

FARMERS *Open Lines*

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



Farmers Electric Annual Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 16 Adair County Fairgrounds

5-6 PM: Registration & Meal

6 PM: Business Meeting

7 PM: Prize Drawing

Watch for full details in the next newsletter!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard.

Allergies and pets can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed to reduce wear and tear and help extend the life of the unit.



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MEET THE BOARD CANDIDATES

As we prepare for our annual meeting Sept. 16, we want to make sure our members have plenty of time to get to know our 2025 slate of candidates.

Voting for your board directors to represent your interest in co-op matters is one of the biggest differences between electric cooperatives and other investor-owned utilities. Each director is also a Farmers Electric member, so the decisions they make affect them, too.

Although two candidates – Dan Westphal and Cary Gilman – are incumbents, there is a new face in the East District election: Joe Taylor.

Read more about each of these candidates below and watch for your ballot in the mail. Don't forget to vote for a candidate in your district!

Joe Taylor, East District

Joe Taylor and his wife, Michelle, along with their four girls, reside in rural Winterset. He has been

a REC member since 2015. He is a painter by trade, with time spent as plant manager of a custom millwork



SPRUCING UP THE OLD GRANDSTAND

Farmers Electric linemen helped hang some patriotic bunting from the grandstand at the Adair County Fairgrounds just in time for the Fair to begin.

Following the conclusion of the Fair July 13, work to demolish the grandstand and construct a new one began, though most of the work is expected to be completed next spring. Dating back almost 100 years, the grandstand has seen normal wear and tear over the years. The updated grandstand will retain many of the same features, but be more accessible to disabled users.

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HELP FIND "MISSING MEMBERS"

Every year, Farmers Electric asks its members to help find those members who have not cashed their patronage checks for one reason or another. The list below are the names of those members we are looking for so that we can forward payment owed to them as soon as possible.

Patronage checks are due to members based on their electric usage in the year the margins - the difference between revenue and expenses - were recorded. Oftentimes, margins are held for 15-20 years before being dispersed to members to ensure the cooperative has operating capital, and its financial condition permits Farmers to issue the patronage checks as determined by the Board of Directors and our lenders.

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

Christensen, Corey A.	Afton
Moran, Lois	Alexandria, Va.
Bushong, Paul	Altoona
Pollock, Randy J.	Anita
The Kruzan Group, LLC	Ankeny
Reinier, Emery J.	Atlantic
Graham, Sterling K.	Atlantic
Steffens, Nicole E.	Atlantic
Vance, Kristie A.	Burlington
Utsinger, Lori	Carlisle
Yates, Lynn T.	Carlisle
Sears, Josh	Chicago
White, Luke A.	Colorado Springs, Colo.
FAS-AHM Utilities, LLC	Columbus, Ohio
Doss, David A.	Cullman, Ala.
Myli, Jason R.	Decorah
Scoles, Jeanette I.	Des Moines
Beverlin, Kodi L.	Des Moines
Midwest Underground, Inc.	East Moline, Ill.
Seago, Jeffrey R.	Elkader
Hillman, Philip	Grand Junction
Johnson, Lundi L.	Howe, Okla.
Andrew, Jennifer A.	Jefferson
Hultgren, Mark	Kearney, Neb.
Larson, Tyler D.	Kimballton
Abarr, Margaret H.	Maryville, Mo.
Weissinger, Robert E.	Mason City
Rinkert, James R.	Norwalk
Conrad, Dennis	Parker, Colo.

Raffel, Patricia E.	Parkville, Mo.
Faris, Laura	Piedmont, Okla.
Morris, Judy A.	Rock Hill, S.C.
Bradley, Luke	Roland
Adkins, Barbara S.	Saint Charles
Lathrum, Patsy M.	Saint Charles
Watson, Brett J.	Stuart
Thornburg, Judy A.	Stuart
Johnson, Harley	Truro
McGhee, Daniel L.	Urbandale
Coburn, Heidi L.	Van Meter
Brown, Donald D.	Waukee
Griffith, Daniel	West Des Moines
Redenius, Doug D.	West Des Moines
Smith, Rusty G.	Winston-Salem, N.C.
Kerns, Bart	Winterset
Norman, Kathy A.	Winterset
Good, Linda J.	Winterset
Stevens, Kelly	Winterset
Drake, Mary	Winterset
Olsen, Kenneth	Winterset
Carter, Chad	Winterset
Scott, Dana A.	Winterset
Parsons, Dave E.	Winterset
Olsen, Dawn R.	Winterset
NMT Farms	Winterset
Ohms, Bruce G.	Wiota
Milligan, Steve	Wister, Okla.

CANDIDATES

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company. He also shares ownership and operation of The Warehouse on 2nd, a flexible event space in Winterset. Joe enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and attending his girls' many activities.

Dan Westphal, incumbent, West District

Dan and his wife, Patricia, reside in rural Bridgewater and have been REC members



since 1973. He has over 40 years of experience in farming and enjoys spending time with his family, especially with his granddaughters and great grandson. Dan has been on the REC board since 2004 and currently serves as board president. Dan also serves as the vice president on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) board of directors.

Cary Gilman, incumbent, Central District

Cary has been a REC member since 1987. He is a 4th generation farmer who farms along with his son. Cary enjoys spending time with his family and especially with his grandkids! He has been on the REC board since February 2022.



Farmers Electric Cooperative
ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025
Adair County Fairgrounds
Watch for more details in the next newsletter

ARE YOUR FRIDGE & FREEZER EFFICIENT?

On hot summer days, there's nothing like opening the refrigerator or freezer and feeling an instant rush of cold air. And while that is fine for short periods of time, look to these appliances if you're hoping to reduce your energy consumption.

Here are a few ways:

- 1. Go smaller.** In general, the larger the refrigerator, the more energy it uses. The most efficient models are typically 16-20 cubic feet. Models with the freezer on top tend to use less energy than bottom freezers or side-by-side units.
- 2. Upgrade.** A refrigerator 15 years or older uses about 35% more energy than an Energy Star®-certified model.
- 3. Keep it organized.** Place items in the same spots so they are easier and faster to find, reducing the time the refrigerator door is open.
- 4. Keep it clean.** Regularly cleaning the gasket – the flexible strip around the perimeter of the fridge door – ensures a tight seal between the door and the unit to keep cold air inside. Remove and clean the vent at the bottom of the unit to help airflow and brush away dust from the coils in the back.
- 5. Consider location.** Keeping a second fridge or freezer in a cool basement versus a hot garage requires less energy.
- 6. Unplug when possible.** If your freezer is all or nearly empty most of the year, unplug it for the months you aren't using it, and you'll still have it as a back up when you need it.

RELIABILITY DEPENDS ON ALL OF US

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has issued its 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment. In it, they stated that most utilities are prepared for typical summer conditions and the rise in electric use for air conditioning. But other regions may experience an elevated risk of outages due to extreme heat or when more generation is limited.

The electric grid is a vast network of power plants, transmission lines and distribution systems, like Farmers Electric Cooperative, that work together to deliver electricity to homes and businesses. Grid reliability means ensuring enough electricity is always available to meet demand – even on the hottest days of the year, when the sun isn't shining to generate solar energy, or the wind isn't blowing to generate wind energy.

The assessment points out that across North America, the total forecasted peak summer demand has increased by more than 10 GW since 2024 – more than double the increase seen in 2023. This growth is being driven by the expansion of data center and industrial facilities as well as the increasing electrification across many sectors.

At the same time, more than 7.4 GW of generation capacity has retired or gone inactive since last summer. These are mainly dispatchable resources – ones that can operate at any time to help balance the grid, and include coal, natural gas and nuclear.

When the system is under stress due to high demand, we need to rely on our members to help by reducing their electric use. Quick actions by our co-op members can make a meaningful difference. Adjusting your thermostat a few degrees higher, postponing use of large appliances until the evening hours, and turning off lights are just a few simple yet effective ways you can help ease the strain on the grid.

Farmers Electric works closely with our power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, to prepare and plan for peak demand periods. With your help, we can all work together to help ensure our community continues to receive reliable and affordable electric service throughout the summer.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

SEE YOU AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR!

AUG. 7-17, 2025



IowaStateFair

OFFICIAL SPONSOR

Visit our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building. We'll hand out plastic hard hats and suckers (while supplies last). Snap a pic in our co-op safety selfie station!



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa



budgetbytes.com

SIMPLE SAUTEED VEGETABLES

- 3 carrots
- 1 yellow squash
- 1/2 red bell pepper
- 1 T. cooking oil
- 1/4 tsp. dried basil
- 1/8 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. freshly cracked black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Peel and slice the carrots. Chop the zucchini and yellow squash into half-rounds. Slice the bell pepper. Heat the skillet over medium-high. Once the skillet is very hot, add the cooking oil and swirl to coat the surface. Add the sliced carrots and sauté for about 2-3 minutes. Next, add the bell pepper, zucchini, squash, basil, oregano, and garlic powder. Continue to sauté for 2-3 minutes more, or just until the vegetables begin to soften then remove from heat. Add butter and toss to coat as it melts. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley if desired.



BAKED VEGETABLES

- 1 head fresh broccoli, cut into florets
- 4 carrots, cut into 1" pieces
- 4 zucchini, thickly sliced
- 2 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- Salt to taste
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 1 (1 oz.) package dry onion soup mix

Preheat oven to 400 F. Lightly oil a large, shallow baking dish. Combine broccoli, carrots, zucchini, and potatoes in the prepared baking dish and lightly salt. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with dry soup mix. Bake in the preheated oven until vegetables are tender and easily pierced with a fork, 30-45 minutes.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you're considering adding rooftop solar to your home, be sure to talk to Farmers Electric first. We can offer impartial guidance and recommendations that benefit you and won't drain your pocketbook. Be particularly skeptical if the solar company uses high pressure tactics.



CALL FOR RECIPES

Each month, Farmers Electric invites readers and members to submit their favorite recipe for publication in this newsletter and a chance to get \$5 off their next electric bill.

To enter, mail your recipe with your bill to: Farmers Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or email it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.

SEPTEMBER: None

OCTOBER: Pumpkin Delights

ABOUT US



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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