

Energy Efficiency Incentive Program Rebates Alert!

The 2009 program ends soon – and there's still time to save!

The Farmers Electric Cooperative 2009 incentive program requires that the equipment is installed by the end of the year, and that the rebate application form must be filed as soon as possible. **2009 incentives must be at Farmers Electric Cooperative no later than Feb. 28, 2010 to be considered for the Rebate** All rebate applications after January 1, 2010 will need to meet the 2010 rebate criteria and will be subject to the 2010 rebate amounts.

For a complete list of our 2009 rebates, requirements, and the necessary rebate application forms, please contact: **Farmers Electric Cooperative** or go to our website at www.farmersrec.com

Farmers Electric Cooperative offers the following rebates in effect for equipment installed by December 31, 2009:

Appliances:

Receive **up to \$25 to \$50** per unit for ENERGY STAR® qualified refrigerators, clothes washers and dishwashers

Lighting:

Fluorescent lights and fixtures, T-8 and T-5 new fixtures, and security lighting may qualify for rebates **from \$2 to \$30** per unit

ALERT! While supplies last—look for **reduced price CFLs** (as low as 99¢ each) available in specially marked displays at HyVee, Fareway, Family Dollar, TrueValue and other participating stores. Call toll-free 1-800-399-6856 or check www.iowachangealight.com to find out more.

Geothermal Heat Pumps: Qualifying units earn up to \$350 per ton (limit 20 tons)

Air Source Heat Pumps: \$225 per ton for units with minimum SEER 14.5 and HSPF 8.2 (ENERGY STAR®)

High Efficiency 50 gallon Electric Water Heater: \$250 for unit with .93 EF (energy factor)

And more... contact **Farmers Electric Cooperative** today for a complete list!



Congratulations to Lee Madison and Chance Berry on completing the Merchant JT&S Program! The Merchant JT&S Program provides 144 hours of academic training which includes curriculum for both comprehensive and practical content. After completing all four years of instructional material, Lee and Chance took a comprehensive examination that tests their knowledge for all four years. Successful completion of the MJTS Training Program concurrent with a structured on-the-job training program demonstrates that the trainee has the knowledge and experience necessary to become a journeyman line-man. Great work, Lee and Chance!

IMPORTANT

STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Office of Energy Independence (OEI) announced an update on the State of Iowa Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program to launch on March 1st, 2010. At that time, Iowa residents will be able to take full advantage of the program to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs by purchasing approved energy rated appliances.

The official list of approved appliances, rebate amounts and frequently asked questions is available online by visiting: www.energy.iowa.gov and by following the Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program Announcement links.

This program is open to Iowa Residential consumers only and rebate dollars are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebates will only be eligible from the approved appliance list and purchases must be made on or after March 1, 2010.

For more information:

Linda King | Program Planner | Iowa Office of Energy Independence | Wallace State Office Building | 502 East 9th Street | Des Moines, IA 50319 | 515-725-0082

Thank You

We want to thank everyone who worked so hard over Christmas and the weekend to restore power to all the homes that were without. We tend to take the luxury of electricity and those people who keep it going for granted.

We appreciate your time and hard work. We know it's difficult to battle the snow, ice and wind.

Again, thank you for sacrificing your time away from your families on Christmas to help others. We truly appreciate it.

— Ron & Cheryl Belden

We would like to thank everyone at the Greenfield REC who unselfishly gave up their holiday to restore power in our area. We know you put in many hours to ensure that others would have a warm and safe Christmas! God bless your safety and know that you are much appreciated.

— Darrin & Julie Plowman, Adair

Dear Greenfield REC staff,

We are writing in appreciation of your service during the Christmas storm. Your helpful answers to our phone calls allowed us to make the decisions we needed to make quickly! We also appreciate your dedication and quick response to the storm. We realize the outages could have been much longer and were pleased when the power came back on sooner than expected.

We are grateful for the dedicated employees who staffed the office to answer questions and braved the elements to restore power. Your services over 12 years in which we have been customers have helped make rural living (near Peru and now near Menlo) a good experience.

— Michael and Julie Speltz

Farmers Open Lines

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**Farmers Electric
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Clarence Moshier, Jr.

To report a power outage call
any of the above numbers.

Attention: Juniors



Don't forget to get signed up for the Youth Tour – an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC. The application deadline is February 12, 2010. The Youth Tour application form can be downloaded from our website www.farmersrec.com. or give us a call at 800-397-4821 or 641-743-6146 and we can mail one to you.

Manager's Comments by Clarence Moshier Jr., General Manager



There was a white Christmas this year—plus lots of ice to go with it. On December 23, it started to rain and our lines started to ice up. There were scattered outages on the 23rd that gradually got worse. On December 24th lines started to break from the 2-3 inch ice load, crossarms and poles also began to

break. Our crews tried to keep up with the damage; however, we could see that we were going to need some extra help. On the 25th, two crews (4 men) from Clarke Electric Cooperative in Osceola came to help and then on the 26th two crews (4 men) from Southwest Iowa REC (a crew from Stanton and Corning) came to help. The outside crews were able to go home on the 27th plus most of our employees got a day of rest and a chance to have Christmas with their family.



The ice storm resulted in 17 broken poles, 31 broken crossarms and approximately 1000 services without power at any one time. In total, approximately 2000 services were affected by the storm. The hardest hit areas were in the Wiota, Casey and Massena areas. The only part of the service area that did not have any problems was in the Winterset and Patterson areas (which were the hardest hit areas in the December 2007 ice storm).

Thank you to everyone who helped our crews during the storm and thanks to each of you that had an outage(s) for your patience and understanding. I am especially thankful for the dedicated Cooperative employees and the work they did during the storm and for their families understanding.



At the December Board meeting our 2010 budget was approved. One area of the budget where addi-



tional emphasis will be added is in the tree clearing/maintenance section. Tree clearing (cutting) pays big dividends as can be attested to in the past two ice storms. Additionally, the budget did not call for any rate adjustments except possibly in the large power rate where there are very few meters. Your Cooperative employees made concessions to control costs by raising the medical insurance deductible and lowering the pension contribution. We are hopeful that 2010 will be a "normal" year where we have summer air conditioning loads and winter heating loads, not like the extremes we experienced in 2009.



There are many changes to the rebate program this year. I would encourage you to look at the list of rebates and see if there is any that you can qualify for.



Just as a reminder, we have SchoolNet sites at Fontanelle and Anita (at www.KCCI.com then click Weather, then click on SchoolNet and SchoolNet8) to give you the local weather conditions. We have a SchoolNet web cam at Winterset (and soon to be at Greenfield again) also at www.KCCI.com. Be sure to check out these sites that are sponsored by Farmers Electric Cooperative to help you stay informed about the weather. There is a wealth of information about the weather that can be found at these sites.



Pictured above is Farmers Electric's float. Employees participated in the Greenfield Main Street Developments lighted parade on November 27, 2009. The float was made following the Toyland theme. Farmers Electric took 1st place in the parade.

REMINDER

Seniors, don't forget to apply for scholarships given by Farmers Electric Cooperative. For details go to our website www.farmersrec.com. Applications are due no later than April 1st, 2010. Send to it to Farmers Electric Coop.

The Effects of Freezing Rain



The freezing rain from an ice storm covers everything with heavy, smooth glaze ice. Ice-covered roads become slippery and hazardous, as the ice causes vehicles to skid out of control, which can cause devastating car crashes as well as pile-ups. Pedestrians are severely affected as sidewalks become slippery, causing people to slip and fall, and outside stairs can become an extreme injury hazard.

In addition to hazardous driving or walking conditions, branches or even whole trees may break from the weight of ice. Falling branches can block roads, tear down power and telephone lines, and cause other damage. Even without falling trees and tree branches, the weight of the ice itself can easily snap power lines and also break and bring down power/utility poles; even steel frame electricity pylons have been sent crashing to the ground by the weight of the ice. This can leave people without power for anywhere from several days to a month. According to most meteorologists, just one quarter of an inch of ice accumulation can add about 500 pounds of weight per line span. Damage from ice storms is highly capable of shutting down entire metropolitan areas.

WHY ELECTRIC BILLS GO UP IN THE WINTER

If you heat with propane, you may wonder why your electric bills still go up in the winter. There can be a number of reasons for this. Here is a list of some reasons why:

- * The fall and winter days have fewer hours of daylight, so lighting is used for longer periods of time.
- * Most heating systems require electrical power in some way and in extremely cold weather your furnace runs almost continuously.
- * You may use electric space heaters or electric blankets.
- * Do you have a waterbed? Make sure you are using an insulated blanket to cover it to keep heat in.
- * Do you use a motor heater for your car or tractor?
- * Do you use your clothes dryer more?
- * It is also the time of year for families to gather for the holidays which involves extra cooking, baking and using more hot water.
- * Do you have a livestock waterer or a pet dish warmer?

