



# Corn Belt Power Cooperative sees record demand in August

It was hot across Corn Belt Power's service territory in August and the cooperative has the numbers to prove it. On August 23, peak demand reached just more than 336 megawatts (MW), making it an all-time summer peak for Corn Belt Power.

"The August peak occurred due to multiple days of high temperatures and humidity," said Jacob Olberding, vice president, power supply, Corn Belt Power. "The heat index was 116 degrees Fahrenheit in Humboldt on the peak day. High overnight temperatures also contributed to higher loads."

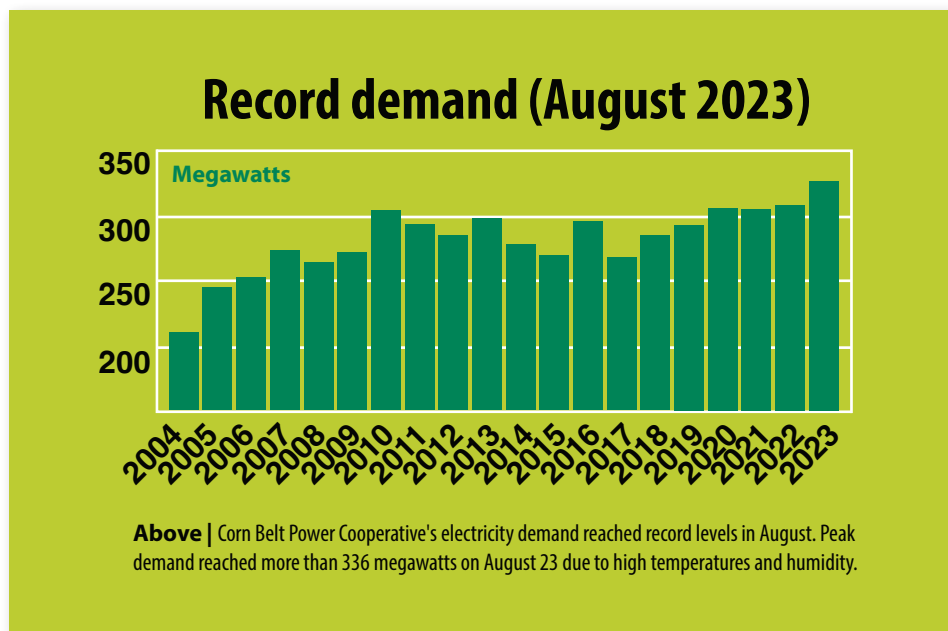
Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the cooperative's regional transmission operator, called for multiple resource and conservative operations advisories throughout the month. SPP experienced a new region-wide peak on August 21. SPP's all-time peak of 56,184 MW occurred at 4:27 p.m. and was more than five percent higher than last year's all-time peak demand. The organization issued resource and conservative operations advisories due to low wind production and high loads across its service territory.

**During the SPP peak time, the largest contributors of energy were as follows:**

**Gas 24,099 MW**  
**Coal 18,458 MW**  
**Wind 8,361 MW**

Both Wisdom Station units were called to run in August. Wisdom Unit One ran nine times, while Wisdom Unit Two ran five times.

"We had some pretty good runs in August," said Patrick Connor, plant manager, Corn Belt Power. "We went the whole month of July with no run calls for either



**Above |** Corn Belt Power Cooperative's electricity demand reached record levels in August. Peak demand reached more than 336 megawatts on August 23 due to high temperatures and humidity.

unit showing how different our run profile can be month-to-month."

Olberding said he is happy with the way Wisdom Station employees answered the call when needed.

"Wisdom Station's role is to operate reliably during times when the grid is under the most stress," he said. "The month of August was a huge success for Wisdom Station. They maintained 100 percent availability throughout the month, they met all their start times and operated through all their runs as expected without any trips or derates, and they did that all with a high degree of safety. This is all due to the efforts of Wisdom Station personnel. Management, operations, and maintenance staff all worked together to ensure both units remained safe, available, and reliable no matter what adverse circumstances they encountered."

Load management played a key role in

reducing energy demand throughout the month. On the peak day, Corn Belt Power was able to shave more than 12 MW in demand using its water heater load control, interruptible loads and new battery energy storage system. Corn Belt Power and its member-systems saved almost \$250,000 in August due to load control. ■



**Above |** Carlos Garcia, shift operator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, adjusts sealing steam on Wisdom Unit 1 during August operations.

# With Sympathy Dennis Anderson

Corn Belt Power and its employees were saddened by the sudden passing of longtime information technology administrator Dennis Anderson Saturday afternoon, Sept. 16.

Dennis began his Corn Belt Power career in 2007. Dennis also served on the board of the Power Coop Employee Credit Union as a past president. He enjoyed board gaming with his friends, computer games, Mustangs, nature, music, pizza and road trips with the wind through his hair on a motorcycle.

“Dennis was always at work early, stayed late, worked on the weekends and helped others with computer issues outside of Corn Belt Power,” said Karen Berte, senior vice president, finance and administration, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. “He was dedicated to making sure things ran as smoothly as possible in the IT area. I will always remember how so very proud of his son,



Darron, he was.”

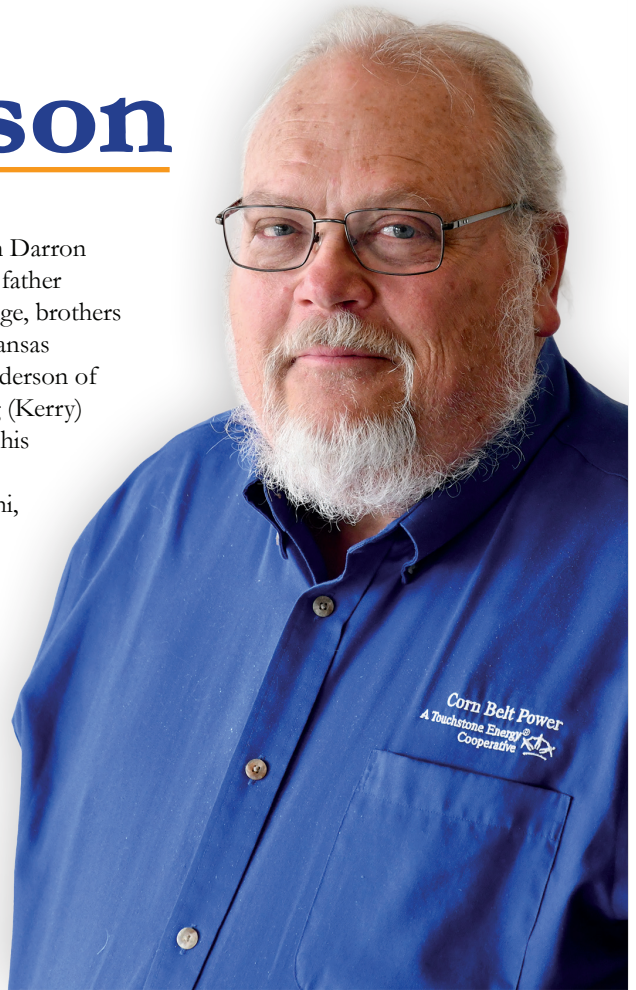
Dennis is survived by his son Darron Anderson of Cedar Rapids, his father Eugene Anderson of Fort Dodge, brothers David (Ronda) Anderson of Kansas City, Missouri, Rob (Mindy) Anderson of

Fort Dodge and Greg (Kerry) Anderson of Badger, his father-in-law Louis R. “Ron” Taggart of Lehi, Utah, sister’s-in-law Marcee (Nathan) Corley of Eagle Mountain, Utah and Ashlee (Michael) Shaw of Lehi, Utah, as well as

many nieces and

nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Martha and his mother-in-law Sally Taggart.

Our sympathies are with Dennis’s family during this difficult time. ■



## Albright and Vote become journeyman electricians

As of September 1, Joe Albright and Peyton Vote each completed the on-the-job training and coursework to become journeyman electricians. The duo had previously completed customizable programs through Northwest Lineman College used for an apprentice-leading-to-journeyman through digital or paper manuals, study guide activities, and training videos. The curriculum is modern, up-to-date, and makes difficult concepts easy to understand, thus maximizing student learning and retention. Congratulations, Joe and Peyton. ■



Joe Albright



Peyton Vote



Above | RVEC annual meeting Sept. 6.

## RVEC holds annual meeting

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

During the meeting, members re-elected Karen Werner and Dave Onken to the board of directors. Onken also serves as Corn Belt Power’s board president. Onken has been an RVEC director since 1998 and Werner since 2011.

Following the meeting, the board organized officers as follows:

- Dave Onken, President
- Steve Schable, Vice President
- Mark Ludwig, Secretary/Treasurer
- Karen Werner, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

# Large crowd at Grundy

Grundy County REC held its annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7 inside the cooperative's garage.

More than 260 members turned out for the event. The Grundy County Cattlemen provided ribeye steak sandwiches for dinner. Director Larry Rohach ran unopposed for another three-year term. The membership elected Roger Brown in the cooperative's sixth district to a new three-year term.

The elected board officers remained the same:

- Nick Strohbahn, President
- Kevin Pruisner, Vice President
- Matt Kopriva, Secretary
- Norbert Boyle, Treasurer
- Jason Paper, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer ■



Above | Grundy County REC annual meeting

# Communities receive loans for housing projects

Midland Power Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative and the Humboldt County Development Association (HCDA) partnered with Humboldt County Housing Development Corporation (HCHDC) for the financing of a Homes for Iowa house to be placed in the community of Livermore. Each entity loaned \$65,000 from their respective Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) to fund the project.

In addition to the Livermore project, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Corn Belt Power and HCDA came together to partner with HCHDC for the financing of a Homes for Iowa house to be placed in the community of Gilmore City. ILEC and Corn Belt Power each loaned \$66,667 from their respective RLF and HCDA loaned \$66,666 from their RLF. ■

# Teaming to fund mental health

Midland Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative closed on loans with the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital August 28 for their new mental health and wellness center addition. Midland Power sponsored a REDL pass-through loan from USDA for \$1,224,000 and Corn Belt Power sponsored a REDG loan from USDA for \$360,000.



## Wellness center loan closing

Above | Photographed at the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital mental health and wellness center with loan checks from left are David Speed, Midland Power Cooperative; Steven Benne, Iowa Area Development Group; AJ Mason, Humboldt County Memorial Hospital; and Brittany Dickey, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.



Congratulations to  
**Prairie Energy Cooperative**  
and **Grundy County REC**  
on their high member satisfaction score!

**88**  
plus

Prairie Energy  
Cooperative (89)  
and  
Grundy  
County REC (88)

**71**  
Municipal  
Utilities

**72**  
Investor-  
Owned  
Utilities

Scores for Municipal and Investor-Owned Utilities taken from the syndicated 2023 ACSI® Energy Utilities Study. Results based on data provided by Grundy County REC and Prairie Energy Cooperative, collected in quarter two, 2023. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI® and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

# Cooperatives see high consumer satisfaction scores

Every two years, on behalf of its member-cooperatives, Corn Belt Power conducts an American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey.

As has been the case in each of the last three surveys, Corn Belt Power's member-cooperatives continue to see an increase in member satisfaction. In 2023, the average ACSI score for Corn Belt Power cooperatives increased from 84 to 85. The average score is a full 10 points higher than the national average from electric cooperatives and ranks higher than companies like Apple, Southwest Airlines, Wal-Mart, Facebook and Lowe's.

Two of Corn Belt Power's member-cooperatives ranked in the top 25 nationally for electric cooperatives. Grundy County REC and Prairie Energy each had scores of 88 or above.

Congratulations to all of Corn Belt Power's member-cooperatives for the work they do, keeping power affordable and reliable for rural Iowans. ■

The Corn Belt Power board, member system managers, employees and retirees visit at an open house for the new Humboldt transmission building Aug. 30. Attendees enjoyed dinner and had the opportunity to go through the G&T's new facility.

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**September Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Keaton Hildreth**, chief executive officer, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association, donated his \$100 prize to Grace Fellowship Youth Program, Rockwell City.

## U.S. Representative Feenstra visits Calhoun County ECA territory

Corn Belt Power and Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association were on hand Tuesday, Aug. 29 to meet with U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra at Sparky's, near the newly formed Calhoun County Business Park, Rockwell City. The group discussed economic development, rural power reliability and other issues during the hour-long meeting.



**Rep. Feenstra visits Sparky's**

**Above |** U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra visits with representatives from Corn Belt Power, Calhoun County ECA and the public at Sparky's One Stop outside of Rockwell City Aug. 29. The stop was part of his annual tour and included discussions on issues facing rural communities in Iowa.

The Calhoun County Business Park is located in the heart of west-central Iowa's agricultural region. Four-lane U.S. Highway 20 provides a direct 56-mile drive to Interstate 35 and a 90-mile drive to Interstate 29 from the business park. The dedicated highway interchange near the business park makes it an ideal location for warehousing, distribution, cold storage, and other logistic service providers. ■

## Corn Belt Power Cooperative **Watts Watt**

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