

WATTS *Current*

March 2020

For Our Members



National Ag Day

March 24, 2020 is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies, and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.



As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber, and renewable resources produced in the United States.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- Understand how food, fiber, and renewable resource products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber, and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use, and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in – or had relatives or friends involved in – agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

Source: energy.gov



Sell Local, Buy Local
Old 20 Auctions and Big Foot Ranch
www.Old20Auctions.com
 Manchester, Iowa
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 Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

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Can The Electric Grid Take Us To A Clean Energy Economy?

By Erin Campbell - Director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives



The electric grid has been called the most important engineering achievement of the 20th Century. What if the grid can also transition us to a clean energy economy in the 21st Century?

This concept was at the center of discussions at the Electrify Iowa! summit, held in West Des Moines and hosted by the Iowa Rural Power Education Foundation and the Iowa Environmental Council. Special thanks to the Beneficial Electrification League, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency, the Iowa Geothermal Association and others for their involvement and support of the summit.

What is beneficial electrification?

Sessions at the summit centered on *environmentally beneficial electrification*, which means that electrical appliances and devices like water heaters, ovens, clothes dryers and vehicles have the potential to become greener over time without any additional action from the consumer.

“As electric generation becomes more renewable and environmentally responsible, the devices that use electricity automatically become greener compared to those that use fossil fuels, such as gasoline, propane and natural gas,” says Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Through proactive beneficial electrification (also referred to as efficient electrification or strategic

electrification), policies and practices are put into place that encourage the transition of fossil fuel applications to electric power. The electric vehicle (EV) movement is just one example of beneficial electrification. And as more and more vehicles transition from gasoline to electricity, they will use fewer fossil fuels as more renewable generation is added to the electric grid.

Iowa has momentum

Beneficial electrification isn't a new concept; electric water heating was really the first technology that introduced the concept back in the 1980s, along with the introduction of geothermal heating and cooling technology. But the movement is picking up steam in recent years as renewable electric generation and electric transportation gain momentum.

In fact, Iowa is already surpassing expectations and estimates regarding EVs. According to data provided by the Iowa Legislature, there are 3,241 EVs registered in the state as of August 2019, representing a 170% increase since 2016.



Source: Based on EPA data estimates.

— Historic (2005-2017) - - - Projected (2018-2022)



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With beneficial electrification, every person, family, farm and business can participate in our transition to an abundant clean energy future. “By using sustainable electricity to meet our water heating, climate control and transportation needs, we are collectively reducing our environmental impact,” Soderberg says.

For consumers looking for environmentally responsible energy options, choosing electric appliances and devices over those powered by fossil fuels is a great way to participate. Consider electric rechargeable power tools, electric water heaters, electric appliances like ovens and clothes dryers and electric vehicles as ways to reduce greenhouse gases. In the years ahead, there will be even more opportunities to transition to electric vehicles and electric lawn and farm equipment with the added benefits of reducing noise, emissions and maintenance costs.

Electric cooperative involvement

Iowa’s electric cooperatives are actively engaged in the beneficial electrification movement. We work with our statewide and national associations and partners to promote this sustainable concept with policymakers and thought leaders. In 2018, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to form the Beneficial Electrification League, whose purpose is to meet our nation’s and the world’s economic and environmental goals through electrification of products and services. “We believe that beneficial electrification is the single most effective and inclusive carbon reduction strategy available moving forward,” says Steve Koep, advisory board member of the Beneficial Electrification League and presenter at the Electrify Iowa! summit.

Your local electric cooperative also remains committed to helping you use energy wisely through energy efficiency efforts. After all, the greenest kilowatt-hour is the one you never use in the first place. Check with your local electric co-op for details on programs, incentives and rebates for electric vehicles, electric water heaters, geothermal heating and cooling and LED lighting. “We want to help our co-op member-owners keep electric use and costs as low as possible which makes it even more attractive to transition to electric devices and appliances,” Soderberg says.

Find more resources and information at www.BeneficialElectrification.com.

SPRING EFFICIENCY QUIZ



Spring is just around the corner! Take this quiz to learn how you can help save energy around your home.

Hint: Check your work in the answer key below.

1. Sealing air leaks around _____ saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

A) doors B) windows C) both A and B

2. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they’re not in use, like _____.

**A) refrigerators B) cell phone chargers
C) dishwashers**

3. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.

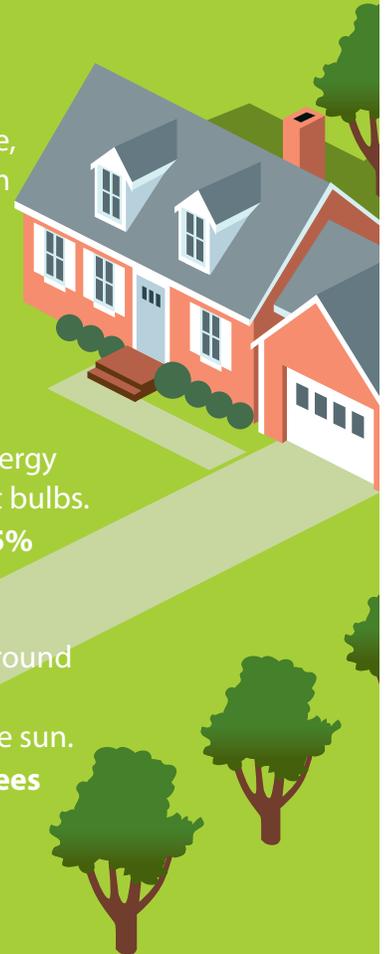
A) True B) False

4. LED bulbs typically use _____ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

A) 25% B) 50% C) 75%

5. Planting _____ around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

**A) flowers B) shade trees
C) vegetables**





Sell Local, Buy Local

by Patty Manuel - MVEC Director of Public Relations

After a lesson on buying and selling through online auctions, I realized it could easily be as addictive as Pinterest or FortNite, but much more profitable. Thanks to Mike Loecke at Old 20 Auctions just east of Manchester for a lesson on how and why online auctions work.

Remember the days of finding a parking spot for a Saturday morning auction, waiting for hours until the one thing you want is called up and then find out you are bidding against your best friend, or that neighbor that isn't always neighborly? Online auctions avoid those headaches and create a significantly larger pool of buyers and sellers. A live auction at Old 20 Auctions might attract 80 people, but an online auction could attract 800!

For the unfamiliar, imagine this. You are relaxed in your recliner with your iPad or tablet, searching for a good used backhoe. You're willing to pay \$5,000 for it, but why tell the buyer that right up front? So, you place \$5,000 in a max-bid holding section of the online auction site and the auction starts at the minimum of \$100. If someone else bids \$105, your bid is automatically increased to \$110, and on it goes until a buyer is determined. If the other guy decides to get out, you own the backhoe for your latest bid amount and any remaining funds in the holding section go back in your pocket. Good deal for you, simple, and very little time invested. There are time limits set for the length of the auction so you can check the status at your convenience. Loecke's staff will provide multiple pictures and even videos of the item. They'll explain the condition, indicate if anything is damaged or needs work and provide plenty of information to help you make your decision without having to leave home.

One of the best parts about a company like Old 20 Auctions is they can do the work for the buyer and the seller and both can win. Old 20 Auctions is a dealer for AuctionTime.com, and their parent company also owns TractorHouse.com (and numerous other online auction companies). You can find free magazines for both AuctionTime and TractorHouse in many convenience stores, and both have huge search engines to access items worldwide. Loecke has an audience from Canada to Mexico and even China. Imagine what a massive pool like that could mean for you wanting to make the perfect purchase, or sell an item for the absolute best price?

A Dysart farmer, John Weber, experienced the wide reach of Old 20 Auctions when he sold an old feed truck. John hoped the truck would accomplish \$10,000. The added territory offered by Old 20 Auctions brought bidders competing from Wisconsin and Canada, prior to the truck selling to his neighbor for a lot more than he had planned!

Old 20 Auctions provides a variety of options for both the buyer and seller. Buyers can place a bid a week before the live auction, and can even contact the seller to ask questions before they go into live bidding. You will want to do your homework before placing a bid as it can't be removed. Sellers can place items in the "store" for 30 or 60 days and if the item doesn't sell, then it can be moved to the live auction where it could bring even more money.

If online buying and selling isn't your thing, you can always attend one of Old 20 Auctions live, on-site auctions. The next auction is scheduled for April 4 where you can be inside, warm and dry, with hot food, and get up close to the *continued on page 5*





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items you want to buy. Have something to sell, give the Loecke's a call today at 563-927-2900. Old 20 Auctions has sold everything from train and coin collections to vehicles and equipment to buildings and even land. Selling land for the best price, with less commission definitely helps both the buyer and the seller.

Loecke's true passion has always been in farming since growing up near Greeley where his family used MVEC's service as far back as the late 1960's. Upon graduation, Loecke attended auctioneer school and then worked in construction before starting his own company, MEP Construction. Construction allowed him to interact with the ag industry and he found himself building cattle and hog buildings, but also many homes and even a restaurant. After selling MEP to QC Supply in Manchester, Loecke built his current auction house at 1949 210th Street, Manchester, just a mile east of the City. When Auction Time learned about his facility and talent, they recruited him to be a dealer and the rest is history as traffic and sales continue to grow.

The love of farming and wanting to spend time with his wife Megan and five daughters evolved into a talent for raising and showing livestock. He wanted his girls to show in a safe and clean environment so he developed Big Foot Ranch, north of Manchester. With multiple lanes and gates that open, bend and swing easily, 1,000 pound cows can be safely guided to other areas. Calves can be delivered inside during the coldest of days, and a roof provides shelter as needed. The ranch even includes a residential area where family, as well as livestock buyers, can gather comfortably. There are show animals and then there are show places and Big Foot Ranch captures both. It seems to me that if I was paying high dollar for the best animal that I would want to know it was raised in comfort and style. As for the name Big Foot Ranch, locals will tell you they have seen Big Foot on the property. Be sure to keep an eye out for him when you buy your next animal!

Mike and Megan Loecke have found a few entrepreneurial niches in Delaware County, providing jobs, bringing buyers to the area and ensuring their daughters learn the value of hard work while enjoying 4-H livestock shows. Visit www.Old20Auctions.com and you, too, will be mesmerized with the variety of purchase options and all that the Loecke's can do for you.





The Fiber Download

Employees Share Frequently Asked Questions.

What's the difference between the Internet & Wi-Fi?

The Internet is connected networks all over the world. Wi-Fi is your personal wireless network within your home.

Why is a speed test not showing the speed I pay for?

There is a box (usually some type of modem) that brings Internet into your home from your service provider. In order to run a speed test against what you are paying for, the speed test should be run with an ethernet cable and capable device. See "speed test" below.

Why are my Internet speed tests slower when I'm on Wi-Fi?

Your testing speeds over Wi-Fi are impacted by many things; consider the following:

- What is the type and age of router you are using? An older router may not support the speed you subscribe to.
- Do you have the latest firmware (software) updated on your router? This is important for both performance and security.
- What is the maximum speed the device you're using will support?
- Is there a chance you have a virus or malware on your device?
- Do you have other things running on your device when you're running the speed test?
- And finally - how far are you from the wireless signal? Do you have a full signal?

All of these things may cause slower speed tests results over Wi-Fi.

How can I get the speed I pay for over my wireless device?

The best way is to have a router or gateway that supports the speed you pay for. Then, make sure:

- you have the latest firmware on this device
- the device you are using is capable of the subscribed speed
- you do not have any viruses or malware running on your device
- you close down all other applications before running the speed test
- you have full bars on your signal before running the test

All of these things may cause slower speed tests results over Wi-Fi.

Why can't I get a good signal in my bedroom?

The wireless radios in your router/gateway push service out from the device. Think about it like a speaker, the further you get away, the softer the sound is. Your Wi-Fi works the same way. The further away you get, the weaker the signal. If there are things like metal, concrete, thick walls, and mirrors, between you and the router these can weaken the signal even more.

How can I get a better signal on my patio?

The placement of your router determines where the Wi-Fi signals are strongest in your home, or outside your home. The more centrally located, the more of your home it will reach. However, if your router is in a location where it can't be moved you can add extenders to push the signal further into other areas of your home.

Why should I buy your gigacenter?

The best thing about our gigacenter is that we take care of it. You don't have to try and select the right kind of router, or worry about updating firmware, We make sure it supports the latest devices, the fastest speeds and helps to keep your Wi-Fi secure. We will help you place it in an area that maximizes coverage throughout your home. If you ever have any problems, we take care of it.

What if after that I still can't get a signal everywhere?

With our solution we can easily add a mesh extender to make sure all areas of your home are covered; especially if you need the router in a specific location and do not want to move it. Some homes are just too big for a normal router signal and will need the mesh device to get signal to all areas.

Sites to See

Watch this section for new or popular internet sites you may want to explore.

- www.cnet.com
CNET tells you what's new in tech, culture and science, why it matters, how it works and what you need.
- www.lifewire.com
Lifewire provides expert-created, real-world technology content for more than 10 million users like you every month. You don't live and breathe technology, but you do use it everyday and you expect it to work. Our goal is to help you get the most out of the technology in your life.

Connection Speeds Glossary of Terms

Ethernet Cable: The most common type of network cable used on a wired network whether at home or in any other business establishment. This cable connects wired devices together to the local network for file sharing and Internet access.

Speed Test: With the test server in place, the Speed Test sends a simple signal (a ping) to the server, and it responds. The test measures that roundtrip in milliseconds. After the ping is complete, the download test begins. www.speedtest.mvlink.coop

WiFi Extender Vs. Booster: The term WiFi booster was a catch-all phrase for devices that extended a WiFi signal. A WiFi booster now is more accurately defined as a wireless range extender.



Outstanding Patronage Dividend Checks

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 North Huber Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, has abandoned property that results from patronage dividend checks issued from 2017 for the cooperative members listed below. If this property is not claimed within three years from the original check date, it will be forfeited to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative according to Iowa law. For a complete listing of all members with abandoned property, please visit our website at: www.mvec.coop/about-us/member-owner.

Jim/Shelley Droste	Mary Cole	David Crippes
Nicholas Steffens	Todd Flynn	Carl Simon
GMG Inc.	Rick Funk	David Fjelstul
Rocking Windmill LTD	Danny McDonell	Angie Valentine
Laverne Zumbach	Midwest Tower Partners LLC	Marian Tauke
David Funke	Lincoln Bros Partnership	Wayne Harms
Timothy/Karen Deutmeyer	Luke Schulte	Sylvester Rauen
Marvin Helle	Todd Grapp	Lawrence Hefel
Mark Ungs	Heather Daque	Anthony Norby
Thomas Funk	Daniel/Terry Sullivan	Kent/Paula Kluver
Ronald Hansen	James W Hogan	Scherrie Riniker
Earl Siegel	Jessica Mihalakis	Vinod Sheth
Thomas J/Dawn Cummer	Lisa Hupp	Adelaide West

Ready To Re-Connect Your Meter?

When you are ready to have your meter re-connected this spring, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will need two weeks notice. Please contact Jeane at 800-927-6068, extension 357.



TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Scammers can threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Here are a few reminders from your electric co-op.

- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Co-op representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let them know as soon as possible.

Watts The Answer?

1. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate _____ of consumers.
2. Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively _____ in the beneficial electrification movement.
3. Your testing speeds over Wi-Fi are impacted by _____, consider the following:

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to efletcher@mvec.coop

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bills.

Please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

January winners:

Fred Bruns, Zwingle

Bobbi Chester, Manchester



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit 174

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring
forward on March 8!
Set your clocks forward
by one hour.



Watts Current by Email
If you would prefer to have the
Watts Current emailed to you,
please sign up by emailing
efletcher@mvec.coop

Understanding Your Electric Bill

On-Peak hours are 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Off-Peak hours are Midnight - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Midnight

These times are in effect every day.

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