

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Friday, Nov. 10 in honor of Veterans Day.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand?

To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use. For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking. - Dept. of Energy



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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

THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE:

Thank You for Attending Our Annual Meeting

Thank you to all our members who turned out for our 84th Annual Meeting Sept. 19. We had 176 people attend on a wet and rainy evening to hear reports on 2022 co-op finances and operations and to take part in the democratic process of their electric cooperative. Attendees should watch their next electric bill for a \$10 credit!

Although it may sound like a business meeting, it isn't just that. It's also an event to celebrate our members! Each year we offer a free meal, fellowship, attendance gifts and prize drawings. Most of all, we enjoy seeing our members in person and sharing in the celebration of our accomplishments.

During the meeting, ballots to elect directors were counted with the results as follows:

East District: Janelle Peiffer, incumbent

West District: Kevin Tanner, incumbent

Central District: Kris Petter, incumbent

This year, the co-op recognized Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk Gina Meisenheimer for 20 years of service to Farmers Electric Cooperative and Work Order Accountant Marisa Pickrell for 10 years of service.

Megan McCall sent a note thanking the membership for her trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Plan now to join us for our 2024 annual meeting!



Farmers Electric Cooperative Board President Dan Westphal presents his report during the 2023 Annual Meeting Sept. 19.

Staff Recognition



Board President Dan Westphal presents Gina Meisenheimer with recognition for 20 years of service to the co-op.



Board President Dan Westphal presents Marisa Pickrell with recognition for 10 years of service to the co-op.



Assistance for Winter Heating Bills Now Available

The 2023-2024 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 heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

When to apply

Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2023-April 30, 2024. All other households: Nov. 1, 2023-April 30, 2024.

What to take

- Proof of income for all household members 19+. Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.

- Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required).
- Most recent heat bill
- Most recent electric bill
- If you receive alimony or child support, it will need to be verified.

Proof of Income

Wage earners: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

Fixed income: This may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

Self-employed/farmers: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP recipients: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply>, or write to LIHEAP, Iowa Dept. of Human Rights, 321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For households with more than 8 members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.

Student Volunteers Help Beautify Co-op Grounds

These Nodaway Valley students were able to earn Silver Cord hours this past weekend by helping paint and spruce up our grounds at Farmers Electric. Thank you Chase Comstock, Maddie Weston, and Mylee Comstock for your community service!

The mission of the Nodaway Valley Silver Cord Program is to establish the importance of community service and develop leadership skills through these opportunities. Students who complete 100 volunteer hours over the course of their high school career earn the honor

of wearing a silver cord during their graduation ceremony.

Even better, the students provided a great demonstration of one of our cooperative principles: Concern for Community!



A finished post stands next to an unfinished post. At right, the student volunteers stand next to completely painted posts. In all, they painted 37 posts.



Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries? Cooking safety starts with YOU.



Pay attention to fire prevention.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8-14

According to National Fire Protection Association, cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with nearly half of all home fires involving cooking equipment; cooking is also the leading cause of home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires and related deaths.

This year, remind your family about the following cooking safety tips to help prevent a fire:

- Always keep a close eye on what you're cooking. For foods with longer cook times, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.
- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and keep anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Create a "kid and pet free zone" of at least three feet around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

We're Better When We Grow Together

October is National Co-op Month which is reason enough for us to celebrate our business and more importantly, our members!

Electric co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but we all have a common goal: to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service for our members.

In honor of Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles--and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

Co-ops Grow Together: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons

learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's


Leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You: At Farmers Electric, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



HOLI WESTON
CEO

OCTOBER IS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH
Remember to think before you click!

CO-OPS GROW 

COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.



Pumpkin Bread

- 3 c. sugar
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 4 eggs lightly beaten
- 1 can (16 oz.) solid pack pumpkin
- 3 1/2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground nutmeg



simplejoy.com

- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 c. water

In a large bowl, combine sugar, oil, and eggs. Add pumpkin and mix well. Combine dry ingredients; add to the pumpkin mixture alternately with water. Pour into two, 9"x5"x3" loaf pans and bake 35-60 minutes at 350. Cool in pans for 10 minutes then remove for them to cool completely.

RoxAnn Rhoads

Pumpkin Muffins

- 2 c. rolled oats
- 1 c. pumpkin puree, canned
- 6 oz. plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 c. real maple syrup
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- Pinch of cinnamon and salt
- Chocolate chips (optional)



morethanmeatandpotatoes.com

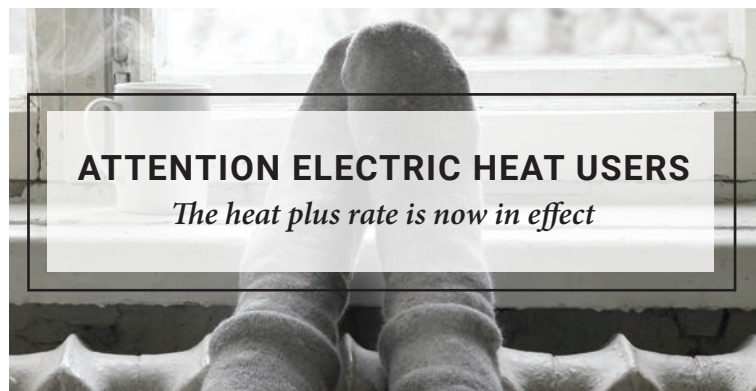
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a food processor or blender, pulse the oats for about 10 seconds to get them mostly smooth. Add rest of the ingredients to the oats and pulse until mixed (some pieces of oats may remain). Stir in chocolate chips if you want them. Transfer to a greased muffin tin. Bake for about 15 minutes.

NOTES: Gluten-free oats work well, too. Also, bake the batter right away! If you wait a long time between mixing up the batter and baking, the oats will absorb a lot of moisture and the muffin texture will get gummy.

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-mailing it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com. **NOVEMBER: Thanksgiving recipes; DECEMBER: Christmas treats**



ATTENTION ELECTRIC HEAT USERS

The heat plus rate is now in effect



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Open Lines is a monthly publication of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CEO:
Holi Weston

2389 Highway 92 | P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-0330
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.
24 hour outside depository
Ph: (800) 397-4821
Fax: (641) 343-7187
www.farmersrec.com

Board of Directors

Dan Westphal, President
Kevin Tanner, Secretary
Cary Gilman
Mark Earhart
Kevin Stender

Steve Chandler, Vice President
RoxAnn Rhoads, Treasurer
Janelle Peiffer
Kris Petter

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.