

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

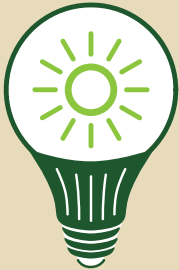
JUNE 2024



The Farmers Electric office will be closed Thursday, July 4

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save money? They create a "windchill" effect to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.



Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov



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

COMMUNITY FOCUSED

Nominate a Neighbor for Shine the Light!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Farmers Electric Cooperative is excited to support the Shine the Light contest to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations online through June 30. Three winners will be selected to receive a \$3,000 donation to their favorite local charity or nonprofit.



Members and employees of Farmers Electric

or any of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate a volunteer during June. We encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The nominee does not need to be a member of Farmers Electric Cooperative. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Visit www.shinethelight.com to review contest rules and submit a nomination. Help us shine the light on community volunteers and consider making a nomination!

Congratulations, Youth Tour Winners

Bailey Carstens (pictured, left) and Delaney Blomme have been selected for this year's all-expenses-paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. Bailey was selected, and will be sponsored, by Farmers Electric. Delaney was selected by winning the essay contest sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Bailey is the daughter of Kyle Carstens of Fontanelle and Lisa Carstens of Greenfield. Delaney is the daughter of Lora and Matthew Blomme of Bridgewater. Youth Tour takes place June 15-21.



Seeking Local Leaders for Co-op Board

As a member of Farmers Electric Cooperative, you have a say in how your cooperative is run. It's one of the tenets cooperatives live by and it's what sets us apart from other investor-owned utilities.

Co-op board members are elected by and from the membership and are invested in the financial health of the cooperative because those important decisions affect them, too. Anyone who is a member of Farmers Electric can serve on the board of directors. Board members provide input on fiscal matters, setting goals, approving budget items and staying informed of regional and national utility industry trends that may affect their fellow co-op members.

And, serving on the board of directors is a great way to give back to your community while gaining valuable leadership skills.

The nine-member board of directors includes three directors from each of three districts. Every year, a nominating committee of volunteers seeks individuals from their district to run in the election, held during the annual meeting in September. Nominees must be co-op

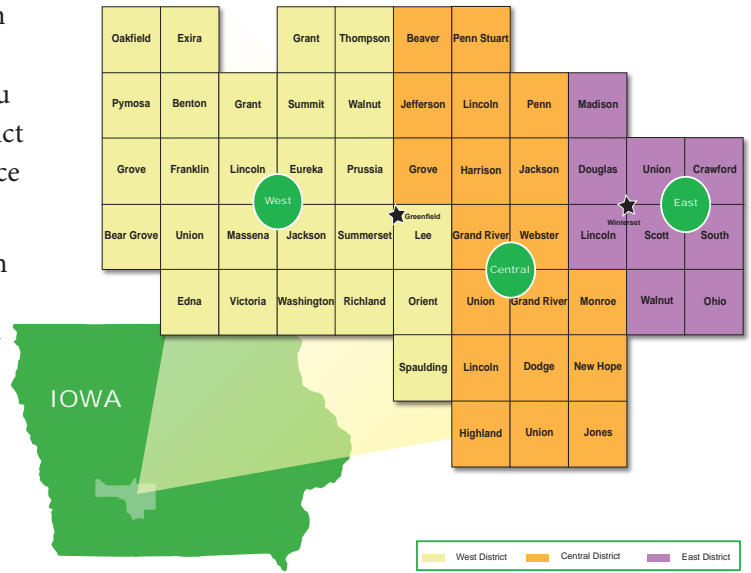
members who reside in the district for which they are running. If you are unsure which district you are in, call our office at (800) 397-4821.

One director from each district will seek re-election this year. They are:

West District: **Kevin Stender**

Central District: **Mark Earhart**

East District: **RoxAnn Rhoads**



West District Central District East District
Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. serves portions of Audubon, Cass, Adair, Union, Guthrie and Madison counties.



Cary Gilman, left, receives his certificate from Board President Dan Westphal.



Kevin Stender, left, receives his certificate from Board President Dan Westphal.

Directors Earn NRECA Credentials

Farmers Electric Cooperative Directors Cary Gilman and Kevin Stender have earned leadership certificates through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Cary earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, the first of a three-part director education program. To do so, Cary completed five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The certificate prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving their membership.

Kevin earned the Board Leadership Certificate, the second in the NRECA's three-part director education program. This program consists of a series of courses focusing on specific industry and governance issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A nominating committee helps find candidates to run in each district. Call a committee representative in your district to learn more.

East District:

Michael Peiffer, (641) 660-4787

Justin Keating, (515) 468-7255

Central District:

Dave Doud, (515) 238-4207

West District:

Carl Ford, (641) 745-5255

Roger Jensen, (641) 745-5957

Could Co-ops Use AI?

You've probably been hearing plenty about artificial intelligence (AI). AI is currently being incorporated for specific tasks and activities, but also has the potential to be paired with data analysis, such as retailers using data to better predict customer needs.

Despite all the hype, today's AI is mostly being used to make incremental improvements to existing products and services. That's how electric co-ops are likely to experience the growth of AI in the foreseeable future. For example, the next generation of smart meters might incorporate AI tools that help homeowners better manage their energy use. AI-based systems may also be used to improve management of the nation's power grid, spotting potential problems before human operators can.

Electric co-ops could use chatbots to help answer members' questions and requests more quickly. Weather forecasts are likely to become more accurate, pinpointing the areas most likely to experience damage so crews can be stationed there.

Ultimately, the adoption of AI and other promising technologies share one goal for electric co-ops: to enhance the services they provide to their local communities by responding to outages more quickly, lowering the cost of serve and allowing greater control over energy use.

Show You Care with RECare

Even though summer is on the way and will bring warmer temperatures, many Farmers Electric members are struggling to catch up on winter heating bills. As an electric cooperative, Farmers Electric is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income members, too.

RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives that encourages fellow members to make a one-time or monthly donation that can help alleviate the stress for other members struggling to pay their winter heating bills. Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient in both winter and summer temperatures. And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families in your community.

You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors. It's an easy way to show you care!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to help Farmers members through the RECare program.

Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$_____. I understand this amount will be added to my electric bill each month.

Name _____

Address _____


City, State, Zip _____

Account # _____

Cut out this form and mail to: RECare, c/o Farmers Electric Cooperative, 2389 Hwy. 92, Greenfield, IA 50849; or visit www.farmersrec.com to fill out an online form.

Together we can

BEAT THE PEAK



**Run your washer or dryer during off-peak times
such as before 3 p.m. or after 8 p.m.**

Raise your thermostat a few degrees

Turn off all lights during the day or in empty rooms



Supplement air conditioner use with ceiling fans to keep cool

CHILL OUT WITH COOL SUMMER SALADS

Pasta Salad

- 1 pkg. bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 c. cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 1/2 c. spiral pasta, uncooked
- 2 Tbsp. diced onion
- 1 c. cubed cheddar cheese
- 1/4 c. ranch dressing
- Salt and pepper to taste



southerndiscourse.com

Cook pasta according to directions and drain. Stir in ranch dressing and allow to cool. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix. Add more ranch dressing if desired. Serve immediately or refrigerate for a few hours for best flavor.

Stephanie Peterson

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. Here are the recipes we're looking for the next few months:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| July - Grilling | October - Pumpkin |
| August - Vegetables | November - Thanksgiving |
| September - none | December - Holiday Treats |

Garden Chicken Pasta Salad

- 3 c. rotini pasta, cooked and drained
 - 2 c. broccoli florets
 - 1 1/2 c. Kraft Three Cheese Ranch dressing
 - 6 oz. cooked chicken breast, cubed
 - 1/2 cup of each: chopped red and green pepper, slivered onions
- Toss all together and refrigerate.



food.com

Sharon Wood



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

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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.