

WATTS *Current*

April 2020

For Our Members

Your Co-op And Coronavirus

A Message From The CEO



Jeremy Richert
CEO

The constantly evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) means that by the time you read this article, things could be considerably different than they were at press time. We are using this newsletter, email, and Facebook to communicate updates to our members as needed. This would be a great time to confirm or inform us of your preferred email address, especially if you haven't received an email from us in the past few weeks. Electric members can include a note with your next payment, or send an email to billing@mvec.coop. MVlink members have already provided their email address upon service connection.

One thing that is not changing is our commitment to providing you with reliable service. MVEC has a very detailed, extensive disaster plan in place that is reviewed and updated annually. Portions of the disaster plan have been put into place as part of our response to the COVID-19 virus. Our primary focus is to maintain business continuity so that we can provide the essential electric and broadband services our members need during this challenging time. In order to do this

we must make sure we take steps to keep our employees healthy. By protecting the health and safety of our employees we are able to maintain our electric and internet systems and will be able to respond to any service interruptions that occur.

What has changed is our face-to-face interaction with members. To protect both our employees and our members, we have suspended both in-home and business appointments until further notice. We have also closed our lobby to all members and visitors. While this is not our preferred method of doing business, we must do our part to respect State and Federal recommendations for social distancing. Like you, we trust these drastic measures will help Iowans weather this storm.

MVEC offers a members helping members financial resource that assists low-income members by supplementing the energy assistance program offered through area community action agencies. During these trying times we can all show we care through RECare; learn how to contribute on Page 3.

Please know we are constantly working with our State and National electric cooperative organizations, as well as our power supplier, CIPCO, to ensure we are here for you. Additionally, there are trustworthy resources for information on COVID-19 to help you and your family remain healthy:

- 211Iowa.org, or dial 2-1-1 for a variety of Iowa information and resources
- Idph.Iowa.gov offers a variety of Iowa Department of Public Health information
- CDC.gov is the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide a picture of what is happening across the nation and how they are responding

The value of membership in a cooperative is that we are your local utility and we are committed to providing the services you need. We do not take this task lightly and our dedicated team of employees will do what is needed to meet your essential needs during this challenging time.

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Underground Utility Line Locates

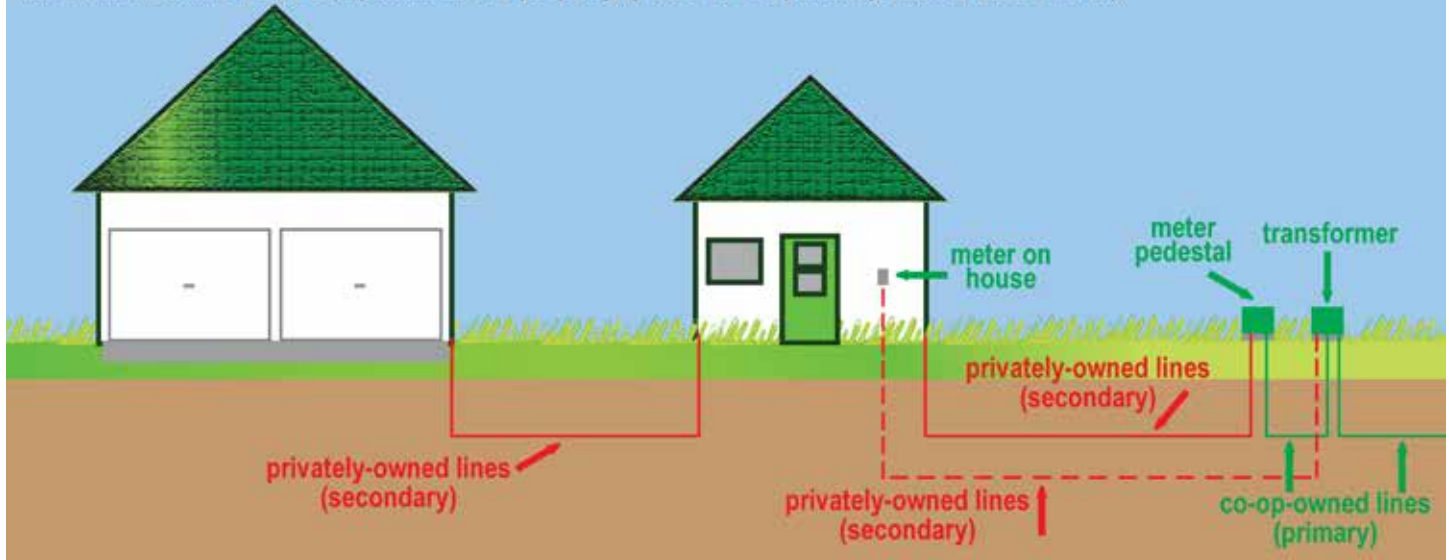
Cooperative Responsibility

Cooperative will locate primary underground electric lines at no charge to the property owner when the request is made through Iowa One Call as required by Iowa law.

Cooperative maintains underground electric lines from the primary line up to the meter pedestal, or the transformer (in cases where meter is on a house or building). (Refer to green co-op owned lines below.)

Property Owner Responsibility

The property owner is responsible for locating all privately-owned (secondary) electric wires, as well as all other buried lines, wires, utilities, and equipment on the property. (Refer to red privately-owned lines below.)



Area electrician companies that provide private, secondary locate services are listed below.

(list not all inclusive)

Becker Electric LLC

563-927-4805 or 563-920-3121

Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jones Counties

Biechler Electric

563-580-0163

Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones Counties

Delancey Electric

319-462-4600

Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones Counties

Double S Enterprises - Shawn Sams

319-329-4665

Delaware, Jackson, and Jones Counties

East Iowa Mechanical

563-876-5573

Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones Counties

Monti Plumbing & Heating

319-480-3999

Delaware, Dubuque, and Jones Counties

Runde Electric

563-543-1753

Dubuque County



1-800-292-8989

www.iowaonecall.com



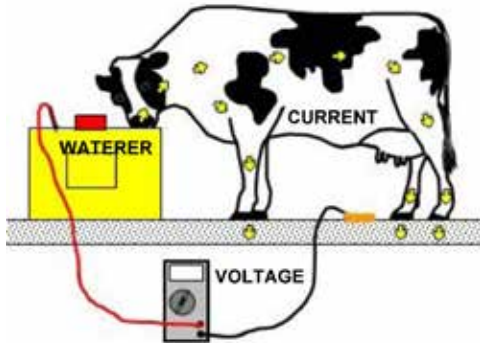
Bylaws Available

Copies of the Bylaws of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative are available at the Cooperative's office. If you would like a copy of the Bylaws, please pick one up, or contact us to have one mailed to you.



Stray Voltage Concerns?

Electrical systems are grounded to the earth to make them as safe as possible and ensure their reliability. As a result there is usually a small amount of current flow through the earth. Stray voltage is an electrical voltage measured between two points an animal may touch at the same time. If a voltage is present, current may flow through the animal between these contact points. The amount of current depends on the voltage and total resistance of the circuit that involves the animal. Animals respond to the resulting current flow, and not to the voltage.



Stray voltage is a complex issue and often believed to be the cause of a variety of issues members may experience on their farms. There are many firms and products in


the marketplace offering cures for stray voltage. However, with a little investigation and some corrective action, stray voltage issues can be resolved if they are found to be the true source of the problems being experienced.

As a member of MVEC, if you believe you are experiencing issues due to stray voltage we will come to your location and complete a stray voltage investigation at no cost to you. After the investigation is complete you will get a report outlining what was found.

Here are a few ideas that will help prevent stray voltage issues.

1. Have a qualified electrician inspect the whole farmstead for electrical problems, and correct them in accordance with the National Electric Code.
2. Balance **ALL** 120-volt loads as much as possible in an effort to reduce neutral currents.
3. Size service wires according to the electrical load they are serving.
4. Install an equipotential grounding plane in the floor for all new livestock buildings.
5. Install ground rods and insulated wire to all electric fencers/cow trainers.

If you have further questions or concerns, please call MVEC at 800-927-6068, or visit www.mvec.coop.



RECare

You Care, We Care,
RECare, a way for members to help members

MVEC's RECare program allows members to contribute to a fund that assists low-income members with weatherization to help improve their heating and cooling costs or supplement energy assistance. Funds collected are distributed by local community action agencies.

Yes, I care and want to contribute.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is closed.

I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare.

I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill. (Even one dollar shows you care.) Monthly pledges may be cancelled at any time by notifying MVEC in writing.

Name: _____

Address: _____


City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Email: _____

Please mail to MVEC or include with your electric bill payment.



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative

109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa IA 52205



REBATES

2020 Residential

Geothermal Heat Pumps	New closed loop	\$400/ton
	Unit replacement with existing loop	\$150/ton
Air Conditioner	Energy Star qualified	\$100
Water Heaters	Air Source Heat Pump water heater	\$650
	Electric storage water heater	\$75
	Storage water heater with desuperheater	\$150
	Electric storage water heater with first time Heat Plus*	\$125
Drain Water Heat Recovery Pipe	Electric water heater required	\$450
Level II EV Charger		\$500
Heat Recovery Ventilator	Energy Star qualified	\$250
Air Source Heat Pump	Energy Star hybrid heat pump	\$300/ton+\$250 bonus
	Standard hybrid heat pump	\$300/ton
	Energy Star heat pump	\$200/ton+\$250 bonus
	Standard heat pump	\$200/ton
LED Fixtures	Indoor Energy Star or DLC rated	\$5/fixture
	Outdoor Energy Star or DLC rated	\$10-\$60/fixture
Clothes Washer	Electric water heater required Energy Star qualified	\$40
Electric Clothes Dryer	Energy Star qualified	\$20
Weatherization	Insulation and air sealing for homes built prior to 2000	Up to \$2200
All Star Home Bonus	Eligible for additional rebate	\$500
Premier Electric Home Bonus	Eligible for additional rebate	\$200

* Heat Plus rate is a promotional residential rate for electric heating equipment. For more details, requirements and Terms and conditions go here: <http://www.mvec.coop/rebates>

2020 Agriculture

Agriculture Lighting	Replacement only, Energy Star or DLC qualified	Varied
Livestock Equipment	Waterers, heating, lamps, pads, controllers	Varied
Dairy Equipment	Reclaimers, pre-coolers, pumps, compressors	Varied
Livestock Ventilation	BESS Labs listed	Varied



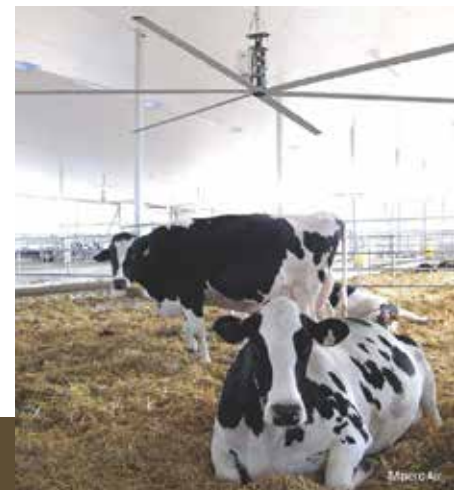
Appliance Recycling

Call our toll-free Pull the Plug hotline at (855) 838-7817 to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner; up to three operable units per address. Pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor.

Appliance	Rebate
Refrigerator	\$35/unit
Freezer	\$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner	\$25/unit

WATTS SMART

Learn more about green living and energy-efficiency tips through WATTS SMART, an electronic newsletter full of useful money-saving tips, including an energy usage calculator. Contact your cooperative to start receiving WATTS SMART each month in your inbox.



“ A 24-foot HVLS fan will move as much air as six standard industrial high-speed fans and consume only one-sixth the energy. In a typical dairy-free stall barn, HVLS fans are placed over the feed alley every 35-60 feet, depending on the fan size.

— ProgressiveDairy.com ”



The 2020 Census Is In Progress



America has counted its population every 10 years since 1790, and it's time for the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct a national census again this spring.

Timeline for responding

For the first time, the census will be accessible online. Invitations to respond to the census were delivered in March. The census can also be completed by phone. The official census day is April 1, 2020, and by then, every household should have received an invitation. By mid-April, a paper questionnaire will be mailed to every household that has not yet responded online or by phone. If no response is received, a census taker may come to your home to follow up in person. Census visits will occur from April through July, depending on circumstances and any delays caused by COVID-19. Those with a post office box address should expect a census field worker to bring a postcard or questionnaire directly to their residence.

The census is much more than just a head count. It provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps to evaluate how our communities have changed over time. That's why an accurate count is so important.

How the census impacts Iowa

Census data directly affects how more than \$590 billion per year (including \$5.3 billion to Iowa) in federal funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. Businesses rely on census data to make decisions about where to locate, what products and services to offer, and how to attract customers. Census counts are used to draw the boundaries of legislative districts and local voting districts, including voting precincts. The Iowa Constitution (Article III, Section 35) requires the General Assembly to

establish state legislative districts for both the Senate and the House of representatives by Sept. 1 of the year following the decennial census.

Important things to keep in mind

Strict federal law protects your census responses.

- It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business.
- The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.
- The Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

We encourage our members to reply to the Census to make sure our rural communities receive proper funding for resources.

For more information visit www.2020census.gov.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative Recognized For Safety Achievements.

During the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' (IAEC) annual meeting in December, several Iowa electric cooperatives were congratulated for completing the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) in 2019.

RESAP is a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives. IAEC fully supports the RESAP program and works with electric cooperative members in their safety achievements.

The rigorous program requires annual reporting to NRECA of Occupational Safety and Health Administration Data and updates to the cooperative's safety improvement plan. Every three years, additional data must be submitted to NRECA as well as participation in an onsite safety observation by NRECA at the cooperative.



The Fiber Download

Beginners Guide To Cutting The Cord

Should I cut the cord?

Before we dive into how to cut the cord, step back and think about whether you should. Consider the following:

Are you paying at least \$50 per month for TV service? Most live TV streaming services start at \$50 to \$55 per month.

Do you already have home internet service? If you're paying for internet and use it, cord-cutting will probably make financial sense. We don't recommend using your phone's mobile hotspot for internet service if you're cutting the cord.

Are you just tired of cable? Some arguments in favor of cord-cutting aren't strictly about saving money. It's also a way to see fewer ads, unclutter your living room, set up TVs anywhere in the house, and avoid the ritual of haggling for lower rates.

Are you willing to be flexible? You'll need to be comfortable using new technology or new apps, and you might want to consider sacrificing some of what you watched with cable. The more you're willing to adapt, the better your experience will be and the more money you'll save.

Cord-cutting basics

Internet Service: You will need home internet service to cut the cord, along with a Wi-Fi router, so your streaming devices can get online from any part of the house. As a rule of thumb, home internet speeds should be at least 15Mbps for each device you plan to have running at the same time. If you tend to have three TVs playing at once, you'll ideally have home internet speed of at least 45Mbps.

Streaming Services: To replace your TV service, you will subscribe to one or more online video services. These can include on-demand video services such as Netflix or a bundle of live TV channels such as YouTube TV. There are also plenty of free sources of streaming video that you can use to pad your subscriptions.

Streaming Devices: Once you purchase one or more streaming services, you'll access them by downloading their apps on a streaming device, such as Roku's Streaming Stick or Amazon's Fire TV Stick. Each television must have its own way to stream, whether it's through a streaming device or a smart TV. These devices plug into your television's HDMI port and connect to the internet over your home Wi-Fi network or with a Ethernet Connection, and they'll work even if you don't own a smart TV. If you do have a smart TV, you can use it in place of a separate streaming device provided it has all the apps and services you want. **You do not need a smart TV to cut the cord.**

Local Channel Option: Many live streaming services do not include local stations. You can consider adding a rooftop antenna in lieu of buying a service that includes local channels.

How to choose a live TV streaming service

There are currently seven options available in the United States: Sling TV, AT&T TV Now, Hulu with Live TV, YouTube TV, FuboTV, Philo, and AT&T Watch. Each of these services has a different channel lineup, your first step should be to rule out the ones that don't have your channels.

Here are a few resources that can help:

The Streamable's channel finder tool lets you type in the channels, shows, and sports teams you want, then spits out a list of matching services based on your zip code. www.thestreamable.com

Suppose.TV offers a similar channel finder service, it offers some extra tools for refining your search. For instance, you can narrow down services based on which streaming devices they support, or by how many screens you can watch a given service on at the same time. www.suppose.tv

Sites to See

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

- www.consumerreports.org
Consumer Reports is an independent, nonprofit member organization that works side by side with consumers for truth, transparency, and fairness in the marketplace.

Glossary of Terms

Streaming Device: The device connects to both the Internet (via Wi-Fi or Ethernet) and your TV (via HDMI), streaming content from channels that are either free or require a monthly subscription. You browse through channels directly on your TV screen via a remote.

Streaming: In simpler terms, streaming is what happens when consumers watch TV or listen to podcasts on Internet-connected devices. With streaming, the media file being played on the client device is stored remotely, and is transmitted a few seconds at a time over the Internet.

Smart TV: The main benefit of a smart TV is access to a large number of channels that offer TV programs, movies, and music without the need to connect a TV antenna or subscribe to a cable/satellite service. Also, some smart TVs provide web browsing, gaming, and access to compatible media content stored on your computer.



How Will You Celebrate Earth Day?

by Anne Prince

Earth Day is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

MVEC is working to better our own little corner of the world. We installed electric mini-split heat pumps and LED lighting throughout our headquarters and have seen considerable savings and improved comfort.

We're helping our members better their world, too, through a variety of energy efficient rebates for heating and cooling, water heaters, lighting and even electric vehicle chargers. Our Member Advocate can perform an energy audit, or individually meet with members to help them understand their usage characteristics and how their energy bill is calculated.

We will also help guide our members with their on-site generation decisions. Most importantly, all members benefit from renewable energy sources because 60% of the power we purchase and distribute is generated by emission and carbon-free resources including wind, solar and hydro.

Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Examine your smart or programmable thermostat. Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips, however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

While these suggestions may not be glamorous, they do make a difference. We are always here to help with your energy-related questions, give us a call.

Energy Use Survey

Please be aware that Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with our power supplier, is conducting a survey of a random sample of our residential members this spring. 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 on-line at the web address found on the questionnaire. We appreciate your help!

Heat Plus Rate Reminder

The Heat Plus rate ends with energy used through May 31, 2020. It is important that you do not turn off power to these meters because the Cooperative still needs to be able to read them each month. The Heat Plus rate will begin again October 1, 2020.

Watts The Answer?

1. One thing that is not changing is our commitment to providing you with _____ service.
2. We encourage our members to reply to the _____ to make sure our rural communities receive proper funding for resources.
3. Our _____ can perform an energy audit, or individually meet with members to help them understand their usage characteristics and how their energy bill is calculated.

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

February winners:

George Heisler, Farley

Kent Ruppert, Maquoketa



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

*MVEC will be closed
Friday April 10,
in observance of
Good Friday*



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

MVEC will observe
summer hours

May 4th-October 2nd, 2020

Monday-Thursday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM



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.

Watts Current

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Mailing Address:

109 North Huber Street • Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

OFFICE HOURS

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

After Hours Call Center: 800-582-8998

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www.mvec.coop

www.mvlink.coop

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Follow Us On

Email direct to the following departments:

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billing@mvec.coop

Fiber Questions

fiber@mvec.coop

General Service Questions

memberservices@mvec.coop

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