

FARMERS *Open Lines* ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Farmers Electric
office will be closed

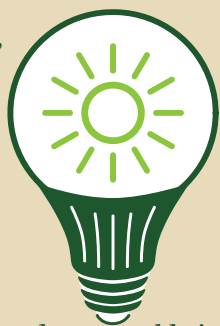
Dec. 25-26

and

Jan. 1, 2026

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Happy Holidays

From all of us at Farmers
Electric Cooperative, have
a wonderful holiday season
and a Happy New Year!



CEO ATTENDS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Farmers Electric Cooperative CEO Holi Weston, pictured seated, center, was among the 45 participants selected to attend the 2025 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Executive Leadership Program.

The one-week program, supported by CoBank, is a comprehensive, multidiscipline leadership program that offers an immersive world-class education experience exclusively for senior electric cooperative leaders from across the country. It is taught by some of the best educators in the world from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago.

CHANDLER RETIRES FROM CO-OP BOARD

After 24 years of dedicated service representing Madison County, Steve Chandler has stepped down from the Farmers Electric Cooperative Board. During his long tenure, Steve witnessed many changes and advancements in the cooperative world.

"When I first joined the board, there were no classes or continuing education opportunities like we have today," Steve recalls. He praises the cooperative system for the many positive steps taken over the years to support and strengthen local co-ops.



Steve Chandler, left, receives a gift of appreciation from Farmers Electric Board President Dan Westphal.

RECare: SHOW YOU 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 co-op members 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!

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 EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Read the efficiency tips below, then find and circle the **bolded words** in the puzzle.

Holiday Efficiency Tips:

- Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED lights**.
- Save energy by using a **timer** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.
- If you have a **fireplace** in your home, remind an adult to close the **dampener** when a fire is not burning.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- Lower the **thermostat** when you invite friends or family over.

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

Energy Explorers



STAY ON TRACK WITH HOLIDAY SPENDING

With the holiday season in full swing, you still have time to stick to your holiday budget. If you haven't created one yet, do it now. List all expected holiday expenses and compare them to your available funds. If there's a gap, focus on creative alternatives like homemade gifts, potluck-style gatherings or setting spending limits with family and friends.

Holiday blockbuster discounts present shopping opportunities, but only if you shop strategically. Stick to your pre-planned gift list and compare prices across multiple retailers before making purchases. Many "deals" may not be as good as they appear, so do your research and avoid impulse buying on items that weren't already on your list.

If you need to boost your holiday funds quickly, consider selling items online, taking advantage of seasonal job opportunities or temporarily cutting discretionary spending like subscriptions or dining out. Every dollar you save now helps prevent January credit card stress.

Stay disciplined with your plan, and you can enjoy the holidays without compromising your financial future.

REFLECTING ON PROGRESS, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude—for you, the members of Farmers Electric Cooperative—for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations can feel distant, they shape our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future, but we also know that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal and nuclear remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we

pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power—one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Farmers Electric members.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the FEMA Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. This is something we here at Farmers are watching very closely. As you know, recovery and restoration following the May 2024 tornado relied heavily on FEMA support. They were a crucial partner for us when we needed them most. If passed, this bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency that can offer financial assistance in a more timely manner.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of our co-op employees and the continued support of our members, we are well positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today—*and tomorrow.*



HOLI WESTON
CEO



giftofhospitality.com

"HANKY PANKY"

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 lb. hot sausage
- 1 lb. Velveeta, diced into cubes
- 1 T. Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. salt and pepper

In one pan, brown and drain meats. Add cheese cubes and stir until melted. Add Worcestershire, oregano, garlic salt, salt and pepper. Spread mixture on party rye bread and place on cookie sheet. Broil about 3-5 minutes.



landolakes.com

CARAMEL PUFF CORN

- 1 bag (5.5 oz.) puff corn
- 1 stick butter
- 1 c. light brown sugar (packed)
- 1/4 c. light corn syrup
- 1/8 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Empty bag of puff corn in bowl and set aside. In a medium saucepan, combine the butter, brown sugar, and corn syrup. Bring to a boil stirring constantly, then lower heat. Simmer without stirring for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add baking soda and vanilla. Mix well and pour over puffed corn. Gently toss until coated. Pour coated puff corn on parchment paper and bake at 250 for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. When dry, break apart and put in air tight containers.

2026 CALL FOR RECIPES

JAN: Healthy Start	JUL: On the Grill
FEB: Chocolate	AUG: Vegetables
MAR: Brunch	SEPT: None
APR: Pasta	OCT: Pumpkin
MAY: Beef	NOV: Thanksgiving
JUN: Salads	DEC: Holiday Treats

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.

JANUARY: Healthy Start

FEBRUARY: In Love with Chocolate

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

President
Dan Westphal

Secretary
Kevin Tanner

Vice President
Mark Earhart

Treasurer
RoxAnn Rhoads

Cary Gilman
Kris Petter
Joe Taylor

Janelle Peiffer
Kevin Stender

CEO: Holi Weston

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Look out for the "energy saving device" scam. These products claim to reduce or even eliminate energy bills. They are typically advertised as devices that will "balance" or "clean" the power in your home, thus saving you money. There is no such device that can simply be plugged in to lower energy use.

