter of a Harrison County REC member.

Applications for this scholarship can be picked up at our office or send in the registration coupon below or email Linda Williams at lwilliams@hrec.coop, and she will send you the necessary information and application forms. You may also apply on line by visiting our website @ www.hrec.coop. The applications must reach our office no later than Friday, February 4, 2011 to be considered for the scholarship.



METERS WILL BE READ!

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative will read meters
January 28th, 29th,
and 31st

2011 Basin Scholarship Program

| Yes, I am interested in applying for the scholarship. Please send me an application form. |

| Student's Name: _____ |

| Member Name: _____ Member Account # _____ |

| Mailing Address: _____ |

Return to: Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative
Linda Williams
P.O. Box 2
Woodbine, IA 51579-0002

Swap Column

For Sale -- Many hundreds of books, hardbound and soft-bound; Biographies, Classics, Do-it Yourself, Good old days type books, History, Mystery, Religious, Romance, Westerns; Twenty-Five cents to \$1 for certain hardbounds; Zane Grey and Louis Lamour \$1.00; Call 644-3065

Chart Your 2011 Electrical Record

Keep this chart on hand to record your monthly electric bill.

Month	Meter Reading	kWh Used	Amt Billed	Amt Paid	Payment Date	Check No.
January						
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						

News Flashes

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Wind Generation portfolio expanding at Basin in 2011

Construction on the new Crow Lake wind energy center east of Chamberlain, S.D., will end in early 2011. When it does, Basin Electric Power Cooperative will have more than 700 megawatts of wind generation in its portfolio.

That means, members of Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative have access to Basin Electric's renewable energy through the cooperative's relationship with power provider Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) of Le Mars. NIPCO expects to purchase about 80 percent from Western Area Power Administration, which handles hydropower from the Missouri River dams.

Construction started in October on Basin Electric's \$363-million Crow Lake wind project, which includes 108 turbines. The project's total generating capacity will be 162 MW. The Crow Lake project will be the largest wind project in the United States owned solely by a cooperative.

Basin Electric dedicated two other new wind projects in June. One, a \$250-million expansion of Prairie Winds ND1 from two to 82 wind turbines, is located south of Minot, N.D. That project began producing power in late 2009. Together with other small wind projects in that area, the turbines can produce up to 122.6 MW.

Another June dedication ceremony celebrated the opening of the Day County Wind Energy Center near Groton, S.D. The 66 new 1.5-MW turbines are capable of powering nearly 25,000 homes for Basin Electric members and the consumers they serve throughout the Midwest.

