



## Duane Arnold Energy Center to cease operations later this year

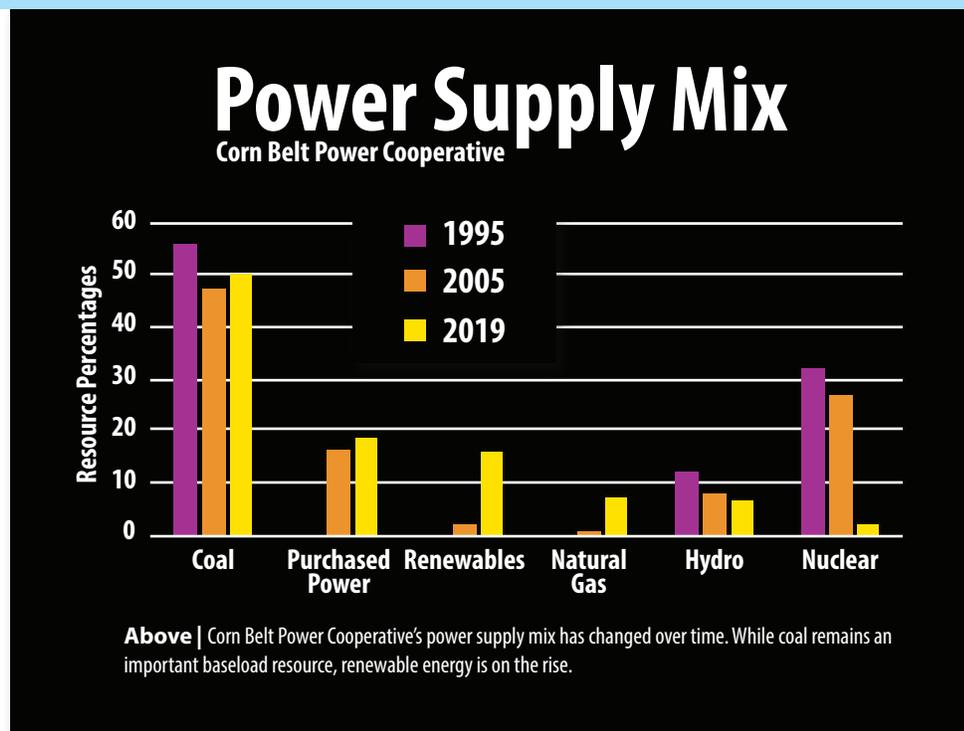
In 1969, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, broke ground on the construction of a 550 MW capacity nuclear power plant - the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) near Palo, Iowa. At the time and ever since, Corn Belt Power has been a 10-percent stakeholder in the plant. Today, Iowa's electric providers prepare for the imminent closure of the facility.

The nuclear power plant construction spanned several years, with commercial operation commencing in February 1975. It was the state of Iowa's largest single construction project at the time.

The plant's consistent and reliable operating strategy, along with \$1 billion in additional investments over the years, led to a series of upgrades increasing DAEC's capacity from 550 MW to 614 MW, today's generating capacity. The plant's successful operation was never on greater display than in 2008 when it survived the 500-year historic flood. Through thoughtful planning, the plant sits at 20 feet above the Cedar River, providing the protection needed from the flood. In 2008, with the river cresting at record levels, DAEC's operation continued without faltering.

"The plant was an important generator for Corn Belt Power in the 80's, 90's and early 2000's," said Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. "For years it has been one of the best run nuclear facilities in the country. It has provided affordable and reliable power to Iowans for decades."

Before Corn Belt Power joined Basin Electric Power Cooperative as a Class A member, Duane Arnold made up a large



portion of energy supplied to members. Since joining Basin Electric, Corn Belt Power's generation mix has diversified. Today, the co-op's 10-percent stake or about 62 MW makes up only 1.6-percent of power supplied to members.

With increasing regulations on nuclear plants putting pressure on the cost of operations, and enhanced competition from lower cost natural gas-fired generation, in early 2018, NextEra Energy announced a likely end to production at DAEC in 2025. The plan closure coincided with the end of Alliant Energy's purchase power agreement (PPA).

Ultimately, NextEra Energy released Alliant Energy from the PPA early. NextEra Energy, made another announcement in July

2018 that the plant would cease operations in October 2020.

"Having joined Basin Electric, we are well positioned to absorb the closure of DAEC," Kuyper said. "It's important to remember that we now rely on a vast amount of generators to supply power to Corn Belt Power members. Gone are the days of just having three or four resources. Today we have an all-of-the-above strategy, which makes our power supply more reliable and flexible in the future."

Duane Arnold will cease operations later this year. It will take years before the area where the plant is located will return to green fields. Until that time, plant employees will still be monitoring and guarding the facility. ■

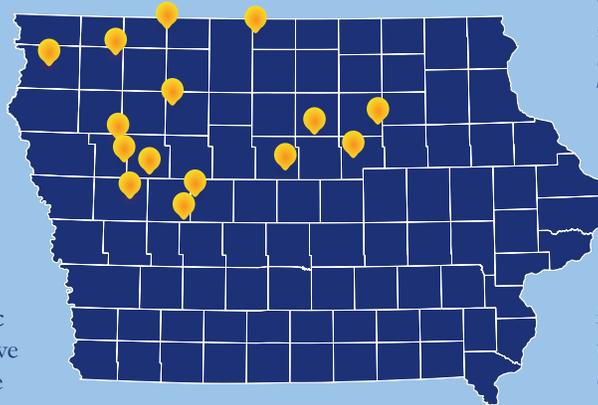
# Corn Belt Power advocates

## on behalf of ethanol industry

Corn Belt Power joined more than 30 cooperatives serving members across the Upper Midwest that have signed on to a letter urging members of Congress to provide economic relief for rural America. The letter was addressed to members of Congress from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. Specifically, the letter calls for Congress to support additional stimulus package relief for food and ethanol processing plants, and the farmers and ranchers who serve them—most of whom are also electric cooperative members. The electric cooperatives represented on the letter serve more than 3 million consumers across the region.

“We are respectfully requesting much-needed economic relief for rural America, which continues to suffer from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic,” the letter said. “Rural electric cooperatives were created to provide electricity to farms and

rural communities and have continued to expand this essential service as rural America has grown and prospered. Our member-owners have invested in not only



the electric infrastructure through their cooperative to serve these areas, but also in helping to develop the rural economy in which they live. These investments have allowed for diversification into biofuels, food processing, and other business development

opportunities.”

The nationwide steep drop in liquid fuel demand has resulted in a major economic impact on biofuels processing plants across the country. Estimates show as much as half of U.S. ethanol production has been idled. In addition, the pandemic has forced several food processing facilities to either idle or shut down. These events have left producers of several agricultural commodities without a market for their product, forcing some to euthanize animals or destroy their products. The pandemic has compounded the impacts of low commodity prices and extreme weather events that had already created a struggling farm and rural economy.

“Reduced ethanol production and livestock processing threatens our food and energy security, and, in turn, results in reduced electric load, a burden that ultimately falls on the individual members of an electric cooperative,” the letter reads. “The combination of these issues poses a significant threat to the overall well-being of the rural communities that we serve.”

Corn Belt Power continues to monitor impacts of the COVID-19 virus on its system and will continue to advocate on behalf of those individuals and businesses. ■

## Southwest microwave ring nears completion

Corn Belt Power recently placed a new microwave shelter that is a part of the Southwest microwave system expansion project. When the project is complete, Corn Belt Power will have a microwave loop in the southwest portion of its system. The new microwave shelter was placed by crane and weighs 58,000 pounds at a MidAmerican facility in Sac County.

“This site is one of the three new sites needed to complete the microwave ring,” said Brad Hill, communications superintendent, Corn Belt Power. “The purpose of the ring is to allow for data to still have a way of getting back to our control center if a piece of equipment were to fail due to something like lightning or another unforeseen circumstance. The communications traffic will reroute and remain available.”

The project included two new towers and fiber.

“It’s been a challenging project with many obstacles along the way,” Hill said. “Plans had to be abandoned and redesigned due to wind turbines and

other obstructions in the microwave radio path. We hope to have the tower work and radio installs complete and the microwave ring in service by mid-summer.” ■



### New microwave shelter

Above | Crews place a new microwave shelter at a MidAmerican Energy site, moving Corn Belt Power closer to finishing its southwest microwave loop project. The project will enhance reliability of the cooperative’s communication system.

# News in brief

## New system operator

Jake McCullough has accepted the system operator position in the control center. McCullough has been a member of the Humboldt electrical maintenance crew since starting with Corn Belt in 2016. McCullough moves to the control center following the departure of Brian Gibson and recent promotion of Jon Behounek. He will move to his new position on May 18.



Jake McCullough

## Wolthuizen new shift operator

Wayne Wolthuizen has accepted the position of shift operator, Wisdom Station. Wolthuizen has been a control operator at Wisdom Station since starting in January of 2019. He has an associate's degree in electrical technology and industrial and commercial wiring from Northwest Iowa Community College.



Wayne Wolthuizen

## Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative hosts digital annual meeting

Nothing says democratic member control like a co-op annual meeting.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative didn't have a traditional in-person annual meeting, instead opting for a digital event.

The board meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jerry Beck at approximately 10:05 a.m. on Friday, April 17. Board Secretary Trent Will then reported the attendance of 10 member-owners in person, and 1,069 mail ballots that were received, constituted a legal and qualified quorum according to the Cooperative bylaws.

Board Treasurer Alan Madden provided the Treasurer report stating that 2019 was a solid year for Iowa Lakes from a financial perspective due to strong energy sales in the residential, commercial and industrial areas.

### 2020 Directors Elected to Four-Year Terms:

District I - Incumbent Roger Williamson, Ruthven, defeated challenger Chris Hagedorn, Everly.

District II - Incumbent Mark Tuttle, Newell, defeated challenger Tamara Johnson, Quimby.

District III - The director election was uncontested and incumbent Neal Heldt, Mallard was re-elected.

District IV - The director election was uncontested and incumbent Crystal Pluth, Estherville was re-elected.

### 2020 Election of Board Officers to One-Year Term:

- Chair – Jerry Beck
- Vice Chair – Craig Deim
- Secretary – Trent Will
- Treasurer – Dan Winterhof



Williamson



Tuttle



Heldt



Pluth



## Gold standard

**Above** | Corn Belt Power teamed with Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Iowa's Association of Electric Co-ops to create a new Iowa State Fair display. They now share a Gold Spotlight on Excellence Award for their efforts.

## Iowa G&Ts win Spotlight Award

Iowa G&Ts and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives took a top prize in this year's NRECA Spotlight on Excellence Awards.

CIPCO, NIPCO, Corn Belt Power and IAEC earned Gold in the "Best Wild Card" category for the 2019 4-H Building booth at the Iowa State Fair. Newly updated last year, the booth focused on youth and career opportunities with Iowa's electric cooperatives.

"On behalf of NRECA, I want to recognize your combined cooperative's excellence in communications as acknowledged by winning a 2020 Spotlight on Excellence Award," said Scott Peterson, NRECA Senior Vice President – Communications. "Your leadership helps create a model for the communications and marketing practice across the cooperative network."

The booth, designed to interact and engage with young people and their parents, focused in part on telling the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour story. Every year, Iowa sends high schoolers selected by local co-ops to Washington, D.C., to learn about our government, meet with congressional leadership, tour historic sites, museums and monuments, and come home with a greater understanding of electric cooperatives.

With another focus on cooperative careers, visitors learned more about educational scholarships, job openings and internship opportunities offered by Iowa's electric cooperatives. They were able to view "Lineman 360," an award-winning virtual reality experience created by NIPCO. Fairgoers also had a chance to talk with a lineworker – several linemen are volunteering their time to tell people about what they do. ■

Ashly Zinnel, accountant II, processes Corn Belt Power payroll from her home in early May. The COVID-19 outbreak altered co-op operations and work locations for some employees but all without service disruption to members.

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**May Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Marvin Janssen**, director, Franklin REC, donated his \$100 prize drawing to the St. Peters Cemetery Association.

## Maintaining productivity in trying times

As the state of Iowa began to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic, Corn Belt Power office employees returned to their workplaces in late May.

While Wisdom Station, control center, line crews, electrical maintenance and field engineering employees remained on the job - practicing social distancing and with altered schedules - many Humboldt headquarter employees were able to successfully work from home.

"These are certainly unprecedented times," said Ken

Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power.



Ken Kuyper  
 general manager and  
 executive vice president,  
 Corn Belt Power Cooperative

**"I appreciate the flexibility of our employees and their dedication to serving our members even if it be from home. The coronavirus led to a disruption of our day-to-day lives, but our employees didn't allow it to disrupt service to our members."**

Corn Belt Power's Humboldt headquarters is operating fully-staffed but has limited lobby access. If you wish to visit our headquarters, please contact the individual you'd like to visit with for further instruction. ■



## Corn Belt on the cover

Tyler Herrig, electronics technician, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, is pictured on the cover of May's edition of Living With Energy in Iowa. Additional Corn Belt Power employees were featured in the story about keeping the lights on through a pandemic.

## Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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