

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1, 2025

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.



Merry Christmas

from our crew to yours!



Donation Aids Greenfield Firehouse Rebuild

Farmers Electric, in partnership with Greenfield Municipal Utilities, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and CoBank, donated \$15,000 to the Greenfield Volunteer Fire Department in November. Funds will be used to help rebuild the firehouse that was destroyed by the May 21 tornado.

“The best part about cooperatives is our commitment to community as one of our

continued on pg. 2



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



HOLIDAY FUN WORD SEARCH

WORD BANK

Jingle bells Santa Claus Snowman
Candy Cane Mittens Hot Chocolate

N H C H P B D H S V G Z H T M
A C C F Z Z A T F N V D Q Z Y
M H L V Y M J N P D E T V F S
W P W H F W I H K S C T G B K
O Z K D Z L N O K K H Q T C F
N F I O U R G T F C L P E I L
S S V S U A L C A T N A S C M
Z C V P C E E H R P W U A Z Z
F C F J C H B O G C Y N G V E
G M V X D L E C V N D T S F W
Y A X V N U L O H Y V C L U A
H G V L L X L L C M J M C I U
P J Y F E R S A Q E Y G H C A
D W O R D T N T Y H X Q L E S
U W H R U E V E B Y B F L W R



Donation...from pg. 1

guiding principles,” said Holi Weston, Farmers Electric CEO. “We are proud to demonstrate that commitment with this donation to the Greenfield Volunteer Fire Department because this fire department is priceless to our community.”

“Right now we’re in a temporary space on the south side of town just so we can have everything under one roof,” said T.J. Oder, chief of the Greenfield Volunteer Fire Department. “Every donation we get is meaningful to us, no matter the amount or who it’s from. We’re focused on moving forward, crossing the t’s and dotting the i’s so we can rebuild as quickly as possible.”

Pictured in photo on page 1, from left: Holi Weston, Josh Oder, T.J. Oder, Lance McFarland, Scott Tonderum (GMU) and Kerry Koonce (CIPCO).

Line Patrol Starts This Month

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.



Defined Electric Service Areas Protect Rural Iowans

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, we are constantly monitoring issues that could impact the people and rural communities served by Iowa's electric cooperatives. Our state's 2025 Legislative Session will begin on Jan. 13 and IAEC will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa's law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. I'd like to explain why this law has been so crucial to our mission to serve co-op member-consumers.

What are defined service areas?

In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve you. This regulatory protection is called defined electric service territory. Written into law nearly 50 years ago, Senate File 1258 ensures that every square foot of our state has an electric utility obligated to provide service upon request.

Why do Iowa's electric cooperatives support defined service areas?

Electric co-ops are committed to safeguarding defined service areas because they protect rural Iowans by supporting affordable electric rates, fostering a resilient electric grid and encouraging economic development.

Defined service areas provide a high degree of certainty and stability to Iowa's electric cooperatives. It allows us to confidently make long-term investments in power generation to maintain affordable rates, finance major grid upgrades to ensure resiliency and utilize new technologies to enhance service. Electric co-ops can also be proactive in maintenance and vegetation management to improve reliability for the homes, farms and businesses we power every day. Additionally, defined service areas allow electric co-ops to robustly support economic development efforts in the communities we serve, which retain and

create local jobs and provide needed services and tax revenue.

Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans. This issue is non-negotiable for Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives like Farmers Electric, which are mission driven to power lives and empower communities by providing electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable.

Since the 1990s, several states have deregulated their electric utilities in hopes that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability. In fact, according to a 2023 *New York Times* investigation, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." The report goes on to conclude that "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity..." This outcome is unacceptable for the Iowans we serve.

We invite you to learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com where you will also find links to research and studies on deregulation. Farmers Electric Cooperative promises to work hard to safeguard defined service area protections that have benefitted Iowans since 1976.



Point your phone's camera at this QR Code to be directed to more information online



LESLIE KAUFMAN

Leslie Kaufman is the executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

LET'S BAKE STUFF & WATCH CHRISTMAS MOVIES

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

See below for the recipes we'll be featuring throughout 2025. Simply mail your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.



2025

JAN: Healthy Start
FEB: Chocolate
MAR: Brunch
APR: Pasta
MAY: Beef
JUN: Summer Salads

JUL: On the Grill
AUG: Versatile Vegetables
SEPT: None
OCT: Pumpkin
NOV: Thanksgiving
DEC: Holiday Treats

Almond Bars

- 4 eggs
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 c. butter (2 sticks), melted (no substitution)
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 ½ tsp. almond extract
- Confectioner's sugar (for sprinkle)

In a mixing bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until lemon colored. Add butter, flour and extract, mix well. Spread into greased 9x13 pan. Bake at 325 for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar. Optional: top with sliced almonds before baking.

Sharon Wood, Wiota



thesparrowhome.com

Crock Pot Peanut Clusters

- 1 lb. almond bark
- 1 c. chocolate chips
- 1 lb. salted peanuts

Place crock pot liner in the crock pot for easy clean up. Add almond bark to crock in as even of a layer as possible. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top, followed by peanuts in an even layer. Turn on crock pot to high for 45 minutes to 1 hour and do not stir. Then, turn crock pot to low and stir every 15 minutes until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Drop by spoonfuls onto wax paper and cool. Optional: sprinkle with sea salt, colorful sprinkles or crushed candy canes before clusters harden.

Becky Grubbs, Adair



browneyebaker.com



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.