

FARMERS *Open Lines* ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app. With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).



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

THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE:

Seeking Board Candidates

Part of being a member of the electric cooperative family means having a say in how your cooperative is run. Democratic member control is one of the seven principles that guide Farmers Electric Cooperative and sets us apart from investor-owned utilities.

Anyone who is a member of Farmers Electric is welcome to serve on the co-op's board of directors. These individuals provide input on fiscal matters, setting goals, approving budget items, and staying informed of regional and national electric utility industry issues that may affect co-op members. Serving on the board is a way to give back to your community!

Our nine-member board of directors includes three directors from each of our three districts. Every year, a nominating committee of volunteers seeks individuals from their area to run in the election, held during the annual meeting in September. Nominees must be co-op members who reside in the district for which they are running. If you are unsure which district you are in, call our office at (800) 397-4821.

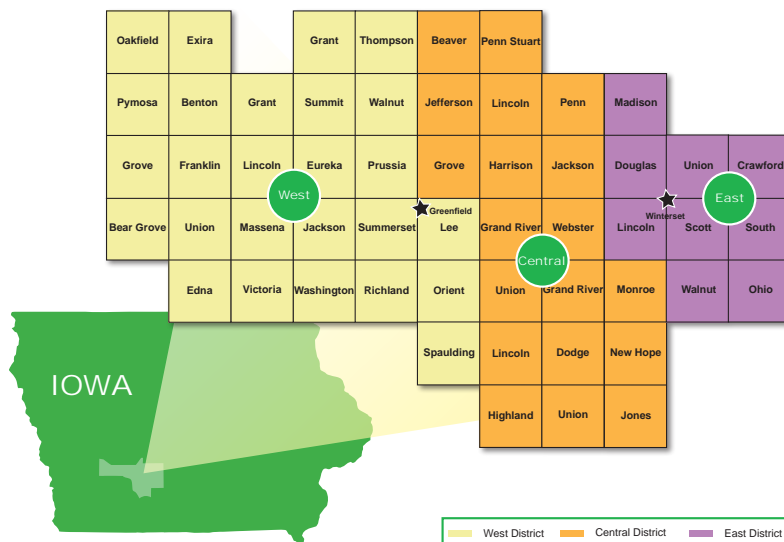
One director from each district will seek re-election this year. They are

Steve Chandler (East District); **Cary Gilman** (Central District) and **Dan Westphal** (West District). A nominating committee made up of co-op members helps find candidates to run in each district. If you are interested in submitting your name or learning more about the responsibilities of being a board member, please contact the nominating committee member in your district, or call our office at (800) 397-4821.

East District: **Michael Rhoads**, (515) 468-8297

Central District: **Jason Kirkland**, (641) 202-0379 and **Dave Doud**, (515) 238-4207

West District: **Roger Jensen**, (641) 745-5957 and **Kent Stender**, (712) 779-5590



West District Central District East District
Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. serves portions of Audubon, Cass, Adair, Union, Guthrie and Madison counties.



Job Shadow Day

Winterset High School senior Luke Garlich spent a day in April job shadowing the Farmers Electric line crew. Luke is pictured here with Director of Operations Dave Shike. Linemen jobs are currently in high demand with an outlook for continued growth. Farmers Electric is proud to encourage young people to consider the trades as a career!

Shine the Light on Volunteers

Do you know someone in our community who is making a difference? Nominate them for our Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$2,000 for their local charity or nonprofit.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this contest celebrates the people who make our communities better. Three winners will be announced in September and featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.



How to Nominate

Members and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from Farmers Electric, you're a co-op member and we encourage you to nominate someone. The nominee does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Visit www.IowaShineTheLight.com by June 30 to review contest rules and complete a nomination. Nominators will be asked to answer this question in 500 words or less: **How has your nominee made a positive difference in the community and why do they deserve to be recognized?**

Help us shine the light on our community volunteers and make a nomination by June 30!

SUMMER STORM SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Summer means fun in the sun! But the season can also bring strong thunderstorms.

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



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



- If you hear thunder, that means **lightning** can strike nearby. Go indoors.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of **thunder** before going back outside.
- During a thunderstorm, stay away from tall, isolated **structures** or trees, which are more susceptible to lightning strikes.
- Avoid standing near **windows** during a thunderstorm.
- Strong summer storms occasionally cause power outages. During an outage, it's best to have an **emergency kit** on hand.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center, (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service, (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a

Our Commitment to Serving You is Not in Short Supply

While things could be much worse, Farmers Electric has experienced its share of challenges so far in 2022.

Certain equipment is in very short supply, and other items have very long lead times. Hopefully, the supply chain will start to correct itself this year and ease the pressure on wait times for the transformers and meter loops we need most.

We've also seen an uptick in outages this spring, mostly due to raccoons. Lightning, wind, and accidents involving electric poles and vehicles have also contributed to power outages. We are trying to add more insulated cover-up at our substations to prevent outages caused by animals, but these materials are also in short supply.

When we do experience an outage, the equipment in our substations and on our lines will de-energize to protect the equipment and lines from further damage. If your power suddenly goes out this is often due to a fault on the lines or equipment that results in a blown fuse. If your power blinks several times before going out, this is most likely due to a

recloser operating before tripping out. The reason it operates and blinks your lights is to attempt to clear the fault (animal, tree limb, etc.) and not result in a power outage. If this doesn't clear the outage, then the recloser will lock open and the line will remain de-energized until our crews can find the problem.

We have a great group of dedicated employees here at your REC! The office staff and line personnel both have very important jobs, and both equally ensure that we are meeting our member's needs.

Back in April, we celebrated Linemen Appreciation Day and Administrative Professional Day, and these employees all have my appreciation for the outstanding job they do. Our mission is to provide you with safe and reliable electricity. I can assure you that despite the challenges we are facing, the employees at Farmers Electric will continue to work hard to meet our mission.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Save the Date!

**FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022**



Fruit Pizza

1 lb. package premade Pillsbury™ sugar cookie dough (or homemade)

8 oz. Cool Whip®, softened

4 oz. cream cheese, softened

2 T. sugar

1 tsp. vanilla extract

Fruit topping:

15 oz. can sliced mandarin oranges, drained

2 kiwis, peeled and sliced

1 lb. strawberries, halved or quartered

1 pint raspberries and/or blueberries

15 oz. can pineapple chunks, drained

Preheat oven to 350 and lightly grease a round glass pizza pan. Press cookie dough into the pan to about 1/8" thick. Pierce several times with a fork. Bake for 8-10 minutes, until edges are lightly golden. Let cool completely. In a large bowl, whip together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Fold in Cool Whip. Once crust has cooled, spread frosting evenly over sugar cookie with a spatula. Top with your favorite fruit and enjoy!



foodtasia.com

Strawberry Lemonade Cookies

1 box Betty Crocker™ Delight Strawberry Cake Mix

1 box Betty Crocker™ Delight Lemon Cake Mix

4 large eggs, divided

2/3 c. vegetable oil, divided

3 tsp. lemon juice, divided

2/3 c. powdered sugar

Glaze

2 T. cold water or lemon juice

1 1/2 c. powdered sugar



swankyrecipes.com

In a medium bowl, whisk together 2 eggs, 1/3 c. oil, 1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice. Stir in lemon cake mix; set aside. In a separate medium bowl, whisk together remaining 2 eggs, 1/3 c. oil, 1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice. Stir in strawberry cake mix; set aside. Refrigerate dough at least 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside. Generously sprinkle two separate large plates with powdered sugar. Scoop about 1/2 T. of lemon dough and roll in powdered sugar, leaving the dough balls on the plate. Repeat until you have enough dough balls to fill the baking sheet. Repeat with strawberry cookie dough using the second plate of powdered sugar to coat and placing back on plate. Roll one lemon ball and one strawberry ball together. Place on baking sheet one inch apart. Sprinkle with a little powdered sugar. Bake 10-13 minutes or until slightly golden around the edges. Refrigerate remaining dough in between uses. Transfer baked cookies to cooling wire rack. Repeat with remaining dough. Combine ingredients for glaze and drizzle over cooled cookies with spoon.

Want a chance to get \$5 off your next electric bill? Enter a recipe in our recipe contest each month!

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. **July: Grilling Recipes**



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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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.