

Be Merry & 'Bright' this Holiday ...with Shimmering LED Lights

It seems like everywhere you go during the holiday season, festive lights adorn trees, wreaths and even cover front lawns. Decorating rituals and celebratory lighting ceremonies during winter festival date back pre-Christianity, with candles to replicate the shimmer of stars, but the start of decorating with electric lights originates with Thomas Edison's associate, Edward H. Johnson, in December of 1882. He had Christmas tree light bulbs made especially for his house in New York City. The lights were hand-wired with 80 red, white and blue incandescent light bulbs the size of walnuts.

However, it took until the early 1900s before businesses started to decorate their store windows and the 1930s before the average family could afford electric Christmas lights, and that was only if their house was electrically wired. Today, millions of lights illuminate homes and streets all around the world. In the past couple of years, a more energy efficient and safer light string has significantly reduced in cost making it an affordable choice. LED, or light emitting diodes, use up to 90 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. Even many of our nation's most famous holiday displays and some of the massive light tours have already made the switch or are in the process. Turn to pages 6-7 and learn where you can partake in holiday festivities, 'Round About Iowa and also the top ten displays in our country. Happy Holidays!



"In the past couple of years, a more energy efficient and safer light string has significantly reduced in cost making it an affordable choice."



By: Megan Moellers

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from our family
to yours!

Office will be closed:
Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25
Wednesday, December 31 & Thursday, January 1

New Office Hours
7:30 am – 4:00 pm
Call (800) 658-2243 for bill payments 24-hours a day

Are you replacing your grain dryer or adding geo-thermal?

Grants and guaranteed loans are available. Turn to page 4 for more information.

"Our vision is to provide access to safe, dependable and affordable electric services."



Tom Miller
General Manager

Happiness and Joy!

Not too long ago, my pastor had a sermon with part of the lesson focusing on the difference between Happiness and Joy. Thinking about the current state of the economy, the holiday season, and life at our electric cooperative, made the sermon rather timely for me. So here is my holiday message about Happiness and Joy and what I think it means to our cooperative.

Happiness comes and goes with moments in time. We can choose to feel happy or sad.

Maybe the adage of the glass being half-empty or half-full is a similar comparison, as it is a state of mind. I think businesses have good times and times when they struggle.

Your electric cooperative could be happier. We have a number of challenges ahead of us. Increasing upward pressure on rates is catching Santa Claus's eye for who's being naughty or nice. Our earthly environment, power supply, power delivery, reliability, and cost of service all have had their happier moments. These are all items that have a life cycle. Although energy is being challenged on many fronts, we can choose to deal with these issues in a friendly (happy) manner. I can only encourage doing friendly business, but realize times are tough.

Joy is more permanent in concept. Either we have joy in our lives or we don't. For

example, my wife and boys are joys in my life. Each of them bring joy to me in their own way. From time to time, each will do things that don't make me happy, but I don't know what I would do without them or the joy they bring to me!

People helping people is the heart of the Cooperative form of business. Members join together with a common purpose for the betterment of all involved. This is a joyful concept. Rural electrification's purpose was to provide electrical energy to all Americans. It was enacted during a very unhappy time. At the turn of the new millennium, rural electrification was named one of the "top 10" success stories of the century. It was a joy when the goal of increasing the rural standard of living was met.

Rural electrification is still needed, but for different reasons:

- ▲ To improve our environment
- ▲ Increase power supply so we maintain reliability
- ▲ Utilize natural resources efficiently and effectively
- ▲ To keep costs as affordable as possible

It would be a joy to meet our expectations again. Further, it would be a joy accomplishing our goals together.

So as we head deep into the holiday season, we hope you find many things that bring happiness to you in 2009. Also, we hope your lives are rich with joy and you can bring joy into others lives as well. 'Tis the season after all!

"People helping people is at the heart of the Cooperative form of business. Members joining together with a common purpose for the betterment of all involved."



Cooperation Among Cooperatives

A major ice storm in Murdo, South Dakota required additional crews from cooperatives in Iowa to help rebuild from the devastating damage. Your cooperative sent two linemen, Kraig Johnson and Brad Dull, to West Central Electric Cooperative to help with the power restoration efforts.

Freezing rain, 70 mph winds and blowing snow left West Central Electric Cooperative with more than 350 broken poles and numerous wire breaks. The width of the damage was 20 miles wide. With ice reported on the line the size of a pop can, the poles just couldn't withstand the pressure of the wind and weight.



"We were not out of power in Kennebec, SD but noticed one of your big trucks heading west to help those hit by the November storm and thought that you would like to know that we appreciate the help."

-Alta Copeland • Kennebec, SD

Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the seven Touchstone Energy principles.




























Brad Dull



Kraig Johnson

Map of Outages

OAKDALE 1	CHESTER 2	FOREST CITY 3	ALBION 4	FREMONT 29	BURR OAK 30  	HESPER 31	HIGHLAND 32
JAMESTOWN 8 	SARATOGA 7	HOWARD CENTER 6	VERNON SPRINGS 5	ORLEANS 36  	BLUFFTON 35	CANOE 34	PLEASANT 33  OCR
AFTON NORTH 9 	HOWARD NORTH 11	PARIS NORTH 13	NEW OREGON NORTH 15	LINCOLN 37 Transformer Fuse	MADISON 38 Primary Conductor	DECORAH 39  	GLENWOOD 40
AFTON SOUTH 10	HOWARD SOUTH 12	PARIS SOUTH 14  	NEW OREGON S 16	SUMNER 44	CALMAR 43  	SPRINGFIELD 42  	FRANKVILLE 41
DEERFIELD N 23  	WASHINGTON N 21	JACKSONVILLE N 19  	UTICA NORTH 17 	JACKSON 45 	WASHINGTON 46	MILITARY 47	BLOOMFILED 48
DEERFIELD S 24	WASHINGTON S 18   Overload 	JACKSONVILLE S 20 Weather Wind	UTICA SOUTH 18  Open OCR	CHICKASAW 25	DAYTON 26	NEW HAMPTON 27	STAPLETON 28

 = Pole Change outs  = Single Outage  = Planned Outages

November 2008

Have you experienced an outage lately?

Are you replacing your grain dryer or adding geo-thermal?

Grants and guaranteed loans available

“A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems or geo-thermal for farm shops or businesses.”

15 members of Hawkeye have received over \$365,000 in grants during 2008 for energy efficiency/renewable energy.



USDA Rural Development Offering Grants and Guaranteed Loans to Businesses to Produce Renewable Energy or Make Energy-Saving Improvements

Grants and guaranteed loans are available from USDA Rural Development to help rural businesses or agricultural producers looking to produce renewable energy or make energy-saving improvements to their facilities or farms.

“This program can make a big difference to rural small businesses or producers looking to finance a renewable energy system or make energy saving improvements to their facility or equipment,” said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “I encourage interested business owners and producers to contact Rural Development to learn more.”

During the past five years, nearly 230 projects in Iowa have received \$37 million in grants and guaranteed loan to help install renewable systems such as wind turbines, solar, geothermal, bio-diesel, ethanol, anaerobic digesters or hydrogen, and make a wide variety of energy efficiency improvements to facilities.

Restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, greenhouses, cold storage businesses, ethanol plants, manufacturing facilities, as well as any other business that requires a large amount of energy to operate, may benefit from an energy-efficient upgrade that these funds could help finance.

Costs incurred before submitting an application for both grants and loan guarantees are not eligible. **In addition, funds are not available for residential use.**

Grants can cover up to 25 percent of the project costs. The minimum grant application is \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvement projects and \$2,500 for renewable energy projects. The maximum energy efficiency grant is \$250,000; \$500,000 for renewable energy.

Guaranteed loans can be issued for up to 50 percent of the project costs. Minimum project costs to qualify for a guaranteed loan are \$10,000 for both energy efficiency and renewable projects. The maximum guaranteed loan is \$10 million.

A combination grant and guaranteed loan can be requested for up to 75 percent of eligible project costs.

Contact Hawkeye REC

Please contact Pat Boyle at 563-547-3801 for more information.



Replacement grain dryer installed on a Northeast Iowa farm.

Turkey River Turkey Trot



A Successful Event Benefiting Community Action

Hawkeye employees Pat Boyle and Cindy Christensen participated in the Turkey River Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 22. Other Hawkeye employees also donated to the event; Peggy Berg, Jan Praska and Meagan Moellers. The race was held to raise food and funds for the Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation. The NEICAC is a non-profit organization that serves seven counties in Northeast Iowa including Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek. Participation in the event helped those less fortunate or those facing challenging times during the Holiday season. A total of 51 runners/walkers from 12 towns raised over \$2,900. Additional proceeds went to purchasing non-perishable food items to donate to Community Action.

Efficient holiday gift giving

Each holiday season, Americans throw away 25 percent more trash than any other time during the year. This amounts to approximately one million extra tons of garbage per week. Just the 2.65 billion holiday cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one less card, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.



When browsing for presents, look for a gift that will save you energy, as well as help the environment. Do your shopping online; this eliminates pollution from car travel and the stress of driving between shopping centers.

Buy products from companies that support the environment. Look for gifts that are made of natural components, such as grown cotton or hemp, especially for items such as clothing, bedding, and towels. In addition, look for products that are recyclable or have been made with recycled material. Purchase products that have the Energy Star label on them to ensure they are energy efficient.

When it comes to gift wrapping, make sure to be environmentally conscious as well. By wrapping just three gifts with re-used materials, enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields is saved. Use wrapping paper made from recycled paper. Be creative and use old poster, newspaper or fabric.

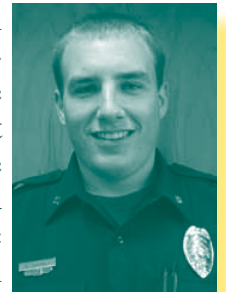


Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and NRECA

“By wrapping just three gifts with re-used materials, enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields is saved.”

Summer Employee Achieves High Honor

Gavin Carman recently graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Hawkeye Community College and received the Academic Excellence Award. Gavin was the only student to score 100% on the written exam. He is currently employed with the Cedar Falls Police Department and hopes to stay in Northeast Iowa. Gavin is the son of Roger and Jan Carman of Cresco. He worked at Hawkeye as a temporary employee during the summer of 2007. Congratulations Gavin!



Jan, Gavin and Roger Carman of Cresco.

Christmas Light Tours

Driving through light tours has become a holiday favorite for families, couples and tour buses. Enjoy these professionally crafted, awe-inspiring light

displays this holiday season... and don't forget your hot cocoa! One is in Hawkeye REC territory.



Holiday Lights...Magical Nights

Pulpit Rock Campground in Decorah

www.helpingservices.org

Holiday Lights will run Thursdays through Sundays, beginning Thanksgiving Night (Nov. 27) and conclude Dec. 28, but will be open nightly the final 10 days (Dec. 18-28). Hours are 5:30-6:30 pm. Admission granted with a donation to Helping Services; every donation of \$10 or more will be given a free holiday CD featuring tracks by area musicians. Helping Services for Northeast Iowa supports the health of children and families in Northeast Iowa through prevention programs, services and support.

Cutty's Camping Club

10500 N.W. 54th Ave., Grimes

The club has brought back its light tour and made it bigger with five lighted themes. 120 light displays will make up the 12 Days of Christmas, Santa's Workshop, Wilderness, Toys of The Century and Joy to the World. Stop in at the Holiday Village to see Santa, slide on the ice rink, roast marshmallows and pick up some holiday treats. Hours are dusk-9 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays and dusk-10 p.m. Saturdays (Fridays Nov. 22-Jan. 6). Admission costs \$13 per car and there is special pricing for buses. Bring three canned food items for Food Bank of Iowa and get in for \$10 per car.

Jolly Holiday Lights

Water Works Park, Des Moines

www.iowawish.org

With more than 75 moving-light displays, this event is a centerpiece for a night of illumination. Stop in at Santa's Wish Shop (open from 5:30-9 p.m.) for a cup-o'-joe or hot cocoa and holiday activities. The funds raised go to Iowa's Make-A-Wish Foundation. Over \$2 million has been raised helping more than 330 Iowa children. The tour is open nightly from 5:30-10 p.m. starting Nov. 25 through Jan. 1. Admission costs \$9 per car or \$45 per bus.

Optimist Holiday Lights

Main Street, Marshalltown

A new light tour which features the talents of Eric Rodemeyer. Last year, the Christmas lights were choreographed to music. This year, Rodemeyer will have Main Street's lights dancing to the tunes of holiday music 5:30-10:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 5:30-11 p.m. Fridays-Sundays from Saturday through Dec. 31. Free of charge. Ninety six channels in his computer flip on and off 14,500 bulbs and the planning took up to 150 hours for each of his seven songs, but visitors can listen to the songs as they drive by on their FM radios.

Private Home Light Display

222 N.E. 16th Street, Ankeny

This homeowner has synchronized his massive Christmas light display (40,000 lights) using 176 timers to cheerful Christmas music as onlookers pass by.

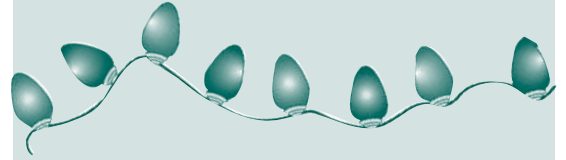


Regional Light Tour: Rotary Lights

Riverside Park, LaCrosse, WI

www.rotarylights.org

More than 2.4 million lights will be featured this year. It is the largest holiday display in the Midwest. In 2007, over 160,000 LED lights were used in the displays and more this year. Nearly 200,000 visitors each year walk or drive through the park. Admission is free but visitors are encouraged to make voluntary contributions of cash and/or food as they exit the park. Last year over 186,000 food items were donated. Opens the day after Thanksgiving and runs through New Year's Eve open daily 5-10 pm. Other areas of interest: Santa's Village with live Reindeer; a Live Nativity; Holiday Parade and Hay Rides.



Top Holiday Light Attractions in the U.S.

Are you visiting family or friends across the nation this holiday season? If your answer is yes, glance through this list to see if any of the top 10 holiday light attractions are nearby. It might make for a great addition to your holiday travel plans.

1. Silver Dollar City, Branson, MO
2. Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN
3. Stone Mountain Park, Atlanta, GA
4. The Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights, Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, FL
5. Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN
6. Milwaukee Holiday Festival of Lights, Milwaukee, WI
7. DPW Light Festival at Griffith Park, Los Angeles
8. Rockefeller Center, New York City, NY
9. Celebration in the Oaks, City Park, New Orleans, LA
10. Festival of Lights, Moody Gardens Galveston, TX

—Source: Shannon Hurst Lane

Making your holiday greener

Make the Switch to LEDs and save some green and our environment

Remember the movie “Christmas Vacation” movie character Clark Griswold? He went a little overboard while decorating his house and used 25,000 imported twinkling bulbs. If only he would have used energy efficiency C9 LED bulbs, his electricity bill would have dropped from \$2,400 to \$50!

Just imagine if everyone would make the switch to LED lights, our country could save over \$250



million in electricity costs and carbon emissions would be reduced by 400,000 tons per year. That would make a much “greener” holiday season!

Big changes in nation’s most popular holiday displays

- ▲ The city “Where the Spirit of Christmas Lives Year Round”, otherwise known as the North Pole in Alaska, will be making a drastic change this year. They have purchased over 11,000 LED Christmas lights to decorate a 65-foot white spruce tree.
- ▲ In 2007, over 100,000 lights were replaced with LEDs on The National Christmas Tree between the White House and Washington Monument.
- ▲ The 72-foot Norway Spruce tree transported to Rockefeller Center in New York will use 30,000 LED lights on five miles of wire.
- ▲ About 35% of the 1 million lights the Toledo, Ohio Zoo use each holiday season are now LEDs. One 90-foot tree had 32,000 LED lights illuminated this year.

- ▲ The Times Square ball will be decorated with LED lights, making it twice as bright, but using about half of the energy, and bringing in the New Year with a bang!



Making your holiday safer

Tis the Season to make your list and check it twice

Protect your family and your home, being especially cautious with a houseful of family and friends. Simple things can be easily overlooked during the hustle and bustle and can lead to serious injuries or even fatalities.

- ▲ Don’t overload outlets or electrical cords. Instead of plugging the extra lights, appliances into a multi-sided plug, invest in a power strip.
- ▲ Never run cords under rugs or in high-traffic areas

- ▲ Use a heavy duty extension cord
- ▲ Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI). These devices should be professionally installed on outlets in wet areas of the home – kitchen, bathroom, laundry and basement. GFCIs stop the flow of electricity instantly if there is a problem.

Holiday Lighting Tips

- ▲ Never plug together more than 3 strings
- ▲ Never plug an incandescent string to a new LED string
- ▲ Always make sure the lights have a UL safety certification label

- ▲ Keep your lights away from flammable and combustible materials
- ▲ Turn the lights off when you go to bed or leave the building
- ▲ Stay clear of overhead power lines when decorating outside



The truth about space heaters

Many of us have heard the radio endorsements, seen the newspaper ads, or received a mailing regarding a space heater that promises to save you up to 50% on heating bills. In many cases they don't fully explain how the savings are derived and make unsubstantiated claims of increased efficiencies. Some common product names are Eden Pure, Sun Solar, Solar King and an Amish built portable fireplace – let's call them "magic" heaters. These units typically sell for \$300-\$500.

First a quick lesson on the basics of efficiencies. Unless we are talking

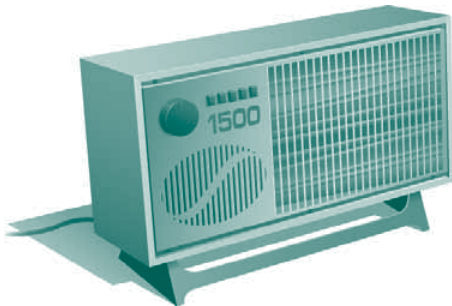
heat pumps, all electric resistance heat (such as space heaters) is 100% efficient. This means that 100% of the electric energy going into creating the heat is converted into usable heat. When heating with a fossil fuel a percentage of the BTU heating value is lost to combustion and exhaust up the flue or chimney. Based on this understanding, one of the "magic" heaters is no more efficient than a plug-in electric space heater you can purchase at your local hardware store for around \$40.

The underlying assumption for the energy savings claim is that you have an existing whole house heating sys-

tem (such as a forced air gas furnace) and you will lower the thermostat setting on this system to 50-55 degrees. The potential energy savings comes from reduced gas usage in your primary system. You will see an increase in your electric usage. If you operate a 1500 watt heater for 10 hours a day, it will use 15 kwh's.

Some people who have purchased the heaters just love them and you couldn't convince them to ever get rid of them. The "magic" heaters are typically enclosed in a nice looking wooden cabinet with rollers. If comfort is not an issue and you are primarily heating one area of your home an electric space heater potentially could save you money.

When it comes to operating efficiency, the "magic" heaters are the same as a regular space heater. The big difference is purchase price, about \$400 vs. \$40.



"The underlying assumption for the energy savings claim is that you have an existing whole house heating system (such as a forced air gas furnace) and you will lower the thermostat setting on this system to 50-55 degrees."

Tax Credits for Installing a Geo-thermal Heat Pump

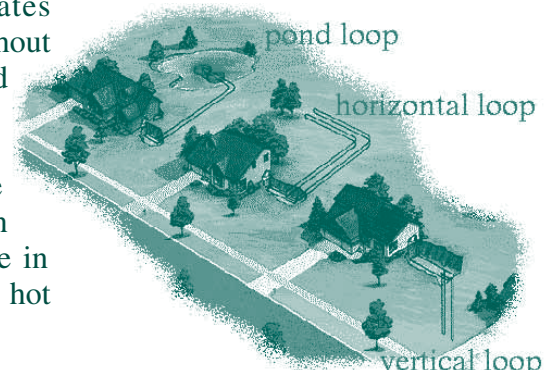
The recently passed Economic Recovery Act contains two types of tax credits for purchasing geo-thermal heat pumps.

- ▲ Residential customers who purchase an Energy Star rated geo-thermal heat pump will receive 30% up to a maximum of \$2000.
- ▲ Commercial applications will receive 10% of the purchase price with no limit.

Geothermal is an electrically powered system that takes advantage of the earth's constant temperature us-

ing a water-based solution circulated through pipes buried in the earth. In cold weather, this solution absorbs heat from the earth and transfers it inside to the geothermal unit. The geothermal system concentrates this heat and delivers it throughout your home using a typical forced air system. In hot weather, the process is reversed. Excess heat is transferred from your home into the earth. Homeowners can see up to a 60 percent decrease in the home's heating/cooling and hot water bills.

For more information on ground source heat pumps, call you energy professionals at Hawkeye REC today. Hawkeye also offers rebates on geothermal heat pumps.



The Power of Giving

Can you imagine spending the holidays without electricity, no heat or lights? Without the smells of fresh baked cookies and hot apple cider? A Christmas tree without twinkling lights?

Many families in our area are not as fortunate as most this holiday season. They cannot afford to buy toys and gifts to put under the Christmas tree. But above of all, they are not able to pay their utility bills during the heating season.

Please consider making a contribution to Hawkeye's RECare program. It's "members helping members". Funds are given to families in our three county area who are experiencing hardships in paying for their electricity, something most of us take for granted. The program has no administrative fees therefore the money goes directly to the families. However, the



current funds cannot reach all of the families in need. What a great way to spread the holiday cheer to others and put a smile on a child's face.

We are often bombarded this time of the year to give to charities, Toys-for-Tots, Salvation Army and many other worthy organizations. Why not do something different this year and help families "feel the warmth" of electricity.

The RECare form can also be downloaded on our website at www.hawkeyerec.coop.

"Funds are given to families in our three county area who are experiencing hardships in paying for their electricity..."


Life-Support During an Electrical Outage

For some members, service is more than a convenience; it is a necessity. Hawkeye REC realizes that some homes are equipped with life-sustaining medical equipment that requires a reliable source of power. Our commitment to you is to provide electric service safely and with as few interruptions as possible. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee uninterrupted power 100% of the time. If your health depends on electric supply, we offer the following suggestions and strongly encourage you to implement them:

1. Obtain a back-up source of power recommended by the manufacturer of any life sustaining or critical care equipment you may have in your home.
2. Talk with relatives or friends and devise a plan whereby the individual who relies on this equipment will have somewhere to stay in the event of a major power outage.
3. Have your physician write us a note explaining the situation. Upon receipt of this documentation, we can make a note of the medical need on the account.

Notifying the Cooperative of your situation does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service, nor does it guarantee immediate attention to your individual service should the area experience a power outage. Notifications and awareness of your need is taken into consideration during outage situations.

This is just another way **Your Electric Cooperative** is looking out for you.



CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM
Yes! I would like to be a part of "Members Helping Members" and contribute to RECare.

Monthly Pledge \$1.00 \$2.00 \$5.00 Other
(I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.)


One time contribution \$ _____ (Checks should be made out to RECare, c/o Hawkeye REC)

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Billing Number: _____




Members Helping Members!

Thank you for your contribution.

Please return to
Hawkeye
REC
The Power Is Yours

PO Box 90
Cresco, Iowa 52136-0090

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Great Stocking Stuffer Idea!

Purchase a 75-watt CFL (compact fluorescent lightbulb) for \$1 from your local electric cooperative.

It's a great stocking stuffer idea for any family member, both young and old. Make your holidays greener this year.

Hurry while supplies last. Offer valid at Hawkeye's office in Cresco until December 31. Limit 10 bulbs.



Give the Gift of Electricity

Say Merry Christmas this year with a gift certificate from Hawkeye.

What a great present for the person who has everything! Certificates can be used for credit on electric accounts and first call accounts or can be used to purchase other goods and services Hawkeye provides. Stop at our office, call or mail a check requesting a certificate. Be sure to include the name of certificate recipient. The certificates expire one year from the purchase date.

It's just one more way that REC is looking out for our members.



Load Control Events

Two power plants were down for repair which required more load control events in November.

11/01	Water Heaters
11/02	Water Heaters
11/03	Water Heaters
11/09	Water Heaters
11/17	Water Heaters and Interruptible Heat
11/18	Water Heaters and Interruptible Heat
11/19	Winter Dual Fuel Test
11/20	Water Heaters and Interruptible Heat
11/21	Water Heaters

REC's Meet with Legislators

Hawkeye REC, Allamakee Clayton Electric Cooperative, Butler REC and East-Central Iowa REC met with area legislators for the annual Legislative Breakfast to discuss 2009 legislative issues.

Three main questions discussed at the meeting:

- ▶ What is your plan to make sure we have available the electricity we'll need in the future?
- ▶ What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?
- ▶ How much is all this going to increase electric bills and what will you do to make them affordable?



Hawkeye REC Director Dean Nierling with Representative Elect John Beard

Recipes...

Cheese balls can make an excellent addition to a holiday party table



Send or e-mail your favorite recipe. If we print your recipe in our newsletter you'll receive \$5 off your next electric bill. E-mail to: mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com



Jan. – Crock Pot Favorites

Feb. – Recipes that use Maple Syrup

All recipes can be found on our website.

Party Cheese Ball

- 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
- 2 c. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 T. chopped onions
- 1 T. chopped green peppers
- 2 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. lemon juice
- Finely chopped pecans

Combine softened cream cheese and cheddar cheese. Mix until well blended. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Chill and shape into ball. Roll in chopped pecans.

Pat Halbur – Lawler

Holiday Cheese Ball

- 2 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese
- 2 T. finely chopped onion
- 4 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 t. lemon juice

Keep cream cheese and Velveeta cheese at room temperature several hours to soften. Mix well with remaining ingredients and shape into ball. Roll in chopped walnuts, bacon pieces or chopped parsley. Serve with assorted crackers.

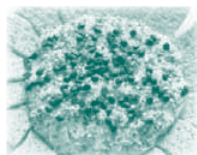
This is an easy-to-prepare treat that looks attractive on a refreshment table or with your holiday feast and tastes great!

Elaine Burkholder – Alta Vista



Chocolate Chip Cheese Ball

- 1 (8 oz.) cream cheese (softened)
- 1/2 c. butter (softened)
- 1/4 t. vanilla extract
- 3/4 c. Confectioner's sugar
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 3/4 c. mini semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 c. pecans, finely chopped
- Graham crackers



In a mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, butter and vanilla until fluffy. Gradually add sugars, beat just until combined. Stir in chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or longer. Place cream cheese mixture on a large piece of plastic wrap and shape into a ball. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or longer. Just before serving, roll cheese ball in pecans. Serve with Graham crackers.

Connie Lenehan – Elma

Easy Holiday Cheese Ball

- 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
- 2 T. mayonnaise
- 2 pkgs. corned beef (chopped fine)
- 2-3 onions (chopped)
- Dash of Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T. milk

Mix and form into ball. Great with Ritz crackers.

Elizabeth Goetsch – Cresco

Dried Beef Cheese Ball

- 3-8 oz pkgs. Cream Cheese-softened
- 2 T. Accent Seasoning
- 3 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 small onion, chopped fine
- 8 oz. dried beef, chopped very fine

Mix all and reserve 1/4 of dried beef. Chill and roll in reserved dried beef. Serve with crackers.

Gladys Balik – Lawler

Cheese Ball Tips:

- Spoon cheese mixture onto a piece of plastic wrap. Working from the underside of the wrap, pat the mixture into a ball.
- Don't think big. After a few people dig in, a large cheese ball looks unappealing and because it sits around longer than smaller versions, there's more time for the nuts to get soggy by absorbing moisture from the cheese.

Cheese Ball

- 2 (8 oz.) cream cheese
- 1/2 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 small onion, grated
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. celery salt
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce

Mix all ingredients well and form into a ball that has been rolled in 1 cup of chopped pecans if desired.

Marleen Numedah – Decorah

Pineapple Cheese Ball

- 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
- 1 (8 oz.) can crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1 c. chopped nuts - pecans
- 1/4 c. chopped green peppers
- 2 T. chopped onion
- 1 T. seasoned salt

Soften cream cheese, stir in rest of ingredients. Chill & after cold form into ball. Roll into nuts. Can freeze and use later! A good party treat.

Priscilla Keck – Decorah

DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- Dec. 1** Bills become delinquent.
- Dec. 10** Hawkeye REC prints bills based on November meter reading.
- Dec. 11** Bills are mailed to members from NISC in St. Louis.
- Dec. 23** Disconnect services for non-payment.
- Dec. 26** Member reads meter and records on payment voucher. Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of January.
- Dec. 29** Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- Dec. 31** AMR meters are read by the co-op.

OTHER EVENTS

- Dec. 22** Hawkeye REC Board Meeting
- Dec. 24-25** Office Closed for Christmas
- Dec. 31** Office Closed for New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1** Office Closed for New Year's Day

What's the better value?

The price you pay for a stocking stuffer would pay to run Christmas lights for the average home for the whole month of December

1 candy bar for your stocking:
.70¢



Electricity to run 6 LED light strings for 1 month:
.70¢

WOW!

Based on 24 hours per day at 11 cents per kilowatt hour. LED C9 bulb size. Costs may vary. (Incandescent bulbs would cost \$27.28)



The Power Is Yours

Box 90 - Cresco, Iowa 52136
1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801
www.hawkeyerec.coop

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday - 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Closed Sat., Sun., & Holidays)

OUTAGES

1-800-927-5265

IOWA STATE ONE CALL
1-800-292-8989

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Dean Nierling, Vice President - Burr Oak
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