

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.



Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.



P.O. Box 330  
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## Do You Know These "Missing" Members?

One of the biggest benefits of being a member of a local electric cooperative is sharing in its success. Every year, once all financial statements have been finalized and audited, the co-op records the margin, or the difference between revenue and expenses. These margins are held for 15-20 years before being dispersed to Farmers Electric Cooperative members based on their electric

usage in the year the margins were recorded.

The list below are the names of those members whose checks have not been cashed, for one reason or another. It's important that Farmers Electric finds these people as soon as possible so that we can forward payment to them.

If you see your name or have information on the whereabouts of any of the members below, please contact us.

Abarr, Margaret	Holloway, James	Morrison, Patricia	Thompson, Paul
Allen, Robert	Huddleson, Laura	Norman, Kathy	Timmerman, Jeff
Beverlin, Kodi	Iowa RSA 2 LTD	Olsen, Kenneth	Trausch Farms
Brown, Donald	Partnership	Penton, Phyllis	Vais, Larry
Carter, Chad	James, Judy	Powell, Troy	Waltz, James
Drake, Mary	Johnson, Harley	Quintana, Matthew	Ward, Brian
Dwyer, Charles	Kent, Bart	Raffel, Patricia	Watson, Brett
Eckelberg, Shane	Krause, Francis	Reper, Darryl	Weissinger, Robert
Emerson, John	Larsen, Joyce EST	Richardson, Amy	Westphal, Nathan
Good, Linda	McGhee, Daniel	Scar, Dwayne	Williams, Gary
Griffith, Daniel	Midwest	Sitkiewicz, Norbert	Williams, John
Hedlund, Dennis	Underground, Inc.	Snyder, Sandra	
Hillman, Philip	Moran, Lois	Stevens, Kelly	

Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair!



Stop by our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building and pick up a plastic hardhat and suckers for the kids. Don't forget to snap a pic in our safety selfie station!





OFFICIAL SPONSOR

# Energy Scams Unmasked

**T**here are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam.

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately.

Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam.

You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

Farmers Electric Cooperative will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects.

We will never ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, online through SmartHub, phone, or automatic payment options.

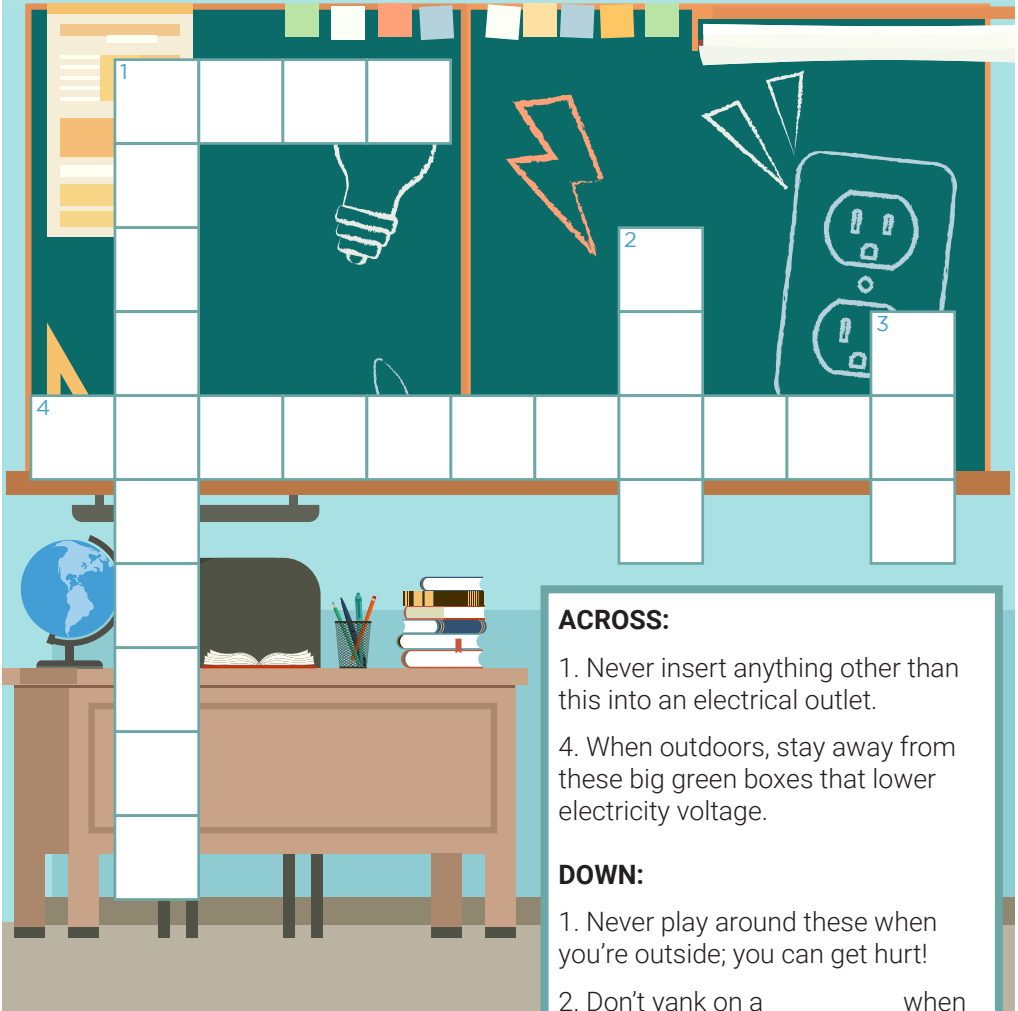
If you're ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, just give us a quick call to verify. We want to protect you and our community against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense and prevent others from falling victim.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, remember to practice electrical safety in the classroom and at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.



Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double check your answers in the key.



### ACROSS:

1. Never insert anything other than this into an electrical outlet.
4. When outdoors, stay away from these big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

### DOWN:

1. Never play around these when you're outside; you can get hurt!
2. Don't yank on a \_\_\_\_\_ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
3. Always make sure your hands are \_\_\_\_\_ before plugging anything in.

### ANSWER KEY

1. ACROSS: Plug  
2. DOWN: Transformer  
3. DOWN: Dry  
4. ACROSS: Cord  
1. DOWN: Power Lines



Nails, staples or sharp tacks can injure our lineworkers and other utility workers who may be climbing or working near utility poles. They can also tear our lineworkers' rubber equipment, which helps protect them from electrical shock.

# Electrical Safety in the Dorm



If your child is headed off to college for the first time, make sure they brush up on how to prevent an accident or fire while living on their own. Every year, there are more than 3,500 fires on college campuses. Here are some good reminders:

1. Unplug extension cords when not in use, especially in older buildings.
2. Use a power strip with an over-current protector that will shut it off automatically if there is too much current.
3. Never run electrical cords across high-traffic areas or under rugs.
4. Keep appliances and cords away from bedding, curtains and other flammable materials.
5. Watch out for outlets that may overheat. If an outlet becomes so hot you can't rest your hand on it, there is a potential for fire. Contact the landlord or facility maintenance immediately.
6. Take note of fire exits and have a plan for what to do in case of a fire emergency.

# A Co-op That Cares

**O**wnership matters. Whether it's a car, a home or a prized possession, it makes sense that we treat the things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your role as a member of Farmers Electric Cooperative. If your electricity is supplied by us, you can take pride in the fact that you are also an owner of this electric cooperative. While at times it may seem easy to take electricity for granted, our staff works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

A locally-based cooperative like ours has a special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the communities we serve. We understand that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors, or to people that have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

As we continue as a community rebuilding and recovering from the May tornado, our

collective efforts have required strength – both physically and emotionally. But our community is strong, coming together to reinforce our will as we work cooperatively to tackle our current and future challenges.



**HOLI WESTON**  
CEO

We are right beside you, putting care and attention in the places that matter and looking for solutions. We want to come back better than we were before so we can keep businesses – and people – right here in our community.

I invite you to attend our annual meeting Tuesday, Sept. 24 at the Adair Co. Fairgrounds. We will have a free meal, prize drawings and a business meeting with updates on cooperative operations. Attending the annual meeting is a good way to engage with us and understand your role within our electric cooperative.

As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part. If you have thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact us. You are the owners of the co-op, and we welcome your active participation.

## WHERE DO YOU FIND VALUE?

**Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?**

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. That's real value.



**Morning To-Go Latte**



**Fast-Food Combo Lunch**



**All-Day Power**

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

# MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER WITH COOL SALADS



## Broccoli Salad

4 c. raw broccoli, chopped  
 8 slices bacon, cooked crispy and crumbled  
 1 small red onion, chopped  
 1/2 c. raisins  
 1 c. mayonnaise  
 1/4 c. sugar  
 3 tsp. apple cider vinegar  
 Place broccoli, bacon, onion and raisins in a large mixing bowl. In separate bowl, stir together mayonnaise, sugar and apple cider vinegar. Pour dressing over broccoli mixture; toss lightly.



*dontgobaconmyheart.co.uk*

*Phyllis Jones, Winterset*

Every month, Farmers Electric makes a call for recipes to appear in this newsletter. Submissions are entered to win \$5 off their next electric bill. Just mail your entry with your bill to Farmers Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or email it to HWeston@farmersrec.com.



September - None (annual meeting issue)  
 October - Pumpkin  
 November - Thanksgiving  
 December - Holiday Treats

## Corn Relish

1 can shoe peg corn  
 1 can pinto beans, rinsed and drained  
 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained  
 1 can whole kernel corn, drained  
 1 c. chopped celery  
 1 c. chopped green pepper  
 1 c. chopped onion  
 1 small jar pimentos, drained  
 Sauce: 1 c. sugar; 1/2 c. apple cider vinegar; 1 c. vegetable oil



*ciaochowbambina.com*

In large mixing bowl, combine all vegetables. In a small saucepan, combine sugar, vinegar, and oil over medium heat, stirring well until it comes to a boil and sugar is dissolved. Set aside to cool. Once cool, pour over vegetables. Toss gently. Let stand in refrigerator for 24 hours in air-tight container. Serve as a side dish or with tortilla chips.

*Kathy Bemisdarfer, St. Charles*

## Annual Meeting Sept. 24



**WHO:** All Farmers Electric Cooperative members!  
**WHERE:** Adair Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building  
**WHEN:** Registration and free meal begins at 5 p.m.; business session follows at 6 p.m.; prize drawings at 7 p.m.



**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.