



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



April 2023

CONTACT US

Office:

1102 Egret Drive, Sibley, IA
51249

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Phone:

Local: 712-754-2519
Toll Free: 888-754-2519

On evenings, weekends or
holidays an answering
service will accept power
outage or emergency type
calls only.

Online:

osceolaelectric.com

FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

Three account numbers are
hidden within the newsletter.
Notify us if you find your
number and we'll credit
your account \$5.
Confirm your account num-
ber on the top of your state-
ment. Account numbers
must be yours to claim.

OEC RECIPES

Submit your favorite Can-
ning or Freezing recipes for
consideration to be printed
in our June newsletter.
Submission deadline is May
20. Printed recipes are
worth a \$10 bill credit.

Celebrate Linemen on April 10

You've likely noticed Osceola Elec-
tric Cooperative crews out working on
power lines and other electrical equip-
ment. It's no secret that a lineman's
job is tough—but it's a job that's es-
sential and must be done.

Linemen must be committed to their
career because it's not just a job, it's
a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-
present danger can truly take a toll.
In fact, being a lineman is listed in the
top 10 most dangerous jobs in the
U.S.

At Osceola Electric Cooperative
we're proud to have 5 linemen that
show dedication and commitment to
keeping the power on for our mem-
bers! They often work non-traditional
hours, and outdoors in extreme
weather conditions. The job requires
technical skills, and years of training



and hands on learning. While linemen
must be physically strong, they must
possess mental toughness as well.

America's electric cooperatives
have designated the second Monday
of April as National Lineman Appreci-
ation Day. This year we honor and
celebrate these hardworking men on
April 10. So, the next time you see
Louie, Lance, Judd, Max or Tommy
thank them for the work they do to
keep the power flowing regardless of
the time of day or weather conditions!



Winter Moratorium Ends

As the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ends on April 1st, Osceola Electric Cooperative member-owners who are behind on their electric payments are urged to contact us as soon as possible to work out payment options to avoid disconnection. OEC is willing to work with member-owners who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort.

Payment Plans

Those who have fallen behind on their accounts may be eligible to enter into a reasonable payment agreement with OEC to pay accumulated debt over time and maintain electric service. If you are past-due on your account, contact OEC immediately to discuss payment plan terms.

Budget Billing

For member-owners with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial strife. OEC offers "levelized billing" or "budget billing" payment options which ensure consistent electric bills month-to-month, **41332** making it easier to budget and anticipate. If your home usage fluctuates dramatically this is a great way to avoid those larger seasonal bills with changes in the weather. To enroll in this billing option, contact OEC. Call our office at 712-754-2519 or 888-754-2519.

State of Iowa Resources

We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payments to contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights office at 515-281-0859 regarding eligibility for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year payment to assist with household heating costs for eligible households. LIHEAP funds are limited, with applications being accepted on a first come first serve basis at your local community action center from November 1st through April 30th each year.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

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



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers 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 location.

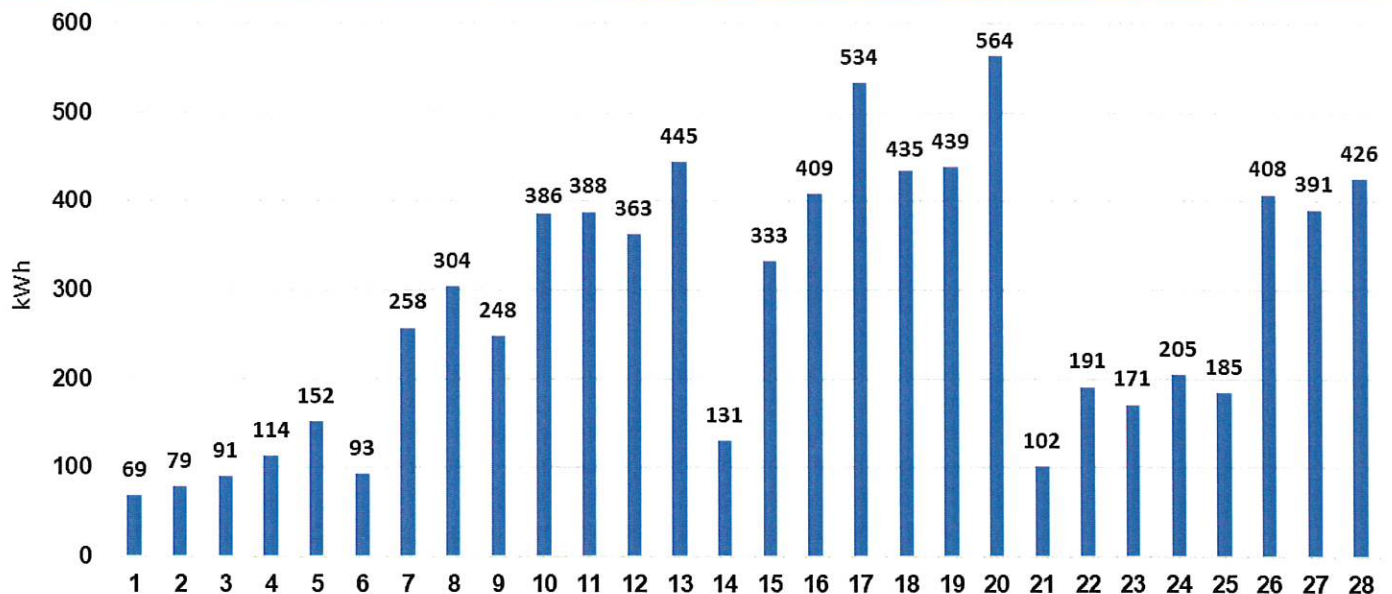


Source: call811.com

Operating Statistics for February 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Billed consumers, farm	1,134	1,143
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	110	120
Kilowatts sold, farm	3,142,625	3,042,616
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	2,314,550	2,230,712
Average consumption, farm	2,771	2,655
Average consumption, non-farm and others	21,041	18,589
Average statement, farm	\$275.89	\$263.01
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$1,820.39	\$1,583.75
Total minimum bills	16	24
Outage time per consumer—minutes	1 1/5	4 2/7
Energy efficiency added per KWH		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2024	

February 2023 Solar Park Production



Stay Safe on the Farm this Spring

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment operators:

- Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
- Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
- Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
- Take care at railroad crossings.
- Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
- Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, **47145** watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.

- Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
- Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
- Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

- Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
- Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
- When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
- Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
- Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.

- Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
- Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
- Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
- Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

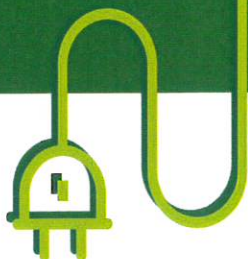
For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the 22752 summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Seats Available for the Basin Bus Tour



If you've ever wondered about the source of electricity you won't want to miss this opportunity! As a cooperative member-owner, you have the chance to embark on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine. In addition, tour the Garrison Dam and a gas-fired peaking plant. This exciting bus tour is set for August 9-11.

Departure from Sibley to Bismarck, North Dakota is planned for August 9 with plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is August 10. Depart Bismarck, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take the 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. In the evening enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River.

On August 11 the group stops east of Brookings for the peaking plant tour on the way back. Enjoy periodic rest stops and return in the early evening.

This member only trip is \$150 per person. The fee includes the cost for the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat, and snacks.

Osceola Electric shares the tour bus with two co-ops so just 8 seats are available. Reserve your spot today! Call Osceola Electric at 712-754-2519.

Member Recipe

Cinnamon Roll French Toast Casserole

Lance Groen

- 1 (12.4 oz) can refrigerated cinnamon rolls with icing**
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter, melted**
- 3 large eggs**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 1 tsp vanilla extract**
- 1 tsp maple extract**
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon**

Preheat the oven to 375°. Coat a 9X13 pan with melted butter. Cut each cinnamon roll into 8 pieces and put into the prepared pan. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla extract, maple extract, and cinnamon together in a bowl and pour over the rolls. Bake in the preheated oven until golden, 23 to 30 minutes. Cover with packaged icing and serve.