

FARMERS *Open Lines* ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026



OFFICE CLOSED NOV. 11
VETERANS DAY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Please save
our local number
in your cellphone!

FARMERS ELECTRIC:
641-743-6146

If our number isn't saved, your cellphone may identify the call as "Potential Spam" and you could miss our call.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill! Unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off.



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

87 YEARS STRONG: CO-OP MEMBERS GATHER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The staff and board of Farmers Electric Cooperative extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended the co-op's 87th Annual Meeting on Sept. 15. Approximately 184 members and guests joined us for this important cooperative tradition.

During the meeting, co-op leadership shared updates on Farmers Electric's finances, operations and community activities. Members also took part in one of the principles that makes the cooperative business model unique: democratic member control.

Ballots for the 2026 director elections were counted, with the following results:

- East District: Janelle Peiffer
- West District: Kevin Tanner
- Central District: Kris Petter

Attendees also heard from Michidel Mercado, our 2026 Youth Tour representative, who shared highlights from her experience in Washington, D.C. in June. Sponsored by the co-op, Michidel had the opportunity to learn about government, electric co-ops and leadership while visiting the nation's capital.

The annual meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize employees

for their years of dedicated service to Farmers Electric. President Dan Westphal presented this year's honorees:

- 10 years: Trey Eddy, Lineman
- 5 years: Lori Kinyon, Director of Finance & Accounting
- 5 years: Mason Wisse, Lineman

Congratulations to our elected directors, Youth Tour representative

and service award recipients. Most importantly, thank you to our members for attending, voting and staying engaged with your cooperative. Your participation helps Farmers Electric remain strong, responsive and focused on serving our members and communities.



Trey Eddy



Lori Kinyon



Mason Wisse

TAKE THE CHILL OUT OF WINTER BILLS WITH LIHEAP

The 2026-2027 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, you can dial 2-1-1, visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap> to locate and contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Dept. of Health & Human Services
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027
- All other households: November 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.

WHAT TO PROVIDE:

- Proof of income (for all household members age 18 and over). Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Most recent heat bill
- Most recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS:

Please provide copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance and pensions.

Please provide copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

Note: Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$31,920
2	\$43,280
3	\$54,640
4	\$66,000
5	\$77,360
6	\$88,720
7	\$100,080
8	\$111,400

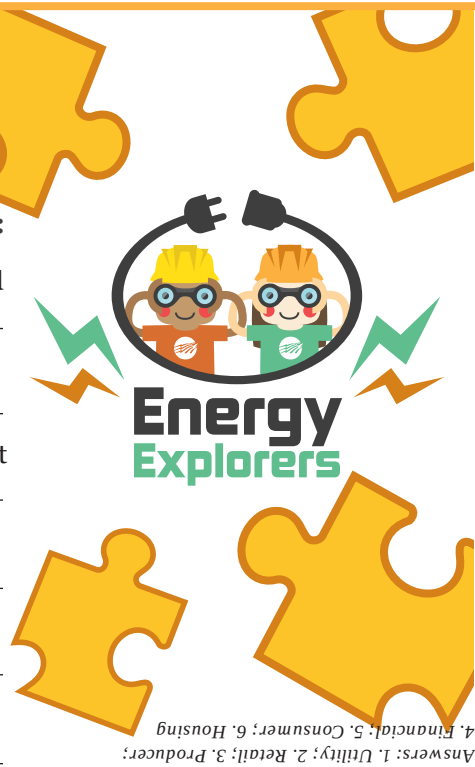
For households with more than 8 members, add \$11,360 for each additional member.

CO-OP MONTH QUIZ

October is National Co-op Month

Read each clue below and guess the type of cooperative: **WORKER, PRODUCER, CONSUMER, UTILITY, RETAIL, FINANCIAL, OR HOUSING:**

1. Your local electric co-op: It keeps the lights on, restores power after storms and is owned by its members. TYPE: _____
2. REI: People can become members to shop for outdoor gear, enjoy special benefits, and help support the business. TYPE: _____
3. Ocean Spray: Thousands of cranberry and grapefruit farmers work together to grow fruit and produce juice sold across the country. TYPE: _____
4. Your local credit union. Members save money, open checking accounts and apply for loans through a financial institution they own together. TYPE: _____
5. A grocery co-op: Local shoppers become members to help support a community grocery store and buy fresh foods. TYPE: _____
6. A co-op apartment building: People work together to own and manage the place where they live. TYPE: _____



SAFE CHARGING IS A SUPERPOWER

National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10 and the National Fire Protection Association® is focused on educating the public about recharging safely. Safe charging means making smart choices every time you plug in.

Many devices we use in our daily lives – phones, tablets, scooters, etc. – run on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which store a lot of energy in a small space. If they are damaged or charged the wrong way, they can overheat, start a fire or even explode. Here are some smart charging tips:

- Use the cord/charger the device came with.
- Charge devices on a flat surface.
- Stop using device if it feels hot.
- Unplug your device when it is fully charged.
- Charge larger items outside and away from exits.

Use your superpower: Charge safely!

YOU ARE THE CO-OP DIFFERENCE

October is National Co-op Month, and it's a good opportunity to reflect on something we don't always stop to think about: what it means to be part of a cooperative.

At Farmers Electric, being a co-op means we belong to the people we serve. That's you.

Our cooperative was founded in 1938 when local people came together to bring electricity to an area where other utilities wouldn't. A lot has changed since then, but one thing hasn't: our commitment to serving our members and our communities.

That local connection matters. When we make decisions at Farmers Electric, we're not trying to satisfy outside investors or shareholders. We're thinking about the people at the other end of the line—our friends, neighbors and fellow community members.

You can see that commitment every day. It's in the lineworkers who head out in bad weather to restore power.

It's in the employees who answer the phone when you have a question. It's in our support of local organizations and events. And it's in the board members you elect—people from the communities we serve—who help guide the cooperative's future.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

Being a cooperative doesn't mean we'll always agree on every issue or decision. But it does mean we share the same community, and we have a common interest in seeing it thrive.

During National Co-op Month, I want to thank you for being a member of Farmers Electric. We're proud to be your local energy partner, and we never take for granted the trust you place in us.

After all, Farmers Electric isn't just a company that serves this community. We're part of it, too.

KINDS OF CO-OPS

Cooperatives come in many forms—from electric utilities and credit unions to farm supply stores and housing co-ops—but all cooperatives are built with a common purpose: to meet the needs of the members they serve.



October is National Co-op Month.





thecountrycook.net

PUMPKIN CAKE ROLL WITH FILLING

3/4 c. flour 3 large eggs
1/2 tsp. baking powder 1 c. sugar
1/2 tsp. baking soda 1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cinnamon 1/2 tsp. cloves
2/3 c. pumpkin pie filling
1 c. walnuts (optional)

Filling: 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened; 1 c. powdered sugar; 6 T. butter, softened; 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 375. Grease a 15x10" jelly roll pan; line with wax paper. Combine first six dry ingredients in bowl and set aside. In large bowl, beat eggs and sugar until thick. Beat in pumpkin. Stir in flour mixture. Spread evenly into pan. Top with nuts, if desired. Bake 13-15 min. Immediately loosen and turn onto a towel that's been sprinkled with powdered sugar. Carefully peel off wax paper. Roll up cake and towel together, starting with narrow end. Cool. Filling: beat together cream cheese, powdered sugar, butter, and vanilla until smooth. Carefully unroll cake; remove towel. Spread cream cheese mixture over cake. Reroll cake. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

Bonnie Raasch



bakerbettie.com

FROSTED PUMPKIN OATMEAL COOKIES

3/4 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1/2 tsp. baking soda
4 T. butter, softened
6 T. light brown sugar, packed
1/4 c. granulated sugar
6 T. pure pumpkin puree
1 tsp. vanilla

1 1/4 c. old-fashioned rolled oats

Frosting: 4 T. butter, softened; 2 c. powdered sugar; 3-4 T. heavy cream; 1 tsp. vanilla ; 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Preheat oven to 350. Spray 2 large baking sheets with nonstick spray. In bowl, combine flour, pumpkin spice, and baking soda. In 2nd bowl, mix together butter, both sugars, pumpkin puree and vanilla until smooth. Slowly add flour mixture until combined. Stir in oats. Using a cookie scoop or spoon, place dough balls onto baking sheets about 2" apart. Bake 11-13 min. Cool on wire rack. For frosting: in medium bowl, mix the soft butter until smooth. Slowly add powdered sugar until mix resembles sand. Add 3 T. heavy cream, vanilla and pumpkin pie spice. Add heavy cream as needed to thin. Turn mixer to high for three minutes until light and fluffy. Frost cookies once they are completely cooled. Sprinkle with more pumpkin pie spice if desired.

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.

NOVEMBER: Thanksgiving Recipes

DECEMBER: Holiday Treats

JANUARY: Quick & Healthy Meals

ABOUT US

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	Vice President Mark Earhart
Secretary Kevin Tanner	Treasurer RoxAnn Rhoads
Cary Gilman Janelle Peiffer Kris Petter	Kevin Stender Joe Taylor

CEO: Holi Weston



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