

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022



The Farmers Electric office will be closed Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday weekend.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in the summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If you can't see any floor joists above the insulation, you likely have enough. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.



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

COOPERATIVE YOUTH:

2022 Scholarship Recipients



Farmers Electric is proud to support our young members and demonstrate our commitment to their futures by offering an annual scholarship. This year, the co-op awarded a total of \$12,000 to 17 local high school seniors. Congratulations to these students!

- 1. Mallory Behnken, CAM.** Mallory is the daughter of Kim and Blaine Behnken of Massena and plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College.
- 2. Blake Bellamy, Winterset.** Blake is the son of Stephanie and Jeff Bellamy of Winterset and plans to attend Morningside University in Sioux City.
- 3. Ethan Blomme, Nodaway Valley.** Ethan is the son of Lora and Matthew Blomme of Bridgewater. He plans to attend Southwestern Community College in Creston.
- 4. Josephine Burkett, Winterset.** Josephine is the daughter of Wendy and Tony Burkett of

Winterset. She plans to attend the University of Iowa.

- 5. Madison Carstens, Nodaway Valley.** Madison is the daughter of Lisa and Kyle Carstens of Fontanelle and plans to attend Southwestern Community College in Creston.
- 6. Alexis Davis, Winterset.** Alexis is the daughter of Traci and Christopher Davis of Peru. She plans to attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.
- 7. Caelen DeVault, Nodaway Valley.** Caelen is the son of Amy and Ryan DeVault of Greenfield. He plans to attend the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo.

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Scholarships...from pg. 1

SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD



When combined, electricity and common items that seem harmless can create dangerous situations. Look at the items grouped below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create an electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key.

1	 toaster	 fork	 bagel
2	 hairdryer	 electrical outlet	 running water
3	 drone	 power lines	 picnic
4	 swimming pool	 floatie	 extension cord

Answer Key: 1) fork & toaster 2) hairdryer & water or outlet & water 3) drone & power lines 4) extension cord & pool

8. Maddax DeVault, Nodaway Valley. Maddax is the daughter of Amy and Ryan DeVault of Greenfield. She plans to attend Simpson College in Indianola.

9. Cadence Firch, Nodaway Valley. Cadence is the daughter of Stacey and Mike Firch of Fontanelle. She plans to attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz.

10. Dawson Forgy, Winterset. Dawson is the son of Maria and Ben Forgy of Winterset. He plans to attend Wayne State College in Wayne, Neb.

11. Joe Kauffman, CAM. Joe is the son of Heather and Nick Kauffman of Adair. He plans to attend the University of Iowa.

12. Ashley Kinney, Winterset. Ashley is the daughter of Rebekah and Phillip Kinney of Winterset. She plans to attend Iowa State University.

13. Riley Kious, Winterset. Riley is the daughter of Kaci and Marcus Kious of Lorimor. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin Stout in Menomonie, Wis.

14. Grant Mundus, Earlham. Grant is the son of Christina and Lee Mundus of Winterset. He plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa.

15. Macy Nelson, I-35. Macy is the daughter of Bryan and Tawnya Nelson of St. Charles. She plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College.

16. Patrick Schultz, Winterset. Patrick is the son of Jennifer and Scott Schultz of Winterset. He is undecided on his future college plans.

17. Meghan Wightman, Winterset. Meghan is the daughter of Jyl Scholl and Jim Wightman of Winterset. She plans to attend Grand View University in Des Moines.

PLUG INTO SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH
Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

Rhoads Earns NRECA Director Gold



Farmers Electric Cooperative Board Member RoxAnn Rhoads (pictured above with Board President Dan Westphal) has earned the Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The credential recognizes co-op board members who are committed to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. The Director Gold Certificate is the highest achievement for an electric cooperative board member.

For a director to earn the Director Gold certificate, they must have already earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates. Director Gold includes a continuing education requirement to maintain their Director Gold status.

NRECA represents more than 900 electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 47 states.

Congratulations, RoxAnn!

Restoring Your Power Safely & Efficiently

Your cooperative does its best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen. Now that we're in the height of spring storm season, I wanted to take a moment to explain our process for restoring your power after an outage.

As soon as it is safe to do so, our line crews begin by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible. This means working on our larger main distribution lines that service many homes and businesses. Then, they work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on utility poles or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between these transformers and your home are repaired.

At any given time, the cooperative maintains an inventory of utility poles, transformers

and other equipment so that we can get to work quickly. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

As a co-op member, you can help us pinpoint outages. After you verify the outage is not limited to just your home, don't assume a neighbor has reported it. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling our outage reporting number at (800) 397-4821. And, we will provide updates on power restoration efforts on our Facebook page.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Farmers Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

Add a Safety Focus to Spring Planting

Being prepared for medical emergencies and knowing the basics of first response can help minimize the extent of injuries during the busy spring planting season. Preparation includes having the right materials available. Keep in mind the following tips as you put together your farm emergency/first aid kit:

1. **Consider developing several first aid kits** specific to the hazards, area and potential injury. A first aid kit in the barn may look different than one on the tractor.
2. **Make sure your emergency kit contains personal medical information** and supplies for those with special medical conditions, such as allergies. The names and phone numbers of family doctors should be included.

3. **Keep a card with written directions** about how to get to the farmstead, field or work area in each kit. This will help save time explaining the location to 911 emergency operators.
4. **Check kit every three months;** inspect for expired supplies. Replace items that are dusty and make sure supplies fit the season.
5. **Pack a Red Cross manual or first aid chart.** This information is invaluable during a crisis when it's difficult to think clearly. First aid charts and Red Cross manuals list necessary steps to care for victims of various events, such as drowning, shock, fractures, or burns, and how to avoid additional injury.
6. **Label all kits clearly.** Store in a large nylon travel or sports bag with a visible label.

Celebrate Iowa's Beef Industry During Beef Month

May is Beef Month in Iowa, a chance for Iowans to celebrate the contributions of Iowa's cattle farmers to our state and nation. Every year, Iowa's cattle industry contributes in excess of \$6.8 billion in business activity to Iowa's economy. As a major beef producing state, Iowa's cattle inventory* is 3.85 million, making it the eighth largest cattle producing state. That's more than the 3.1 million humans who live in Iowa!**

It's hard to beat the nutrients you get from a serving of real beef that supplies 10 essential nutrients that support a healthy lifestyle, including protein, zinc, iron and B vitamins. Iowa's beef farmers are committed to providing a high-quality, wholesome and nutritious product for families to enjoy.

Did you know that raising beef today requires less water, land and energy, and has a smaller environmental footprint thanks to continuous improvements by Iowa farmers? And, compared to 1960, there are half as many beef farmers and ranchers today feeding a U.S. population that has more than doubled!

To learn more about Iowa's beef industry or find budget-friendly beef recipes and cooking tips, visit iabeef.org.

*January, 2021 data. **2019 data.

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

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. **June: Summer Desserts**



Maid-Rites

- 1lb. 85% ground beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 beef bouillon cube
- 1/2 c. water
- Black pepper (to taste)
- 1 1/2 T. soy sauce
- 1 1/2 T. A.1. steak sauce
- 4-5 buns
- Softened butter



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Sauté beef and onions until cooked then drain and return to pan. Add the rest of the ingredients then simmer for 30 minutes. In the last 5 minutes of simmering, spread softened butter on the buns and place under broiler oven to toast. Scoop meat onto toasted buns and serve. Makes 4-5 sandwiches.

Tiffany Jensen



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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.