

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

June 2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

It's summer and you know what that means—Member Appreciation Events!

Save the date for:

Tuesday, July 29: Floyd County Fairgrounds (Schwartzrock Community Building), Charles City

Thursday, July 31: Big 4 Fairgrounds (show building), Nashua

Tuesday, August 5: Maple Hills Country Club, Tripoli

Thursday, August 7: Butler County Fairgrounds (multi-species livestock building), Allison



From 5-7 p.m. each night, Butler County REC employees and directors will be serving grilled burgers, baked beans, potato chips, cookies, ice cream,

lemonade, and water. Come by for a sit-down or drive-thru meal and register for prizes.* Each family will also receive a gift.

Be sure to read your July *InTouch* newsletter and follow our social media for more information.

We'll see you later this summer to enjoy time with your neighbors and good food!

**Members only entered into drawing—must be the name on the account/bill holder's name. Members allowed to win only one item.*



Tyler Retterath



Bryce Bruns

From apprentices to journeymen

Tyler Retterath and Bryce Bruns were recently promoted to journeymen linemen after completing their Department of Labor requirements.

Retterath, Bristow, and Bruns, Clarksville, joined Butler County REC in 2019 and 2021, respectively, as apprentice linemen.

To earn their journeyman titles, Retterath and Bruns had to complete three program areas: written (testing over eight steps and a comprehensive exam), evaluation of technical skills (show competency in over 70 skills), and on-the-job training (7,000 hours, including 1,000 hours of energized work).

Congratulations, Tyler and Bryce!

Are you a small business owner?

Do you own a small business served by Butler County REC? If so, let us know!

This summer when we hold our member appreciation events, we will provide a listing of small businesses in our service area that we deliver power to. If you would like your business included, please email us at anne@butlerrec.coop with your business name, address, phone number, email address, and website URL.



Butler County REC will be closed Friday, July 4.
Our phones are answered 24/7: 888.267.2726
Have a Safe and Happy Fourth of July!

BCREC scholarships awarded

Congratulations to Easton Richards and Caleb Sinnwell, both awarded \$500 Technical/Trade and Electric Line Apprenticeship scholarships from Butler County REC.

Easton, from Ionia and a student at Nashua-Plainfield High School, will be attending either Hawkeye Community College or Northeast Iowa Community College to work toward becoming a licensed electrician. He is the son of Greg and Rachel Richards.



Caleb, from Nashua and a student at Nashua-Plainfield High School, will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College to pursue a two-year powerline technology degree. He is the son of Josh and Heather Sinnwell.



Congratulations and best wishes!



**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$3,000 for their charity!**

Thompson to D.C.

Amelia Thompson, Greene, a student at North Butler High School, will be representing your cooperative on the 2025 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. June 15-21. She is the daughter of Todd and Corrine Thompson.

Amelia is involved in student council, National Honor Society, volleyball, and golf, in addition to prom committee, Greene Library Teen Board, and her church.

Amelia will join students from more than 40 additional electric cooperatives in Iowa and over 1,800 students from across America to explore our nation's capital.

Questions about solar?

Iowa Choice Renewables is here to help you make the best decisions about your energy needs.

What do we offer?

Solar calculator. Visit our website, www.butlerrec.coop - Energy Solutions - Renewable Energy - Solar Calculator to complete a brief questionnaire.

Energy assessments. We will help you identify energy-efficiency improvements to reduce the size of the solar array needed.

On-site solar. We can provide you with all the solar products and services for interconnection to the electrical grid.

Who do you contact?

Call Matt Mahoney, energy services manager, at 888-267-2726, ext. 122.



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 brushing your teeth or shaving.



Congrats!

Annual meeting bill credit winners announced

The following members' names were randomly drawn from the annual meeting election ballots and received a bill credit on their May 2025 Butler County REC power bill:

\$100

Clyde B. Luck, Sr., New Hartford

\$50

Keith Christensen, Greene
Cy One Farms, LLC, Aplington
Debra Deuell, Plainfield
Brent Janssen, Allison

\$20

Steve Ackerman, New Hartford
Lori Aird, Charles City
Boeding Farms Enterprises, Inc.,
Lawler
Matt Bohner, Clarksville
William Bravner, Sumner

\$20, cont'd

Bruce Cheney, Greene
Richard S. Fisher, New Hartford
Brent Leistikow, Tripoli
Duane Majewski, Greene
Deb McWhirter, Allison
John Meyerhofer, New Hampton
Dennis Mullen, Rockford
Northeast Research Farm, Ames
Dennis Ott, Greene
Mike Ott, Jr., Marble Rock
Duane L. Peters, Tripoli
Lee Peters, Plainfield
Lisa Peterson, Nashua
Jason D. Schmitz, Rockford
Leon C. Sheets, Ionia

Thank you to the almost 500 members who returned their director-election ballots. We appreciate you taking the time to participate in our principle of Democratic Member Control!

**Butler County REC, your
Touchstone Energy
cooperative,
encourages you to
MOVE OVER AND SLOW
DOWN when you approach
a vehicle with flashers on.**

**Let's obey the law and make
sure everyone arrives safely!**



**MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN**

Smart ways to save energy this summer

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. When temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

Start with an energy audit. Contact Matt or Tyler at our office at 888.267.2726 to identify where energy is being lost.

Keep cool air in and hot air out with these tips:

- Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks, and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with Butler County REC for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- Change your air filter regularly. A clogged filter makes your HVAC

system work harder.

- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.

Reduce energy costs with smart appliance use:

- Run dryers, washers, and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not the hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.
- Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

Take easy actions for big energy savings:

- Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans create a wind chill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- Increase your thermostat by two degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps, and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill, and help reduce energy demand.

EnergyWise Renewables program supports renewable energy

Butler County REC's EnergyWise Renewables program was established in 2006 to give co-op members the opportunity to support member-owned renewable energy projects in its service territory. Initially, the program supported only wind generation. Today the program includes solar and any type of distributed generation that provides an alternative or enhancement to the traditional electric power system. All contributions go to support small-scale distributed generation in our service territory. Butler County REC does not charge for the administration of this program.

To take part in this voluntary program, complete the information below and return to Butler County REC. If you already contribute, there is nothing you need to do now. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



EnergyWise Renewables Participation Form

I wish to support (the amount you select will be automatically added to your monthly power bill):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100 kilowatt-hours (\$1.50 per month) | <input type="checkbox"/> 200 kilowatt-hours (\$3.00 per month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 300 kilowatt-hours (\$4.50 per month) | <input type="checkbox"/> 400 kilowatt-hours (\$6.00 per month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other per month _____. Maximum contribution is 3,000 kilowatt-hours (\$45.00 per month) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-time contribution. I wish to support EnergyWise Renewables with a one-time contribution. My check for _____ is enclosed. | |

Name _____ Account Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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