



Storm response: Cooperation among cooperatives

One of the things that makes the cooperative business model different is that cooperatives do not operate alone.

The sixth Cooperative Principle, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, recognizes that co-ops are strongest when they work together to serve members.

Corn Belt Power and neighboring cooperative Central Iowa Power Cooperative, exemplified this principle after a June 11 storm where CIPCO lost nearly 100 transmission poles.

Corn Belt Power sent three crews to help with system restoration consisting of: Travis Hefty, Connor Almond, Devin Chesler, Reed Dreyer, Mike Devers, Ryan Conlon, Adam Bird, Ethan Miller, Brayden Johnson, Luke Bormann, Dean Jensen, Mark Saxton, Ethan Petersen, Jack Arndt and Howard Henkelvig.

“On behalf of our board and staff, I want to express CIPCO’s heartfelt appreciation to the Corn Belt Power crews for their invaluable assistance following



Corn Belt Power crews provide mutual aid

Above | Corn Belt Power and Central Iowa Power Cooperative crews work in the Corning area after a June 11 storm swept Iowa causing CIPCO to lose nearly 100 transmission poles.

the June storm,” stated Andrew St. John, chief executive officer, Central Iowa Power Cooperative. “With nearly 100 poles damaged, half of which were laying across roadways, their teamwork and dedication to safely restoring power to Iowans accelerated CIPCO’s recovery efforts in southwest Iowa.”

Jeremy Stattelmann, transmission superintendent, Corn Belt Power, says the cooperative’s crews are always ready to lend a hand.

“Storm restoration is where the cooperative difference really shows itself,” said Stattelmann. “When another co-op needs help, our crews are proud to answer the call. Everyone understands the urgency of getting lines repaired, roads cleared and power restored safely. We know that, when the situation is reversed, other cooperatives

have been and will be there for us just as quickly.”

Whether it is sharing resources, responding to emergencies, advocating for rural communities, training employees, or investing in the infrastructure that keeps the lights on, Cooperation Among Cooperatives helps individual co-ops accomplish more than they could on their own. ■



Storm restoration

“On behalf of our board and staff, I want to express CIPCO’s heartfelt appreciation to the Corn Belt Power crews for their invaluable assistance following the June storm.”
 - Andrew St. John, CEO, CIPCO

Corn Belt Power employees complete mayday emergency response training



Emergency response training

Above | Corn Belt Power Cooperative employees participate in an emergency response training during the June 18 safety meeting.

Corn Belt Power employees participated in a mayday training procedure June 18. Mayday training prepares employees to rapidly report, locate, rescue, and care for a coworker during a life-threatening utility-work emergency—without creating a second victim.

“The training matters because the first few minutes are critical,” said Jena Weber, safety and environmental coordinator, Corn

Belt Power. “Crews practice a common sequence: call the mayday, identify the location and nature of the emergency, stop or control the hazard, summon emergency services and internal support, perform rescue only when it can be done safely, provide first aid/CPR as trained, and preserve the scene afterward for investigation.”

For electric cooperatives specifically,

mayday drills help ensure that dispersed crews, dispatch, supervisors, and mutual-aid partners use the same language and response expectations.

Crews may be working far from town, on energized facilities, or during storms when communications, access, and response times are more difficult.

Repetition reduces confusion and makes the response more automatic under stress. ■

Make your mark on safety at the Iowa State Fair!



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Stop by our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building; we'll have crayons and coloring pages for kids! (while supplies last)



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We're keeping things colorful at the Iowa State Fair as the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building. Corn Belt Power and its member-cooperatives are proud to be Touchstone Energy members, which means we're part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-consumers use energy wisely.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 13-23, make sure to stop by and see us in the air-conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner

of the fairgrounds. It's a great place to take a break from the heat or rain during your adventure.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out crayons and coloring pages while supplies last. Kids can color the pages at our booth or at home and learn about electrical safety. Adults can mark their home location on our statewide service territory map and see which cooperative powers their community.

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello! ■

Sorenson promoted

Congratulations to Nick Sorenson on his promotion to shift operator in May.

Sorenson began his career as a control operator in October 2024 at the cooperative's Wisdom Station power plant.

Sorenson will lead shift operations while ensuring safe, reliable and efficient plant performance. Congratulations, Nick! ■



Nick Sorenson

Lyle and Bernier start Corn Belt Power careers

Power Supply Project Manager

Cael Lyle started as the project manager in the cooperative's power supply department May 26. He is a recent graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in electrical engineering. Cael is from Hedrick, Iowa and graduated from Pekin High School.

Among his many new job responsibilities, Lyle will design, specify, purchase, and provide technical guidance in the installation and start-up of equipment required in Corn Belt's electric generating plants, coordinate engineering consultants and operate the load management system. Welcome, Cael! ■



Cael Lyle

Electronics Technician

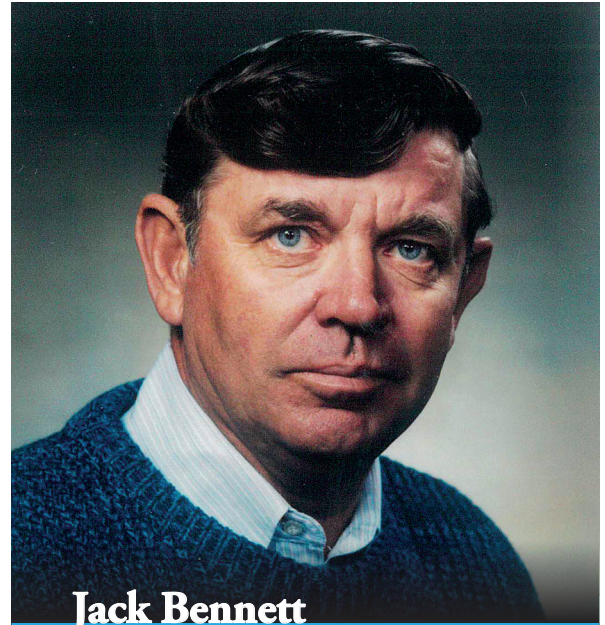
Eric Bernier started June 1 as the electronics technician at Wisdom Station. Eric holds degrees from Northwest Iowa Community College in industrial and commercial wiring and electrical technologies. He also holds an Iowa master electrical license.

As electronic technician, Eric will be responsible for maintaining the electrical control systems at Wisdom Station. He will also be trained on the plant's continuing emissions monitoring system.

Welcome, Eric! ■



Eric Bernier



Jack Bennett

Retired Corn Belt Power employee passes away

Jack D. Bennett, 87, of Humboldt, passed away on Monday, May 18, 2026 at Rotary Senior Living in Eagle Grove after a short illness.

Jack was born January 15, 1939 to Wes and Elaine (Northern) Bennett in Swea City, Iowa. He was the second of eight children and enjoyed growing up on the farm. He received his education at DMT and graduated in 1958.

Jack married Jody Hopkins on August 29, 1958 in Laurens. They moved to Humboldt and Jack began working at the Humboldt Sale Barn until it closed. He was then employed with Corn Belt Power for more than 40 years, until retiring in 2008. During his retirement he enjoyed golfing, fishing trips to Canada, farming for Geoff Mickelson, daily card playing at the VFW and many family trips to Las Vegas.

Jack began his career at Corn Belt Power in 1966. When he retired in 2008, he was the cooperative's general maintenance foreman. ■



Jacob McCullough, system operator, explains his thought process to Corn Belt Power employees during an emergency response simulation June 18.

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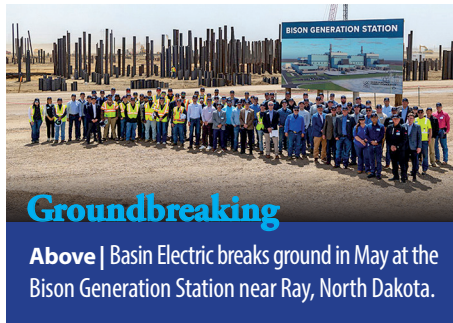


June Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Jeremy Madden, energy advisor, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, won this month's Volunteer Challenge. He donated his \$100 prize to the Emmetsburg Community School District.

Basin Electric breaks ground on historic generation facility

Basin Electric Power Cooperative broke ground in May on Bison Generation Station, located near Ray, North Dakota. With two roughly 745-megawatt units, the combined-cycle natural gas-fueled power plant will produce up to 1,490 MW making it one of the largest electric generation projects in the cooperative's history.

The project, estimated at nearly \$4 billion, will be built near the existing Wheelock substation along U.S. Highway 2. Using combined-cycle technology, the facility brings efficiency to its operation by harnessing the energy in locally produced natural gas via both a combustion turbine and a steam turbine to generate electricity. The project supports the cooperative's long-standing strategy of converting low-cost, regional natural resources, such as coal, wind, hydro, and natural gas, into affordable and reliable electricity for its members.



Groundbreaking

Above | Basin Electric breaks ground in May at the Bison Generation Station near Ray, North Dakota.

Bison Generation Station helps Basin Electric maintain reliability and is part of the cooperative's all-of-the-above generation portfolio strategy, designed to ensure affordable and dependable power for members while mitigating market and operational risks.

The construction of Bison Generation Station stands as the co-op's most significant generation investment in its history. The power plant is anticipated to be fully operational in 2030. ■

Corn Belt Power Cooperative **Watts Watt**

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