

FEBRUARY 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**PECO achieves
safety certification**

**Forces shaping the rural
economy in 2025**

Cherry recipes to love

PECO seeks director candidates ▶ See Page 5

CREATING A CULTURE OF SAFETY

BY TIM MARIENAU



A recent safety accreditation inspection has confirmed that Prairie Energy Cooperative's (PECO)

commitment to safety is paying off.

This past fall, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) safety and loss control team spent two days at PECO, conducting on-site reviews, observations, line inspections of overhead and underground lines and solar site inspections. They also inspected the headquarters and outpost and visited with the employee team. This thorough process was part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) accreditation, and the results were impressive:

- PECO earned certification under RESAP, a program designed to promote a proactive safety culture.

- The inspection revealed that PECO meets or exceeds 192 safety requirements. Notably, there were no failures in meeting safety standards.

The onsite portion of the RESAP accreditation inspection occurs every three years to ensure that safety remains our top priority. The results from this inspection highlight the commitment of your cooperative to maintaining a robust safety culture.

RESAP, a national safety program developed in partnership with statewide and cooperative safety leaders, emphasizes continuous improvement in safety performance and culture. Understanding the RESAP performance measures allows PECO to set benchmarks and identify clear safety goals. The safety and loss control team at IAEC plays a key role in supporting PECO's efforts and guiding the



cooperative through the RESAP process.

The RESAP accreditation ranks PECO among the top performers nationally and in Iowa when compared to other cooperatives of comparable size. During their report on the site findings, the IAEC inspection team commended PECO for setting a high standard, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to safety and effectively instilling this priority within the employee team.

PECO's goal is to provide affordable and reliable electricity while ensuring that every member of the cooperative family returns home safely every day.

Tim Marienau is the CEO of Prairie Energy Cooperative.



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DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Dependents of Prairie Energy Cooperative members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. Contact Sarah Olson-McLaughlin at solson@prairieenergy.coop or visit www.prairieenergy.coop/scholarships to obtain an application.



Scholarship applications are due by Feb. 21.

SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR TWO POSITIONS ON PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) is a member-owned electric cooperative governed by a board of directors. As a member, one of your most important roles is to participate in the election of directors. You can become involved in your cooperative by serving on the board of directors.

Two positions on Prairie Energy Cooperative's seven-member board of directors will be open for election this June. The two-year terms of the following directors will expire: Allyn Waddingham, District 3 and Donald Christopherson, District 7.

Christopherson has decided he will not seek re-election. Waddingham has indicated his willingness to serve another term.

If you are a member in either district and are interested in serving on the board of directors, contact the nominating committee member in your district by March 15.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

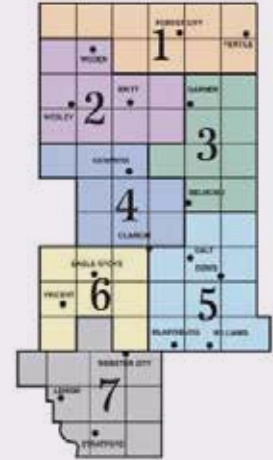
District 3 Dean Avery

1050 Yale Ave
Meservey, IA 50457
641-512-2322

District 7 Sharon Mitchell

2496 Swallow Ave
Duncombe, IA 50532
515-351-7281

Wayne Salgren
3111 Taylor Ave
Lehigh, IA 50557
515-359-2921



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRIP TO D.C.

At Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO), one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national electric cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for a high school sophomore or junior with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2025 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa

Youth Tour group will join with nearly 2,000 other students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens.

Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications now through March 21. High school students from any of the 11 counties PECO serves are eligible to apply; students must be a current sophomore or junior. The application

process consists of completing our application form, which includes an essay question.

Students can download our form at www.prairieenergy.coop/youth-tour or stop by our office for a printed copy. Contact Darren Johnson or Chad Chapman, PECO member services, at 515-532-2805 or mbrsrv@prairieenergy.coop for more information.

For more than 65 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kick-start a passion for government affairs or advocacy.

Make sure to apply for 2025 Youth Tour by March 21!

Applications are due
Friday, March 21!



SAVE THE DATE

Plan to attend Prairie Energy Cooperative's Annual Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 17 in Clarion. The event will be from 4-7 p.m. and include fun for the whole family! Watch for more information in future issues of this magazine and on our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you!



Save the date for Member Appreciation Day • July 17



Energy Trail Tour 2025

Prairie Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This three-day adventure will allow you to experience, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on board a motor coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. Two lucky couples from Prairie Energy Cooperative will be selected at random from those who sign up.



YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 18-20 1st 2nd (please circle)
 July 9-11 1st 2nd

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

February 2025

Visit our website at www.prairieenergy.coop

A photograph of a man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a white button-down shirt with a small logo on the chest. He is looking towards the right, where another person is partially visible. The background is a control room with a large panel of blue and green lights and buttons.

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