

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

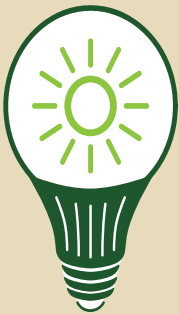


Office Closed Nov. 11

The co-op office will be closed Monday, Nov. 11 to honor Veterans Day.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency upgrades to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits.



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save up to \$3,000 annual to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment, and other major appliances. If you have completed or are considering an efficiency upgrade, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for tax credits. Source: energystar.gov.



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Thank You for Attending the Annual Meeting!

The staff and board of Farmers Electric Cooperative wish to thank all our members who attended our 85th Annual Meeting Sept. 24.

About 180 people attended to hear reports from leadership on co-op finances, operations and community activities, and to take part in the democratic process of their electric cooperatives.

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

East District: RoxAnn Rhoads, incumbent

West District: Kevin Stender, incumbent

Central District: Mark Earhart, incumbent

This year, the co-op recognized these employees for their years of service to Farmers Electric: Lineman/Staking Technician Paul Paxton, 30 years; Line Foreman Paul Weber, 30 years; and Line Foreman Nick Kintigh, 25 years. Save the date for our next annual meeting Sept. 16, 2025!



Delaney Blomme and Bailey Carstens speak about their experiences during this year's Youth Tour trip.



Board President Dan Westphal recognizes Nick Kintigh for 25 years of service to Farmers Electric.



Board President Dan Westphal recognizes Paul Paxton for 30 years of service to Farmers Electric.



Board President Dan Westphal recognizes Paul Weber for 30 years of service to Farmers Electric.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL



Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing you with the programs and services you care about most.

That's the power of co-op membership.

Assistance for Winter Heating Bills Now Available

The 2024-2025 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, 2024-April 30, 2025. All other households: Nov. 1, 2024-April 30, 2025.

What to provide

- Proof of income for all household members 18+. 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

Wage earners: Please provide 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, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please provide 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.

Note: Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed

above may be required for eligibility determination.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap>, or write to LIHEAP, Iowa Dept. of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

INCOME MAXIMUMS


Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440

For households with more than 8 members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.

I SPY

Fire Safety

Sparky here with a challenge for you. Use this checklist to go on a safety hunt around your home. If the item on the list is **SAFE** color the paw print **GREEN**. If the item is **UNSAFE**, color it **RED**. If you are NOT SURE, color it **YELLOW**. If any of your paw prints are **RED** or **YELLOW**, ask a grown-up to help make it safe.



 I know that some things are hot or can get hot. I stay away from hot things because I can get burned.

 We have a 3-foot "kid free" zone around hot things like the stove, grill, fireplace, and space heater.

 Space heaters are turned off whenever a grown-up leaves the room or goes to bed.


 If I see matches and lighters, I don't touch. I go tell a grown-up.

 We have working smoke alarms on every level and inside every sleeping area. **Clue:** If you don't know if they are working, ask a grown-up to push the test button.

 My family has an outside meeting place. Our outside meeting place is: _____

 When I hear the "beep beep beep" of a smoke alarm, I get outside and stay outside.





Kids

Find more fun at SPARKY.ORG

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Cybersecurity is Top Concern

Farmers Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to protecting our electric distribution system from cyber risks, cyber attacks and other threats to our cybersecurity environment.

Electric utilities are constantly targeted as a means to create the biggest disruption in our society: cutting off electricity.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and we're asking you to join us to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, together we can reinforce our online safety by remembering a few good tips:

1. **Scrutinize unsolicited messages asking for personal information.** Avoid sharing sensitive information or credentials with unknown sources.
2. **Use strong passwords.** Password managers are a power tool to help you create passwords for each of your online accounts.
3. **Turn on MFA.** Multi-factor authentication makes you significantly less likely to get hacked.
4. **Update software.** Regularly check for updates to make sure you have the latest security patches on your devices.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Take time to discuss these tips with family and friends so we can all become safer online!

Co-ops Are Having a Moment

Every October, electric cooperatives all across the country recognize and celebrate National Cooperative Month. Doing so unifies cooperatives and provides a backdrop for highlighting how we differ from other local businesses.

In just a few short months, the International Cooperative Alliance will launch the 2025 UN International Year of Cooperatives, showcasing the enduring global impact cooperatives have everywhere. This follows a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in June proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives.

I've spent the bulk of my professional career working for this electric cooperative and couldn't imagine doing anything else. I love the cooperative business model and believe in the tenets we follow to be good stewards of our communities. In my mind, we should

take every opportunity to celebrate and teach each other about the role cooperatives of all kinds play in our daily lives.

The theme of International Year of Cooperatives will showcase the impact cooperatives have everywhere, and how this business model is an essential solution to overcoming many global challenges. Locally, you'll be hearing more about how we work to improve your neighborhood, support local non-profit organizations and advocate on your behalf at the highest levels of government.



Above all, we take these opportunities to simply say thank you for your membership. We hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. But our purpose is the people we're proud to serve.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

How many Americans receive electricity from electric cooperatives?



A. 24 million
B. 38 million
C. 42 million



C. 42 million

How many states have electric cooperatives?

A. 48 states
B. 46 states
C. 44 states



A. 48 states



Easy Caramel Pumpkin Pull Apart Bread

- 1 lb. pizza dough
- 2/3 c. pumpkin puree
- 1/2 c. crushed pecans
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 T. melted butter
- 1/2 c. caramel sauce, divided
- Flour for surface



willcookforsmiles.com

Preheat oven to 350 and grease an 8x4 bread loaf pan. Roll out pizza dough into a rectangle that's about 16x8 inches in size. In a small mixing bowl, combine pumpkin, sugar, spices and pecans. Mix until all incorporated. Brush dough with melted butter and drizzle 1/4 cup of caramel all over the dough. Spread pumpkin mixture evenly all over the dough. Cut the dough easily using a pizza cutter, lengthwise, into three long strips. Then cut in widthwise, creating squares. Stack squares and place them side-by-side into the prepared loaf pan. Drizzle remaining 1/4 c. caramel over the top and place in the oven. Bake for 35-38 minutes.

Chewy Pumpkin Cookies

- 3/4 c. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 c. light brown sugar, packed
- 2 egg yolks, room temperature
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 c. canned pumpkin puree
- 1 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 T. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt



inbloombakery.com

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. For spiced sugar, combine 1/4 c. white sugar and 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice in small bowl and set aside.

Spread canned pumpkin on a plate and lightly press with a paper towel to absorb excess liquid. Repeat the step at least four more times. Cookies will not bake properly unless pumpkin puree is dry. It should be dry enough that it reduces to just about a 1/4 cup. Hardly any liquid should transfer onto a paper towel once it has been dried. Set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream the softened butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks and vanilla and mix on medium speed until pale and fluffy. Add in the dried pumpkin and mix on medium-low speed. Add remaining dry ingredients and mix on low speed just until combined.

Scoop 2 T. of dough and roll into balls, then roll in the spiced sugar. If the dough is too "sticky" chill it in the fridge for 10 minutes, then proceed. Place at least 2" apart on the baking sheets.

Bake the cookies for 12-14 minutes. When the cookies are done baking the centers will be puffy. As they cool the centers will fall and the cookie will get "wrinkly". Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer them to a cooling rack to finish cooling.



November: Thanksgiving
December: Holiday Treats

Mail your entry with your utility bill or email it to: HWeston@farmersrec.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.