

FARMERS *Open Lines* ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality – helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



VETERANS FLAGPOLE INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO GROW!



Flagpole installation at the home of Farmers Lineman Trey Eddy. Trey served in the Iowa Army National Guard from 2012-2020.

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., in partnership with Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), was honored to support and celebrate the installation of two more flagpoles with the Veterans Flagpole Initiative.

Flagpole #247 was installed at the rural Winterset home of Steve Chandler, who served as a director of Farmers Electric for 24 years.

Flagpole #248 was installed at the rural Greenfield home of Trey Eddy, a journeyman lineman who has worked for Farmers Electric for 10 years.

Surrounded by their families, both Steve and Trey were recognized for their service, as well as their



Flagpole installation at the home of former Board Director Steve Chandler. Steve served in the Navy from 1967-1973.

dedication to Farmers Electric and the communities we serve.

Each installation included a flagpole, the raising of the American flag, an Iowa flag, and a light atop the pole—a lasting tribute to each veteran's service and sacrifice.

We are incredibly grateful to Steve and Trey for their service and for the difference they continue to make in our communities.

If you'd like to learn more about the Veterans Flagpole Initiative or to nominate a veteran, visit www.veteranflagpoles.org. Thank you to all who have served!

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Farmers Electric Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

The annual meeting isn't just to hear about what's been happening at the co-op over the last year or the financial report, it's also a time for member fellowship, sharing a meal together and the chance to win prizes!

If you think your attendance doesn't matter, think again! Gaining guidance and perspective from our members and board helps us set priorities and guide future decisions. We value your input, not just your vote. But voting in the director election is also what makes us different from investor-owned utilities and we encourage your right to make your voice heard!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Farmers Electric 87th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026

Adair Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building

5-6 PM: Registration and free meal for members

6 PM: Business meeting and election results

7 PM: Prize drawings

Watch for the Farmers Electric annual report in the September issue of this newsletter to read about the candidates in this year's election.

We hope you'll join us!

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity - adding symbols, numbers and capital letters - password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure.



MAKE YOUR MARK AT THE FAIR!

Stop by our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building; we'll have crayons and coloring pages for kids! *(while supplies last)*



IowaStateFair

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SAVE
THE
DATE

SEPT
15

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026

Adair County Fairgrounds



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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WHAT IS PLUG-IN SOLAR?

Behind-the-meter, plug-in solar kits may seem like an easy solution to offsetting your monthly utility bill by using renewable energy. But there's a few things you should know before investing in this kind of system.

First, almost all of these devices lack U.S. safety requirements. Unlike rooftop solar and electric vehicle chargers, these plug-in solar packages skip the traditional interconnection process, oversight and hardwiring. If your home has aged wiring, you might not know how the plug-in system will affect your electric service because it does not require a licensed electrician to install.

That can be dangerous on multiple fronts, leading to overheated wires in a residence, property damage, fire and even worse, serious or deadly electrical shock.

A charged plug-in system can back feed or send electricity back to the grid and re-energize power lines unbeknownst to Farmers Electric. This could be fatal for lineworkers.

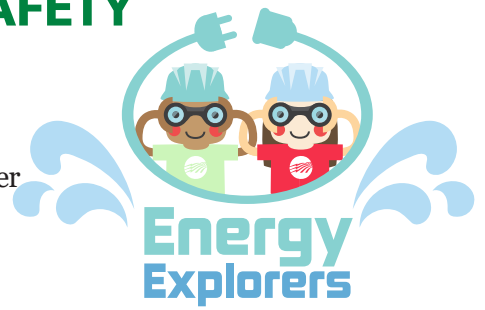
Unplugging the system doesn't diminish the risk because even contact with the power cord energized by the solar panels can cause devastating injury.

These devices can cost a few hundred dollars to more than \$1,000 but their output - even in areas with plenty of sunshine - will shave only an estimated 40 to 80 cents per day off your bill, according to industry experts.

The best advice is to research your options if you're considering plug-in solar, and use the expertise of your co-op for knowledgeable advice and to make sure we are informed that you're operating such a device.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

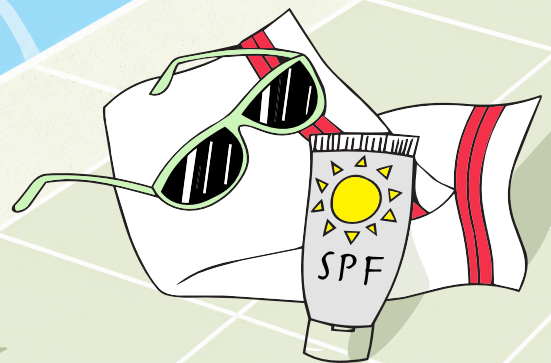
Dive into this word scramble challenge! Read the pool safety tips below to uncover the scrambled words. Remember these tips to stay safe while having fun in the sun.



Double check your work in the answer key.

1. Never swim without an **lutda** nearby, even if you know how to swim.
2. Walk around the pool. **Gunrnin** on wet surfaces can cause slips and falls.
3. Wear **cessrnuen** and drink plenty of water to stay safe in the summer heat.
4. Keep **cilarcteel** devices, cords and speakers far away from the water.
5. If you see lightning or hear **drehtnu**, get out of the pool immediately and go indoors.

Answer Key
1) adult
2) running
3) sunscreen
4) electrical
5) thunder



RECIPE...from pg. 4

until charred, about 5 minutes. Transfer the limes to a plate. To make the vinaigrette, thinly slice the garlic, then mount the salt on top. Using both the blade and flat side of a chef's knife, chop and scrape the mixture into a paste. Transfer to a small bowl or jar. Juice the grilled limes and add the lime juice and shallot to the bowl with the garlic and whisk in the oil. Cut the corn kernels from the cobs and roughly chop the bell pepper. Arrange the grilled vegetables, tomatoes, cucumber, and radishes in a large bowl. Add the vinaigrette and a generous pinch of salt and pepper; gently toss to combine. Sprinkle with cheese and herbs to serve.



twopeasandtheirpod.com

SUMMER VEGETABLE SALAD

- 2 ears corn, shucked
- 1 medium orange, red, or yellow bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch wide strips
- Olive oil for brushing
- 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 English cucumber, cut into half moons
- 5 radishes, thinly sliced
- 1/4 c. feta cheese
- 1/2 c. coarsely chopped herbs such as cilantro, chives, basil, or mint

For the charred lime vinaigrette:

- 2 large limes, cut in half crosswise
- 3 T. olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 1 small shallot, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

Prepare a grill or grill pan for medium-high heat. Brush the corn and bell pepper with oil and grill, turning occasionally, until charred and tender, 6-8 minutes for the pepper and 12-15 for the corn. Transfer the grilled vegetables to a cutting board as they are finished and let cool slightly. Brush 3 lime halves with oil. Grill the halves, cut side down, rotating occasionally,

continued on pg. 3



spicedblog.com

GRILLED CAPRESE CHICKEN

- 2 medium zucchini
- 2 medium yellow squash
- 1 medium red onion
- 3 medium tomatoes
- 2 T. olive oil
- 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded
- 1/2 T. garlic minced
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F. Trim ends of zucchini and squash and cut diagonally into 1/2" slices. Peel onion and cut into 1/2" slices. Cut tomatoes into 1/2" slices. Arrange vegetables on a sheet pan. Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese, minced garlic, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper over tops of vegetables. Bake at 400°F for 30-35 minutes. Optional: Place pan under broiler for 3-4 minutes or until tops of vegetables turn crispy. (Note: Watch pan closely in this step to prevent vegetables from burning!)

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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