



Volume 82, No. 9 | September 2022

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Clarke Evaluates Latest Metering Technologies

Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) is the latest generation of metering which allows for two-way communication that provides both the utility and the consumer with meaningful data.

Beyond the traditional month-end billing read, the utility can leverage near real-time data to gain operational, financial, and customer service benefits. Some of these benefits include power outage notifications and restoration support, alternate rate offerings, and access to data that advances energy efficiency programs and engineering analytics.

Currently Scott Davis, meter technician, and Bernie Olshausen, engineering consultant, are analyzing

drive data they collected across our service area to assess the performance of the CAT M1 cellular network.

The existing cellular network is a practical means of communicating with our meters that circumvents the build out and maintenance of owning our own communications network. 58-12-06-01

It's no surprise that there are many areas across our



BRAD WILSON
Manager of Engineering



SCOTT DAVIS
Meter Technician

continued on page 3

**ANNUAL MEETING
SEPT. 12**

3-5 PM

Drive thru open for members unable to attend business meeting

5 PM

In-person business meeting in warehouse

Attendance gifts, popcorn and water handed out during drive thru event

Hot dogs, chips and cookies served after business meeting

Call (800) 362-2154 or email us at clarke@cecnet.net if you plan to attend

**CASH
PRIZE
DRAWINGS**



PLEASE JOIN US!

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during September to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

Need Help with Heating Bills?

The 2022-2023 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs during winter. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income (for all household members 19+).
- Income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial.
- Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Most recent heat bill *and* electric bill

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

PROOF OF INCOME:

- Wage Earners: Bring copies of check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of federal income tax return.
- Fixed Income: May include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family

Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

- Self-Employed/Farmers: Bring a copy of most recent federal income tax return.
- FIP Recipients: Bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

Questions? Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa> or write to:

LIHEAP
IA Dept. of Human Rights
321 E. 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

You can also contact South Central Iowa Community Action Program
114 S. Fillmore, Ste. 2
Osceola, IA 50213
(641) 342-2101
decatur@scicap.org
www.scicap.org

Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260

For households with more than eight members, add \$9,440 for each add'l member.

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, silence your phone's ringer or pull over if the text can't wait.



Questions or Complaints?

Clarke Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint.

If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154 or clarke@cecnet.net. You can also write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, IA 50213.

If your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from the Iowa Utilities Board, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; (877) 565-4450 or customer@iub.iowa.gov.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for the ENERGY STAR® label.





With harvest season right around the corner, Clarke Electric wants to remind its members about the importance of being safe while working long hours. Staying alert, focused and prepared for any potential hazards could potentially save a life. Here are some important safety tips to help you stay safe on the farm working around electricity:

contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Clarke Electric.

If contact is made with a power line:

- Stay on the equipment.
- Make sure to warn others to stay away and call 911.
- Do not leave until the utility crew arrives and says it is safe to do so.
- The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire.
- If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment, extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance from electric lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent

Co-op Considers Updating Meter Network ...from pg. 1

service territory where the cellular coverage is inadequate for making a phone call or surfing the internet. The CAT M1 cellular network sacrifices data transmission speed and volume for extended coverage area. This network was specifically designed for transmitting small packets of data for industrial applications, like a meter reading.

Clarke Electric anticipates completing our performance evaluation and selecting a meter vendor by the end of the year. A contractor will be utilized to change out all our electric meters thereafter. Watch for project updates in our monthly newsletter. 23-18-01-50

WANTED

Rural Iowa high school students who have a passion for leadership





Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

IowaYouthTour.com

Looking Out for You:

July Outages

Unknown – 7	Lightning – 4	
Animal/bird – 6	Customer caused – 3	
Equipment/Maintenance – 5	Construction – 1	
Trees – 5		



WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ cecnet.net

- 
 Statewide outage map
- 
 Leased Light Program
- 
 SmartHUB
- 
 Rebates & Online Forms
- 
 Operation Round-UP
- 
 Call Before You Dig
- 
 Email newsletters
- 
 RECARE

Co-op Crews Build New Lines to Maintain System

Clarke Electric line crews have been busy recently building new three phase lines for a tie line between Humeston and Derby substations. At the same time, they have also been working on building new service lines to supply electricity to the new Iowa Select Farms facility in southern Clarke County. Both projects will increase our system reliability and our ability to redirect or shed load when necessary in order to maintain balance between the substations.



Clarke Electric linemen backstring new power line conductors onto the new three phase poles.



Line crews work to hang the power line conductors on each power pole prior to pulling it through to the right tension.



Considering solar? Call Us First

As solar gains popularity, we want to be sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system can impact your current account and billing rate.

Call us at (800) 362-2154 to discuss your options before investing in solar.



ATTENTION
Electric heat users
The heat plus rate
will go into effect
Oct. 1



CLARKE
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



P.O. Box 161 | 1103 N. Main | Osceola, IA 50213-0161
 (641) 342-2173 | (800) 362-2154
 cecnet.net

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM | Outside depository available 24/7

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.