

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

Upcoming Office Closings

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 26-27 for Thanksgiving.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Slay those energy vampires by turning off your electronics when not in use. While these vampires won't suck your blood, some of these appliances can cause substantial increases to your energy use, costing you and your family hundreds of dollars per year. However, the Department of Energy estimates that average American household owns 25 consumer electronic devices. Those wasted watts add up, and your wallet suffers in the end. According to the Department of Energy, energy vampires can add up to nearly 10% of a household's monthly electric bill.



ANNUAL MEETING:

Co-op Holds 81st Annual Meeting

Farmers Electric held its 81st Annual Meeting Sept. 17 in a different format this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Video of staff and board member reports was recorded and posted to www.farmersrec.com as well as the Farmers Facebook page.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time in our history that we've had to forego an in-person annual meeting," said Charlie Dunn, general manager, in his report to the membership. "The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to adjust our operations, to protect both our employees and our members. What has not changed is our focus on providing you both reliable and affordable electric service."

"I can tell you that I, along with the board and employees miss the opportunity to visit with each and every one of you," said Dan Westphal, board president. "It's a fun time of year for me, a lot of friends I only see at this event and I miss that opportunity."

Ballots to elect directors were counted with the results as follows:

Eastern District: Janelle Peiffer

Central District: Kris Petter (incumbent)

Western District: Kevin Tanner (incumbent)

The following people won prizes in the drawing:

\$100: James Frederick, and Gary Ohms

\$75: Ronald Ostrus, and Glenn Rowe

\$50: Lester Bigelow, Larry Lloyd, Craig Plymesser, and John Scarlett

\$25: Fred "Bud" Allen, Tom Gettler, Jay Gibson, Cody Griffith, Joseph Johll, James Kems, David Kuhn, Dean Leith, Kathleen McKee, Rodger Rice, Dorothy Rutherford, John Shaw, Clifford Sheriff, Lauren Sholten, Roger Tanner, Richard Victor, Adam Woosley, and W. Wayne Young

\$25 Casey's Gift Card: Janene Hall, Wayne McGinnis, Denny Sickles, and Johnnie Wilson

\$25 Walmart Gift Card: Lyle Hannah, and Virginia Robinson

Thank you to WESCO and Fletcher Reinhardt for providing the gift card prizes.

THANK YOU
ROBERT NEWTON
for 18 years of service to the
Farmers Electric Board of Directors



Thompson Named General Manager of Franklin REC

Garrett Thompson, director of Finance/Administration for Farmers Electric, has accepted a position as general manager of Franklin REC in Hampton.

Garrett earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Accounting from Wichita State University. Prior to joining Farmers in 2016, Garrett worked as a controller for corporate entities and worked with a CPA firm. In 2018, he earned the Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Garrett will begin his duties at Franklin REC Oct. 15.

The cooperative thanks Garrett for his service to our members and wishes him the best of luck in his new position!



Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen

If you're doing more cooking at home these days, why not involve your family in some safety lessons around the kitchen? This year's Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10 with the theme "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen" to remind everyone of the dangers that lurk in the most used room in the house.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking is the leading cause of



home fire injuries in the United States, with almost half (44%) of all reported home fires starting in the kitchen.

Two-thirds of home cooking fires are started by the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

NFPA recommends the following tips to help

keep your family safe when cooking in the kitchen:

- Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling. If you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Need Help with Your Heating Bills?

The 2020-2021 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

All other households: Nov. 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income (for all household members 19+)
- Check stubs from the previous 30 days, award letter from Social Security or 2019 tax return
- Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Recent heat bill

Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$22,330
2	\$30,170
3	\$38,010
4	\$45,850
5	\$53,690
6	\$61,530
7	\$69,370
8	\$77,210

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,840 for each additional member.

- Recent electric bill
- If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

PROOF OF INCOME:

Wage Earners: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

continued on pg. 4

#Power On: October is National Co-op Month



**LOOK
UP AND
LIVE**

**Failure to notice
overhead power
lines could be a
deadly oversight**

With the arrival of harvest season, Farmers Electric wants to remind its members to “look up and live” when working around overhead power lines.

As farm operators move tall equipment back and forth from the fields, coming into contact with overhead power lines becomes a significant hazard. And even if direct contact isn’t made, coming close can cause electricity to jump, or “arc” to the equipment.

As a best practice, make sure everyone who is working is aware of where power lines are and knows to take precautions. Use caution when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck wagon because it can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. In the event contact is made, remember to stay inside the equipment until help can arrive. Contact with power lines can result in serious or fatal accidents.

We love our farmers and want to keep them safe this harvest season. Remember to Look Up and Live during the fall harvest.

As an electric cooperative, our top priority has always been to provide reliable, affordable energy to the members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of these members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Farmers Electric and it sets us apart from other electric utilities. October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that COVID-19 would put our community and our nation to the test? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and during this time Farmers has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity.

Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

More recently, we held our annual meeting virtually, with the board, our attorney and a few staff present to video our reports and make them available on our Web site. We missed seeing all of you and hope you were able to stay connected to your co-op either by voting in our director election or watching the video online.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

More than 80 years ago, Farmers Electric was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

Rain or shine, day or night,
we’re here for you.
October is National Co-op Month.

#PowerOn

 **Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative





Fall is here and pumpkins are ready to be harvested into something delicious. Try one of these seasonal recipes to enjoy the smells and tastes of the season!

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.

Pumpkin Sheet Cake with Butter Brown Frosting

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
- 2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. salt

- Frosting**
- 1/2 c. butter
 - 4 c. powdered sugar
 - 1/4 c. milk
 - 2 tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 12x17 jelly roll pan with non-stick cooking spray. Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and the salt; set aside. In a mixing bowl, beat together the pumpkin, sugar, and the oil. Add the eggs and mix well. Add dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and beat until well blended. Pour into the prepared pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool completely

Frosting: Stir together milk and vanilla and set aside. Add powdered sugar to a mixing bowl and set aside. Over medium heat, melt the butter stirring constantly. When it becomes very frothy and turns brown remove from the heat. Add the milk and the vanilla mixture to the powdered sugar. Add the browned butter. Mix with an electric mixer until well combined. Immediately spread on the cooled cake.



Photo: dearchrissy.com

The Best Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. pumpkin puree (canned)
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. vegetable oil (can sub with canola oil)
- 1 large egg
- 1 T. pure vanilla extract
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. pumpkin spice (add an extra 1/2 tsp. if you like spice)
- 1/2 tsp. fine sea salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda (optional)
- 1 tsp. milk (optional)
- 1 1/2-2 c. chocolate chips

Pre-heat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a baking mat. Set aside. Combine pumpkin, sugar, vegetable oil, vanilla and egg in a large bowl. Mix until smooth. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, ground cinnamon, pumpkin spice and salt. If you'd like a fluffier cookie, dissolve the baking soda with the milk and stir into the wet ingredients. Add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture and mix just until combined. Finally, stir in chocolate chips and stir until combined. Drop cookies on by the spoonful about 2 inches apart. Add a few extra chocolate chips to the tops if desired. Bake for 10-11 minutes, or until a toothpick comes clean. Allow to cool 2 minutes and then transfer to a cooling rack.



Photo: theartnaptime.com

LIHEAP...from pg. 2

Fixed Income: This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

Self-Employed/Farmers: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP Recipients: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply>, or write to LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, 321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.



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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.