

U.S. Economy's Impact on Rural America

NRECA economists and RE Advisers portfolio managers have published *2020 U.S. Economic Outlook – A Focus on Rural America*, a new report that outlines several issues expected to impact rural electric cooperatives and likely to play a major role in shaping the economic health of the communities they serve. Insights are paired with a broad view of the health of the U.S. economy overall and portfolio management perspectives from RE Advisers.

- **Report**
- **Contacts:**
 - Report: [Russell Tucker](#), NRECA
 - Portfolio Management Perspective: [Dima Awamleh](#), Homestead Funds

Helping Poultry Farms with Voltage Var Optimization

The nearly 240,000 commercial poultry farms in the United States require significant electricity to maintain an optimum production environment. Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., along with four of their member cooperatives, conducted a pilot to determine the effectiveness and value of voltage var optimization (VVO) for several poultry operations. This new report reviews the VVO technology and the lessons learned from this pilot program.

- **Report**
- **Contact:** [Brian Sloboda](#)

Webinar Series Starts Next Week: Mitigating Bird Issues with Electric Infrastructure

With nationwide declines of avian species and potential changes to federal regulations, continued and increased scrutiny of electric industry impacts to birds is expected. Join us for a webinar series on **March 10**,

Upcoming Events

- **Webinar Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**
March 10, 17 & 24
- **Electrification 2020 International Conference & Exposition**
April 6-9, Charlotte, NC
- **Webinar: Communicating Rate Changes**
April 8
- **2020 Safety Leadership Summit**
April 15-17, Orlando, FL
- **EnergySec Education Week**
April 27-May 1, Knoxville, TN
- **2020 Cooperative University:**
 - **Kansas City, Missouri**
April 27–May 1
Technology Planning & Decision Making: Enhancing Core Competencies Across the Cooperative Organization
 - **Nashville, Tennessee**
October 26-30



17 and 24 at 2-3pm EST to hear about emerging avian issues and the new NRECA Avian Protection Toolkit. **Webinar attendance is free for members.**

- **Webinar Information and Registration**
- Contacts: [Patti Metro](#) and [Janelle Lemen](#)

Nolin RECC's Innovative Work with Fort Knox

The Department of Defense (DoD) is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the United States. This case study is the newest in our series showing how co-ops work closely with U.S. military installations, providing electricity and partnering on projects. Read about one of the nation's longest held, and most innovative and technically advanced, Utility Privatization (UP) contract between Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (Nolin RECC) and Fort Knox.

- **Nolin RECC Case Study**
- **Working with the Military Case Study Series**
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

DoD Recognizes Co-op Advantage with Microgrids

Resiliency is especially important to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and with that in mind, the agency recently tapped NRECA for a \$1.9 million grant to apply a standardized, scalable microgrid planning tool to its facilities. NRECA will apply its [Open Modeling Framework](#) to DoD facilities to aid in planning microgrids for resiliency. Find out more in this *CleanTechnica* article:

- **Article**
- Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) (work with the Military) and [David Pinney](#) (OMF)

Best Practice Guidelines for Steam Turbines

This new *Surveillance* article is the first of a two-part series based on the CEATI Thermal Generation Interest Group's report: *Best Practice Guidelines for the Operation of Steam Turbines and Auxiliary Plants*. It discusses the complexity of power plant operation in cycling modes.

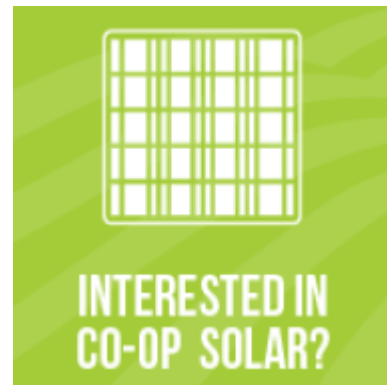
- **Report**
- Contact: [Dan Walsh](#)



National Compensation System 2020 – Discount Pre-Orders by March 31

The National Compensation System (NCS) provides comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member electric cooperatives across the country. This user-friendly system is accessible anywhere via your secure Cooperative.com login and allows users to customize their data search and export individual reports into a variety of formats. **Place your pre-order by March 31 and receive a discount.**

- [More information](#)
- Contact: [Ginny Beauchemin](#)



Webinar April 8: New Approaches to Communicating Rate Changes

More and more co-ops are using innovative rate designs, and communicating new rates to consumer-members can be daunting. Join us **Wednesday, April 8 at 2:00 p.m. ET** for a webinar on designing a strategic communications plan, the value of offering members options, and the value of personalization. Cobb EMC and Mid-Carolina EC, who were featured in our recent case studies, will share important lessons for success.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- [Cobb EMC Case Study](#)
- [Mid-Carolina EC Case Study](#)
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#) and [Allison Hamilton](#)

RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment License Program – Second Round for Applications Now Open

NRECA worked with Axio Global, Inc. to develop an online version of the RC3 Cybersecurity Self-Assessment, providing enhanced features not feasible in the hardcopy version. Co-ops can now apply as a group to receive a free, multi-year group license to access this new online version. Over 300 cooperatives received online access through group licenses in the First Round; and applications for additional cooperatives to participate are welcome in this Second Round until the **deadline of Friday, April 17.**

- [Advisory with More Details and Link to Application](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Contact: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

Discount for EnergySec Cybersecurity Education Week

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program (RC3)

has negotiated a reduced registration fee for our members to attend a week-long cybersecurity training hosted by Energy Sector Security Consortium, Inc. (EnergySec). This training is April 27 - May 1 in Knoxville, TN and designed for utility cybersecurity professionals. Instead of the normal registration fee of \$3,495, members can register for \$2,500 using **Promotional Code 1V63CD**.

- [Agenda and Registration](#)
- [More information on EnergySec](#)
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

Podcast: What's Next for Co-ops and Battery Storage

In the latest episode of *Along Those Lines*, NRECA's Jan Ahlen, Anza Electric Cooperative's Kevin Short and AEPCO's Barry Brown discuss how cooperatives are integrating storage to serve their members.

- [Podcast](#)
- Contact: [Jan Ahlen](#)

Registration Now Open for 2020 Cooperative University

Two dates and locations are available for 2020 Co-op U® and this year's expanded course line-up includes three educational programs: The new Cooperative Career Essentials Program, Supervisor and Manager Development Program, and Certified Key Account Executive Program.

- [April 27-May 1, Kansas City, Missouri](#)
- [October 26-30, Nashville, Tennessee](#)
- Contact: [Brienne McIntyre](#)

2021 TechAdvantage® Call for Presentations is Open

TechAdvantage® 2021 invites you to submit a proposal for presentation during the Conference, which will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, February 21 – 24, 2021. This is an unparalleled opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise with key electric cooperative CEOs and professionals in engineering, operations, IT, supply management and energy services.

- [Website](#)
- Contact: [Mary Ackleson](#)

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This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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