


CLOSED Circuit

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Official Publication of



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mark your calendar for
CEC's Annual Meeting:
September 12, 2011



Clarke Electric offices
will be closed
for Memorial Day
on Monday, May 30.

World's Largest Turkey Hatchery Breaks Ground Hatchery Purchases 26 acres from Clarke Electric



Clarke GM Bill Freeman, Governor Brandstad, and Mike Meissen (IADG).

Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc., purchased 26 acres from Clarke Electric Cooperative on which they will build the world's largest turkey hatchery. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

The 87,000-square-foot building is expected to be completed in December 2011. The hatchery will employ 50 people and hopefully contract with production farms in the rural community. Approximately 50 million turkeys will be hatched per year.

"We are excited to be a part of bringing new ag-related jobs to the community," said CEC General Manager Bill Freeman. "Economic development is one of our core principles—what is good for our members is good for Clarke Electric Cooperative." 4-36-03-00

Valley of the Moon is a division of Aviagen Turkeys, which is headquartered in West Virginia.



Groundbreaking ceremony attendees included Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Governor Brandstad, and officials from Aviagen and Valley of the Moon.

Energy Smart, Community Minded™

**Economic development is important to us.
Cooperatives are proud of the fact that collectively,
we impact every county in Iowa.
We are committed to growing and developing
the regions in which we serve.**

Committee Nominates Candidates for CEC Board

Your Board of Directors is elected by and from the membership of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Three seats are up for election this year and will be elected at the Annual Meeting on September 12. You can exercise your right to vote by mailing in a ballot or coming to the meeting to vote and enjoying a free meal and entertainment. Districts up for election this year are: District 2—Randy Gaumer, District 6—Bill Willis, and District 9—Larry Jackson.

District 2 is made up of the following townships: Monroe and Walnut (Madison County); New Hope, Jones, and Pleasant (Union County); Union (Ringgold County); Madison, Troy, and Doyle (Clarke County), and Richland (Decatur County). District 6 includes the following townships: White Oak and Virginia (Warren County). District 9 is made up of the following townships: Lincoln and Benton (Lucas County); Union, Clay, Benton, Corydon, Jefferson, Warren, Jackson, Clinton, and Grand River (Wayne County); and Morgan (Decatur County).

According to Cooperative bylaws, each director may serve up to five terms (15 years) if reelected by the membership each three-year term. Any verified member of the eligible districts may add his or her name to the ballot by presenting a petition consisting of 15 member signatures within the district. This petition must be turned in to the CEC office at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Director candidate election: The process

of selecting a slate of director candidates is taken from the Cooperative bylaws. The following are excerpts about director candidate nominations and election.

Selection 2. Qualifications and Tenure. "... No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who is not a bonafide resident in the area served by the Cooperative, who is married to an employee of the

Cooperative, or who has been an employee or married to an employee within the past three years, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. When a membership is held jointly by two or more natural persons, either one, but not both, may be elected director."

Selection 3. Nomination and

Election of Directors.

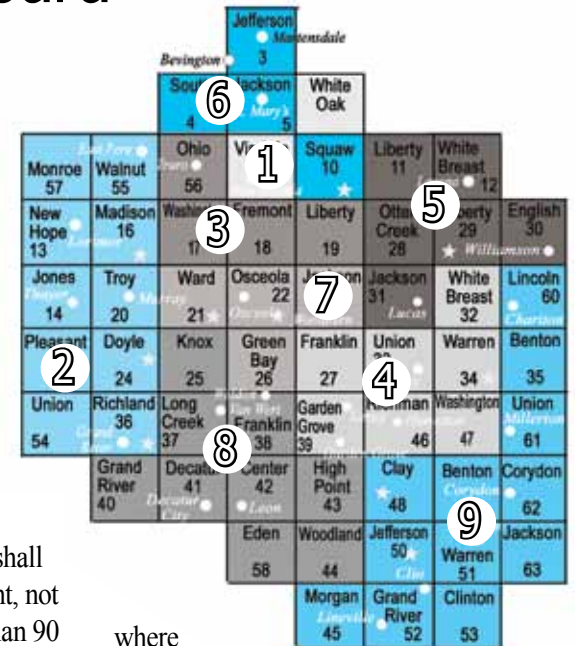
(a) Nomination of Directors. "It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days before the date for the meeting of members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations. . . Said committee shall consist of two members from each of the districts where the terms are to expire following the annual meeting. A director of the cooperative who is ineligible to be a candidate because of tenure, may be appointed to this nomination committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least 45 days before the meeting, a list of the nominees for directors. The committee shall nominate not less than two candidates for each district for which a director is to be elected. Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 45 days prior to the meeting, and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place

where

the list of nominations

made by the committee is posted, providing that said nominations made by petitions shall be limited to members from the district for which a director is to be elected, and the petitioners must also be from said district.

(b) Election of Directors "Election of directors shall be by printed ballot. The ballot shall list the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations and by petition, if any, arranged by the districts. The secretary shall mail a ballot marked "Ballot for Election of Directors" and a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee and . . . by petition. The statement shall also contain and inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section."



A nominating committee will meet in June to select candidates to run against incumbent directors from Districts 2, 6 and 9. If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, you may contact our office at 800-362-2154 or contact a member of the nominating committee.

71 years of answering the call

MARCH OUTAGES

- Equipment failure—1
- Lightning—2
- Maintenance—1
- Motor vehicle—1
- Tree overhang—3
- Other—1



Avoid Peak Hours

Peak hours are the busiest times when many people use electricity at the same time. It is more expensive for Clarke Electric to purchase electricity when demand soars during peak periods—and the cost of your electricity also may rise. Obviously, using less electricity during peak periods can save Clarke Electric Cooperative—and you—money.

You can help during peak hours, generally the hottest summer days between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

- Shift household chores away from peak periods.
- Buy Energy Star® labeled appliances.
- Close your drapes, especially facing west.
- Get into the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.
- If using central air, turn your thermostat up a few degrees during peak times and when no one is home.

Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You'll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants—and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is William S. Freeman, general manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feel that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal-opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Plant Seeds of Caution Around Power Lines

The risk of electrocution remains one of the greatest hazards on Iowa farms.

I-35 Junior Is Youth Tour Winner

The winner of Clarke Electric's Youth Tour competition is Rachel Brownlee of I-35 High School. Two high school juniors competed for the Clarke Electric-sponsored all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Rachel Brownlee and Thomas Slade submitted papers on the topic: What a rural electric cooperative means to me and my community.

Rachel and Thomas were interviewed by a panel of three judges: John Allen (SWIREC), Mary Roach (Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives), and Mindy Oswald (SWCC adjunct teacher).

Brownlee will join 40 other Iowa students for a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. in June. She will join approximately 1,000 students from across the United States to learn about their country, meet with representatives, and visit historical sites.



High school juniors Thomas Slade and Rachel Brownlee (front) meet with contest judges Mary Roach, John Allen, and Mindy Oswald.

CEC Awarded for Energy-Efficiency Initiatives

CEC received an award from CIPCO at their annual meeting recently held in Des Moines. Clarke Electric Cooperative was recognized for their adoption of new energy-efficiency initiatives in 2010. 34-02-01-01



Posing with Clarke Electric's award are Russ Steven (CIPCO), Kevin Foley (CEC), Jason Gibbs (CEC), Pat Murphy (CIPCO).

TAKE TIME TO THINK what to do if you make contact with a power line

If farm machinery or moving equipment comes in contact with a power line, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If this is not possible, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time.

Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.

Farm electrical safety is never out of season!



(Above) Jason Gibbs and board members represented Clarke Electric Cooperative in Des Moines for REC Day on the Hill. (Right) Touchstone Energy® representatives shed a little light.

REC Day on the Hill

Representatives from Clarke Electric Cooperative were in Des Moines when Governor Branstad signed HF 267 into law. This bill supports the ability of rural electric cooperatives to promptly build or repair equipment following storm damage. This ability will ensure that member-consumers can count on the safe, reliable delivery of electricity following a natural disaster.

HF 267 will reduce costly government restrictions on construction in potentially historic properties by making Iowa law no more restrictive than federal law. Prior to the passage of HF 267, state law exceeded the intent of the federal law, and this placed costly delays on storm recovery projects.

The legislation had strong bi-partisan support throughout the legislative process and was one of the first five bills signed by Governor Terry Branstad in the 2011 legislative session.

“This legislation was a common-sense solution to a real world situation,” said Bill Freeman, general manager. “We appreciate the support we received throughout the process from our elected officials.”

Due to the passage of HF 267, electric cooperatives will meet the requirements of the law to protect historic sites in future storm recovery efforts, and they will also be able to move more nimbly to repair and recovery services for our member-consumers.



Reading Pays!

Look for your hidden account number in this issue and call during May to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.



Representative Abdul-Samad Visits CEC

Representative Ako Abdul-Samad of Des Moines traveled to Clarke Electric Cooperative on February 28 to attend our monthly Board meeting. Discussion topics included the cooperative business model, current energy issues, and specific issues related to the demographics of our member-consumers.

“We appreciate Representative Abdul-Samad’s willingness to learn more about energy issues facing rural Iowans,” said Board President Frank Riley. “Even though he is an urban legislator with a district in the heart of Des Moines, he is dedicated to serving not only his constituents, but the entire state of Iowa. We hope that other urban legislators take similar steps in understanding the impact rural Iowa has on their districts and constituents. We thank Rep. Abdul-Samad for his time, interest in energy issues, and dedication to the state.”



Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., exists to professionally serve our members’ changing needs, enhancing quality of life through leadership in community development and providing service excellence for our members’ energy requirements.

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Our Web site: www.cecnet.net

Board of Directors: Tom Carson, Osceola; Ralph Evans, Decatur; Randy Gaumer, Murray; Larry Jackson, Clio; Paul Keller, New Virginia; Kyle Kelso, Weldon; Marilyn Marsh, Lucas; Frank Riley, Osceola; Bill Willis, New Virginia.

Bill Freeman, Manager

Don Lange, Manager of Operations and Engineering

Dave Opie, Manager of Finance

Jodee Eckels, Editor

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7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

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