

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022



The Farmers Electric office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We wish all our members a safe and health holiday!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Did you know that about 90% of U.S. homes leak air? Air gaps account for as much as 30% of the energy used to heat and cool homes. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Air sealing products include caulk, foam and weatherstripping. These materials are some of the least expensive efficiency products at most hardware stores – and are easy to use.



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YOUR COOPERATIVE:

Stay Connected to Your Co-op

Living through an Iowa winter means understanding that rough weather will occur and sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. When this happens, Farmers Electric's line crews are out as soon as is safely possible, working in harsh conditions day or night, to restore your power.

But there's one step you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible. By keeping your contact information up to date, you can help us speed up the power restoration process by allowing us to more quickly and accurately locate the outage when you make a report. Please let the co-op know if the phone number on your account, your mailing address or any other information on your account has changed.

Another important reason to keep your contact information up to date is so the cooperative can locate you when it comes time to pay out capital credits. Each year, the Farmers Electric Board determines how much money will be returned to co-op members after all expenses have been paid.

We currently have a long list of members and former members who have not cashed their capital credits checks. We publish this list annually in this newsletter – visit our web site, www.farmersrec.com and click on "About Us" then "Publications" then August 2022 issue

to see the current list. It's very important that Farmers Electric finds these people as soon as possible so that we can forward payment.

If you see your name on the list, or have information on the whereabouts of anyone listed, please contact us.



Student Job Shadows Linemen

Farmers Electric is proud to support young people who pursue careers in utility industry. Recently, local Creston High School student Garrett Fry spent a day job shadowing our employees, learning more about what linemen do on a daily basis. Garrett plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) to pursue being a lineman. Garrett is pictured here with Director of Operations Dave Shike.



Directors Attend 2022 Washington D.C. Flyin

Farmers Electric President and Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board Member Dan Westphal and Farmers Electric Director Mark Earhart were among a group of representatives from Iowa's rural electric co-ops to visit Washington, D.C., in September.

Every year, RECs from across the country travel to our nation's capital to meet face-to-face with Iowa's Congressional leaders. It's important for electric co-ops like Farmers Electric to advocate on behalf of our members for legislation that is fair and representative of our co-op's values and goals.

Sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the trip is an opportunity to highlight how federal legislation affects RECs like Farmers Electric.

Pictured above, from left to right: Kerry Koonce, CIPCO; Rep. Cindy Axne; Deena Moore, Southwest Iowa REC; Dan Westphal and Mark Earhart, Farmers REC Board of Directors.

Thankful for a Caring Community

As a member-owner of Farmers Electric Cooperative, you probably don't think often about your ownership role with the cooperative unless you're paying your bill or checking your usage.

But every day you can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of an electric cooperative that works hard to power the communities we serve, including your friends, family and neighbors. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good. As a local cooperative, we believe we have an obligation to be an integral part of the community by providing electrical safety demonstrations in schools, sponsoring a high school junior for the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., or providing scholarships to graduating high school seniors and more.

We are all owners of our co-op, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. But think about how

much greater it could be if we work cooperatively together to tackle future challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community.



HOLI WESTON
INTERIM CEO

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are out working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. With winter right around the corner, we know there will be times our crews are called out during challenging conditions for prolonged periods as they work to restore power. Thank you for your patience during these times.

We all have a role to play in our cooperative as it reflects the evolving needs of our local community. We promise to do our part to make our corner of the world a better place, but we can't do it without you, and for that, we are thankful for your membership.

Utility Poles Aren't Billboards

Posting signs on a utility pole may seem harmless, but it actually presents a significant safety hazard to our lineworkers and other utility employees who may be working on or near the poles.

Balloons, signs, birdhouses or flags, for instance, that are attached with nails, staples or sharp tacks can tear our lineworkers' rubber equipment which helps protect them from electrical shock.

We value the safety of our employees and customers above all else, so be sure not to hang signs of any type to utility poles.





Orange Apricot Jell-O Salad

3 – 3oz. boxes of orange Jell-O®

24 oz. apricot nectar, boiled

4 oz. softened cream cheese

Prepare Jell-O in three separate bowls according to instructions, substituting apricot nectar for the boiling water. When Jell-O is completely dissolved in the nectar, add one cup



of cold water to each of the three bowls. Pour the first bowl of Jell-O mixture into a 9x13 pan and place in fridge to set. While that is cooling, add softened cream cheese to bowl and with electric mixer, slowly add in the second bowl of Jell-O mixture. When completely blended, pour mixture over the first set layer. The third layer can be poured over the top once the first two layers are set. Once third layer is added, return to fridge to set completely. This makes a pretty addition to Thanksgiving dinner since it is orange in color. You can also add a lettuce leaf to a dessert dish and add a piece of the Jell-O salad on top for an individual serving.

Kathy Bemisdarfer, St. Charles

Pumpkin Bars

2 c. sifted flour

1/2 tsp. salt

2 c. sugar

1 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. cinnamon

4 eggs, beaten

1 15 oz. can pure pumpkin

1 c. vegetable oil



Frosting

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

3 3/4 c. – 4 c. powdered sugar

2/3 c. oleo/margarine

2 T. milk

2 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350. Into bowl, sift together flour, salt, sugar, baking soda, baking powder and cinnamon. Set aside. In separate bowl, combine beaten eggs, pumpkin and oil. Add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture and stir until well blended. Pour batter into greased jelly roll pan (approx. 10" x 15"). Bake 15 minutes and test with toothpick. Bars are done when toothpick comes out clean. Allow to cool completely and then frost.

Jan Krantz, Alton



DECEMBER: Merry & Sweet Christmas recipes



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.