

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020



## Office Closed

The co-op office will be closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday weekend!

**NOTE:** The Farmers Electric office is closed to the public until further notice. Please call or email us if you have questions about your electric service.

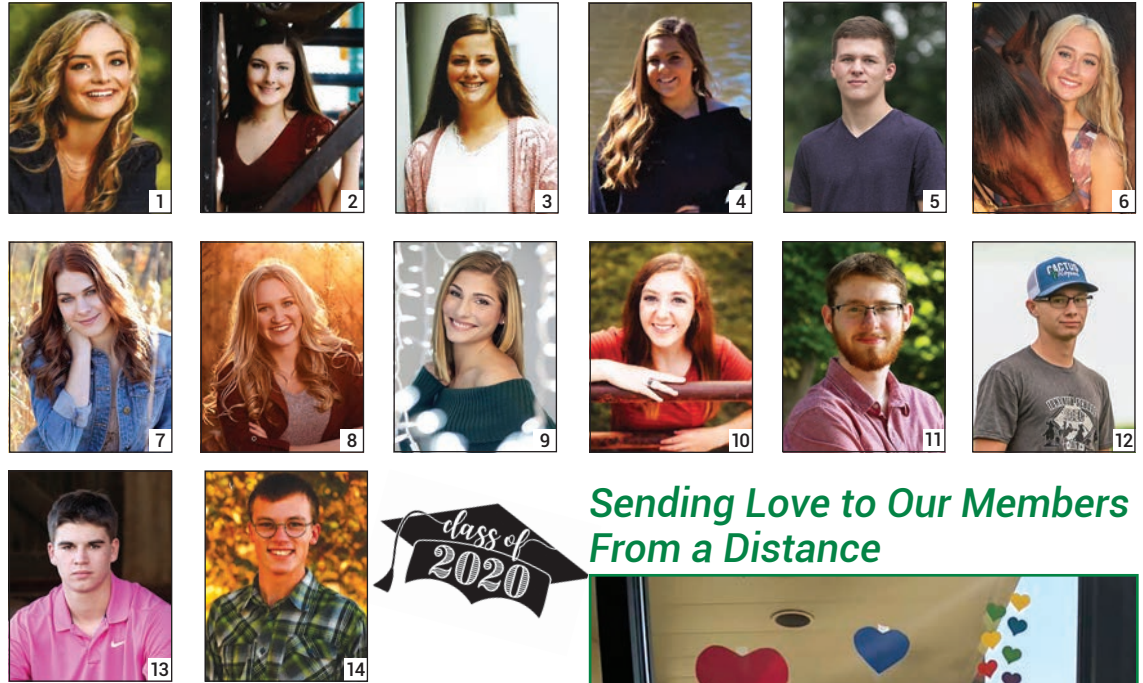
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors. For added savings, use the microwave more – it's quicker and generally the most efficient way to heat up and cook food.



### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:

# 2020 Scholarship Recipients



## Sending Love to Our Members From a Distance



**T**his year, high school seniors in the Farmers Electric territory and across the nation couldn't celebrate their graduation in the typical way due to restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hearts go out to them.

Now as they look to the future, Farmers Electric is proud to provide support for students in our communities as they continue their education beyond high school with an annual scholarship. This year, the cooperative awarded a total of \$10,000 to 14 outstanding high school seniors. Congratulations to these students!

*continued on pg. 2*

*Even though we can't meet with you in person, we hope our colorful co-op office window reminds you that we are here for you, 24/7/365.*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Farmers Electric Annual Meeting  
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020



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

## Cybersecurity Tips for Remote Workers

**1. Use strong passwords.** Use secure passwords — 12 characters or longer, using upper- and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.

**2. Enable firewalls.** Your computer will typically have a built-in firewall. Make sure that it is set up and enabled.

**3. Secure your home network.** Change the name of your home network to something not easily associated with you. Also, change your router password with something more secure.

**4. Connect with a VPN.** If your company has a virtual private network, use it. VPNs protect laptop data online while retaining the same security, functionality and appearance as if they were within the company network.

**5. Watch for phishing scams.** Watch for suspicious activity that asks you to do something right away, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or needs your personal information.

**6. Don't get personal.** Make sure that you're the only person who uses your company computer, and use it only for company purposes.

**7. Backup data.** Make sure data is continuously and securely backed up.

## Electrical Safety While Working From Home

**A**s many Farmers Electric members adapt to a new working from home routine, many may be putting themselves at unnecessary risk due to unsafe electrical setups and practices.

May is Electrical Safety Month, and as our work lives and home lives continue to be intertwined, the Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards:

1. Avoid overloading outlets.
2. Unplug appliances or electronics when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
3. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis.
4. Don't leave a laptop or phone on the bed while charging. This may cause the device to overheat and create a risk for fire.
5. Plug in smartly. Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
6. Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least three feet away from space heaters and other heat sources.
7. Make sure you use proper wattage for lamps/lighting.
8. Never run cords under rugs/carpets, doors or windows.
9. Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
10. Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly and replace the unit every 10 years.

## Congratulations, 2020 Scholarship Winners!

**1. Marisa Allen**, Winterset High School.

Daughter of Jill and Brad Allen. Marisa plans to attend Southwestern Community College.

**2. Sara Beane**, West Central Valley High School.

Daughter of Andrea and Curt Beane. Sara plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College.

**3. Alyssa Davis**, Nodaway Valley High School.

Daughter of Tisha and David Davis. Alyssa plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College.

**4. Kaela Eslinger**, Orient-Macksburg High School.

Daughter of Wendi and Jeff Eslinger. Kaela plans to attend Waldorf University.

**5. Kade Forsyth**, Winterset High School. Son of Lacey and Jeff Forsyth. Kade plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College.

**6. Katherine Halstrum**, Winterset High School.

Daughter of Mary and Kevin Halstrum. Katherine plans to attend Iowa State University.

**7. Carli Henderson**, home schooled. Daughter of Beth and Mike Henderson. Carli plans to attend Iowa Western Community College.

**8. Paisley Kintigh**, Nodaway Valley High School.

Daughter of Bethany and Nick Kintigh. Paisley plans to attend Simpson College.

**9. Mallory Kuhns**, Nodaway Valley High School.

Daughter of Denise and Matt Kuhns. Mallory plans to attend Iowa State University.

**10. Lexy Nelson**, Interstate 35 High School.

Daughter of Tawnya and Bryan Nelson. Lexy plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa.

**11. Evan Shortt**, Winterset High School. Son of Staci and Roger Shortt. Evan plans to attend Iowa State University.

**12. Colton Stuva**, Nodaway Valley High School.

Son of Heather and Chris Stuva. Colton plans to attend South Dakota State University.

**13. Tyler Vandewater**, Nodaway Valley High School.

Son of Candy and Jeff Vandewater. Tyler plans to attend Benedictine University at Mesa.

**14. Wynn Yeager**, Winterset High School / home schooled. Son of Tamra and Hal Yeager. Wynn plans to attend Cedarville University.

# Is Your Garage Door Energy Efficient?

Energy-efficient smart garage doors offer a range of advantages, from cooling the garage during hot weather to offering better security.

Garages are often the largest uninsulated room in a home, which can mean less energy efficiency. Garage air temperature will transfer to rooms next to or above the uninsulated space, forcing your home's heating and cooling system to work harder.

In the summertime, uninsulated garages can become hot enough to damage electrical components, including the electronics in stored electrical items, your garage door and even your car. If that weren't bad enough, excessive heat also increases the rate at which car batteries fail. Other benefits include:

- Lower energy use throughout your home
- Insulated garage doors act as an additional buffer between your living space and the external temperature.
- Increase the value of your home.
- Improve car battery efficiency by reducing the effects of extreme temperature.
- Provide personal comfort. Stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer as you use your garage.
- Insulating a garage door provides some soundproofing.

\*Source: Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. <https://blog.constellation.com/2018/08/10/energy-efficient-garage-doors/>

# Reflect & Honor: May is Military Appreciation Month

While enjoying various Memorial Day festivities later this month, I hope you'll join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. I am especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and in the words of John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

At your cooperative, we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community.

In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. As a veteran of the Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm and the Iraq War, I proudly support "Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country," a national electric co-op hiring initiative. Now in its fourth year,

this initiative has added almost 100 veterans and military spouses to electric cooperative employee rolls nationwide. Through this program I was proud to hire Journeyman Lineman Trey Eddy, former member of the Iowa National Guard,



**CHARLIE DUNN**  
CEO

and Apprentice Lineman Nate Hubenka, former member of the Air Force Reserves. I also serve on the program's advisory committee to encourage greater support from electric co-ops, general managers and human resources departments in hiring military veterans and their spouses nationwide.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy

consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Electric co-ops across the country work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Farmers Electric Cooperative is proud to be part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran – not just this month, but every month!



## 4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES



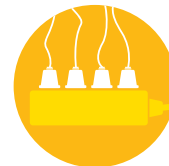
Check the following in your home to ensure your electrical safety is up to par



Replace outlets that are loose, damaged or warm to the touch.



Contact qualified electrician if home wiring is outdated.



Too many extension cords? Call an electrician to install more outlets.



Older appliances are more likely to catch fire due to faulty wiring.



**C**elebrate and surprise Mom at home on Mother's Day with a step up from your normal weekend breakfast routine. Go fancy with a brunch! Even if you can't have guests over, you can still create a festive atmosphere with just a few simple dishes. Add some sliced fruit, toast, coffee, juice and a few flowers from the yard in a vase and take a vacation from your regular breakfast without leaving the house. Mom will appreciate the extra touches to make her feel special. Don't forget to offer to clean up when it's over for bonus points!

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](mailto:HWeston@farmersrec.com).

JUNE RECIPES: FROM THE GARDEN



## Baked Sausage & Eggs

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 breakfast sausage links
- 8 oz. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 T. flour
- 4 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 c. half-and-half
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce



Bob Evans

Cook sausage; drain fat and set aside. In medium bowl, toss together cheddar cheese and flour. Place in an ungreased 1 1/2 qt. shallow round baking dish. Evenly sprinkle with Monterey Jack cheese. In medium bowl, beat eggs, half-and-half and Worcestershire sauce. Pour over cheese. Arrange sausages in spoke fashion on top. Cover and refrigerate up to 24 hours. Before baking, uncover dish and let stand at room temperature for 30 min. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until egg custard is set. Serves 6.

*Bonnie Raasch*

## Make Ahead Breakfast Casserole

### INGREDIENTS

- 12 slices bread, cubed
- 1/2 lb. American cheese (or 2 c. shredded cheddar)
- 2 c. cubed ham
- 8 eggs
- 2 c. milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 c. butter, melted



Grease an 8x12 baking dish. Put half of the bread cubes on the bottom. Layer with 1/2 of the cheese and 1/2 of the ham. Repeat layers with remaining bread, ham, and cheese. Combine eggs, milk, salt, and dry mustard. Pour over the bread layers to cover. Drizzle melted butter over the top. Foil cover casserole and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/4 hours until golden brown, uncovering for the last 15 minutes of baking.

*Tiffany Jensen*



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

**CEO:**  
Charles Dunn

2389 Highway 92 | P.O. Box 330  
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-0330  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
24 hour outside depository  
Ph: (800) 397-4821  
Fax: (641) 343-7187  
[www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com)

### Board of Directors

Dan Westphal, President  
Kevin Tanner, Secretary  
Mark Earhart  
RoxAnn Rhoads  
Kevin Stender

Steve Chandler, Vice President  
Robert Newton, Treasurer  
Darrell Jensen  
Kris Petter

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.