

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



The Farmers Electric office will be closed December 25 and 26 and January 1, 2024.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are wi-fi enabled and automatically adjust temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away. For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY START® label. Source: Dept. of Energy



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS from our crew to yours!



LESS PRESENTS

MORE PRESENTS

You can save as much as 3% on your heating bill for each degree you lower your thermostat in winter.

RECare: Show Your Care During Season of Giving

As you plan your end-of-year giving this holiday season, please consider contributing to the Farmers Electric RECare program.

RECare helps your fellow member-consumers offset the cost of their electric bills and weatherization expenses to maximize the efficiency of heating their home during the cold months of the year. Donations are distributed by local community action agencies to low-income members.

With a one-time or monthly pledge, you can make a big difference for those in need. If you choose to do a monthly pledge, the amount can simply be added to your monthly electric bill. Your

financial assistance will be distributed locally within our service area to eligible:

- Households below the poverty level;
- Households with disabled individuals;
- Households of elderly individuals; and
- Households with children under six years of age.

Many families in our communities are struggling to meet their basic needs, particularly during this time of inflation and rising fuel costs. They are facing a long, dark winter of worrying about how they will pay to heat their home or put food on the table.

Your giving goes a long way!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.

Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: RECare
c/o Farmers Electric Cooperative
2389 Hwy. 92 | P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, IA 50849

Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher



- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone



According to the National Safety Council (NSC), kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly.

Line Patrol is Key to an Effective Power System

Doing maintenance on a sunny weekday, rather than fixing an outage in the middle of the night, benefits you and Farmers Electric. In the coming weeks, please be mindful of our line crews who will be conducting line inspections across our service territory and remember to move over and slow down as you pass them working alongside the road.

Crews will be looking for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards and other problems that may affect our distribution lines that bring power to your home or business. Maintenance like replacing insulators and tightening bolts when the weather is good helps cut down on outages and power restoration when the weather is bad.

While your cooperative tries to prevent unplanned outages by making sure our equipment is in good working order, we all know what an Iowa winter can be like. Farmers Electric is committed to providing a safe, affordable and reliable electric system; preventative maintenance including line patrol is one of the many proactive ways we are strengthening our power system.



Reliable Power Today - and Tomorrow

Ringing in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As CEO of Farmers Electric Cooperative, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve our cooperative members.

Our team is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across Adair, Audubon, Cass, Guthrie, Madison and Union counties.

You may not realize it, but Farmers Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Farmers Electric is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps your co-op save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown and weakened limbs that are likely to fall. As technology advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Iowa and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Farmers Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

Need help with heating bills?

The LIHEAP application period is now open for all households in Farmers Electric's service territory.

Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.

IT'S BEGINNING To TASTE A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



Looking for a quick homemade treat that makes a great gift for neighbors and friends, or a simple dessert to take to your next holiday party?

This month's recipes are short on ingredients, but long on taste. They're simple to make and can be enjoyed throughout the festive season.

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

Mail your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.

JANUARY: Healthy recipes; FEBRUARY: In Love with Chocolate



Holiday Chocolate Mint Squares

Chocolate crumbs (buy ready-made or make by crushing 54 chocolate sandwich cookies and mixing in 1/2 cup melted butter)

6 c. peppermint ice cream, softened

12 oz. jar of hot fudge topping



sweetspicykitchen.com

Press chocolate crumbs into greased 9x13 pan. Freeze until firm. Spread ice cream over crust and freeze until firm. Soften fudge topping in microwave and spread over ice cream to cover. Sprinkle remaining crumbs over sauce. Cover and freeze overnight. Cut into squares and serve. Optional: sprinkle crushed candy canes on top of bars.

Jan Krantz

Chocolate Coconut Macaroons

1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk

2 c. chocolate chips

4 c. coconut

2 tsp. of vanilla extract

1 1/2 tsp. almond extract



bakeatrepeat.com

Combine all ingredients in one bowl and mix thoroughly. Using spoon, scoop batter and drop onto greased cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from cookie sheet immediately and cool on waxed paper.

Pam Reed



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.