

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

Upcoming Deadlines

March 1: Youth Tour applications due.

April 3: Scholarship application deadline (read more on pg. 2).

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.



Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

Co-ops Welcome Back Legislators

Farmers Electric Directors and CEO joined more than 150 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives to welcome back state legislators Jan. 10.

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.

Each year, Farmers Electric takes this valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

"The facetime we get with these elected leaders goes a long way for them remembering us when the time comes to vote on bills and policies that will affect our members," said



Pictured, from left: Farmers Board Members Cary Gilman, Kevin Stender and Steve Chandler; CEO Holi Weston; Sen. Amy Sinclair; Board Members Mark Earhart, Janelle Peiffer, Kris Petter and President Dan Westphal; and Rep. Ray Sorenson.

Holi Weston, CEO. "I look forward to meeting with them again in March to reinforce our position on these issues."

Farmers Electric will also send representatives to the annual REC Day on the Hill March 15 at the State Capitol in Des Moines.



ATTENTION!

Know a student who could use some extra help with college expenses? Check out the Farmers Electric scholarship opportunity!

Read more on pg. 2

2023 Scholarship Applications Due April 3

Electric cooperatives like Farmers Electric are guided by seven principles, including Commitment to Community. That's why each year the cooperative supports local students who plan to continue their education beyond high school with a scholarship opportunity. If you know a student who could use some extra money for college, encourage them to apply for the Farmers Electric 2023 Scholarship.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college,

university or vocational or technical school for the 2023-2024 school year. The student must also have a parent or legal guardian who is a Farmers member and resides within the cooperative's service territory. Children or grandchildren of directors are not eligible. 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 Monday, April 3, 2023, 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 answering the question: "What are the advantages of being a member of an electric cooperative versus receiving your electricity from an investor-owned utility?"; 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.

Is Your Contact Information Up to Date?

In certain situations, Farmers Electric may need to get in touch with you for various reasons related to outages, bill payments or delivery of capital credits checks.

It's important that, as your electric provider, your contact information is up to date.

If any of your contact information has changed recently, please let us know by calling us at (800) 397-4821. You can also update your information on SmartHub by clicking on "My Profile."

All your personal information is kept private.

If your contact information has not changed, you do not need to do anything and can disregard this notice.

Call our office with any questions.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Electricity is essential for our daily lives, but it can also be dangerous if you don't play it safe!

Read the safety tips below and unscramble the bolded text to complete the phrase. Use the answer key to double check your work.



1. Never place extension **rdsoc** under rugs or carpet.

2. Make sure electrical cords are not **yrafde** or broken.

3. Smoke **maalsr** should be tested every month.

4. Place electrical cords in areas where you won't **itpr** on them.

5. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from space **shetear**.

6. Electricity and **rwtea** never mix.

Answer Key: 1) cords 2) frayed 3) alarms 4) trip 5) heaters 6) water

Check Out Our 2023 Rebates

For years, Farmers Electric has rewarded its members for investing in energy efficient equipment and practices.

As a not-for-profit local business, saving energy benefits all of us. It reduces our reliance on electricity generation and lowers co-op power purchase costs. For our members, it means a lower monthly bill. It also increases property values with a switch to more reliable equipment and lower maintenance costs.

Those who are interested in taking advantage of money-saving rebates when considering energy efficient options should review the co-op's 2023 rebate programs offerings that became effective Jan. 1. You can find the list of residential, commercial and agricultural rebates on our Web site, www.farmersrec.com/rebates.

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.

Visit www.farmersrec.com to view all available rebates, or contact Holi Weston at (641) 743-6146 with any questions or to discuss your rebate options before making a purchase.

Teamwork That Adds Up

Thinking of the new year and all it will bring reminds me of the many blessings we have to be thankful for.

I'm not being biased when I say the team we have currently at Farmers Electric is unlike any other. We are not successful because of one person; we are successful because we are a team all working toward the same goal: providing electric service to our members that is safe, affordable and reliable.

When I think of how far we have come in just the last year, I can't help but also think of the knowledge we have amassed among all our employees. From our newest employees to those who have stuck with us for decades, there are numerous ways we share this knowledge to build our team's collective knowledge. So, out of curiosity, I wanted to add up how many total years of service we have worked.

As of the end of 2022, this is what I came up with:

- Mike Auten:** Apprentice Lineman, 6 months
- Sam Dolan:** Apprentice Lineman, 6 months
- Mason Wisse:** Apprentice Lineman, 1 year
- Lori Kinyon:** Director of Finance and Accounting, 2 years
- Joe Blankenship:** Apprentice Lineman, 5 years
- Darrian Fischer:** Lineman, 5 years
- Chad Berrey:** Lineman, 6 years
- Trey Eddy:** Lineman, 6 years

Scott Davis: Meter Technician (shared with Clarke Electric), 8 years

Marisa Pickrell: Billing Clerk/Customer Service, 9 years

Josh Oder: Lineman, 11 years

Holi Weston: CEO, 13 years

Ross Wright: Lineman, 15 years

Lynn Miller: Work Order Accountant, 21 years

Nick Kintigh: Line Foreman, 23 years

Gina Meisenheimer: Accounts Payable/ Payroll, 23 years

Carol Hutchinson: Customer Service/ Accounts Receivable, 26 years

Paul Paxton: Lineman/Staking Technician, 28 years

Paul Weber: Line Foreman, 29 years

Jeff Held: Material Coordinator, 31 years

Dave Shike: Director of Operations, 32 years

By my count, that's 295 years of knowledge, service, loyalty, and dedication to our members!

We're still early in the year, and I know 2023 will bring its challenges. I also know that with this team, we can take on those challenges as they come! Happy New Year!

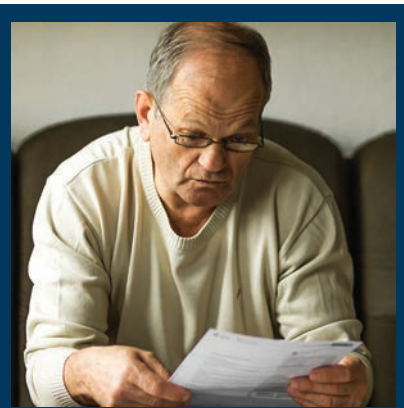


HOLI WESTON
CEO

Need Help with Heating Bills?

The 2022-2023 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter season.

For more information or 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, 2023.



IN LOVE WITH
Chocolate



Chocolate Caramel Bars

- 40 light caramels
- 2/3 c. evaporated milk, divided
- 1 pkg. chocolate cake mix
- 1/2 c. softened margarine
- 1 1/2 c. chocolate chips
- 1 c. chopped walnuts (optional)



spicysouthernkitchen.com

In microwave, melt caramels and 1/3 c. evaporated milk. Stir after each minute until melted. Set aside. Grease and flour 9x13 cake pan. In a bowl, combine dry cake mix, margarine, 1/3 c. evaporated milk and nuts (optional). Stir with a fork until dough holds together. Press 2/3 of the dough into pan. Flour fingers to keep dough from sticking. Bake at 350 degrees for six minutes. Sprinkle chocolate chips over partially baked crust and spread caramel mixture over chips. Crumble remaining dough over caramel mixture. Bake 15-18 minutes longer. Cool and cut.

Phyllis Jones

Frosted Brownie Cookies

- 3/4 c. vegetable oil
- 2 c. sugar
- 2/3 c. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 4 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract



yeyfood.com

In small bowl, whisk together flour and baking powder. In large bowl, combine oil, sugar, cocoa, then add eggs one at a time, mixing well between each addition. Add vanilla. Slowly add flour mixture and mix until just combined. Use medium scooper to scoop dough and place on parchment paper. Bake 12-15 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool a few minutes on pan then move to cooling rack. Once cooled, add frosting.

FROSTING:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 oz. unsweetened baking chocolate | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 4 T. unsalted butter | 4-5 T. heavy cream |
| | 2 c. powdered sugar |

In small saucepan, melt chocolate and butter on medium heat. Once melted, cool for 15 minutes. Using a stand mixer, combine cooled chocolate, vanilla, and heavy cream and mix well. Add powdered sugar and mix thoroughly. If crumbly, add more heavy cream. Spread on cooled cookies and set aside to allow frosting to harden a little bit. Store in airtight container at room temperature or freeze between sheets of wax paper.

Laurel Scholten



Enter to win \$5 off your electric bill with our recipe contest!

Mail your recipe with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail to: HWeston@farmersrec.com. Send recipes by the 15th of each month to be included in the newsletter.

MARCH: Brunch APRIL: Pasta



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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.