

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024



MEMORIAL DAY
Remember and honor
The Farmers Electric office will be closed
Monday, May 27

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.



With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!)



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 330

Greenfield, IA 50849

FarmersREC.com | (800) 397-4821

FOCUSED ON OUR YOUTH

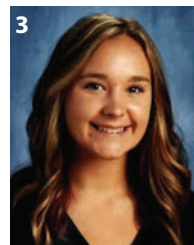
Congratulations, 2024 Scholarship Winners!



Natalie Behnken



Carson Bellamy



Molly Breeding



Emily Campbell



Elijah Cowman



Justin Decker



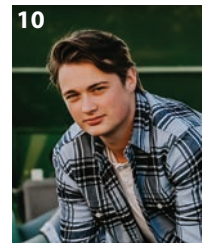
Makinley Edwards



Kinsey Eslinger



Carley Fagan



McCoy Haines



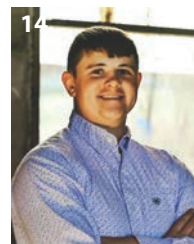
Brock Henderson



Jorja Holliday



Dax Kintigh



Jagger Luther



Megan McCall



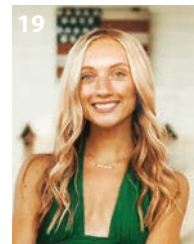
Annika Nelson



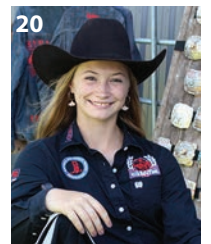
Jeta Nelson



Lucas Porter



Breanna Powell



Carli Stuva

See pg. 2 for student information

As an electric cooperative, Farmers Electric is proud to support our young members and demonstrate our commitment to their futures by offering an annual scholarship. This year, the co-op awarded a total of \$11,500 to 20 local high school seniors. Congratulations to these students!



1. Natalie Behnken, CAM Schools.

Natalie is the daughter of Kim and Blaine Behnken of Massena. She plans to attend Southwestern Community College.

2. Carson Bellamy, Winterset

Community Schools. Carson is the son of Stephanie and Jeff Bellamy of Winterset. He plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

3. Molly Breeding, Winterset

Community Schools. Molly is the daughter of Karly and Ryan Breeding. She plans to attend Grandview College.

4. Emily Campbell, Orient-

Macksburg schools. Emily is the daughter of Jackie and Wes Campbell and plans to attend Coe College.

5. Elijah Cowman, Winterset

Community Schools. Elijah is the son of Sarah and Terry Cowman of Winterset. He plans to attend Southwestern Community College.

6. Justin Decker, Winterset

Community Schools. Justin is the son of Becky Faust and Jason Decker of Macksburg. He plans to attend the Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training Program.

7. Makinley Edwards, Nodaway

Valley. Makinley is the daughter of Megan and Tyson Edwards of Fontanelle. She plans to attend Southwestern Community College.

8. Kinsey Eslinger, Orient-Macksburg

schools. Kinsey is the daughter of Wendi Eslinger of Macksburg. She plans to attend the University of Iowa.

9. Carley Fagan, ACGC schools.

Carley is the daughter of Monica and Matt Fagan of Adair and plans to attend Southwestern Community College.

10. McCoy Haines, Creston

Community Schools. McCoy is the son of Meg and Brian Haines of Orient. He plans to attend Iowa State University.

11. Brock Henderson, Atlantic

Community Schools. Brock is the son of Beth and Mike Henderson of Wiota. He plans to attend Iowa State University.

12. Jorja Holliday, Nodaway Valley.

Jorja is the daughter of Jodie and Doug Holliday of Greenfield and plans to attend Iowa State University.

13. Dax Kintigh, Nodaway Valley.

Dax is the son of Bethany and Nick Kintigh of Greenfield. He plans to attend Northwestern College in Orange City.

14. Jagger Luther, Creston. Jagger is

the son of Polly and Clint Luther of Creston. He plans to attend Southwestern Community College.

15. Megan McCall, Nodaway Valley.

Megan is the daughter of Diane and Ray McCall of Fontanelle. She plans to attend Iowa State University.

16. Annika Nelson, Nodaway Valley.

Annika is the daughter of Anne and Brad Nelson of Greenfield. She plans to attend Iowa State University.

17. Jeta Nelson, I-35. Jeta is the

daughter of Tawnya and Bryan Nelson of St. Charles. She plans to attend DMACC.

18. Lucas Porter, Winterset

Community Schools. Lucas is the son of Jennifer and Justin Porter of Winterset. He plans to attend the University of Iowa.

19. Breanna Powell, West Central

Valley. Breanna is the daughter of Katie and Shane Powell of Stuart. She plans to attend Kirkwood Community College.

20. Carli Stuva, Nodaway Valley. Carli

is the daughter of Heather and Chris Stuva of Fontanelle. She plans to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Each May, Farmers Electric joins the electric utility industry in promoting National Electrical Safety Month to raise awareness of the importance of staying safe around electricity.

Sponsored by the Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI), National Electrical Safety Month 2024 campaign focuses on safety with lithium-ion batteries, how to store them, recycle them, and prevent fires caused by them. Widely used in most devices from toothbrushes to electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries are popular due to their light weight, high energy density and ability to recharge. When purchased and used correctly, these batteries can provide a valuable service, but there is a risk of fire and injury if uncertified batteries or chargers are used.

SAFETY TIPS

- Only purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- DO NOT put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycle them instead.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- For more helpful tips, visit esfi.org/lithium-ion-battery-safety/.

Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

One of my favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's stopping by the Greenfield Farmers Market on the Square on Thursdays or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor.

When I think about energy efficiency, I think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions, we can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water—just like you don't have to be a lineworker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read this newsletter regularly and follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is already predicting this summer's temperatures will be warmer than last year, which means you may be seeing your highest energy bill of the year during this

time. Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use, and the hotter it gets, the harder (and longer) your air conditioner works to keep you cool.

There are several ways you can manage energy use at home, and below, we're providing a few tips that can help grow your summer energy savings.

I also recommend that you track your energy use by logging into your SmartHub account. The best way to understand how to cut back is by starting where you are and recognizing your habits. Once you know how you use energy, you can start to trim and make adjustments.

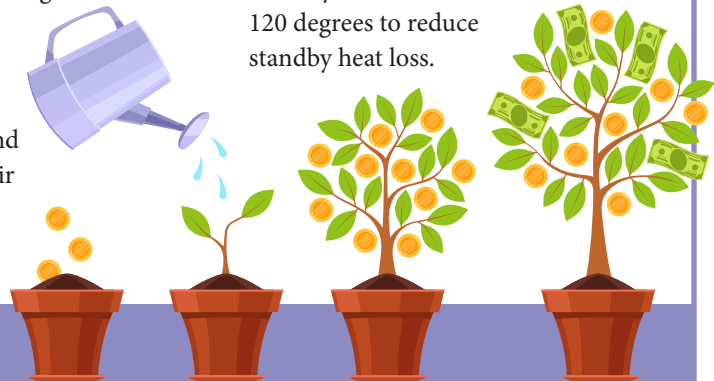
Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here. Just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure there is electricity available when you need it. Contact us, and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy—and money.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

1. Raise your thermostat. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.
2. Install window coverings like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.
3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
4. Run ceiling fans for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.
5. Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy

Delicious BEEF

MAY IS NATIONAL BEEF MONTH!

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: June - Summer Salads; July - Grilling; August - Vegetables; September - none; October - Pumpkin; November - Thanksgiving; December - Holiday Treats.

Petter Earns Board Leadership Certificate



Congratulations to Farmers Electric Cooperative Board Member Kris Petter

who has earned the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He is pictured receiving recognition from Farmers Electric Board President Dan Westphal.

The BLC is the second of three NRECA board leadership programs that teaches essential skills and industry knowledge through a series of educational courses. Kris was elected to the Farmers Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in 2019 and is currently serving his second term.

Sloppy Joes

- 3 lbs. ground beef
- 1/2 c. onion (diced)
- 1 c. ketchup
- 2 T. yellow mustard
- 3 T. brown sugar
- 2 T. white sugar
- 1 T. vinegar
- 1 c. pizza sauce



Brown the ground beef and onions, drain. In same pan, combine ketchup, mustard, sugars, vinegar, and pizza sauce and bring to a simmer. Add in ground beef mixture and simmer until warm.

Robin Morrison, Earlham

Crack Burgers

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground chuck
- 3 T. sour cream
- 2 T. ranch dressing mix
- 1/3 c. cooked and crumbled bacon
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese



Combine all ingredients and form into 4 patties. Grill to the desired temperature. The burgers will be very moist, be very careful when you flip them. Serve on your favorite hamburger bun with your favorite toppings.



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.