

# Open Lines

The newsletter for Farmers Electric  
Cooperative members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met at the Farmers Electric Cooperative office on Tuesday June 7, 2011. Tom Doud, Leo Weinheimer, Steve Wetlaufer, Bill Rhoads and Mike Ladd were on the committee. Their duty was to select a slate of candidates for the board vacancies to be voted on at the annual meeting.

The following members' names will be placed on the ballot.

**West District** – Betty Lents, incumbent

**Central District**

**East District** – Robert Newton, incumbent

In addition, any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting, Sept. 20, 2011.

## Water Heater Prices

50-gallon Marathon Water Heater installed  
by Farmers Electric Cooperative.....\$771.00\*

85-gallon Marathon Water Heater installed  
by Farmers Electric Cooperative.....\$927.00\*

50-gallon G. E. Geo-Spring Heat Pump  
water heater installed by Farmers Electric  
Cooperative .....\$1399.00\*

\*plus sales tax

*Prices above do not include rebates on water heaters*



### STOP BY AND VISIT US AT THE ADAIR COUNTY FAIR

**Farmers Electric Cooperative will have a booth at the Adair County Fair located in Greenfield. Stop by and visit with us while enjoying a bag of popcorn.**

*See you at the fair – July 20-24, 2011.*

## OPEN LINES *by Stan Crees, Member Service Director*



### Don't be surprised by higher electric bills

**E**lectricity – we all use it to heat and light our homes, charge our cell phones, and power our televisions and refrigerators. But most of us don't give a lot of thought to where it comes from and how much it costs to produce electricity until we get an unexpected high bill in the mail. And that kind of surprise is never a good one.

I recently attended a conference where Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association, spoke about a new round of costs heading our way. He urged that distribution cooperatives like ours get out ahead of this and make sure our members know that electric bills are going to increase and help them understand why. So, I intend to do exactly that.

First, you need to know that Farmers Electric Cooperative is doing everything we can to keep our rates as low as possible and still provide the quality of service you expect from us. Unfortunately, there are factors beyond our control that will drive up your monthly electric bill in the not-too-distant future. Roughly 65 percent of your bill goes toward power supply costs, which includes running power plants to generate electricity and maintaining transmission lines to carry electricity to our power lines.

So, power supply costs have the biggest impact on our electric bills, and power supply is the area where the biggest changes are occurring that will increase costs. This is happening for several reasons.

First, new electric generation must be built to keep up with increasing demand and to replace older, inefficient power plants that cannot meet today's standards. And, make no mistake about it; the new power plants will be the most expensive ever because they will all be required to meet new government standards for reduced environmental impact.

New government regulations are also leading to a transition away from coal-based generation toward natural gas as the primary fuel source. Although coal is traditionally a cheaper resource, the greenhouse gas emissions for a natural gas plant are roughly half that of coal. Coal plants are also facing significantly tighter restrictions on mercury, nitrous oxide, and sulfur dioxide emissions. The result is a fuel switching process to a more expensive type of electric generation.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, we have no choice but to pass those additional costs on to the membership in the form of higher electric bills. There is no getting around the bad news – electricity is going to cost more in the future.

The good news is that Farmers Electric Cooperative is here to help you find ways to use less electricity to minimize those cost increases. We offer a range of energy efficiency programs for your home, business, or farm that include financial incentives. If you are interested in learning more about strategies to reduce energy consumption and save you money, please visit our website at [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com) or give me a call.


There are two things you can count on: energy costs will go up and we will be here to help.

## Farmers Open Lines

A monthly publication of



**Farmers Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### Office Hours:

7:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### Address:

102 S.E. Sixth St  
PO Box 330  
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-0330  
Phone: (641) 743-6146  
1-800-397-4821  
Fax: (641) 343-7187  
Home Page: [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com)

### Board of Directors:

Dan Westphal, President  
Steve Chandler, Vice President  
Bill Adams, Secretary  
Robert Newton, Treasurer  
Randy Christoffersen  
Darrell Jensen  
Betty Lents  
Ralph Lents  
Gary Ohms

### Manager

Clarence Moshier, Jr.

To report a power outage call  
800-397-4821

## CO-OP CORNER



The use of electricity has been a part of the U. S. economy since the turn of the century. About 46% of the electrical power generated a year comes from coal. Not only does coal provide electricity, it is also an essential fuel for steel production, cement manufacturing and as a liquid fuel.

Coal is a combustible, sedimentary, organic rock, which is composed mostly of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. It is formed from vegetation, which has been consolidated between other rock strata and altered by the combining effects of pressure and heat over millions of years to form coal seams. Coal is a fossil fuel and is far more plentiful than oil or gas, with around 119 years of coal remaining worldwide. The use of our coal supplies will rise 53% over the next 20 years.

Although we have this abundance of coal, the new electrical generation from coal will have to meet new government regulations that prior coal generation plants did not have too! According to the World Coal Association, 21st century coal plants emit 40% less CO<sub>2</sub> than the average 20th century coal plant. It is a challenging time for future electrical power generation!

## Manager's Comments by Clarence Moshier Jr., General Manager



Our Nominating Committee met in early June to select candidates for the upcoming elections in September. The Nominating Committee nominated Betty Lents for the West District and Robert Newton for the East District. So far, no names have been presented for the open

seat in the Central District. If you know of anyone who has an interest in being a Cooperative Board member, please let a Nominating Committee member know or call the office with a name. The members of the nominating committee are still searching for individuals with an interest in the vacant Central District Board position.

As I write this column, the Legislature is still in session trying to reach a compromise on the budget. It seems politics takes up more and more of our time as we try to protect the interests of you – our member owners of the Cooperative. The members of the Legislature that represent the Cooperatives service area (from Highway 71 in the west to I-35 in the east) have been supportive of our positions and have been good to work with. We appreciate what they do for us. However, what we do on the State and National level may not be enough in the months and years ahead—you may have to become involved. By being involved, I mean contacting legislators to tell them how proposed legislation will affect you and what it will do to the cost of electricity. There is a lot going on at the State and especially at the National level that will raise the price of electricity for all of us; so if you see something that is of concern, let our congressional delegation know about it.

By the time you receive this newsletter, our truck/equipment building will have been completed

(see pictures below) and the office construction will be nearing completion as well. It is my hope to move the office to the new facility in early August; all line material and equipment will be there before the office move date. With regards to the existing property, we will be having an auction of the quonset buildings and property at the south edge of Greenfield on July 16th; we are still looking at options for the office complex.

Our line building contractors (Echo and IES) are both making good progress on their respective projects near Winterset and north of Greenfield. The Cooperative's line crew has been busy rebuilding a line northeast of Winterset.



# NOTICE

If you think you have an outage, before you call Farmers Electric Cooperative you need to check all of your fuses and breakers in the house and at the meter pole. If we are called out to your house and the problem is your breaker or fuse there will be a charge to you. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday 7:30 – 3:00) the charge is \$150.00/hour with a ½ hour minimum. After 3:00 or weekends or holidays it is considered overtime. The overtime charge is \$225.00/hour with an hour minimum charge.

You wouldn't  
let the water  
run when  
you aren't  
using it....

....so why do it with electricity?


Leaving battery chargers plugged in, lights on in empty rooms, entertainment/game stations and computers turned on when not in use is like leaving your faucet running.

Electricity, like water, is becoming a precious and costly resource. Wasting it not only costs us today, but will cost us in the future.

Use energy wisely. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com), or go to [www.TouchstoneEnergySavers.com](http://www.TouchstoneEnergySavers.com).



**Farmers Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Non-Discrimination Statement

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866)377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.