

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day, especially if they are facing south. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.



Source: energy.gov

## Have You Moved?

The cooperative has a number of "missing" members who haven't cashed their capital credits checks. If your contact information needs to be updated, please contact the cooperative.



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

### YOUR COOPERATIVE:

## Farmers Employee Recognized for 25 Years of Service

**S**taking technician Paul Paxton was recognized Dec. 5 for 25 years of service to Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Paul started his career with the cooperative working on the tree crew for about eight years, where he helped keep the utility's right-of-way clear of vegetation and increased reliability by reducing outages due to trees or brush coming in contact with live line.

For the next 15 years, Paul was a lineman before becoming the staking technician. His position gives him the opportunity to design line extensions and system improvements. He ensures the cooperative's poles are put in the right place, in accordance with proper easements, highway conflicts, encroachments and more.

"I always heard this was a great career so when a position was advertised in the paper, I thought I should apply and see what happens," Paul said. "Then on my 21st birthday, Doug [Wallace, former line superintendent] called and said I had the job."

Paul had a lot of on-the-job training, but when he was promoted to staking technician, learning the computer programs his job required was one task he tackled head on.

Every year, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives honors employees of electric cooperatives across the state who have served



Paul Paxton, center, is joined by IAEC Board President Steve Seidl, left, and IAEC Executive Vice President/General Manager Chuck Soderberg.

25 years to their cooperative. The recipients are then recognized during the IAEC annual meeting in West Des Moines.

A long history with the cooperative lends itself to plenty of stories, and it's hard to pick one to single out, Paul said.

"There are too many stories to just pick one, and the same goes for all of our interesting members," he said. "I've had a lot of good times working here!"

Congratulations on your achievement, Paul!

## LOOK INSIDE!

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# Meet Your Board of Directors

*The Farmers Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is a group of volunteers elected by the membership to lend their knowledge, experience and integrity to the cooperative. These members of our community represent our member-owners and act on their behalf. Serving as a board member carries several responsibilities. Each one must represent the interests of all - not their own special interests; they must respect and support majority decisions of the Board; and they must be prepared to make constructive decisions. A board member's duty is to focus on the big picture to guide the organization, and let the CEO and staff manage the details.*



**DAN WESTPHAL**  
President



**STEVE CHANDLER**  
Vice President



**KEVIN TANNER**  
Secretary



**ROBERT NEWTON**  
Treasurer



**MARK EARHART**



**DARRELL JENSEN**



**KRIS PETTER**



**ROXANN RHOADS**

## Scholarship Applications Due April 1

If you know a student who could use some extra money for college, make sure they apply for the Farmers Electric 2020 Scholarship.

Every year, your cooperative supports area students who plan to continue their education beyond high school. To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school for the 2020-2021 school year. The student must also have a parent or legal guardian who is a member of Farmers Electric and resides within the cooperative's service territory.

Applications must be postmarked or dropped off to the cooperative office on or before

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020.** The mailing address is: Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849.

The office is located at 2389 Hwy. 92, Greenfield.

Applicants must include a copy of their transcript and a short essay on why electric cooperatives are important to them, and their senior photo. No other attachments are allowed.

For more information, visit [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com) and click on the "Community" tab or call (800) 397-4821.



**KEVIN STENDER**

## Required Notice of Complaints

The Iowa Utilities Board requires that all non-rate regulated utilities post the following notice to its membership. If a member has a problem with his/her service, please call or write Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849 or call (800) 397-4821.

If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy and Farmers Electric does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 725-7321, or toll-free (877) 565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or sending an email to [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).



High school juniors, don't miss the opportunity for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer!

Every year, Farmers Electric sponsors one student from our service territory to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour, a weeklong immersive experience in our nation's capital. Students learn about the cooperative business model, develop leadership skills (it looks great on a college application!), meet with Iowa's elected officials, tour national monuments and museums, and connect with other students from across the country.

### Process & deadlines

**Feb. 21:** Application due to the cooperative

Once your application is received, you will be sent a packet of material to study and be asked to complete a 50-question open book test.

**March 9:** Deadline for return of test to the cooperative

Three semi-finalists will receive a gift. For more information and the application, visit [farmersrec.com](http://farmersrec.com) and click on the "Community" tab.

# May Your Holiday Season Be Merry & Bright

**A**dmittedly, I am old enough to remember when conversations weren't interrupted by pop-up notifications. I grew up in a one-TV household where we all had to agree on what to watch (it wasn't easy). My "screen time" was the hours upon hours I spent playing outside with other kids in my neighborhood, and the only thing that could get me inside was the setting sun.

Smartphones and all electronic communication devices have changed all that. Today, companies spend billions to put their product in front of us wherever we are or whatever we're doing. We are bombarded with this one-way communication of offers, pitches and promises, but is anyone listening on the other end?

At Farmers Electric, we are listening, and we're eager to hear from you. Whether you connect with us through a survey or social media post, by email or in person, it means the world to us to get your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

We exist to serve our member-owners with

safe, reliable and affordable electricity. For more than 80 years, those have been the tenets this cooperative has held above all else.

And while those things are important, they aren't why we do what we do. You are.

We hope you consider us more than your energy provider, but also as a local business that champions our communities.

Let me be clear. As we embark on the year 2020, our vision is 20/20. We see clearly that we are in the midst of unprecedented changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more environmentally friendly electric generation shape our future. Navigating through these changes takes all of us, together. Remember, you are why we do what we do, and we can't do what we do without you.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. I will be listening.



**CHARLIE DUNN**  
CEO

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

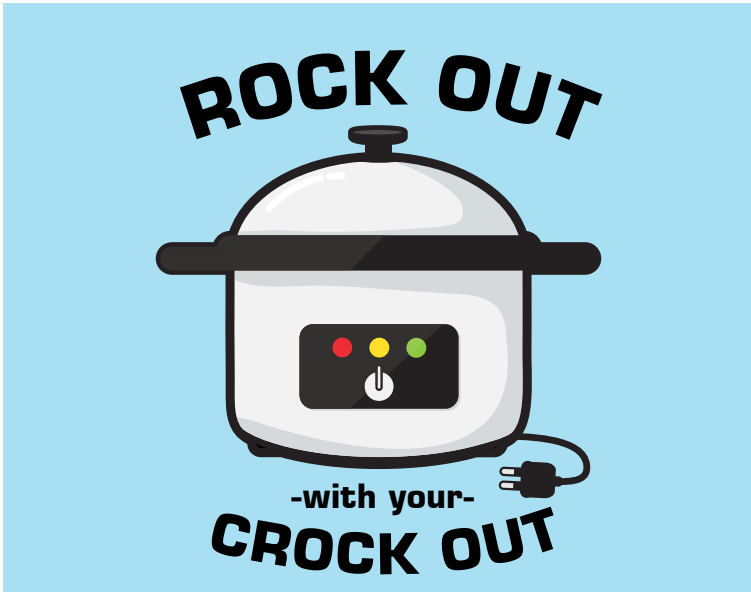
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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.

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Crock pots aren't just for making soups anymore. In fact, you can cook a lot of traditional meals just by throwing the ingredients into the crock pot and letting them cook while you're off doing other things. What's not to like? Try some of these non-traditional crock pot recipes that will make you a crock star at your next meal!

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). **FEBRUARY RECIPES: HEALTHY DINNER IDEAS**

***Nondiscrimination...from pg. 3***

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](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:

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

*Crock Pot Lasagna*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 box lasagna noodles, uncooked
- 1 jar spaghetti sauce
- 1 1/2 c. cottage cheese
- 1 1/2 c. shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese



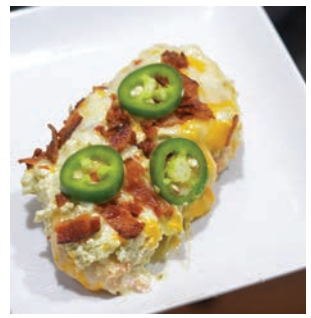
Brown ground beef and drain. Spoon 1 cup of spaghetti sauce in bottom of 4 quart crock pot. Mix remaining sauce with beef. Place 2 uncooked lasagna noodles on top of sauce in crock pot. Spread 1/3 of the meat mixture on top of noodles. Spread 3/4 c. cottage cheese over meat. Sprinkle 1/2 c. mozzarella cheese over cottage cheese. Add another layer of uncooked noodles, 1/3 meat mixture, the remaining cottage cheese and 1/2 c. mozzarella cheese. Place another layer of uncooked noodles, meat mixture, and mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over top. Cook on low for 4 hours. If cooked much longer, it gets a bit well done.

*Linda Barker, Winterset*

*Crock Pot Jalapeno Popper Chicken*

INGREDIENTS

- 3-4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
- 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 1 c. cheddar cheese (shredded)
- 4 slices bacon (cooked & diced)
- 2 jalapeños (seeded & chopped)
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs (seasoned-optional)



Place uncooked chicken breasts in a large crockpot. Mix all other ingredients except for bread crumbs together in a medium mixing bowl. Spread the cheese topping onto the chicken breasts. Sprinkle with bread crumbs if desired. Cover and cook on high for 2 1/2-3 hours, low for 5-6 hours, or until the chicken has reached an internal temperature of at least 170 degrees F. I have found that the chicken has a better consistency when cooked on high.

*Amy DeVault, Greenfield*

- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
  - (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.