



2022 4-H Fair

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. sponsors awards annually at multiple local 4-H fairs in our coverage area to encourage youth to explore the power and possibilities of electricity. Pictures and results here are from Hancock County. 571-16 It is our hope to ignite interest in the field for a future career as a lineworker, engineer, or other electrical-related profession.

Exhibitor's Name	Award Sponsored by WIEC
Grady Henson	Best Electricity Project Overall
Lily Lionberger	Best Cooking Project Overall
Lily Lionberger	Best Photo Editing Project
Sierra Lucie	Best Clothing Fashion Revue
Addison McClellan	Poultry Junior Showmanship
Alivia Rose	Best Visual Arts Wood Project
Connor Roskamp	Best Cooking 201 Project Overall
Sarah Stinemates	Best Visual Arts Chalk/Carbon/Pigment



Grady Henson
Best Electricity Project Overall 



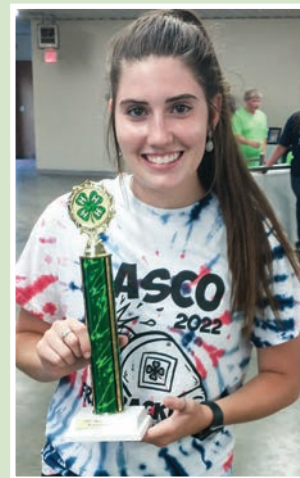
Addison McClellan
Poultry Junior Showmanship



Alivia Rose
Best Visual Arts Wood Project



Lily Lionberger
Best Cooking Project Overall
Best Photo Editing Project



Sierra Lucie
Best Clothing Fashion Revue



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Mark Burling** —
President, Carthage
- **Rob Gronewold** —
Vice President, Carthage
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- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and
Accounting Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

WIEC will be closed on September 5th in observance of Labor Day. In case of a power emergency, please call 217-357-3125. If busy, please hang up and call 800-576-3125.

WIEC Board approves capital credit retirement

Manager Todd Grotts is pleased to report that the WIEC Board of Directors has once again approved capital credit retirements for this fall. A refund of over \$256,000 was approved earlier this year. This will retire the capital credits from both 1990 and 1991. The Board (directed by co-op bylaws and separate co-op policy) can only approve the retirement of capital

credits when it will not adversely impact the cooperative's financial condition. Keep your eyes out for checks to arrive in late September or early October. **561-43**

Capital credits represent the cooperative members' equity in (or ownership of) their cooperative. Your credit for a specific year reflects your individual portion of any margins (a.k.a. profits) earned that year by the cooperative.

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 models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy



The power of preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.)
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and co-workers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor

to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medications and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keeping four-legged family members safe

Having a plan in place for pets in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will also help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can

become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.

- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location. **6621-26**
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Western Illinois Electrical Coop. we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

What is a Generator TRANSFER SWITCH?



A transfer or throw switch, sometimes called a double throw switch, is an essential mechanism that shuts off power to the grid before backup power is used.

The transfer switch has an important job.

The switch is typically used for generators rated at 5,000 watts or more.

It connects the generator to your home's main circuits to provide backup power during an outage.

In other words, the transfer switch changes or transfers the power load from one source to another.

It prevents power from backfeeding into the power grid and endangering utility workers and others.

The type of switch depends on the type of generator.

A permanent standby generator has an internal switch that

automatically transfers the source of power. Standby generators must be installed by licensed contractors, usually at the side of a home.

Standby generators are called just that because they automatically turn on when the power goes out.

Not all permanently installed generators are standby versions. Some have manual transfer switches. Make sure your permanent generator and switch are installed to code and working properly.

Portable generators can also be connected to your home's electrical service panel that is properly wired through a transfer switch. If you use a portable generator, never plug it into a wall outlet as this can cause backfeed.

Always use a generator safely.

Learn more at:



Five Easy Ways to Exercise Your Civic Duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Western Illinois Electrical Coop, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is a locally-owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is September 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you're looking to get involved or simply to make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty. **6511-15**

1. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date.

Visit www.vote.coop, then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.

2. Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.

3. Get active on social media. Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and let others know you're a #coopvoter and #VoteReady; encourage your friends and family to do the same.



National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 20







Visit www.vote.coop to ensure you're #voteready.

4. Help others prepare to vote.

Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events), volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.

5. Vote! It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote and help others in our community get #VoteReady.

We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.

Welcome New Members

- Rachel Bebb
- Adam W. Bollin
- John Crofoot
- Stephanie Denny
- Kim Ferguson
- Sawyer Flynn
- Irish & Todd Farms LLLP
- Matthew Irish & Breanna Henze
- Ross Jingt & Donna Vie
- George Schaaf
- Mark Schudlach
- Lisa & James Trent, Riverview
- Nauvoo
- Trioak Foods, Inc.

**June
2022**