

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020



Closed Labor Day

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Monday, Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday weekend!

Annual Meeting Online

Watch our Facebook page and Web site on Friday, Sept. 18 for a link to our virtual 2020 Annual Meeting.

Reports from the CEO, Board President and other co-op leadership will be pre-recorded and made available online that day.

You'll also want to tune in to see if you've won one of our many prizes! Cooperative members who return their ballots by Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. will be entered to win.

Watch for more information in the September newsletter.



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

ANNUAL MEETING:

Meet the 2020 Board Candidates



Kevin Tanner



Kris Petter



Spencer Morehouse



Janelle Peiffer

Since the Farmers Electric 81st Annual Meeting will be held virtually this year, the only way for our members to vote in the director election is by returning the ballot you will receive in the mail. Additionally, any ballot received in the office by the deadline of Sept. 17 by 11 a.m. will be entered into the drawing for prizes. Please take a moment to vote in your cooperative's board election this year!

Following is a list of members who have been nominated for director by the Committee on Nominations appointed by the Board of Directors pursuant to the By-laws.

West District:

Kevin Tanner (incumbent). Kevin has been a member of Farmers Electric since 1985 and will be seeking his third term on the board of directors. He lives in rural Orient where he owns a farming operation and does commercial hauling of grain and animals. When not on the farm, Kevin enjoys tractor pulls.

Central District:

Kris Petter (incumbent). Kris runs an agricultural helicopter company doing aerial spraying and crop seeding. His hobbies include off-road motorcycle riding, bow hunting, skydiving, and spending time on his small farm in rural Orient with wife Jessica and son Calvin. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and is a commercial pilot. He attained the Eagle Scout designation from the Boy Scouts of America. This will be Kris's second term on the board of directors.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov



More on Monarchs

By the time the year 2020 is over, the monarch butterfly could be one of the newest species added to the Endangered Species list by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The monarch has faced environmental challenges including the loss of milkweed and nectar plant habitat in its spring and summer breeding ranges, including in Iowa.

Habitat restorations and reconstructions like the one at Farmers Electric include a diverse array of blooming species to provide nectar for adult monarchs throughout their full life cycle and their spring and fall migrations. The Iowa Monarch Conservation Strategy, developed through Iowa State University, seeks to establish approximately 480,000 to 830,000 acres of monarch habitat by 2038.

*Find more information at:
<https://monarch.ent.iastate.edu>
www.freedomcreekprairie.com*



Monarch Habitat Takes Hold at Co-op

Nearly two years after committing five acres of land on its property for a monarch butterfly habitat, Farmers Electric Cooperative is starting to see the results bloom.

While the butterflies themselves have yet to appear – it typically takes at least three years for them to move into a habitat – a colorful landscape has emerged around the Farmers Electric headquarters building.

“The seed mix we used to start the habitat was developed by the Freedom Creek Prairie Conservation Services who also provided the labor at no cost to complete the seeding,” said Charlie Dunn, Farmers CEO. “The mix includes all species native to Iowa, though the most important are the milkweed species on which monarchs rely for food, breeding and survival.”

Geographically, Iowa sits in the center of the monarch’s breeding range; about 40% of the monarchs who migrate to Mexico during the

winter months originate in Iowa. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, the yearly count of monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico this year is down 53% from 2019 mainly due to poor weather conditions during the spring and fall migrations.

Additionally, the milkweed plant has been decimated by increased herbicide spraying on corn and soybean crops that have been genetically engineered to tolerate direct spraying with herbicides. Monarchs have lost an estimated 165 million acres of breeding habitat in the United States to herbicide spraying and land development.

“Farmers has a long history of environmental commitment to protecting and preserving natural resources,” Dunn said. “We look forward to welcoming the monarchs when they arrive and continuing doing our part to revive their population for many generations to come.”

Photos on this page by Holi Weston

Board Candidates...from pg. 1

East District:

Spencer Morehouse and his wife, Jenny, have three children: Kevin (15), Paiton (13), and Creighton (8), and have been members of Farmers Electric for eight years. Spencer has 15 years of management experience, the last five years with the State of Iowa managing tax programs. He spends a lot of free time camping with family and friends and enjoys trout fishing in northeast Iowa.

Janelle Peiffer and her husband of 7 and a half

years, Michael, have one daughter, Abilene, 3, and live on a farm about six miles southeast of Winterset. She is a stay-at-home mom with a background as a Child Care Consultant for Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa / Orchard Place, covering the counties of Adair, Dallas, Madison and Warren. Prior to that she was a preschool teacher in the Ames School District. In her free time, Janelle enjoys spending time with family and friends, being outside and helping her husband on the farm when needed.

Required Notification of Alternate Energy Production

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

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

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

If you're 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.

Long and Lasting Commitment to Democratic Values

Although the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was approved by Congress June 4, 1919, it took more than a year to be ratified by the 36 states in the union at the time. This important amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified Aug. 18, 1920.

Rural America was built on, and owes much of its success to, family-run farms and businesses. While Dads and husbands are often celebrated throughout history and heritage, wives and mothers have been full partners in building the foundations of rural communities. Historically, these women were isolated, only having interaction with their husbands or children. But make no mistake, they were and are vital to the success and running of family farms, ranches and rural homes.

When electric cooperatives like Farmers Electric were organized, many of the same principles honored by rural organizations, including recognition of property rights, were among the fundamental tenets included in co-op charters. Family memberships were vested in heads of households, regardless of gender, and women were among the founding members of many electric cooperatives.

Your cooperative joins electric cooperatives across the country in supporting Co-ops Vote, a grassroots movement designed to encourage voter registration, political engagement and participation in local, state and national affairs.

The purpose of the group is not to endorse candidates, but to provide consumer-members with information on issues that may affect rural communities.

With so many uncertainties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic fueling concerns about how voting will proceed this fall, electric cooperatives like Farmers will play vital roles in reminding our members of important dates and locations. Watch our newsletter, social media and Web site for more information in the coming months.

Voting is so much more than just a right, it's a privilege. The Suffragettes fought for generations to finally win that privilege 100 years ago. Every time we cast a ballot, we honor their memory.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

Internet Safety for Kids

As we enter an uncertain school year, chances are your child will be spending more time at home learning. Now more than ever, parents should be diligent about how their child is spending his or her time online.

According to the Children's Internet Usage Study by the Center for Cyber Safety & Education (2016), three in four kids ages 10-14 have a cell phone and half have access to a tablet or computer in their bedroom. As a result, almost all children in the study said they can and do use the internet without their parents watching them. The high frequency of internet use by children alone increases the possibility of using it inappropriately or in dangerous ways.

Teaching your children about the online risks they may face and how to avoid or report threats is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure their child's safety online. Threats may



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No cook?



No problem!

Step away from the stove and try something tasty without heating up the kitchen. With just a few simple ingredients, you can put together a great weeknight or weekday meal in minutes. Try one of this month's recipes and see how easy NOT cooking can be!

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: HWeston@farmersrec.com.

Internet Safety for Kids...from pg. 3

include dangerous or inappropriate web sites; malware; online frauds and scams; or sexual predators.

One of the biggest ways to combat the problem is by keeping an open dialog with your kids. Let them know you are looking out for their safety and be sure to listen to their questions or concerns. An open conversation can help them feel comfortable talking with you even about uncomfortable things they later encounter online. It will also help you better understand how your child is using the internet. Setting clearly defined rules and explaining the reason

Caesar Pitas

INGREDIENTS

- 4 c. tightly packed torn romaine lettuce
- 6 oz. sliced smoked turkey breast, cut into strips
- 1/4 c. drained roasted red pepper strips
- 3 T. grated parmesan cheese
- 1/4 c. Caesar salad dressing
- 4 pita breads, warmed, cut in half

Combine all ingredients except pitas. Spoon into pita pockets.



Photo: kraftrecipies.com

Vegetable Tortilla Roll

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1 pkg. ranch dressing seasoning
- 1 tsp. dried dill weed or 1 T. finely minced fresh dill
- 8 (8-inch) flour tortillas
- 3 c. assorted finely chopped vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, carrots or green bell peppers
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese

In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, ranch seasoning, and dill weed.

Working with one tortilla at a time, or working an assembly-line fashion, spread about 1/4 cup of the cream cheese mixture evenly over each tortilla, going all the way to the edge. Divide vegetables and cheese evenly over tortillas.

Starting at one end, roll each tortilla tightly and wrap individually in plastic wrap. Chill at least 2 hours before slicing. Slice each roll up into 8 pieces. Slice and serve. Just like veggie pizza!



Photo: culinaryhill.com

for each rule and the hazards it protects against can help your child understand potential risks. Rules should protect your child's privacy, safety and personal information.

Visit www.childnet.com for tips to keep your child safe online.



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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.