

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

August 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mayo chosen for honor during Youth Tour

It's not every high school student's name that would appear on a list with presidents, public figures, and foreign dignitaries. But Lily Mayo has that distinction after placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Mayo represented Butler County REC during the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June. She was one of four Iowa students selected by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) to participate in the ceremony. Lily's qualifying essay stated, "Being a soldier is one of the greatest sacrifices a person could ever make. The soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknowns made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. As an 'Army Brat' myself, I have experienced and heard of the stories that men and women have gone through."

Students participating in the wreath placing were given a dress code of khaki pants or skirts and no shorts or flip flops. The IAEC provided a polo shirt. Prior to the ceremony, the students spoke with two guards regarding protocol. Although they didn't practice, they did choose how they would hold their arms at their sides; which foot they would step with first; and

the way they would turn once the wreath, which had an "Iowa Youth Tour" ribbon on it, was placed.

Lily also ran for and was elected president of the board of the group's Snack Co-op, which taught them the basics of the cooperative business model. The cost of membership was \$1. Discounted snacks were sold to members and at the end of the trip, "patronage" was distributed from the revenue.

The students visited numerous sights in Washington, D.C. Lily's favorites were the Sunset Parade, featuring a Marine band; the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument; the Smithsonian museums; and the Holocaust Museum.

While at the 9/11 Tribute Museum, they spoke with a survivor of the attack on the Pentagon, who was also visiting the museum. He stated that he worked in the opposite part of the Pentagon but his friend, who worked on the side that was hit, had stepped away from his desk prior to the plane hitting the building. If he hadn't, he wouldn't have survived.

With plans to go into business and work in the outdoors guiding hunts, leading hikes, and camping, Lily applied for the Youth Tour because, "I love to travel—it's a major passion of mine. As a



Lily Mayo (back right) after the wreath-placing ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

home-schooled student, it was an opportunity to visit D.C. I knew it would make a really big impact on my life."

Lily encourages students to apply for the Youth Tour. "It was an amazing experience that everyone should try for."

She is the daughter of Butler County REC members David and Stephanie Mayo, Sumner.

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington.

For more information on how you can participate in Butler County REC's 2023 Youth Tour program, contact us at 888-267-2726. Be sure to search for "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see the group's recent adventures from 2022.

Mark your calendar!

Plan to join us for a relaxing evening of grilled burgers and visiting with neighbors

From 5 to 7 p.m. on the following evenings, Butler County REC employees will be serving hamburgers, beans, potato chips, Chocolate Shoppe ice cream, cookies, lemonade, and water. Stop by for a drive-thru meal if you don't have time to sit down. Register for prizes and experience life as a lineman with Lineman 360 virtual reality!

Aug. 10: Butler County, Butler County REC Warehouse—619 N. Railroad St., Allison

Aug. 17: Chickasaw County, Big 4 Fairgrounds (Show building)—499 Greenwood Ave., Nashua

Aug. 24: Bremer County, Bremer County Fairgrounds (4-H Building)—717 5th Ave. SW, Waverly

Sept. 7: Floyd County, Floyd County Fairgrounds (Swartzrock Community Building)—2516 7 Mile Rd., Charles City

We look forward to seeing you!

Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair!

Visit our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the fairgrounds. We'll have plastic hard hats and suckers for kids (*while supplies last*).

Try on some real lineworker gear and pose for fun photos in our safety selfie station!



IowaStateFair

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state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

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!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2022 Iowa State Fair. We are proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, 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 11-21, make sure to stop by and see us in the air-conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the

POWERING YOU THROUGH EACH MOMENT



THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



Marathon
WATER HEATERS

In the market for a new electric water heater?

Contact us for information on the Marathon--offering durability, lightweight design, and a limited lifetime tank warranty for original purchaser.

Generous rebate available!

Water heating saving ideas

- For households of 1-2 members, a setting of 115 degrees F may work.
- Install a water heater blanket.
- Drain 1-2 gallons from bottom of water heater each year to reduce sediment build up.
- Install heat traps on hot and cold water lines when it's time to replace your water heater.
- Insulate exposed hot water lines.
- Limit shower length to 5-7 minutes.
- Install water saving shower heads.
- Fix dripping faucets.
- Don't let the water run while you are brushing your teeth or shaving.

Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part

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 (the most recent data available). 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

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching

power lines, bridges and other hazards.

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



Auto drivers

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
2. 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.
3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around

farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.

4. 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.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. 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.
9. 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.

Leave air conditioner on during vacations

If you're thinking about saving a few bucks by shutting your central air conditioning off while you escape for summer vacation, consider what you need to keep cool in your home while you're gone.

At the top of that list is your refrigerator.

In a kitchen that's too warm, your refrigerator has to work at least twice as hard to keep its interior cold. It will put in that double duty whether there's food inside of it or not, as long as it's plugged in.

That can counteract any energy savings you might see when you shut down the a/c for a week. And it could stress your refrigerator out enough to damage or even ruin it.

Best bet: *Nudge the thermostat up four to five degrees higher than usual* before you leave for vacation. That way, your house won't be as cool as it would be to keep people comfortable, but it won't get so warm that your refrigerator is uncomfortable.

Plus, keeping the a/c on could prevent other problems that can occur in a home that is too humid because of a lack of air conditioning, like mold and mildew growth and even damage to electronics.



Codner named to Federated board

Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) places a high value on the health and welfare of its employees, members, and communities. We are proud to announce that Craig Codner, CEO, has been named to the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange (Federated) board for Region 5 (Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin).



Federated was established in 1957 by cooperatives as an insurance company for cooperatives. They offer a number of insurance options, including property, workers' compensation, and various liability lines, to name a few.

Of his new director position, Codner stated, "I believe strongly that Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange is a valuable part of our rural electric industry, and taking proactive steps is a critical component in achieving a culture of safety. I look forward to contributing to Federated's continued success and commitment to working with our members to provide programs with a focus on safety, service, and stability."

Codner, a Butler County REC employee since 1996, was named CEO in 2012. His three-year term on the Federated board began June 20.

Congratulations, Craig!



\$100 bill credit winner announced

Congratulations to Kim Recker, Waverly, winner of a \$100 bill credit! Kim's name was drawn from those members signing up for SmartHub automatic bill pay through our postcard promotion ending in June.

If you are interested in paying your bill through SmartHub or setting up automatic bill pay, visit our website, butlerrec.coop, and click on "Online Bill Pay" in the top right corner.

Contact our office at 888-267-2726 with questions.



Employees serve during Kids' Day

During the Butler County Fair in June, a group of Butler County REC employees served free grilled hot dogs, potato chips, and bottled water to almost 250 people on Kids' Day. This is the sixth year employees have volunteered for the event.

Those participating were (left to right) Karissa LaBree; Katie LaBree, business development manager; Alesha Wedeking, billing clerk; Lee Frerichs, crew chief; Mike Miller, mechanic/warehouseman; Anne Gardiner, public relations specialist; John Groen, GIS coordinator; and Sandi Miller, office and human resources manager.



\$25 bill credit winner announced

Check out the June issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine to see the recipe from Rhonda Poppe, Ionia, that earned her a \$25 bill credit.

Rhonda's recipe for Shower Dessert (Lime Sherbet Freeze) was chosen for publication.

Visit page 9 of the magazine for details on how to submit a recipe.

Congratulations, Rhonda!

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