

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

Happy New Year

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.



Considering Solar?

If you are a member of Farmers Electric, and are considering installing solar, please contact us before signing any contracts with a solar installer. We want to make sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system could impact your current account and billing rate. Contact Holi Weston at (800) 397-4821, or email us using the "Contact Us" form on our website.



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

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES:

Youth Tour is Back in 2022; Apply Today!

One way Farmers Electric invests in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. After both the 2020 and 2021 trips were cancelled, the program is back in 2022! We're looking for high school juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital this June.

One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2022 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 18-24 along with 40 other student leaders from

Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

PROCESS & DEADLINES

Feb. 21: Application due to cooperative. Download the application from our website, www.farmersrec.com. Once your application is received, you'll be sent a packet of material to study and be asked to complete a 50-question open book test.

March 7: Deadline to return test to the cooperative. Four applicants who receive the top scores will be notified and interviewed by a panel of judges about the material in the test. A winner will be selected following the interviews. Three semi-finalists will receive a gift. Parents are invited to attend the interview.

Contact Holi Weston at (800) 397-4821 with any questions.



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 18-24!

Local high school students interested in public service & government are encouraged to apply now! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



2022 Scholarship Applications Due April 1

Every year, your cooperative supports area students who plan to continue their education beyond high school.

If you know a student who could use some extra money for college, please encourage them to apply for the Farmers Electric 2022 Scholarship.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational or technical school for the 2022-2023 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. The scholarship award will be distributed after the completion of the first semester and sent directly to the college.

Applications must be submitted by the close of business on Friday, April 1, 2022 to Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849.

In addition to the application, the following must be included:

- A copy of the student's transcript;
- A short essay on why electric cooperatives are important to the student; and
- A senior photo.

No other attachments are allowed. For more information, and to download an application, visit www.farmersrec.com and click on the "Community" tab or call (800) 397-4821.

Required 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 (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, 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.

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 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 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;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

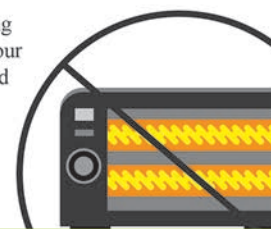
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



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.

Need Help with Heating Bills?

The 2021-2022 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing. If you're not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/> where-apply to contact your local community action agency.

Applications are accepted through April 30, 2022.

Working With Our Local Legislators

All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Farmers Electric, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

We are a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

It’s one way we strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area. We recognize that most legislators may not have expertise in the changing energy industry, which is why Farmers Electric provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who’ve been in the energy industry for many years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our members. This means we are able to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we’re advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to the community. We hope you’ll continue to advise Farmers Electric on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO



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.

Ring in the New Year Right with Healthy Choices



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. **January:** Chocolate lovers

Honey Balsamic Glazed Brussels Sprouts

- 1 lb. Brussels sprouts, cleaned and halved
- 2 T. extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 c. balsamic vinegar
- 2 T. honey
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper



Once Upon a Chef

In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add Brussels sprouts, cut side down, and cook undisturbed 3-4 minutes, until golden on the bottom. Add 1/4 cup water and cover. Let Brussels sprouts steam until tender, 3 minutes. If the skillet seems dry, add more water a tablespoon at a time. Remove sprouts from skillet and set aside on a plate. To skillet, add vinegar, honey, mustard and garlic and whisk to combine. Bring to a simmer and cook until thick and syrupy, 6-8 minutes. Return sprouts to pan, toss to coat, and heat through, 2-3 more minutes. Season with salt and pepper and serve immediately.

Slow Cooker Taco Soup

- 1 lb. lean ground beef 93/7 or lean ground turkey
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 1 oz. packet low sodium ranch dressing mix
- 1 1 oz. packet low sodium taco seasoning
- 32 oz. low sodium chicken broth
- 14.5 oz. can low sodium tomato sauce
- 2 - 14.5 oz. cans diced tomatoes with chiles
- 14.5 oz. can low sodium black beans, drained
- 1 can low sodium corn, drained



Home Made Interest

Saute onions for two minutes. Add ground beef and brown the meat. Drain browned ground beef to remove excess fat. Add ground beef mixture and all other ingredients to slow cooker. Cook on high for 4 hours or low for 6 hours. Garnish with sour cream and cheddar cheese.

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 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.