



# Richland County Fair 2019

It is hard to imagine, but the 2019 Richland County Fair is upon us. September 5–9, members of Richland County and surrounding areas will take in the rides, exhibits, tractor pull and demo derby, and of course the fair food. We're thankful for the hard work members of the fair committee as well as all the volunteers put in each year to make the fair a success. For the past few years these people have had to work through some especially challenging conditions. The flooding of the Pine River has caused the fair to be scaled back a couple of times due to saturated grounds. We can only hope that this year the weather will cooperate, and the fair will bring good fortune.

One could argue that scaling back fair attractions and poor weather take the hardest toll on our youngsters. We aren't talking about the little ones who can't go on the rides or play the carnival games although we are sure it is very disappointing to them. We are talking about the young ones who show and sell their animals. Showing animals in the fair is a year-round commitment for many children and young adults. Whether they're showing rabbits or cattle, these young people learn the responsibilities of animal care at a very young age. Most of them are involved in 4-H or FFA.

We are well aware that students who participate in the judging or sale take great pride in their work and are excited to showcase their animals. You can bet that many of the students participating in the sale will save their earnings for their college fund. Many REC directors past and present have said their students participate in animal showing to earn extra money for college. They often echo each other by stating the importance of hard work and responsibility. We would venture to guess that most students take the experience for granted until they arrive at college. Often parents will provide the livestock and their child will work with a specific animal that they plan to sell. If the sale goes well, the student will receive the earnings. We cannot say this is the same for all, of course, but we believe this is the general consensus.

Richland Electric Cooperative has always been an active participant in the fair. We have many members involved in agriculture who are passing along their knowledge to their children. It is especially important to continue supporting the fair with the hardships farmers have faced the last few years. We do our best to purchase at least one animal from the meat animal sale. Last year we were fortunate enough to purchase three as well as the Golden Gallon. REC bought (pictured at left, top to bottom) a Holstein steer from Mackenzie Sebranek, a Black Angus steer from Cora Kleist, a Hampshire hog from Reece Franke, and the Golden Gallon from Wyatt Storms.

No matter what, the Richland County Fair holds a special place in the hearts of its participants, and they are excited for the fair to return in full this year.

# DON'T WAIT

## Be prepared before the storm

**I**t's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers, and your medication.



Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources on hand to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

### Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and

other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

### With Advance Warning

If a severe storm such as a hurricane is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops, and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

### During a Prolonged Outage

In the event of a prolonged outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronic equipment. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration.

That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check Richland Electric Cooperative's Facebook for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs—including on your property.

## Power in Planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and install Richland Electric Cooperative's Facebook app to your phone to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.



Keep an emergency supply kit on hand, with items such as nonperishable foods, flashlights, and batteries.

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OFFERS RULE TO MANAGE POWER PLANT CARBON EMISSIONS



Jim Matheson, CEO,  
National Rural  
Electric Cooperative  
Association

The Trump administration recently issued a rule to reduce power plant carbon emissions. Known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, the new regulation will require power plants to work with state regulators to assess steps that can be taken to cut emissions through energy efficiency improvements.

America's electric cooperatives welcomed the new rule, noting that it is far preferable to an earlier and

far costlier attempt to regulate carbon emissions that ultimately was put on hold by the Supreme Court.

"The ACE rule represents a more flexible path forward that will minimize the cost to consumers and preserve the reliability of the electric grid as electric co-ops work to promote a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"Electric cooperatives have invested billions of dollars in diverse energy sources and emission-reduction technology to meet the electricity needs of their local

communities while protecting the environment," he said. "The ACE rule gives electric cooperatives the ability to adopt evolving technology and respond to market and consumer demands while continuing to serve as engines of economic development for one in eight Americans."

Matheson stressed that the ACE rule will allow electric co-ops to ensure that affordable and reliable power remains available throughout communities.

Power plant emissions have steadily declined due to market forces and evolving consumer expectations.

Nearly 60 percent of the electricity supplied by electric co-ops comes from low- or no-emission energy sources. Electric cooperatives have reduced carbon emissions 9 percent since 2009, even while increasing electric generation by more than 12 million megawatt-hours. And co-ops are investing in research to develop proven carbon capture, storage and reuse technologies that can extend the operation of coal-fueled power plants.

Electric cooperatives work hard to minimize the cost of new regulations to reduce the impact on electric rates for their consumer-members. In this instance, the ACE rule is consistent with our mission to provide consumer-members with safe, reliable, and affordable power, while continuing to reduce emissions and meet other important environmental goals.



## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

**Birthday parties were important for my brothers and me. We looked forward to them because we knew that not only would we have a big birthday cake that my mother baked for us, but we would have some of the neighbors and relatives over for supper. There were candles on the cake to be blown out while everyone sang happy birthday.**

Of course there would be presents, not many presents, because times were tough when my brothers and I were growing up, but we usually received one special present. I will never forget my 12th birthday, the year when I

**I will never forget my 12th birthday, the year I became old enough to buy a hunting license and hunt with my Dad.**

became old enough to buy a hunting license and hunt with my dad. My special present was a hunting knife, which I still have and have used many times over the years. These days, I don't use it, but occasionally look at it and recall the

many memories that it evokes of that special birthday celebration and the many years of tramping through the woods and fields with my father.

Another birthday celebration I have never forgotten did not involve a family member, but a neighbor girl. Kathryn Davis never left the farm, but stayed to take care

of her father when her mother died. Her sisters left and married, but Kathryn stayed home to help. Allen Davis was not a good farmer—he was a better carpenter. He milked a few cows, raised a few acres of corn, oats, hay and potatoes, but scarcely had enough money to put food on the table.

My mother knew the date of Kathryn's birthday, and thought it might be fun to put on a little birthday party for her. By now Kathryn was in her 30s. Mom prepared a birthday cake and invited over some of the neighbors. When they all sang happy birthday, Mom noticed that Kathryn was crying. "This is the first birthday party I ever had," she said. It was a very special birthday celebration, one that Kathryn never forgot. I never forgot either. (Excerpted from *Old Farm County Cook Book*.)



For more about Jerry's writing, go to [www.jerryapps.com](http://www.jerryapps.com).

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