

# HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

## Follow These Tips for a Safe Harvest Season

September 15-21 is National Farm Health and Safety Week! According to the U.S. Bureau Labor Statistics, the agricultural industry is one of the most dangerous jobs in America with 573 fatalities each year. Fall harvest is the most dangerous season of the year for farmers. Follow these safety tips to avoid an electrical contact this season:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.



## Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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1-800-619-1040  
[www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org)  
[service@pella-cea.org](mailto:service@pella-cea.org)



Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;  
excluding holidays

### ⚡ Board of Directors

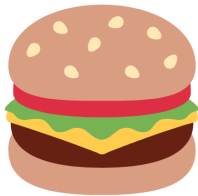
President Duane Ver Ploeg	Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Darrell Boot
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*Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See [pella-cea.org](http://pella-cea.org) > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.*

# MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY DRIVE-THRU BBQ

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**11AM - 1PM**



## WHERE

Pella Cooperative Electric  
2615 Washington Street, Pella



## DRIVE-THRU

Drive thru the co-op's parking lot for a hamburger or hotdog on us, grilled by the Marion County Cattlemen. We'll hand you a member gift on your way through!

*\*Until supplies lasts! Meals are provided for vehicle occupants only.*



## GIVEAWAYS

During the week leading up to Member Appreciation Day, we will randomly pick door prize winners to win \$25 off your electric bill! No entry needed. We'll let you know if you win! Watch our Facebook page for prize winner announcements.

# Smart Communication with SmartHub

Have you ever had questions about your electric bill? Do you ever wonder your true usage? If you've ever had questions about your account, our innovative web and mobile app, SmartHub, can help provide some answers.



SmartHub is available through Pella Cooperative Electric's website and as a free mobile app through the App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

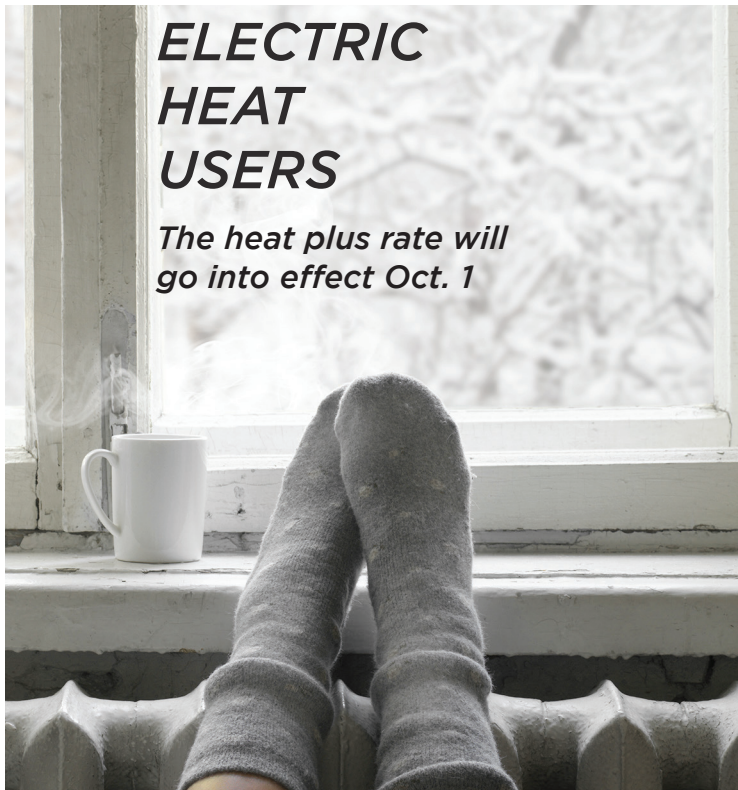
With SmartHub, you'll be able to view detailed usage information and gain insight that can help you better understand your bill. You can easily sign up for auto pay and manage your payment methods with SmartHub. You'll be able to put yourself in the driver's seat of your electric account.

You can also contact us with any issues regarding your service. Take control of your account and make interacting easy with SmartHub.

Learn more at  
[www.pella-cea.org/smarthub](http://www.pella-cea.org/smarthub)

## ELECTRIC HEAT USERS

*The heat plus rate will go into effect Oct. 1*



**WANTED:  
Rural Iowa  
high school  
students  
who have a  
passion for  
leadership**

Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)



## RECare: Just a Few Dollars Can Go a Long Way

Take the opportunity to make a difference in our community and give back to those in need with the RECare program. The RECare program helps low-income members make weatherization improvements to their home and/or pay their electric bill. Unemployment and unexpected expenses are some of the many reasons why families fall behind on their energy bills.

It's easy to sign up. Fill out this form and mail it back to us, or sign up online at [pella-cea.org](http://pella-cea.org).

### RECare SIGN UP FORM

*"YES! I want to donate."*

- Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.
- I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- Matching fund contribution. I will make a one-time contribution with a check enclosed. My contribution will be matched by: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



# Energy Use Survey Coming in September

Please be aware that Pella Cooperative Electric, in conjunction with our power supplier, is conducting a survey of a random sample of our residential members this fall. This survey asks about your home, your appliances, energy efficiency measures, and your opinions about energy use and related topics. Only a small portion of our residential members will receive a copy of the survey in the mail. If you receive a survey, we ask that you take 10 minutes to complete it and return in the postage-paid envelope provided or complete it online at the web address found on the questionnaire. We appreciate your help!



## The Power of Preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.



Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

At Pella Cooperative Electric, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

## Board of Directors Tour CIPCO Summit Lake Facility for August Board Meeting

The Board of Directors were invited to tour the Central Iowa Power Cooperative's (CIPCO) Summit Lake facility for their August 29 board meeting. The Board traveled to Creston, Iowa where the gas powered plant is operated.

In 2021, an expansion project was completed following the demolition of the 68-year-old steam plant. As part of the repowering project, three efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines were installed that produces 110 megawatts of power to assist during times of peak energy use. CIPCO and PCEA remain focused on a balanced and diverse generation portfolio. This expansion encompasses diversity in project geography and fuel sources.

**Board  
Briefs**