

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



The Farmers Electric office will be closed Monday, Sept. 6 for Labor Day. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday weekend!

## Annual Meeting Sept. 14

Please join us Tuesday, Sept. 14 for the Farmers Electric Annual Meeting at the Adair County 4-H Building in Greenfield. Registration begins at 5 p.m. with a free meal from 5-6:30 p.m. The business session includes updates on cooperative business over the past year and the election of board members.

Don't forget that everyone who attends will receive a special gift, and there will be drawings for additional prizes. Watch for more details in the September newsletter.



P.O. Box 330  
Greenfield, IA 50849  
FarmersREC.com | (800) 397-4821

### YOUR CO-OP AT WORK:

## Welcome Mason Wisse

**W**elcome to our newest apprentice lineman, Mason Wisse! Mason is from Oskaloosa. We are excited to have him working with us!



## Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair Aug. 12-22!

Visit our booth in the newly renovated Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building. We'll have plastic hard hats for the kids (*while supplies last*) and a fun safety selfie station. Take a quick survey for a chance to win one of the three great prizes!



## Nat'l Hire A Veteran Day

**E**very day, hundreds of our military personnel leave the service in search of civilian employment. On July 25, Farmers joined businesses across the country to recognize veterans in their workforce during National Hire a Veteran Day. The day encourages employers to consider veterans to fill their open positions.

Pictured below are Lineman Trey Eddy, and Apprentice Linemen Nate Hubenka and Tyler O'Connor who, along with CEO Charlie Dunn, are former military service personnel. Your cooperative believes the best way to honor a veteran is to hire one!



# Watt's the Difference Between Lumens and Watts?

The rise in popularity of LED lighting as a long lasting, energy efficient option in today's consumer world has opened the door to new questions about what type of lighting is right for our homes. It's no longer just a matter of watts, but knowing things like output and color temperature in advance can help you make smart choices in your selection.



One thing you'll notice on LED light bulb packaging is the number of lumens the bulb provides. Lumens are a measurement of total light output, or brightness of the bulb. The more lumens indicated, the brighter the bulb, and the fewer the lumens, the dimmer the bulb. Think of it this way: lumens are to light what pounds are to bananas, or what gallons are to milk. They let you buy the amount of light you want, so when buying new bulbs, think lumens, not watts.

The brightness, or lumen levels, of the lights in your home may vary widely, so here's a good rule of thumb:

## Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

During severe weather, you've likely experienced your lights blink or returned home to find the clock on your microwave or oven blinking. When this happens, it means there has been a brief disruption of your electric service which could have resulted from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy

HOW MANY LUMENS DO YOU NEED? (120V)						
BRIGHTNESS	→	250+	450+	800+	1100+	1600+
STANDARD		25W	40W	60W	75W	100W
LED		4W	5W	10W	15W	20W

To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that gives you about 1600 lumens. If you want something dimmer, go for less lumens; if you prefer brighter light, look for more lumens:

- Replacing a 75W bulb with an LED bulb gives you about 1100 lumens
- Replacing a 60W bulb with an LED bulb gives you about 800 lumens
- Replacing a 40W bulb with an LED bulb gives you about 450 lumens

Watts are a measurement of power consumption. With traditional incandescent light sources, typically the

higher the wattage, the brighter the light. With energy efficient bulbs like LEDs, this is somewhat different because there is no hard and fast rule to correlate wattage with output. For example one brand's 9-watt LED bulb may emit enough lumens to replace a 60-watt incandescent bulb, while another brand may use 12 watts to replace the same. This is why it's more important to take a look at lumens versus watts.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

It can also result in unnecessary wear and tear on your air conditioner that can reduce its lifespan or cause unnecessary mechanical breakdowns. Instead, use fans to help keep cool while you're waiting, but remember, fans cool people, not rooms. Don't run a fan unless it's benefitting you.



**DAVE SHIKE**  
Dir. of Operations

electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage, but power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts that can be extremely damaging.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources,

*continued on pg. 3*

## School Zone Driving Safety Tips

It's almost the time of year when parents and children in our area are preparing to go back to school. Drivers of all ages should be extra cautious when driving near schools when in session. Here are a few tips to remember:

1. Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the posted speed limit.
2. When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.
3. Always stop for school busses that are loading or unloading children.
4. Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
5. Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
6. Never pass other vehicles while driving in a school zone.
7. Never change lanes while driving in a school zone.
8. Never make U-Turns while driving in a school zone.
9. Never text while driving in a school zone.
10. Avoid using a cell phone, unless it is completely hands-free, while driving in a school zone.
11. Unless licensed to do so, never use handicap or emergency vehicle lanes or spaces to drop off or pick up children at school.

# Annual Meeting Time is Your Time to Engage

**W**ith all that is happening in the world today, there's no doubt that we are weighted by the commitments we've made to ourselves, our families, our jobs and our communities. With so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our precious "spare" time.

We know your time is valuable, and when it comes to attending your electric cooperative's annual meeting, you're likely deciding whether or not your time and effort to attend is beneficial. Whether you've never attended one of our annual meetings in the past or even if you come every year without fail, we hope you consider joining us Tuesday, Sept. 14.

At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Our annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you--the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers like you.

You may feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the



**CHARLIE DUNN**  
CEO

whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Farmers Electric wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

Above all, we want you to be safe and determine for yourselves if you feel comfortable attending. We will do our best to allow for enough space to social distance.

As always, our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We'll have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting Sept. 14 at the Adair County Fairgrounds.

## Power Surges...from pg. 2

like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Farmers Electric encourages all of our members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics when this happens. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power

line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, in 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages across the U.S.

You may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these types of blinks are actually good because it means the equipment is working to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, co-op crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling (800) 397-4821 and having your account number available.



**A** bountiful garden of your own or picking fresh produce from your local farmers market are a healthy and tasteful way to honor the best of summer's vegetable growing season. This month's recipes feature a garden variety of tasty flavors that everyone will enjoy.

Each month, the cooperative places a call for recipes in various categories. Winners receive a \$5 credit on their account, with their recipes appearing in the next month's issue. Plan now to participate by mailing your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mailing it to [HWeston@farmersrec.com](mailto:HWeston@farmersrec.com). **September:** Favorite After School Snack Recipes

## Garden Fresh Grilled Veggie Pizza

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 T. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 medium tomatoes, cut into 1/2 inch slices
- 1 large sweet red pepper, halved, stemmed and seeded
- 1 small onion, cut crosswise into 1/2 inch slices
- 1 small zucchini, cut lengthwise into 1/4 inch slices
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground pepper
- 1 prebaked 12-inch pizza crust
- 1/3 c. spreadable garden vegetable cream cheese



*tasteofhome.com*

- 8 slices smoked provolone cheese, divided
- 1/2 c. minced fresh basil, divided
- 1/4 c. shredded carrots
- 1 T. minced fresh oregano
- 1 tsp. minced fresh thyme

Combine oil and garlic; brush onto both sides of vegetables. Sprinkle with pepper. Grill, covered, over medium heat until tender, 4-5 minutes per side for pepper and onion, 3-4 minutes per side for zucchini, 2-3 minutes per side for tomatoes. Coarsely chop pepper, onion and zucchini. Spread pizza crust with cream cheese, layer with 4 slices provolone and tomato slices. Sprinkle with 1/4 c. basil, carrots, oregano and thyme. Top with grilled vegetables, then remaining cheese. Grill pizza, covered, over medium heat until bottom is golden brown and cheese is melted, 5-7 minutes. Top with remaining basil.

## Fresh Vegetable Salad

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 c. water
- 2 c. tricolor rotini pasta (optional)
- 1/4 c. extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. honey
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 sweet onion (such as Vidalia®), chopped
- 1 cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 2 carrots, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1/2 c. diced celery
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped



*allrecipes.com*

- 2 T. chopped fresh parsley, or to taste
- 1 1/2 tsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 pinch fresh cracked black pepper, or to taste

Bring water to a boil in a large saucepan. Cook the rotini in the boiling water until tender yet firm to the bite, about 8 minutes. Rinse with cold water until cooled completely; drain. Transfer pasta to a large mixing bowl. Whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and honey in a bowl; drizzle over pasta and toss to coat. Fold tomatoes, sweet onion, cucumber, carrots, celery, garlic, green onions, parsley, and cilantro individually into the pasta mixture to assure even distribution. Season with black pepper.



**Farmers Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Open Lines is a monthly publication of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**CEO:**  
Charles Dunn

2389 Highway 92 | P.O. Box 330  
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-0330  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
24 hour outside depository  
Ph: (800) 397-4821  
Fax: (641) 343-7187  
[www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com)

### Board of Directors

Dan Westphal, President  
Kevin Tanner, Secretary  
Janelle Peiffer  
Darrell Jensen  
Kevin Stender

Steve Chandler, Vice President  
RoxAnn Rhoads, Treasurer  
Mark Earhart  
Kris Petter

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.