

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

### Annual Meeting Sept. 12

Please join us Tuesday, Sept. 12 for the Farmers Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting. The event will be held at the Adair County 4-H Building in Greenfield. Registration and a free meal will be from 5-6:30 p.m. with the business session following.

As a member of Farmers Electric, you are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting and participate in the process to elect board directors, hear reports on the financial condition of the cooperative and more. We hope to see you there!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Make a game out of saving energy! Start teaching kids about energy efficiency early so they can

develop good habits. See who can turn out the most lights when they're not being used. Encourage them to unplug unnecessary electronics when not being used. Set goals and then keep track and offer a reward when a goal is met.

### DISTRIBUTED GENERATION:

## Caviness Puts Wind to Work

**A**s a fourth-generation farmer working the land on his family's century farm near Greenfield, Randy Caviness has a deep-rooted interest in protecting and preserving resources for future generations.

Randy puts his passion to work as a board member of the Adair County Soil & Water Conservation District, district director for the Conservation Districts of Iowa, a voting delegate for the Adair County Farm Bureau, an energy advisor to Iowa Farm Bureau, and a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation Energy Advisory Committee.

A sea change moment occurred in 2007 when Randy was involved in coming up with ideas for a project that would benefit the community.

"The original idea for wind generation came in 2007 when the Adair County Farm Bureau was looking for a Gold Star project for our community," Randy said. "At the time, each county Farm Bureau was challenged by the Iowa Farm Bureau to do a community betterment



This wind turbine near Stuart became operational in August, 2015. Pictured, from left-right: Esther Case, CIPCO; Ron Brzezinski, GE Power & Water; Merritt Caviness (back), Randy Caviness, Janalee Caviness, Sarah Shepard (back), Congressman David Young (back), Marty Doud, First State Bank; and Charlie Dunn, General Manager, Farmers Electric Cooperative.

project. Ours was, 'Let's see if we can put some wind generation on a local REC substation.'"

Though the notion of wind power had been around since the early 1980s, it wasn't until the mid-2000s when the industry in Iowa started

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### Notice of Alternate Energy Production

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator. The notification requirements applies to any type of electric generating technology including:

- Solar
- Waste management
- Refused-derived fuel
- Wind turbine
- Resource recovery
- Agricultural crops or residue
- Wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line.

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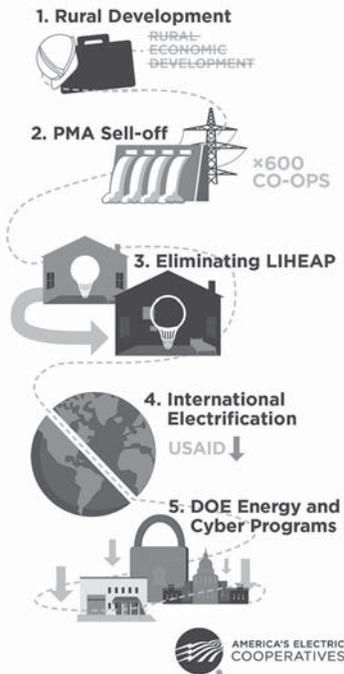
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# Farmers Electric Concerned with President's Budget Proposal

## 5 FEDERAL BUDGET ISSUES CO-OPS ARE WATCHING



*Not everything in Washington will go co-op's way. The federal government is a massive bureaucracy with many interests vying for attention. But there's one thing Farmers members can count on: Electric cooperatives will fight to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill and within the many federal agencies that impact the quality of life in our rural communities. We'll always strive to get a seat at the table.*

The president's budget request for fiscal year 2018 includes several proposals that threaten to handcuff rural families and businesses. While Congress isn't required to adopt them, Farmers Electric has an obligation to stand up for the interests of our members by alerting elected leaders of our concerns.

That's why Farmers Electric and co-ops nationwide have been vocal in Washington about several areas of the president's budget that would hurt America's electric cooperatives and their 42 million members:

**Rural economic development.** President's budget proposes to eliminate funding for the Rural Business Service, including the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program (REDLG), Rural Cooperative Development Grant and Rural Energy for America programs.

**Low-income energy assistance.** The Department of Health and Human Services proposes eliminating the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a valuable tool that electric cooperative consumers use to help pay their energy bills in times of severe weather or economic crises.

**International electrification.** The president's budget proposes a 32-percent cut to the U.S.



Agency for International Development, a major funding source for electric cooperatives' work to promote electrification in other countries.

**Department of Energy programs.** Four Department of Energy (DOE) applied energy research and development (R&D) programs are targeted for a \$2.15 billion cut under the president's budget. Includes cutting funding for solar energy from \$238 million to \$134 million

"Rather than shifting funds away from critical programs that have a record of success, the administration should be working with co-ops and other stakeholders to jump start rural America's economic engines," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

That's the message NRECA and its member co-ops, including Farmers Electric are delivering to federal policymakers.



## Fun at the Fair

Thanks to everyone who came out to visit Farmers Electric Cooperative during the Adair County Fair July 19-23. Pictured at left is Keely Pickrell, daughter of Farmers Billing Clerk/Customer Service Marisa Pickrell, who was a big help working in the cooperative booth throughout the Fair.

### DRAWING WINNERS:

- Gina Shelley, Stuart      \$50 gift certificate to Fareway
- Belle Fagan, Adair      Kids Summer Basket of Fun

We hope to see you at the 2018 Adair County Fair!



## Alternate Energy

...continued from pg. 1

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide written notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of a generator.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system, please contact Farmers Electric Cooperative at (800) 397-4821. Let us provide information and assistance before you decide to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid.



Farmers Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 4 for Labor Day. We wish all our members a safe holiday weekend!

THE BOTTOM LINE:

## Reliably Yours

**W**e've reached the middle of summer and I hope everyone had a great Independence Day. I relish the time spent with family and all of the great food. I'll have to admit, however, that I'm not a fan of fireworks. I guess I just go to bed too early and get annoyed when they wake me up; maybe that's makes me an old curmudgeon. Fireworks can, nevertheless, be very beautiful and remind us to celebrate our wonderful freedom.

Hot summer days can also bring severe weather, which have the potential to cause problems and outages to the electrical grid. At Farmers Electric, we are constantly working to improve our service and reliability to our members. In fact, 2016 was one of the most reliable years in our co-op's history. Last year, members only experienced 13 minutes of interruptions to their service, on average. Put another way, members had power available 99.997% of the time. Weather can be one of the biggest factors to impact reliability, so each year we look at our reliability that excludes major weather events. Thankfully in 2016, we did not have any major weather events. In my opinion, the hard work by all of our employees, improvements to our equipment, resources and technology, and

the strategic planning and budgeting by your board of directors all contributed greatly to our reliable service.

A few more items of note are that our advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project is almost complete, and may, in fact, be finished by the time you read this. The previous year's financial margins were actually negative, but due to patronage payments from our electric supplier and other organizations, the board will be authorizing the payment of patronage dividends this year. Also, 2016 was a very safe year and we will continue to focus on the safety of our employees and our members as we move forward.

In your newsletter this month, you will find an article on how the proposed Federal Budget could impact programs that mean a great deal to not-for-profit electric cooperatives. We will continue to keep you informed on legislation and other issues that impact our ability to provide the best service possible. I hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting next month and I hope the remainder of your summer is productive and enjoyable.



Charles Dunn  
General Manager

## Back to School Safety: Head Up, Phone Down

**A**s your children march out the door on that first day of school – and every day – there is nothing is more important than making sure they get home safely.

The National Safety Council is focused on efforts to eliminate distracted walking – specifically walking while texting. According to a study by The Nielsen Company, kids age 13 to 17 send more than 3,400 texts a month. That's seven messages every hour they are awake. Before your children head out, remind them of these year-round safety tips:

- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone
- If texting, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk
- Never cross the street while using an electronic device
- Do not walk with headphones on
- Be aware of the surroundings
- Always walk on the sidewalk if one is available; if a child must walk on the street, he or she should face oncoming traffic
- Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street
- Cross only at crosswalks

# No Bake? No Problem!

If your August filled with last-chance vacations, picnics and parties before school starts up again, try one of these quick no-bake treats. These recipes are a snap to make, easy to enjoy and completely oven-free!

Need a quick dessert to take Each month, Farmers Electric Cooperative places a call for recipes in various categories. Winners receive a \$5 credit on their account, with their recipes appearing in the next month's issue. Mail entries with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail them to: [Holi@farmersrec.com](mailto:Holi@farmersrec.com).

*Note: there will be no recipe call for September. October recipes will feature pumpkin.*

## Caviness...from pg. 1

to gain momentum. By 2009, Iowa led the U.S. in the percentage of electrical power generated by wind, at 14.2 percent. Today, that percentage is more than 35 percent.

With start-up funds from Iowa Farm Bureau, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the USDA Rural Energy for America Program, the first two turbines under Randy's guidance came online in 2010 near Orient and Greenfield.

"It soon became apparent that the turbines and the wind resources were better than we expected and perhaps we could build more," Randy said. "We turned to the community to see if they would invest in renewable energy that would generate some of their own power."

By the end of 2011, five new projects were planned with the commitment of investors and a 30 percent tax free federal grant incentive, which covered about \$875,000 of the cost per turbine for the first seven in production. Local banks, the Iowa Energy Center, and state and federal tax incentives helped fund subsequent turbines.

The most recent turbines came online in January, 2017, for a total of 13 in locations between Wiota, Clearfield and Stuart, with over 220

### Playstacks

1 stick oleo	2 c. sugar
½ c. milk	1 tsp. vanilla
6 T. cocoa	3 c. oatmeal
1 c. coconut	

Combine oleo, sugar, and milk. Bring to a full boil for 1 minute. Add vanilla, mix with remaining ingredients. Drop by teaspoon onto waxed paper. Chill until firm

*Jan Krantz, Alton*

### No-Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

2 c. sugar	½ c. milk
½ c. butter	1/8 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla	3 c. oatmeal

1 c. peanut butter (I use chunky)

Bring the sugar, milk, butter, and salt to a boil for 2 minutes. Add in the peanut butter and vanilla and mix well. Add in the oatmeal and drop on wax paper.

*RoxAnn Rhoads, Peru*

investors contributing. All but five are connected into Farmers Electric distribution system. While each turbine is built under its own LLC, combined, they cost \$38 million and have a nameplate capacity of just over 20MW, producing 85GW of power annually, or roughly 80 percent of what Farmers Electric uses in a year.

In 2015, Randy was recognized for his leadership in the wind projects by receiving the "Community Wind Innovator Award" from Windustry, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable energy solutions and empower communities to develop and own clean energy assets.

"I was extremely honored to receive the Community Wind Innovator Award from Windustry presented by Congressman David Young," Randy said. "Obviously, it takes many people working together to make something like this happen."



**Farmers Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Open Lines is a monthly publication of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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The mission of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., is to deliver safe, reliable, affordable electricity and other services to improve the quality of life within our communities.