

FARMERS Open Lines

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

Upcoming Office Closings

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Thursday-Friday, Dec. 24-25, and Friday, Jan. 1 so our staff can spend time with their families over the holidays. We wish all our members a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs, and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



Need Help with Heating Bills?

The LIHEAP application period runs through April 30, 2021, for all households in Farmers Electric service territory. Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.



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

FROM ALL OF US:



The directors and employees of Farmers Electric Cooperative wish each and every one of our members a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!



Show You Care with RECare

This holiday season, while many of us are figuring out how to gather safely or virtually, many families in our communities are struggling to meet their basic needs. Those whose income or employment has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are facing a long, dark winter of worrying about how they will pay to heat their home or put food on their table.

RECare helps your fellow member-consumers offset the cost of their electric bills and weatherization expenses to maximize the efficiency of heating their home. Donations are distributed by local community action agencies to low-income members.

As you plan your end-of-year giving, please consider contributing to your cooperative's RECare program. A little goes a long way!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.

☐ Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

☐ I would like to make a monthly donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: RECare, c/o Farmers Electric Cooperative, 2389 Hwy. 92, P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849

Four Ways Santa Saves Energy in His Workshop

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their big night.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop—how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one

way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures. Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop:

1. Santa decks the halls all year-round, so by using LED holiday lights, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. Strings of LED lights can last up to 40 seasons,



which make them a great option for any festive home (no matter what time of year).

2. Santa's elves require numerous power tools to make a year's worth of new toys.

That's why Santa insists they use cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

WINTER WONDERLAND WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with winter in the puzzle below?
Use the word bank to check your work.



E	M	C	C	G	H	S	L	B	N	F	L	L	B	L
P	K	E	A	R	M	U	F	F	S	L	R	L	K	L
P	B	A	V	I	S	I	I	E	A	X	A	A	K	L
X	W	E	L	H	S	E	T	B	W	N	D	I	C	U
P	B	C	N	F	G	O	W	T	K	I	I	C	B	S
N	L	A	F	Y	W	O	Q	E	E	Z	G	I	C	R
R	C	L	C	E	N	O	T	Y	G	N	E	C	V	U
L	O	P	C	S	X	M	N	I	D	Y	S	L	I	H
W	A	E	H	D	N	S	M	S	A	Z	C	E	B	R
Z	I	R	Y	L	L	I	H	C	O	U	J	S	K	W
C	X	I	R	Q	H	C	Z	L	C	A	X	W	W	L
P	H	F	O	Y	V	S	I	W	O	H	O	C	S	M
B	P	I	P	C	O	O	Y	J	C	D	A	J	Y	L
I	Z	W	Q	F	H	E	V	F	M	D	S	P	S	P
Y	F	E	U	H	Z	V	D	N	L	W	R	B	Q	F

WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP:

Instead of turning up the heat in your home, wear an extra layer of clothing or get cozy under your favorite blanket!

WORD BANK:

- snowflake
- mittens
- scarf
- snowball
- chilly
- icicles
- cocoa
- earmuffs
- fireplace
- blanket

5 Holiday Safety Tips for Kids

Although our holiday plans may look different this year while we concentrate on keeping ourselves and our families healthy, we can still perpetuate the magic of the season for the young ones in our lives. Keep these tips in mind to keep everyone safe and merry:

1. Hang breakable ornaments at the top of the tree. This leaves room for kids to decorate the bottom with non-breakable items that may get pulled at or knocked into.
2. Keep harmful plants out of reach. Poinsettias, mistletoe and holly berries are beautiful and seasonal, but can be poisonous to children and pets. In a poison emergency, call the national Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222.
3. Be aware of devices with button batteries. Keep decorations with button batteries, such as greeting cards and small remote controls out of children's reach.
4. Don't forget a helmet. If you're gifting a bike, skateboard or scooter, be sure to include the helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.
5. Stay current on toy recalls. Safe Kids Worldwide compiles product recalls specific to children and sends twice-monthly email alerts for recent recalls.

For more tips, visit www.safekids.org/holiday-safety-tips and have a wonderful (and safe) holiday!

Volunteer to Make a Positive Impact

With the holiday season upon us and the New Year just around the corner, I can't help but reflect on the gratitude I feel for our community. I think most will agree this has been a year like no other—certainly in my lifetime. And while we've seen our share of challenges, I am heartened by the ways in which we have all pulled together to make our community stronger.

I look at volunteerism as the gift that keeps on giving. While it's difficult to quantify the impact that volunteers have, I do know they make a tremendous difference in our community and make our corner of the world a better place. Many organizations depend on volunteers to fulfill their mission. Volunteers fill in gaps and spread joy and compassion through their efforts. Even assisting with the smallest tasks can make a big impact in the lives of people, animals or an organization in need. Often a big commitment or special skills are not needed, just someone who cares.

I hope you'll consider volunteering. Give an organization or cause that you care about the gift of your compassion, time and talent. In addition to the organization and the community benefitting from your efforts, you will receive a gift as well. Not only will you enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are helping a good cause, you will likely make new friends, expand your social network, strengthen existing skills or learn a new one. In a time when we have heightened awareness of our safety while being around others, there are still ways you can be involved without being in-person – help with a phone drive for donations, work from home stuffing mailers, put together a box of

non-perishable food items to drop off at your local food bank (many are in desperate need this time of year). Visit websites like volunteermatch.org or greatnonprofits.org to find local opportunities.

Volunteering may provide additional dimension and purpose to your life. In the process, you will be a role model for your family because your

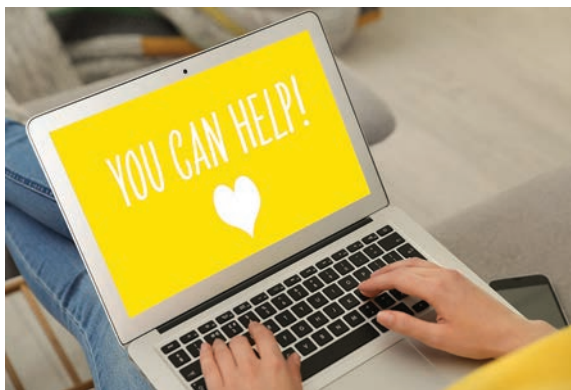


CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

commitment will offer a powerful lesson to your children. It will show them first-hand how one person can make a big difference and strengthen the community in which they live.

At the end of the day, the gift of

volunteerism is a gift that will continue giving all year long. So, this holiday season, consider starting a new tradition—give the gift of time.



Going through a global pandemic has raised our awareness of our health and the health of those around us. But is your home healthy? Electric appliances remove the potential for combustion gas build-up and carbon monoxide poisoning. Have questions? Call the cooperative to learn more about how choosing electric can create a healthy home for your family.



5 SAFETY TIPS FOR GENERATORS

1 BE IN THE KNOW

It's easy to slip up when you haven't taken the time to read up. Always read your owner's manual before operating your generator.



2 TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Keep those smelly fumes at bay. Use your generator outside with the exhaust directed away from openings to your home or nearby buildings. Make sure your generator is at least 20 feet from any occupied building.



20 FEET



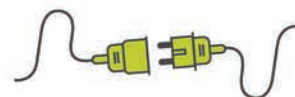
3 NO HARM DONE

When it comes to portable generators, it might seem simple to plug in your generator and let it run, but it's best to leave it to the professionals. Hire an electrician to install a transfer switch to wire your portable generator power to your household circuits. This helps avoid creating back-feed to power lines, which can injure neighbors or utility workers.



4 KEEP IT DRY

Be kind to your generator. Keep it dry and avoid exposure to weather. Do not operate a portable generator in the rain or in standing water. Weather conditions can also damage exposed areas, especially electrical, and may cause the unit to be inoperable.



5 GIVE IT A BREAK

Sometimes, even generators need a break. Avoid overloading your generator by following the manufacturer's directions for load capacity. Overloading can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics.

Source: The Home Depot



**Submit a recipe for a chance to win
\$5 credit off your next utility bill!**

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. Plan now to participate by mailing your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mailing them to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.

JANUARY: Healthy recipes for the new year

FEBRUARY: Chocolate lovers

MARCH: Brunch

APRIL: Favorite pasta



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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.