



NEWS *Lines*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

AUGUST 2026

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**Our offices will be
closed Monday,
September 7 in
observance of
Labor Day.**

2026 MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

**Please join us from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.
Bring the postcard you receive in the mail
to register for prizes!**

**Pork Chop & Hot Dog Meals
Blue Bunny Ice Cream Treats
Bouncy Houses & Games
Adult & Kid Prize Drawings**

O'Brien County
August 20
O'Brien County
Fairgrounds
555 3rd St.
Primghar

Plymouth County
August 25
Plymouth County
Fairgrounds
500 4th Ave NE
Le Mars

Sioux County
September 1
Terrace View
Event Center
230 St. Andrews Way
Sioux Center

Ida County
September 3
Ida County
Fairgrounds
2332 Hwy 59
Ida Grove

2026 Scholarship Winners

North West REC provides several scholarships to high school students each spring. These scholarships are funded by North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a consumer-owned, regional generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Bismarck, N.D., responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to eight Midwestern states.

The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students in the region; it is also an investment in the economic future of rural areas. **This year North West REC awarded seventy scholarships totaling \$32,000.** There were eight \$1,250 scholarships and several \$500 and \$250 scholarships. The \$1,250 scholarship winners were chosen from applications reviewed by our scholarship committee. The \$500 and \$250 scholarship winners were randomly drawn from the remainder of the applicants.

\$1,000 Scholarship Winners



District 1

Elsie Van Beek

Greg & Chris Van Beek
Maurice
Sioux Center High School
Dordt University
Nursing



District 1

Alexa Schouten

Micah & Caryn Schouten
Sioux Center
Western Christian High School
Dordt University
Secondary Education - English



District 2

Alex Griebel

Derek & Jennifer Griebel
Paullina
South O'Brien High School
Iowa State University
Agriculture Business



District 2

Gabe Moermond

Josh & Becca Moermond
Sutherland
South O'Brien High School
Iowa State University
Agriculture Studies



District 3

Paige Clark

David & Mary Jo Clark
Merrill
Hinton High School
University of Northern Iowa
Accounting



District 3

Ruby Thompson

Dallas & Megan Thompson
Kingsley
Kingsley-Pierson High School
Iowa State University
Business



District 4

Billie Rose Oxendale

David & Melissa Oxendale
Arthur
OABCIG High School
University of Missouri
Journalism



District 4

Sydney Schreiber

Andrew & Dawn Schreiber
Ida Grove
OABCIG High School
Iowa State University
Architecture

Awarded \$31,750 in scholarships to 73 students!

\$500 District 1

Bitker, Avery
Bundt, Evelyn
Fedders, Abby
Groen, Sara
Jansma, Cole
Schwarck, Maci
Vanden Berg, Chloe
Vander Stouwe, Jacob
Westergard, Elsie

\$250 District 1

Bosma, Dylan
Brummel, Ty
De Vries, Hoyt
Haverhals, Benjamin

Horkey, Brayden
Hulstein, Aralyn
Jansma, Erica
Klein, Izabella
Pals, Danielle
Van Grootheest, Jaivyn
Vander Stouwe, Boden
Verhoef, Avery
Weber, Kahle
Wielenga, Allison
Winterfeld, Scarlett
Ymker, Rianna

\$500 District 2

Brink, Dirk
Meyer, Sophie

Negus, Austin
Van Beek, Abigail

\$250 District 2

Bullerman, Jesse
Hedberg, Addison
Peelen, Koby

\$500 District 3

Coffee, Logan
Divis, Morgan
Gaswint, Nathan
Kneip, Kaleb
Kovarna, Karlyn
Lassen, Kienna
Loutsch, Micah

Schroeder, Bella
Stoll, Delainee

\$250 District 3

Beeck, Peyton
Begnoche, Sarah
Christoffel, Kade
Divis, Carson
Homan, Aiden
Jager, Callie
Lahrs, Becca
Oelke, Addison
Oelke, Nicholas
Ruba, Alexis
Spenner, Rylie
Steffen, Kaden

Sypersma, Kayla
Wilson, Liam

\$500 District 4

Bral, Jersey
Friedrichsen, Tyler
Volkert, Kady
Weeda, Danny

\$250 District 4

Balder, Zach
Simonsen, Ella

CONGRATS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

One of the great parts of the Switch Makes Cents program is the interruptible all electric heat rate. When your primary and backup heat is all electric, (you have no propane or gas heat), you are eligible for the discounted interruptible all electric heat rate. For this rate you will need a sub meter and a switch installed and hooked up to your heating system. This means that your electric heating & cooling system and water heater's kilowatts will run through your sub meter at the discounted rate. Appliances, lights and anything else plugged into your outlets will still run through your main meter at the regular rate. Other equipment that can be hooked up to your switch includes irrigators, generators, and electric vehicle chargers.

Operation Round-Up Report

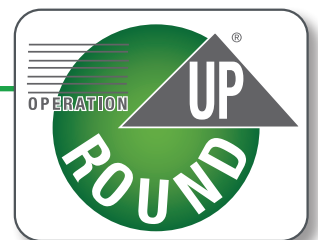
Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the second quarter of 2026 totaled \$12,000. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$851,745 . Many people have been helped thanks to our members contributions.

\$2,750 Medical Emergencies - assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries

\$9,250 Alton in Motion, Crittenton Center, Floyd Valley Foundation, Hope Haven, Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Justice for All, Kids Kampus Daycare, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Midwest Honor Flight, Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Versova Community Foundation

Operation Round Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, and dollars are used to assist worthy causes and organizations right in your local area.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round-Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call our office or visit our website for more information or to sign up. To receive an application of assistance, please call the office at 800-766-2099 or visit our website nwrec.coop.



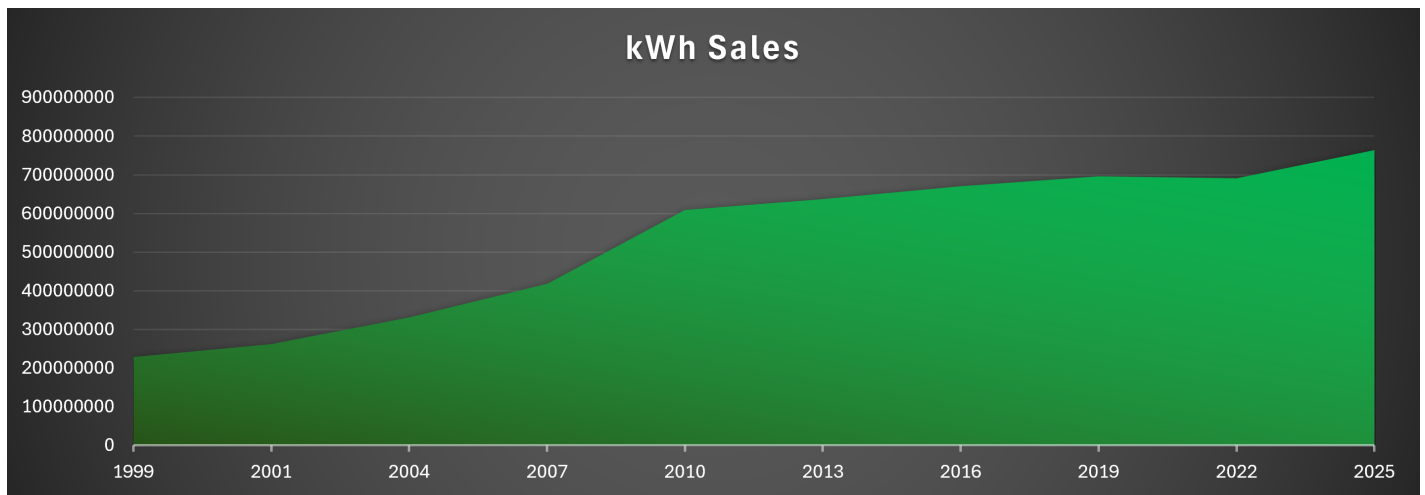


Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

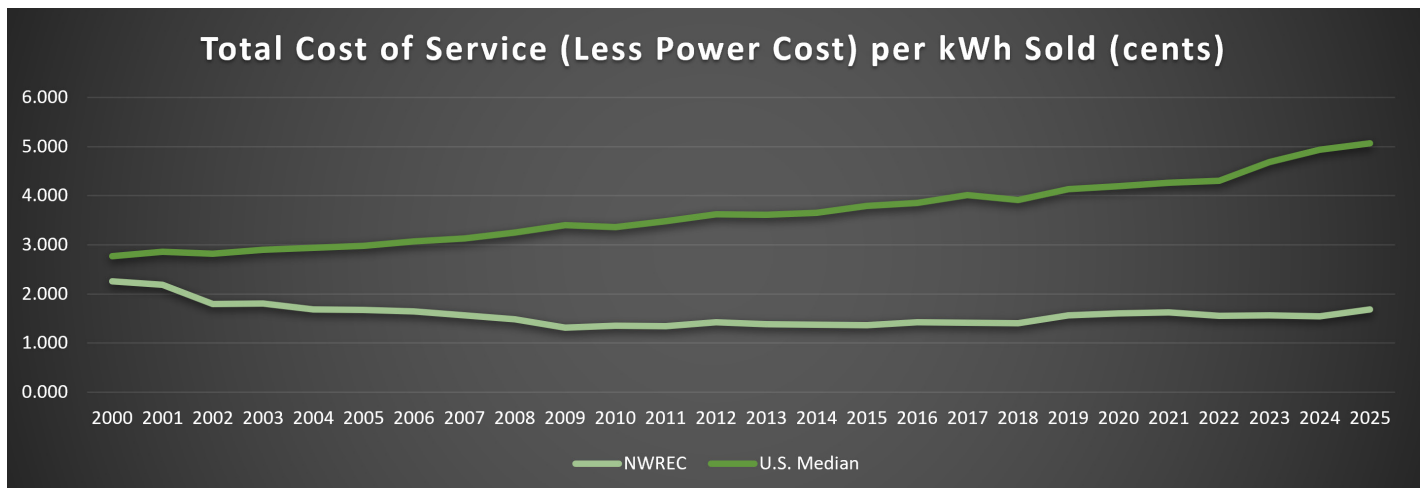
Load Growth Benefits for NWREC & Our Members What About Data Centers?

Your Cooperative has experienced significant load growth and increasing kilowatthour (kWh) sales over the course of the last 25 years. The graph below illustrates the increasing kWh sales that we have seen.



What has caused this load growth? We are fortunate to have a very progressive service area here in northwest Iowa. We serve four ethanol plants, a number of dairies, egg laying facilities, manufacturing facilities, hog buildings, housing developments and other types of electric loads. As a result, our area has grown economically and NWREC has experienced kWh sales growth.

Has load growth been a good thing for North West REC (NWREC) and our members? This next graph clearly shows how this has been a positive thing for your Cooperative and the members by helping to keep electric rates lower than they would have been if we had not had load growth.



It shows that our costs for distributing or delivering the kWh, from the substations to our members, on a cost per kWh basis, is less than it was 25 years ago. It also shows that our costs are well below the average of all the REC's in the U.S. Even though our electric rates have increased recently, they are still in the lowest 5% of the 800 REC's in the U.S. in terms of electric revenue per kWh sold.

Are there other benefits that come from load growth? The other primary benefit NWREC has gained from load growth is improvements in our service reliability. The growth in new load, has lead to significant enhancements to the NIPCO substation and transmission system, and also to our distribution system. A significant portion of this investment has been funded through the three-phase rates that are paid by our larger loads. It has enabled our system to be able to feed lines from multiple sources in the event of service interruptions and our service reliability has steadily improved as a result.

What about data centers? There continues to be a lot discussion about data centers.

We have gained some experience about the type of load that data centers are, by serving three relatively small crypto facilities the last couple of years. The load is very steady and actually accounted for nearly 10% of our total sales in 2025.

We have been approached by some smaller, AI type of data centers in recent months. These are referred to as edge or distributed data centers - not the very large, hyper- scale types that you may have heard about in other areas. Those large facilities are instead looking to locate near generating plants. For example, there is data center being proposed in eastern Iowa that would locate near a former nuclear plant that will potentially start up again, if this load materializes. So they would likely not look to locate in our service area, as we have limitations from a transmission and substation standpoint in terms of the size of loads we are able to serve without significant investments.

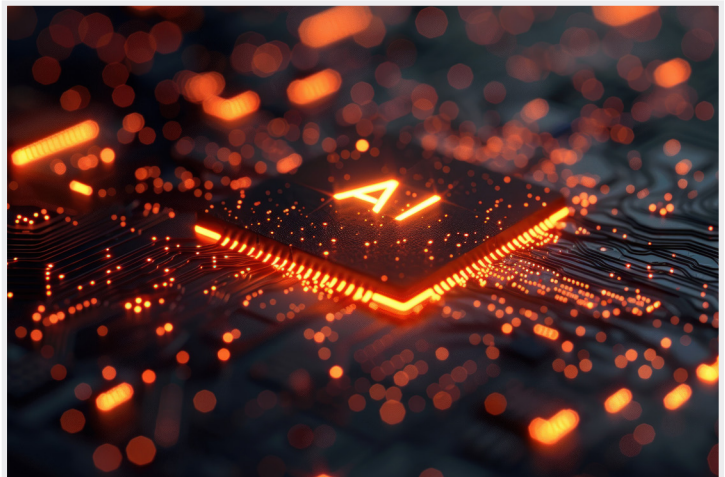
It's important to note that if a very large data center did want to pursue building one in our area, they would be required to pay for the required generation and transmission upgrades. Our power suppliers have implemented a Large Load policy for these types of loads that requires them to pay a contribution-in-aid-of-construction. The purpose of this policy is to insulate our members from rate pressures that could result from these kinds of required large investments.

The edge or smaller data centers referenced earlier, that we could potentially serve, would be sited next to substations where we have available capacity. One example is a site that was prepared for development over 15 years ago and the load never materialized. The infrastructure is in place and it would be beneficial for the Cooperative to gain a new load to use that available infrastructure and provide a consistent source of revenue. Another site that is being considered would be served by a substation that had load on it for over 20 years, but the load is now idled.

We recognize there are many questions related to data centers such as how much noise is produced and how much water is consumed. While we don't have the specifics on this, we do know that the smaller crypto ones that we currently serve have not generated noise complaints and have not consumed a lot of water. They continue to work on developing closed loops systems to minimize the use of water.

AI is increasingly becoming a part of our everyday life. For example, robotic surgeries, Google searches, medical data storage, shopping and travel assistance. The benefits of AI will only seem to grow in the future.

It's important to note also that as an electric utility with an assigned service area in Iowa, we do have the obligation to serve these loads if they are in compliance with state and local rules and our established policies. Please contact me or any of our directors if you have questions or concerns. We can assure you that we will continue to monitor these developments and pursue these potential types of loads only if it will be beneficial to the Cooperative and our members.



Call the Office to Claim Your Property

North West REC, located at 1505 Albany Place SE, Orange City, IA 51041 is holding unclaimed property (resulting from a refund or patronage dividend) due to the persons listed below. Please call 1-800-766-2099 to claim this property or to update a mailing address. If you know someone listed please tell them to call the office. The person listed, or their beneficiary, must call the office themselves to claim the property.

A

Anderson, Paul
Anderson, Russ
Andresen, Skyler J.

B

Bader, Henry R. Jr.
Baker, Stephanie L.
Bakker, Bailey K.
Bauder, Charles
Behrendsen, Allison
Bell, Amber L.
Bertrand, Joel
Bi Vet Medica
Black, Brent
Blackmore, Casey
Blankers, Lavonne
Boone, Ken
Bos, Karl J.
Brandsma, Russell
Breuer, Glennis
Brodie, Beverly
Brown, Michele L.
Burcham, Harold
Burgers, Jacob M.

C

Campbell, Donald R.
Cao, Jian-Zhe
Chancellor, Brian
Coetzer, Gert J.
Collins, Erin J.

D

Deiterman, Leo
Demmer, Steve
Denney, John
Derocher, Adam
Diischer, Travis
Dodge, Justin J.
Dorhout, Scott E.
Doxtad, Daniel

Duenas, Ofelia
Duncan, Catherine
Dykstra, Todd A.

E

Eacret, Daniel
Ebert, Eric
EE Pork LLC
Ehlers, Keri
Emery, Daniel E.
Enstrom, Floyd

F

Feekes, LTD
Finch, Mrs. Ralph Jr.
Flammang, Roger
Floyd E. Pfaffle Trust
Fuller, Robert

G

G & D Pork LLC
Goodburn, Alexander J.
Gordon, Jeffrey D.
Grant, Jerry R.
Grant, John
Graves, Alan
Green Acres Drive Inn
Gregory, Paul

H

Hall, Sandy
Halman Construction
(The Ridge)
Hansen, Karissa M.
Hansen, Kay
Hanson, Chad A.
Haring, Fred Jr.
Harms, Dennis F.
Hayden, Ted
Hegstrom, Amy J.
Herbst, Dorothy

Hernandez, Leticia
Hoffman, Theo M.
Holles Farms Inc
Huenecke, Bobby
Huisman, Dennis
Hulstein, Glenn
Hunter, Molly M.

J

Jansma, Nathan L.
Johnson, Lois
Johnson, Matthew J.

K

Kahl, Nancy L.
Keairns, Kathy
Keane, Edward J.
Keck, B.G.
Kellen, Ray H.
Kellen, Tonia E.
Kemner, Stanley
Kempers, Travis
Knie, Jennie L.
Knobloch, Denis A.
Kobza, Bruce
Kohn, Tom
Krikke, Alice
Kronberg, Leighton P.
Kruse, Josh P.
Kunkel, Dillon J.

L

Larson, Mrs John W.
Lenz, Paul
Leth, Richard
Lopez, Jesus
Lopez, Rodrigo
Lorenz, David
Ludwig, Melvin
Ludwig, Rodney W.
Lundgren, Todd S.

M

Maaland, Sharon
Maassen Pork LLC
Madsen, Stanton
Mallett, Jennifer J.
Maruska, Kyle
Matthews, Peter
Mc Aninch, Duane
Meerbeek, Allen
Menke, Timothy L.
Meyer, Mrs. William
Miller, John E.
Miller, Melva
Mora, Jose D.
Moss, Micah T.
Munguia, Eduardo
Munoz, Carlos

N

Niemeyer, Harold

O

Olson, David L.
Otto, John
Overholt, Martin F.

P

Parks, Susan
Pauling, Sharmalee
Petersen, Curt W.
Peterson, Jamie
Petty, Anthony
Pitkin, Boyd
Postma, Michael D.
Pott, Thelma
Pratt, Mrs. Charles

R

Rahfaldt, Nick
Rassel, Wayne
Rector, Jorrie
Reekers, Angeline



Searching for these members...



Reyman, Lewis
Rich, Chris A.
Ricklefs, Dewayne
Rienfeld, Mike
Ripley, Jerry C.
Robles, Ernesto
Roelfs, Scott A.
Rohlk, Janice
Roseland, Steve
Roslansky, Robert
Rubio, Sanhago
Ruden, Eldon
Rus, Jerry
Rush, Justine L.

S

Sawatzky, Corey
Schirmacher, Joan
Schrader, Melvin
Schuetze, Ja'Nette
Sealine, Adrian

Seaman, Paul J.
Seewalker, Daira K.
Snedeker, Keni
Soppe, Chris A.
Stoutjesdyk, Jim
Swanson, Benjamin
Sweda, Kimberly C.

T

Talbott, Don
Te Grotenhuis, Yvonne
Truemper, Virginia

U

Utesch, Curtis
Utesch, Randy

V

Van Donslear, Corey
Van Engen, Karolyn
Van Es, Kayla

Van Gorp, Belva
Van Sloten, Matthew
Van Tilburg, Nathan A.
Van Veldhuizen, Kaleb M.
Van Veldhuizen, Kevin
Vande Weerd, Bradley J.
Vanden Bosch, Chad E.
Vander Burgh, Cliff
Vander Plas, Theresa
Vaydich, Jeff
Veldhuizen, Charles D.

W

Werner, Walter
Wiersma, Colin J.
Wilde, Don
Wilsbacher, John M.

Outage Text Notification Sign-Up

To help North West REC keep you informed about outages please provide the following info:

Member Information

Full Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Account #: _____

Text Notification Preferences

- ☐ Yes, I would like to receive text notifications about power outages and planned outages.
- ☐ No, I do not wish to receive text notifications.

SmartHub

- ☐ I currently use SmartHub.
- ☐ I do not use SmartHub.
- ☐ I'm not sure if I use SmartHub.

Preferred Mobile Phone Number

Please send outage and planned outage notifications to this number:

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Please return this form to the office.
For faster service, scan the QR code to complete the form on our website.
Questions? Call us at 800-766-2099.



THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How many students received scholarships this year?
2. What is one of the dates of the Member Appreciation Day Events?
3. Name an organization that received an Operation Round-Up donation?

Name _____ Acct. # _____

Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize of \$10 off your electric bill. Send your answers to powerquiz@nwrec.coop or you can send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is September 2. Each month, ten names will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$10 bill credit. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for 2 - \$250 bill credits, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

POWER QUIZ *Winners*

JUNE 2026

Alex Crosgrove - Le Mars
Vernice Rahbusch - Sutherland
Dennis Oldenkamp - Sheldon
Dennis Teut - Hinton
Marilyn Hofland Straub - Hospers

Jana Fitzgerald - Le Mars
Howard Van Engen - Hawarden
Joel Ludwigs - Le Mars
Brad Roepke - Kinglsey
Frank De Kok - Primghar



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Name one appliance that can be hooked up to your switch:

Answer: _____

Name _____ Acct. # _____

What do you know about the Switch Makes Cents program? Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize. Send your answers to switchsmart@nwrec.coop, fill out the question form online, or send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is September 2. Each month, one name will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$25 bill credit.

North West Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 435
1505 Albany Place SE
Orange City, IA 51041-0435

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Le Mars office
open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday through Thursday

Ida Grove office
open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays

PHONE:
(800) 766-2099

24/7 outage reporting using the SmartHub app or nwrec.smarthub.coop Or call 800-766-2099 anytime

Pay your bill online any-time using SmartHub



Outside Depository Box Available For After Hours Payments at all locations

This institution is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Lyle D. Korver
CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz
Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde
Editor



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!