



FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018



Office Closed

The Farmers Electric Cooperative office will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. We wish all our members a safe holiday!

Save the Date

Mark your calendars now to attend the Farmers Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018, 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. More details coming soon.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. They're easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity. Longer days of sunshine ensure a longer charge through the evening hours.



P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, IA 50849
FarmersREC.com | (800) 397-4821



UNCASHED CHECKS:

Help Us Find These Missing Members

One of the biggest benefits of being a member of a cooperative is sharing in its success. Every year, once all financial statements have been finalized and audited, the co-op records the margin, or the difference between revenue and expenses. These margins are held for 15-20 years before being dispersed to Farmers Electric Cooperative members based on their electric usage in the year the margins were recorded.

The list below represents those members whose checks have not been cashed, for one reason or another. It's very important that Farmers finds these people as soon as possible so that we can forward payment. If you see your name or have information on the whereabouts of any of the members below, please contact us.

Alderson, Larry Dean	Lorimor	Clay, Brent	Winterset
Bailey, Art	Cumberland	Emerson, Clarence L	Des Moines
Belcher, Mary L.	Des Moines	Fox, Jeffrey O.	West Des Moines
Bernhardt, Robert	Atlantic	Hauf, Shawn	DeSoto
Brown II, Art S.	Winterset	Lauritsen, Craig	Boone
Brown, Richard	Maxwell	Lewis, John	Fontanelle
		Lewis, Marvin	Lamoni
		Lillie, Scott	Winterset
		Logan, Lisa	Des Moines
		Mapes, Lola	Fort Dodge
		McGhee, Loretta	Des Moines
		Metzger, Rose Marie	Adair
		Putney, Duane	Des Moines
		Remington, Ann	Greenfield
		Rustan, Aaron	Saint Charles
		Sampson, Barbar	Creston
		Scybert, Joseph	Cumberland
		Smith, Dave	Greenfield
		Symonds, Curt	Massena
		Wilcox, Dawn	Indianola
		Wolfe, Lois	Grimes
		Yager, Daniel C	Atlantic

2018 Nominating Committee

Farmers Electric Cooperative would like to thank the following volunteers for serving on the 2018 Nominating Committee:

West District: **Roger Jensen**, (641) 745-4764
Eric Gross, (641) 745-5590

Central District: **David Doud**, (515) 238-4207
Daryl Nelson (641) 524-5496

East District: **John Spera**, (515) 462-3566
Bill Keating, (515) 468-7579

2017 CIPCO Power Supply Report

FINANCIAL STRENGTH

CIPCO's financial strength is demonstrated through its commitment to returning patronage to its members like Farmers Electric Cooperative. In 2017, CIPCO allocated nearly \$16 million in patronage, which represented 100 percent of margins that will be paid back to its member systems. CIPCO places a continuous focus on financial strength, one recognized with an affirmative "A" bond rating by Fitch Ratings, a success achieved by a handful in the generation and transmission industry.



Dan Westphal
CIPCO Board of Directors

2017 was a year of change for Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) as we said goodbye to our long-time CEO Dennis Murdock and welcomed Bill Cherrier as CIPCO's newest Executive Vice President and CEO.

As a board, we're proud of CIPCO's position within the industry and look forward to continually moving the needle on success for the organization. I'm privileged to serve as your representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors. We look forward to implementing innovative ideas that benefit Farmers Electric Cooperative members.

As our cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO has made significant investments in emission and carbon-free resources of energy, including the development and launch of 6.4 MW utility-scale solar project, including CIPCO's newest site, Southwest Solar Farm, in Corning. Additionally, the new Heartland Divide Wind project, a 104 MW wind farm, will come online in late 2018. Wind, hydroelectricity, nuclear, solar and landfill gas now make up over 60 percent of CIPCO's total energy portfolio.

An important part of Farmers Electric Cooperative's budget is the money each of CIPCO's member systems receives in the form of patronage dividends. These funds represent CIPCO's margins returned to our member-owners. CIPCO remains committed to returning patronage to its members. In 2017, Farmers Electric Cooperative received a total allocation of \$572,435 from CIPCO's patronage distribution.

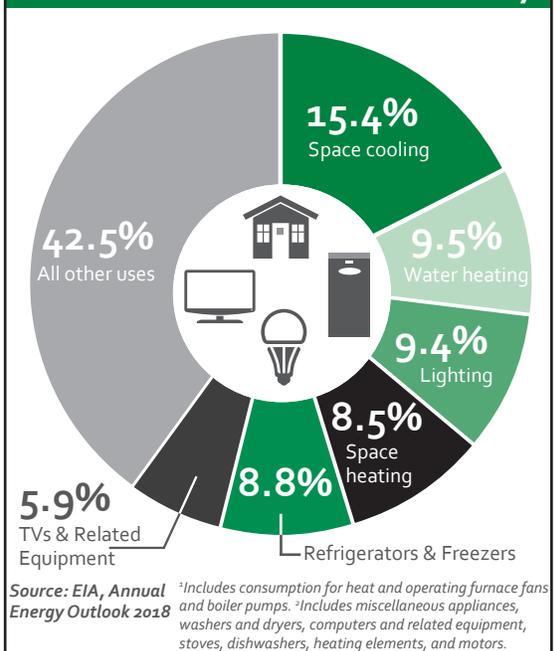
CIPCO is committed to providing safe and reliable electricity at the lowest possible long-term cost to its members. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, fiscal responsibility is critical to success. While other generation and transmission (G&Ts) cooperatives across the country have implemented rate increases in recent years,

the rate at which Farmers Electric Cooperative purchases wholesale electricity from CIPCO has remained stable throughout the past decade. In fact, the 2017 system rate was the lowest in nine years. At the same time, CIPCO continues to invest in its overall generation and transmission system to ensure our electricity is reliable. In fact, CIPCO's 2017 outage rate was only 0.28 hours per member, one of the best reliability achievements on record for CIPCO.

CIPCO and Farmers Electric Cooperative are committed to ensuring members use energy wisely and utilize available options to reduce excess energy consumption. As a result, CIPCO and its member systems issued over \$2.7 million in energy-efficiency rebates that saved approximately 28.6 million kWh of energy. That includes 656,524 kWh savings for our members.

In my role as a CIPCO director, I'm committed to guiding the organization into the future while maintaining the strong position of the organization as it stands today. I believe board actions have positioned CIPCO well to navigate the changing energy industry over the next several years, allowing both CIPCO and our cooperative to thrive. We remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver safe and reliable electricity to you, our member-owners, and to ensure your needs are met now and in the years to come.

How Americans Use Electricity



Stay Cool and Energy Efficient in Your RV

It doesn't matter if you have a simple pop-up camper or a massive motor coach loaded with personal luxuries – with the right tools and tips, you can prevent your living space from getting hotter than necessary, and saving energy while you're at it.

Tip #1: Utilize shade. Often the temps in the shade are five or more degrees cooler than in direct sunlight. When you pull into the campground, ask the check-in staff if they have a shady campsite available.

Tip #2: Create air circulation. If your A/C can't handle the job of cooling your motorhome, open the windows *on the shady side* of the vehicle and keep the windows in direct sunlight closed. This will create natural air circulation.

Tip #3: Use your A/C. Close all the windows and turn on the ceiling fan to pull hot air out. Turn A/C off during cooler evening hours.

Tip #4: Cook outside! Plan your meals and buy groceries that allow you to prepare everything outside. Make it a social event by setting up chairs and tables near the grill.

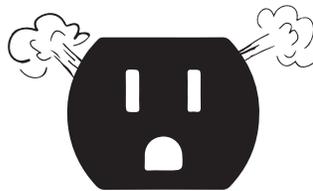
Tip #5: Plan your day to stay away. Go swimming, hiking, fishing or see the sites during the hottest time of day and stay out of the motorhome.



Peak hours are the busiest times for your local electric cooperative, since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise. Obviously, using less electricity during peak periods can save your co-op – and you – money.

Here's how you can help during peak hours, which generally are on the hottest summer days between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. Wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed, for instance.
- If you have air conditioning, turn the thermostat up when you are gone and at night. Cool only the rooms that you are using.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven, for example, uses considerably less energy than your stove or cooktop.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one. Look for ENERGY STAR® labels when you're evaluating different models.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.



Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You'll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants – and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.

Required Statement of Nondiscrimination

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Hello Summer

Nothing goes better with a summer meal than a cool, refreshing salad. Whether they serve as a side or a main dish, salads can be made in so many different combinations that it's just a matter of experimenting and finding one you like. This month's recipes have a little something for everyone - so try one and say, "hello summer!"

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. JULY RECIPES: Cool treats

Think Twice About Where You Post Signs

Fliers are commonly tacked on utility poles throughout our neighborhoods and city streets. What most of the people posting these announcements likely do not realize is that utility poles are the private property of the utility company, telecommunications company or municipality that owns them, and that posting on them is illegal.

The signs themselves aren't necessarily the problem - it's the tacks, nails or staples used to attach them. Utility poles contain electrical wires, and people can be seriously injured when posting a sign. Once the signs are gone, the small objects once used to keep them in place are left behind and threaten the safety of Farmers linemen who have to climb the poles. To do this, they wear climbing gaffs with spikes that penetrate the poles as they climb.

Staples, tacks, or nails can block the spike from penetrating the pole, causing a slip or fall. Additionally, the rubber gloves and other protective clothing utility workers wear to protect themselves from the live wires can be punctured by these objects, rendering them useless.

Garden Pasta Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (16 oz.) box rotini pasta
 - 1 pint of cherry tomatoes (I used red and yellow) halved or quartered
 - 1/4 cup green pepper, diced
 - 1 cucumber, sliced into quarters
 - 1 c. mozzarella cheese, diced into cubes
 - 1/2 to 3/4 c. Italian dressing
- Cook the rotini pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse under cold water. In a large bowl combine the pasta and remaining ingredients and stir until combined. As the salad sits it may require a little more dressing as the noodles soak up the dressing. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

**Not a fan of Italian dressing? Just swap it out for your favorite dressing.*

Amanda Thompson, Greenfield

Fresh Tomato & Mozzarella Salad

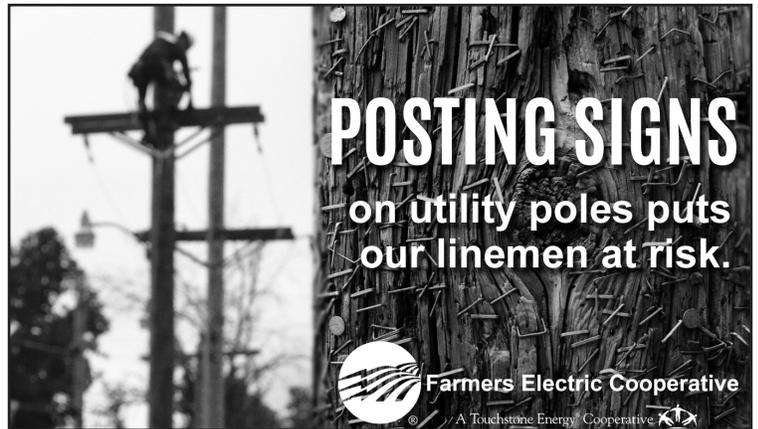
INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. fresh mozzarella
- 2 c. cherry tomatoes, halved
- Parsley for topping
- Dressing:
 - 3 T. extra light olive oil
 - 1 T. red wine vinegar
 - 1 large garlic clove, minced
 - 4-6 twists of fresh cracked pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

Slice fresh mozzarella smaller than tomatoes halves (can use mozzarella pearls and halves). Mix together olive oil, red wine vinegar, minced garlic and crack pepper and pour over tomatoes and mozzarella. Stir until well mixed and sprinkle top with parsley. Chill 15 minutes or up to a day to allow flavors to marinate.

Shelby Herrick, Greenfield



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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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.