

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

Dates & Deadlines

Feb. 21: 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour applications are due to the cooperative. Eligible high school juniors can find the application and more information at www.farmersrec.com.

March 7: Deadline to return Youth Tour test (part two of application process) to the cooperative.

April 1: Deadline for 2022 Farmers Electric Scholarship applications. More information and application available at www.farmersrec.com.

June 18-24: Youth Tour

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

It may seem early to begin thinking about air conditioning your home when it's only February. But most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up, and now is a good time to get one scheduled before the summer rush. A qualified professional will check for issues that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

Welcome Back, Legislators

More than 160 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with nearly 90 state legislators Jan. 11 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for Farmers Electric representatives to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2022 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact our cooperative and the communities we serve.

"The opportunity to meet with our legislators in person gives our cooperative a voice in upcoming legislative issues that may affect our members," said Charlie Dunn, CEO. "Our board is very engaged with what's happening at the state level and will continue to monitor legislative actions throughout this year's session."



Photo: Pictured, from left, during the Welcome Back Legislative Reception are board members Kevin Stender, Kris Petter and Mark Earhart; Rep. Ray Sorensen; board members Roxann Rhoads and Janelle Peiffer; CEO Charlie Dunn; and board member Dan Westphal.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will address energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Collectively, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties every day.

Be Energy Smart: Check Out Our 2022 Residential Rebates

For years, Farmers Electric has rewarded its members for investing in energy efficient equipment. For those who are interested in taking advantage of money-saving rebates when considering energy efficient options should take note of changes to the co-op's 2022

rebate programs offerings, including the elimination of lighting incentives due to the increased availability and lower costs of these items. Rebates listed below became effective Jan. 1.

Your cooperative encourages you to research available rebates when considering purchasing new equipment.

Thankfully, technological advancements in energy efficient products on the market make it easy to choose new equipment with energy savings in mind.

Please contact Holi Weston at (641) 743-6146 with any questions or to discuss your rebate options before making a purchase.

Groundsource Heat Pump (must be AHRI listed)

Closed Loop System	\$400/ton
Open Loop System (no pump & dump)	\$300/ton
Hybrid System - Gas Backup (must have integrated controls)	add \$100/ton
Replacement Unit	\$150/ton

Air-Source Heat Pump (including mini-splits)

Cold Climate Air-Source Heat Pump	\$400/ton
Standard Air-Source Heat Pump	\$200/ton
Hybrid Air-Source Heat Pump Bonus	\$100/ton
ENERGY STAR bonus	\$250/unit

Min. SEER 15.0, HSPF 8.2, EER 12.5 - split system; Min. SEER 15.0, HSPF 8.2, EER 12 - single package

Electric Water Heating

Heat pump water heater - ENERGY STAR Integrated Unit	\$650/unit
Electric Resistance Unit (not less than 40 gal. tank; min EF ≥ 0.90)	\$75/unit
Geothermal Assisted Storage Unit (not less than 40 gal. tank; min EF ≥ 0.90)	\$150/unit
Go Electric! Bonus	\$100

(when a resistance or HPWH unit is replacing a natural gas or LP unit, or for new accounts)

Electric Vehicle Charging Unit

Residential Level II (must be installed by a qualified electrician) 50% of costs (up to \$500)

The primary charging location of the vehicle must be at the home address of the member served by Farmers Electric. Wiring rebates may also be available to offset cost of Level II charger installation. Contact us to learn more.

Indoor Air Quality

Energy/Heat Recovery Ventilator (ERV/HRV) \$250/unit

Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home. Limit of two HRVs per home.

Central Air Conditioning

ENERGY STAR Qualified \$100/unit
(Min. 15.00 SEER, 12.5 EER; limit two air conditioner rebates per residence.)

Appliances

ENERGY STAR-rated Clothes Washer \$40/unit
(must have electric water heater)

ENERGY STAR rated Clothes Dryer \$20/unit

Heat Plus Rebate

Per home \$100
Per apartment \$50
Requires separate meter

Weatherization & Insulation

Contact us or visit our web site for complete list of weatherization and insulation rebates.

All Star Home Bonus

New construction projects only. Contact us or visit our web site for details.

Commercial & Agriculture Rebates

Contact us or visit our web site for details.



Pull the Plug on Old Appliances

Call our toll-free Pull the Plug hotline at (855) 838-7517 to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner; up to three operable units per address. Pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor.

Refrigerator	\$35/unit
Freezer	\$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner	\$25/unit



He's With Us! Meter Testing Underway

Every year, Farmers Electric inspects, tests and calibrates our electric meters for accuracy and mechanical condition, in accordance with the Iowa Administrative Code. This annual testing requirement ensures we address any adjustments, replacements or repairs needed to keep your electric bill accurate.

Our meter tech, Scott Davis, will be visiting our members' locations and removing the meter to test, then returning the meter to service should it pass the test.



Scott Davis

In the event the meter does not pass the accuracy test, a new meter will be installed in its place. You do not need to be home for this process, and there is no need for Scott to enter your home.

Scott's service is something we share with neighboring Clarke Electric Cooperative. He will have identification on him and be driving the truck pictured (with the Clarke Electric identifier).

If you see him, he's with us! Feel free to call the cooperative at (800) 397-4821 if you have any questions or concerns.

Five Reasons We Love Serving Our Members

Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them - with or without a greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you.

1. Without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. The co-op was formed in 1938 when a group of local farmers banded together to bring power to our rural area when for-profit utilities would not. From those early beginnings, our cooperative has existed to serve you.

2. You support our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. The RECare program helps some of our most vulnerable members. Operation Round Up can help families with emergencies or provide grants to non-profit organizations. It cannot, however, be used to pay a members electric bill to the cooperative.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. Our board members serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify

immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

4. You help us get it right.

We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees.

5. You and other Farmers Electric members make up the community we serve – and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. That's why we donate to local charities, schools, and scholarship funds. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.

New Year Brings Out New Scam Attempts

by Holi Weston, Director of Member Services & Communications

Our cooperative was notified recently that one of our members received a phone call from a local number with the caller claiming to be an employee of Farmers Electric. The caller claimed our member was behind on their electric bill and that their power would be disconnected due to nonpayment.

Unfortunately, these types of calls are becoming more frequent. If you receive a similar phone call, please take these steps:

1. Verify. Farmers Electric will NEVER call and asks for payment. The best thing to do is hang up and call the cooperative to verify whether the call was legitimate.

2. Question the payment method. If the caller demands payment via a prepaid debit card or wire transfer, that's a red flag. These types of payments are hard to trace, and can be impossible for you to recoup your money once it is sent.

3. Don't be rushed. The caller may use a loud or demanding tone to intimidate and scare you. Remember that you are in control and simply hang up. There's no need for "Iowa Nice" when dealing with scammers!

If you are contacted by someone who you think is trying to scam you, please contact the cooperative to let us know and confirm it was a scam attempt.

Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth with CHOCOLATE



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. **March: Brunch**

No Bake Oreo Cheesecake

- 16 oz. Cool Whip, divided
- 36 Oreo cookies, divided (mini Oreos if desired for garnish)
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 3 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
- 2 Oreo pie crusts (or make your own if you prefer)

In a large Ziploc bag, crush 24 Oreo cookies, keeping them slightly chunky. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese with sweetened condensed milk for about 3 minutes until smooth and fluffy. Fold in 1 ½ c. (12 oz.) of Cool Whip and crushed Oreo cookies. Pour evenly into prepared OREO pie crusts. In the same Ziploc bag, crush remaining 12 Oreo cookies into fine crumbs. Sprinkle evenly over the tops of the two cheesecakes. Using the remaining 4 oz. of Cool Whip, pipe or use spoon to create small dollops around the edges to give it a finished look. Add mini Oreo cookies if desired. Refrigerate pie for 3 hours or overnight.



shugarysweets.com

Grandma D's Brownies

- 1 stick margarine
 - 1 c. sugar
 - 4 eggs
 - 1 can Hershey syrup
 - 1 c. + 1 T. flour
- Frosting:*
- 6 T. margarine
 - 1 1/2 c. sugar
 - 6 T. milk
 - 1/2 c. chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350. Combine margarine, sugar and eggs and beat with electric mixture until smooth. Alternate adding Hershey syrup and flour into mixture, beating after each addition. Spread batter in 11x15" baking dish. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

Frosting: Add margarine, sugar and milk to saucepan and heat over medium-high heat, stirring often, until boiling. Boil 30 seconds and remove from heat. Add chocolate chips and stir until smooth. Spread over cooled brownies.



callmepmc.com

Want a chance to get \$5 off your next electric bill? Enter a recipe in our recipe contest each month!



Open Lines is a monthly publication of
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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.