

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



The Farmers Electric office will be closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday weekend!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems down the line.

Regularly changing the filter also improves the indoor air quality within your home and can have a positive impact on the health of your entire family, especially older people and children with respiratory issues.



THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE:

Call for Board Nominations

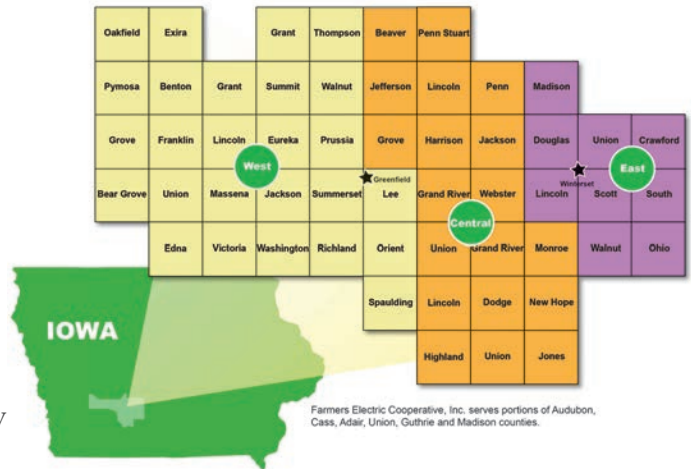
Anyone who is a member of Farmers Electric Cooperative is welcome to serve on the co-op's board of directors. Directors provide input that guides the cooperative in being fiscally responsible, setting goals, approving budget items, and staying informed of regional and national electric utility industry issues that may affect co-op members. Serving on the board is a way to give back to your community in a meaningful way.

The nine-member board of directors includes three directors from each of three districts. Every year, a nominating committee of volunteers seeks individuals from their area to run in the board of directors' election, held during the annual meeting in September. Nominees must be co-op members who reside in the district for which they are running.

One director from each district will be up for re-election this year. They are **Kevin Stender** (West District); **Mark Earhart** (Central District) and **RoxAnn Rhoads** (East District). The co-op would like to thank the following volunteers for serving on the Nominating Committee:

West District:

- Allen Steward, (641) 745-0314
- Roger Jensen, (641) 745-4764



Held Retires

Congratulations to Line Foreman Pat Held on his retirement from Farmers Electric after 31 dedicated years. We wish you well and best wishes in your retirement! Pat is pictured, left, with Dave Shike, director of Operations. With Pat's retirement, Paul Weber has been promoted to Line Foreman. Read more about Paul in our July issue.



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

continued on pg. 4

Together, We Can Beat the Peak



Peak hours are the busiest times for your local electric cooperative. It costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise. Obviously, using less electricity during peak periods can save your co-op – and you – money.

Here's how you can help during peak hours, which generally occur on the hottest summer days between 4-9 p.m.:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods.
- Turn the A/C thermostat up when you are gone and at night. Cool only the rooms you're using.

- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven, for example, uses considerably less energy than your stove or cooktop.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure to look for ENERGY STAR® labels when you're evaluating different models.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You'll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants – and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center, (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service, (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found at 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:

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

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Cleaner and greener!

Did you know that since 2005, the carbon emissions from producing electricity have decreased on average, by 28%?

www.touchstoneenergy.com/technology





Farmers Electric Cooperative wants your help shine the light on volunteers who make our communities great places to live, work and play.

To celebrate these local heroes, Iowa's electric cooperatives have launched the Shine the Light contest, and will accept nominations through June 30 by visiting www.IowaShineTheLight.com. Three winners will each receive a \$1,500 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

If you receive electricity from Farmers Electric, you're a co-op member and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. The three winners will be announced during the Iowa State Fair in August. In addition to the \$1,500 donation, each winner will be featured in the September issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa*.

Contest rules and more information are now available at www.IowaShineTheLight.com. Help us SHINE THE LIGHT on our community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination!

We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

The smell of spring is in the air, but so is the threat of severe weather and tornadoes. In Iowa, both May and June are peak months for tornadoes due mainly to the greatest contrast between the cold air of winter and the warm, moist air of the approaching summer. Did you know that Iowa experiences an average of 50 tornadoes annually and is counted among the top 10 states with the highest incidents?

These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Farmers Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond if or when power outages occur in our area.

On a daily basis, our crews are monitoring weather conditions that can put them at risk as they work outside with little protection from the elements. This time of year, skies can transform from blue to black and conditions can change in an instant. Rest assured, our linemen are well-trained to take the utmost safety precautions in changing weather conditions. Following a storm and during power restoration efforts, our linemen are acutely aware of how to work safely to get the power flowing to your home again.

According to the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy, the most likely time to spark a tornado in Iowa is 6 p.m.; there are very few before noon and after 10 p.m. No matter what time a tornado may strike, it's important to be prepared. Here are a few tips to remember:

1. Touch base with family members who aren't home. Make sure they are aware of the severe weather threat and have a plan for keeping themselves safe.
2. Make sure your cell phone, iPad or

other electronic communication devices, or portable power banks are fully charged.

3. DO NOT call 9-1-1 to report power outages. Call Farmers Electric at (800) 397-4821 if your power goes out or you see a downed power line. Calling 9-1-1 to report non-emergency issues like service outages can take resources away from other emergencies.
4. Turn off lights and appliances, except for the refrigerator and freezer. When the power comes back on, there may be a momentary surge or spike that can damage equipment.
5. Leave one light on so you will know when the power comes back on. Wait at least 15 minutes after power is restored to turn on other appliances.
6. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information and check in with Farmers Electric on our Facebook page or website for power restoration updates. We make a point to keep you informed every step of the way.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At your cooperative, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO



Each month, the 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 it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.
July: Favorite Grill Recipes

Classic Woolworth Cheesecake

INGREDIENTS

- 3 oz. box lemon Jell-O®
- 1 c. boiling water
- 3 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 1 stick melted butter
- 8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 5 T. lemon juice
- 1 12 oz. can evaporated milk (well chilled)



sugarapron.com

Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Cool until slightly thickened. Mix about 3/4 of graham cracker crumbs and melted butter until well blended; press into bottom of 9 x 13 pan to form a crust. Save remaining crumbs to sprinkle on top of dessert. Beat the evaporated milk until fluffy. (I use my stand mixer as it takes a little time to get to fluffy stage). In a separate bowl, beat together cream cheese, sugar and lemon juice until smooth. Slowly add the thickened Jell-O and the cream cheese mixture to the fluffy evaporated milk at low speed. Do not over mix. Spread filling over the crust and sprinkle the remaining graham cracker crumbs on top. Chill at least 2 hours or overnight. Store covered in refrigerator.

Note: This is a very popular dessert for family reunions, and it tastes just like the cheesecake we used to get at the old Woolworth stores.

Sean and Larry Cotter, Urbandale

Summertime Strawberry Pie

INGREDIENTS

- 1 whole pre-baked regular pie crust
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1/4 c. corn starch
- 1/4 c. strawberry Jell-O®, dry
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. strawberry extract (optional)
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1 1/2 c. fresh strawberries, hulled and halved
- Whipped cream, for garnish



tastykitchen.com

Preheat oven to 350. Line bottom shell with parchment paper or foil and place pie weights or dry beans on the paper. Bake crust until golden brown, 15-20 minutes. Remove pie weights or beans and parchment paper and cool completely on a wire rack. While crust is cooling, combine sugar, corn starch, Jell-O, lemon juice, strawberry extract and water in a medium sized pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium and cook until thickened, whisking often. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Arrange strawberries in the baked pie shell. Pour filling over the strawberries, coating them completely. Refrigerate until set, about two hours. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream. Store in the refrigerator, 2-3 days.

Note: I didn't use the strawberry extract because I didn't have it and the pie still turned out great!

Sharon Wood, Wota

Call for Nominations...from pg. 1

Central District:

- Daryl Nelson, (641) 740-1053
- Cliff Powell, (641) 740-2020

East District:

- Tim Pierce, (515) 468-8830

If you are interested in submitting your name to the slate of 2021 board candidates, or know someone who is, or if you'd like further information on the responsibilities of co-op board directors, please contact the nominating committee representative in your area, or call the co-op office at (800) 397-4821.



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Kevin Tanner, Secretary

Janelle Peiffer

Darrell Jensen

Kevin Stender

Steve Chandler, Vice President

RoxAnn Rhoads, Treasurer

Mark Earhart

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.