

NEWS MAGAZINE

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A message from our CEO

We consider it a privilege to have served you in 2022 and look forward to 2023 as we provide you with superior customer service and highly reliable electricity that is competitively priced. Our staff is dedicated to continuing our reputation of working with customers on innovative energy solutions and responding quickly when service is requested. We're proud of our accomplishments in 2022 and are excited about the opportunities that await us in 2023.

We have just completed our Budget and Work Plan for 2023 and for the tenth year in a row there will be no increase in our retail rates! Our wholesale power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), has done a tremendous job in stabilizing our wholesale costs and we have been able to manage and control our distribution costs despite the high inflation rates and material shortages experienced in 2022.

We are witnessing electric rate increases throughout the country primarily due to increased natural gas prices. Natural gas is the primary generation resource on the east and west coast and also in Texas. Those parts of the country are experiencing rate increases between 5-15% for 2023. NPPD's

generation mix continues to include a fair amount of coal and nuclear resources which are low-cost, highly reliable and leads to the rate stabilization that we can offer our customers. The latest reports indicate that Nebraska ranks amongst the 10 lowest-cost states for electric prices. In addition, out of 35 rural public power districts and rural electric cooperatives in Nebraska, Southern ranks as the fifth lowest-cost rural utility. We are very proud of our low rates and will work hard to continue to manage our costs and provide our customers with low rates in the years to come.

Challenging us in 2023 will be our management of the material supply chain shortages which are expected to continue from this past year. Delivery time frames for items like transformers, overhead conductor and poles have been extended from a typical 6-8 weeks to 12 months and even longer. Our latest order for service trucks has been delayed from the normal 10-12 months to almost 3 years! Our staff is making the extra effort to plan ahead, use materials wisely and take extra care of our equipment as we work our way through these shortages and delivery delays. We ask our customers to be patient with us as we

work together on constructing new services and upgrading existing ones. There may be an additional wait time for us to respond, but we'll continue to work with you every step of the way to meet your needs.



Neal Niedfeldt,
President/CEO

As we close on another year, I would like to refer you to the board retirement article in this edition, as we say farewell to three of our current board members who have decided to retire from the Board of Directors. We thank them for their service. While we will miss those leaving us, we welcome three new board members who will take office here in January.

We thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2022. The board and our staff look forward to another year where our "public power" model will once again serve us well and allow us to exceed your expectations in 2023!

Three Board Members Retire in 2022



Kevan Reeson is presented with a resolution honoring his 6 years of service to SPPD, by Arlon Jacobitz, Board President.



Marvin Fishler is presented with a resolution honoring his 25 years of service to SPPD, by Arlon Jacobitz, Board President.



Mike Lowry 24 is presented with a resolution honoring his 6 years of service to SPPD, by Arlon Jacobitz, Board President.

On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Mike Lowry, Kevan Reeson, and Marvin Fishler were presented with plaques and Resolutions of Appreciation to honor their retirements from the Board of Directors. Lowry has completed 24 years of service. Reeson has completed 6 years of service, and Fishler has completed 25 years of service on the Southern Public Power District Board of Directors.

All three men have provided the SPPD Board with a vast array of experience. Their willingness to

be involved in so many capacities has helped serve the SPPD customers as knowledgeable leaders and thoughtful decision makers.

We hope you will join us in thanking Lowry, Reeson and Fishler for their dedication to serving the customers in their respective counties and the Southern Public Power District.

We will miss their contributions to discussions around the boardroom table, and their example of service to our customers.

November 2022 Election Results:

In November 2022, Curtis Rohrich was elected to serve the customers of Hall County. Joe Gustofson was elected to serve the customers of Hamilton County. Both will serve a six-year term. Rohrich will fill the vacancy left by Mike Lowry, while Gustofson will fill the vacancy left by Kevan Reeson. Both Lowry and Reeson retired in December after fulfilling their 6-year terms.

The election also resulted in the reelection of Arlon Jacobitz, Adams County, Rick Bergman, Phelps Count and Robert Kieborz, Hall County. Jacobitz and Bergman were elected for six-year terms while Kieborz was reelected to serve a two-year term. Kieborz was appointed in 2020 to replace Gary Headman after his passing. The results will allow Kieborz to finish out Headman's 6-year term.

In addition to the election Courtney Retzlaff has been appointed by the board. She will serve the customers of Merrick County and fulfill the next 2 years of Marvin Fishler's current term.



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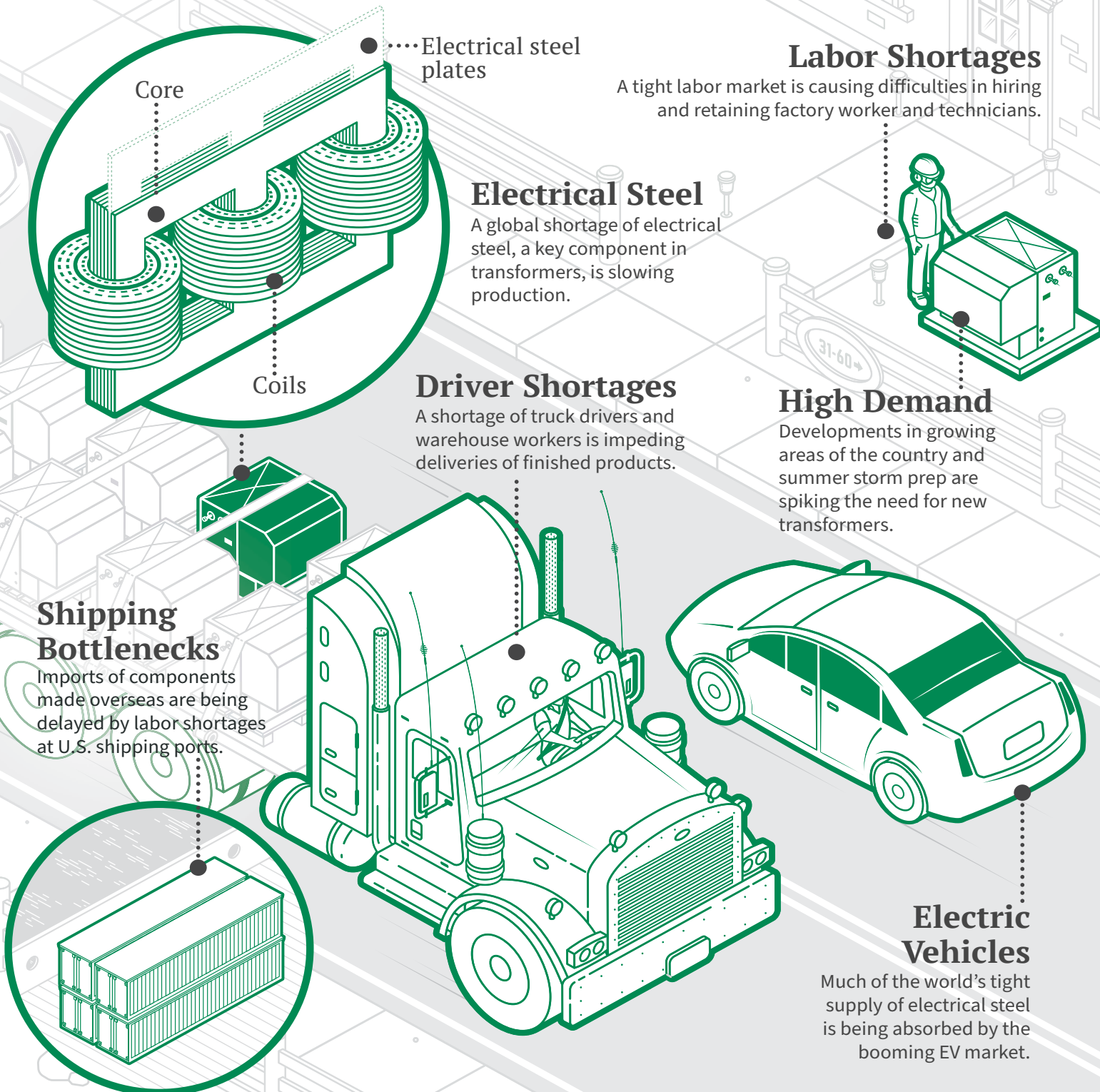
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Trouble With Transformers

Months of constricted operations at electrical transformer factories caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have strangled inventory of these essential grid devices. Add to that spiking demand from new housing developments, scarcity of raw and finished materials, bottlenecks at shipping ports and a shortage of freight drivers, and it's a recipe for a long-term supply crunch. Here are some of the key drivers of the current national transformer shortage.



Stay safe during severe winter weather

Ice and other severe winter weather can result in power outages

When severe winter weather hits, power outages can occur. Roadways can be dangerous. Do all you can to prepare your pantry, home and car for the next severe winter storm. Once you are ready, watch and listen for weather bulletins mentioning winter storms, blizzard warnings or windchill dangers.

Supplies for the storm: At home, have enough nonperishable food, water and medical supplies/medicines for 72 hours. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day. Have cell phones and chargers, as well as backup charger sources, ready. Gather important documents and medical records. Protect your pets and make sure you have enough supplies for them as well. Also have these items ready: a first-aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, blankets and warm clothing.

Readying the house: Weatherproof your home ahead of winter

by caulking windows and doors and looking for other air leaks that need attention. Inspect chimney flues for wood stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Protect pipes from freezing.

Prepare your vehicle with an emergency kit: According to Consumer Reports, it can be cheaper to buy a prepared emergency kit than to purchase items individually. A kit typically includes battery booster cables, an ice scraper, a portable shovel, flashlights, a signaling cone, backup batteries for the flashlight, roadside triangles, a reflective vest, a basic first-aid kit (add in what is needed for individual needs) and a cell phone charger.

In addition, your car or truck should also be stocked with gloves, a blanket, a rain poncho, wipes, rags, boots and a hat. It cannot hurt to also have bottled water and nonperishable snacks in your vehicle in case you get stranded.

Prepare your vehicle: Complete annual maintenance, test the car battery and cooling system, use winter tires and replace them

Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher



- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone

SafeElectricity.org

Source: NSC

if the tread is less than 2/32 of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.

Know that when the power goes out, we work hard to restore it safely and efficiently.

For information about electrical safety or storm preparation, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

SPPD’s Operation Round Up Board of Directors approved the distribution of \$19,500 in funds to nine applicants from the third quarter of 2022. Applications for the first quarter of 2023 are due March 31.

- Grants Awarded
- Juniata Fire Department \$2000 – Hydra Ram
 - Village of Hildreth \$2500 – 20kW Gas Generator
 - SID #2 Idlewilde \$2500 – playground equipment
 - Village of Marquette \$2500 – playground equipment
 - Young at Heart Senior Center – Bertrand \$2000 – Computer
 - Franklin SkillsUSA \$2500 – New Tools
 - Prairie Creek Cemetery – St. Libory \$1,000– Fence repairs
 - Village of Juniata \$2500 – Baseball/ Softball Scoreboard
 - Palmer Rescue Squad \$2000 – Styker Power Lifting Cot



Franklin SKILLS USA



Young at Heart Senior Center - Bertrand



SID #2 Idlewilde



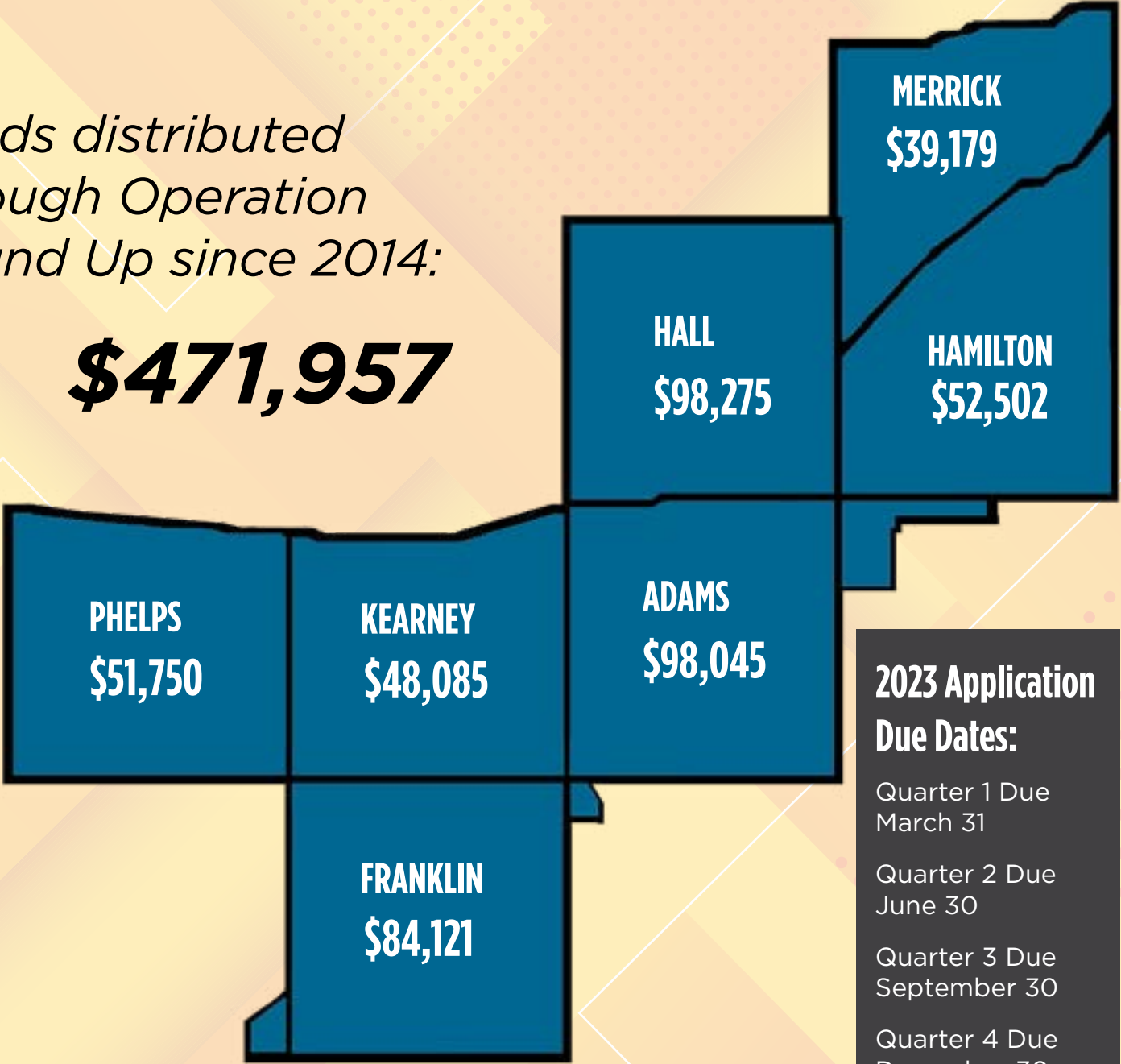
Palmer Rescue Squad

What is the Operation Round Up Program?

The Operation Round Up Program offers grants of up to \$2,500 to organizations in the Southern Public Power District’s seven county service area. These grants are made possible by SPPD customers who participate in the program. Each month, participants see their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The “change” from each customer is placed into a fund, which is overseen by a seven-member board of directors that is separate from the SPPD Board of Directors. The board reviews applications on a quarterly basis and authorizes the distribution of funds to applicants who have met the qualifying guidelines. For more information about Operation Round Up go to southernpd.net/roundup or contact Amanda Groff.

Funds distributed through Operation Round Up since 2014:

\$471,957



2023 Application Due Dates:

- Quarter 1 Due March 31
- Quarter 2 Due June 30
- Quarter 3 Due September 30
- Quarter 4 Due December 30

Line worker Scholarship Application Period is Open

This program offers scholarships to students attending an accredited utility line study program. Scholarships amount to \$2,500 for students pursuing a one-year program, or \$3,000 for those attending a two-year program. Applicants must currently

reside within Adams, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick or Phelps Counties in Nebraska and be a senior in high school. Scholarship winners will be required to serve a 12-week summer internship with SPPD in cooperation with the

school attended. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2023.

To learn more about our scholarship program, or complete an application please visit our website.

Farmhouse Chicken Cornbread Casserole

Prep: 15 minutes, Cook: 45 minutes, Resting Time 5 minutes, Total: 1 hour 5 minutes

Nutrition Information: YIELD: 6, Calories per Serving: 445,



Filling:

- 1 (10.5 oz) can condensed Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 (10.5 oz) can of condensed Cream of Mushroom soup
- 3/4 c. milk
- 4 c. cooked, diced chicken
- 1 c. grated cheddar cheese

- Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray a 3-quart baking dish with cooking spray. If you use a 2-quart dish, the cornbread topping will be slightly thicker and may require a few extra minutes in the oven.
- In a large bowl, whisk together condensed soups and milk. Stir in cooked chicken and cheese.
- Pour chicken mixture into prepared baking dish.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together corn muffin mix, cream style corn, sour cream, egg, and melted butter. Spread evenly over the chicken mixture.
- Bake, uncovered for 40-45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the topping comes out clean. Tent the casserole loosely with foil if the top starts to get too dark before it's cooked

Cornbread topping:

- 1- 8.5 oz box corn muffin mix (Jiffy brand works)
- 1 14.75 oz can cream style sweet corn
- 1/3 c. sour cream
- 1 egg
- 2 T. melted butter

through. Let stand for about 5-10 minutes then serve.

- **Check the topping:** Make sure that the cornbread is completely cooked through before you pull the dish from the oven. You don't want to find uncooked cornbread batter in your casserole, so use a toothpick inserted in the very center of the casserole to determine if the topping is set. If the toothpick comes out clean, then you know that the cornbread is done.
- **Tent with foil:** if your casserole starts to brown too much on top before it's finished cooking, cover it loosely with foil.

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<https://www.theseasonedmom.com/chicken-cornbread-casserole-2/#wprm-recipe-container-76388>