

“Sweet Gift” of Spring

By: Meagan Moellers

Fifth Generation of the Green Family Makes Maple Syrup in Our Neck of the Woods

Many of us can't trace our family tree back to 1851. Dale Green can! In fact he can do even better. He collects sap from some of the same trees that his great, great grandfather tapped 158 years ago! From New England, this ancestor found what he was looking for in the wooded hills of Northeast Iowa. The Green family can proudly say that they have not missed a single sugaring season since 1851. After many years of collecting one of nature's incredible wonders, it's easy to say that the Green's have perfected the art.

Dale and Karen Green continue to own and operate one of Iowa's oldest businesses and the processes are the same as they were “way back then”. That's even true of the trees in the timber. The Green's do not plant maple trees, but let nature renew itself. It takes nearly 75 years before a tree is large enough to tap. Therefore, Dale's timber has trees of all ages, including some 200 years old.

It's hard to imagine that each season can produce slightly different “crops” of maple

syrup. To the average consumer the difference may not be noticeable. Producers and connoisseurs notice subtle changes occurring in color and flavor from year to year and from the beginning of the season to the end. Even a mid season snowfall can affect the qualities of the syrup. Dale's family enjoys taking daily samples to see the differences as they document specific weather conditions.

The season usually begins around March 1st. “If I had to pick the most favorable weather conditions, I would choose 25° during the nighttime, no wind during the day and temperatures need to warm to 42°. Freezing and thawing are the keys.” Dale explains. “But even then, it doesn't necessarily make syrup production predictable.”

The business is both art and science. In fact, it's mostly working with Mother Nature, deciding how factors such as barometric pressure will affect the evaporation process, a lot of genuine hard work and plenty of patience. But when the finished syrup is shared with friends and the compliments are given, it's worth the time and investment.

How do you like your maple syrup? Dale's favorites include over waffles made in a cast iron pan on a wood stove, simply pouring it over cottage cheese and fresh maple taffy, otherwise known as ‘snow candy’. This is prepared by pouring very hot maple syrup over cold snow. Are you getting hungry?



Dale and Karen Green.



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Join the Fun!
Maple Syrup Festival
Sunday, March 29
Sunday, April 5
10 am - 2 pm
1437 111th Avenue
(three miles south of Frankville)

(More on page 10.)

How Green Are We?



It seems like the conversation these days is all about “being green”. By being a member of your local electric cooperative, you are doing your part. Dairyland Power, Hawkeye’s wholesale electric provider, is proud to be a leader of “Generation Green”. Dairyland’s “green” portfolio includes landfill gas, animal waste-to-energy, wind power and hydroelectric power. Expansion will continue with major improvements planned in wind and biomass in the near future. Hawkeye members can also voluntarily sign up to support renewable energy through the Evergreen program. Together, our children and grandchildren can enjoy a cleaner, greener world.

Water - an important resource

Water is an excellent natural resource for generating renewable energy. Dairyland has owned the Flambeau Hydroelectric Station since 1951. This 24 MW water-powered generating facility is located on the Flambeau River near Ladysmith, Wis.

In 2007, important maintenance of the plant was conducted during a major drawdown of the Flambeau Reservoir. Such investments in system infrastructure are key to ensuring an efficient and reliable supply of energy to our members. Dairyland also took the opportunity to engage in a special stewardship project, cooperating with local conservation groups to improve the Flambeau Reservoir’s fish habitat.

Catching the wind

Probably the most well-known type of renewable energy is wind. Dairyland’s alliance with G. McNeilus Wind Energy is growing from the purchase of 18 MW of renewable energy at a wind farm in southeastern Minnesota to include another 20 MW of wind.

In addition to more than doubling our investment in wind generation from G. McNeilus, Dairyland has contracted for 20 MW of wind to be built in Iowa. Dairyland is also purchasing 5 MW of wind-generated electricity from the Prairie Star Wind Farm in Minnesota.

Methane gas = renewable energy

Landfill gas-to-energy (LGE) biogas plants turn something negative—methane gas—into something positive that we all need: renewable energy. The plants are also very efficient power producers and don’t have fuel supply concerns. Members of Dairyland receive renewable energy from three LGE facilities, powering nearly 12,000 homes.

Dairyland’s LGE facility at the Veolia ES Seven Mile Creek Landfill (Eau Claire, Wis.) was expanded with an additional generator in spring 2008. Along with the new generator, a gas conditioning system was installed to increase reliability and reduce maintenance issues.

The 4 MW facility can now power 3,325 homes. Dairyland’s power purchase agreement with Waste Management, Inc., for the renewable energy from the Timberline Trail Landfill Generating Station (Bruce, Wis.) has also recently grown to 5.6 MW. Similarly, Waste Management’s 4.8 MW Central Disposal LGE facility (Lake Mills, Iowa), has a planned expansion in the next year.

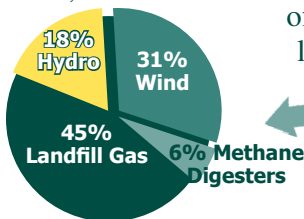
Animal waste into energy

Animal waste-to-energy plants, like the three owned by Dairyland, use dairy cow manure as the energy source to generate renewable energy. This “cow power” not only creates clean electricity, but also helps farmers reduce biowaste and provides natural fertilizer and bedding material for the farm.

Dairyland’s animal waste-to-energy facilities are located at Five Star Dairy farm near Elk Mound, Wis.; Wild Rose Dairy near La Farge, Wis.; and Norswiss Farms near Rice Lake, Wis. Each anaerobic manure digester facility can generate 775-840 kilowatts of energy, enough to power at least 600 homes.



Flambeau Hydroelectric Station



Renewable Energy Mix

Your Vote Matters

Drawings for electric bill gift certificates and other prizes totaling over \$1,000.

During the months of March and April you will have the opportunity to make one of the most important decisions a cooperative member makes all year. It is a decision that has a three-year effect on you and your cooperative. It is your director ballot. You will be voting for the member making decisions for you in the boardroom.

Instead of a newsletter in March, you will receive annual meeting information along with a voting ballot. Director candidate biographies and photos will accompany the ballot. Please vote and return your ballot in the provided return envelope to your electric cooperative.

Look for annual meeting materials in your mailbox sometime mid-March along with your registration card for a chance to win great prizes at this year's annual meeting.



Annual Meeting Agenda Wednesday, April 15

- 6:30 p.m. Doors open and registration begins
- 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting
- Election of 3 Directors
- Unfinished/New Business
- Drawing for Attendance Prizes
- Milk, coffee and kolaches served after the meeting

Annual Member Certification

Why does Winneshiek County have 4 directors, Howard County have 3 directors and Chickasaw County have 2 directors?

Hawkeye's Articles of Incorporation state that the Cooperative business affairs shall be managed by nine directors, proportionate to the number of members in each district/county. Therefore, Hawkeye certifies district numbers each year. If the

district numbers were to become disproportionate, the Articles would have to be amended. Below are the certification numbers for three years.

COUNTY	2009	2008	2007
Chickasaw County	898	892	884
Howard County	1,388	1,383	1,382
Winneshiek County	3,126	3,116	3,107
Total Members	5,412	5,391	5,373

Map of Outages

OAKDALE 1	CHESTER 2 Transformer fuse	FOREST CITY 3	ALBION 4	FREMONT 29 Transformer fuse	BURR OAK 30 Transformer fuse	HESPER 31 Meter Loop	HIGHLAND 32
JAMESTOWN 8 Wind-clamp	SARATOGA 7 Line Maintenance	HOWARD CENTER 6	VERNON SPRINGS 5	ORLEANS 36	BLUFFTON 35	CANOE 34	PLEASANT 33 Transformer fuse Line fuse
AFTON NORTH 9 Line Maintenance	HOWARD NORTH 11	PARIS NORTH 13	NEW OREGON NORTH 15	LINCOLN 37	MADISON 38 Transformer Fuse	DECORAH 39	GLENWOOD 40
AFTON SOUTH 10	HOWARD SOUTH 12	PARIS SOUTH 14 Planned Outage	NEW OREGON S 16	SUMNER 44	CALMAR 43	SPRINGFIELD 42	FRANKVILLE 41 Planned Outage
DEERFILED N 23	WASHINGTON N 21	JACKSONVILLE N 19	UTICA NORTH 17	JACKSON 45	WASHINGTON 46	MILITARY 47	BLOOMFILED 48
DEERFIELD S 24	WASHINGTON S 22	JACKSONVILLE S 20 Connector	UTICA SOUTH 18 Planned Outage Remove cat from pole	CHICKASAW 25	DAYTON 26	NEW HAMPTON 27	STAPLETON 28

= Pole Change outs = Single Outage = Planned Outages

January 2009

Have you experienced an outage lately?

The power of human connections

www.hawkeyerec.coop

Products & Services

Please visit www.hawkeyerec.coop or call (800) 658-2243 for more information

*Prices do not include tax.



Water Heaters

- Must be on load management program
- Only storage heaters allowed on sub meter
- Free normal installation, other installations will be charged time and material
- Free 10-year tank replacement
- Must be a stand alone connected load, cannot be used in conjunction with any fossil fuel heating systems or as buffer tanks for geo-source heat pumps

Electric Replacement	\$150.00
Dairy (120 gallon)	\$250.00
New Load (Residential Only)	\$1.00
Gas Replacement (Residential Only)	\$1.00

Water Softeners

The wonderful world of conditioned water...It makes a refreshing difference and saves you money, too! The various mineral deposits and calcium carbonate found in unconditioned water (hard water) form a scale that ends up on your skin and hair, on your dishes, glassware and in your clothes. Scale also builds up in pipes, fixtures and water heaters.

Water Conditioner	\$569.00*
With Iron Removal	\$629.00*

Metered units do not run on a time clock and cycles on demand using less salt

**price does not include parts or installation*

Boilers

Can be zoned to provide whole house heating or supplemental heating. Specifically designed for the comfort of radiant floor heating. Boilers are easy to install and compact enough to fit in just about any area of your home.

Benefits:

- Comfortable
- Economical
- Safe, clean and quiet
- Versatile
- Easy installation and low maintenance

\$600-\$1,400* Plus freight

**Be sure to check out our Rebates for the boilers & ETS units on page 6*

Thermal Storage Units

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) units

Off-peak heating systems utilize Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) technology along with Hawkeye's off-peak electric rate to provide very affordable and comfortable heating. During off-peak hours when electric costs are low, ETS heating systems store electricity as heat for use in satisfying comfort requirements 24-hours per day. In most situations, off-peak heating provides the lowest cost of operation when compared to alternative options.

\$785-\$3,600* Plus freight

First Call

Emergency Response System

The First Call emergency response system provides the elderly and others living alone peace of mind. Dispatchers are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency assistance is only a touch of a button away.

Monthly Fee	\$30.50
Install Fee	\$47.50

**3-Month Deposit + Install Fee is required \$139.00
Free Parts & Maintenance*

Long Distance

Call who you want, when you want, without any worries, without any hidden costs. Start saving now on all your calls, across the USA, and around the world.

- **6.7¢ Per Minute** for ALL State-To-State Calls!
- Only **7.9¢ Per Minute** for all calls in the state of Iowa!
- NO fee personal 800 number with a rate of **7.9¢ Per Minute**
- Calling Card Benefits for **ONLY 12¢ Per Minute**
- NO monthly fees! NO monthly minimums! NO cost to join!
- NO time of day restrictions!
- You don't have to be a Hawkeye REC member to sign up!

Call Toll-Free (888) 834-1011 and start saving today!



LUXURY WATER
CONDITIONING



Electric Grills

Model 2120

Lock & Go Portable Grill .. \$58.50

Model 9329W

Deluxe Cart Grill.....\$158.50

Model 9309W

Deluxe Tabletop

Electric Grill..... \$121.50

Model 9210

Deluxe Tabletop

Electric Grill..... \$81.50

Replacement Parts:

Element \$34.95

Warming Rack..... \$9.50

Reflector Pan..... \$5.70



Surge Protection

Residential Surge Suppression Equipment

Panamax PM8T-EX \$44.95

Panamax PM8-HT..... \$69.95

Master Cube..... \$12.95

Surge Cube..... \$9.99



Call Hawkeye for more options and prices

Beam Central Vacuums

Hawkeye sells BEAM Central Vac systems and parts. Replacement parts and accessories can be ordered upon request. The average home will cost between \$100-\$300 for materials to plumb for a central vacuum system. Visit www.beamvac.com for current prices

Beam Serenity Plus Series

MSRP \$450-\$600

(Plus freight)



Beam Serenity Plus Power Team

MSRP \$425-\$550

(Plus freight)



The power of human connections

Electricity Usage Monitor

Kill A Watt "empowers" you to save hundreds on utility costs

Have you ever wondered how much electricity a specific appliance uses daily, weekly, annually? This electricity usage monitor called "Kill A Watt" allows you to plug in your appliances and it will assess how efficient they really are. Large LCD display will count consumption by the kilowatt-hour.

"Kill A Watt" \$35.00

"Kill A Watt" EZ \$50.00



CFL Lightbulbs

Compact fluorescent light bulbs can save you money! The Energy Star® rated light bulb uses less energy and lasts longer than incandescent light bulbs.

14-Watt Bulb* \$1.50

*Comparable to Incandescent 60-Watt

20-Watt Bulb* \$2.00

*Comparable to Incandescent 75-Watt

23-Watt Bulb* \$2.50

*Comparable to Incandescent 100-Watt



Non-Metered Security Light

All Hawkeye members are eligible for the Security Light program. Security lights provide safety and peace of mind, lengthen your outdoor evenings and discourage intruders. Security lights are leased and all maintenance is provided free of charge. Non-metered means all kWh's the light uses are included in the lease charges.



\$9.82 per month

RECare Contribution

RECare is a consumer contribution fund in which members assist other members who need help in paying utility bills. Consider a monthly contribution today. Your contribution, whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month, when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping others.

Any desired amount

Members Helping Members



LIHEAP

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.

Evergreen Renewable Energy

You have a choice for the future. Evergreen is a renewable energy (green power) program available to your home, farm or business. It is a small additional charge each month to offset the additional cost it takes to support renewable energy.

\$1.50 per block (100 kwh)



Rebates and Incentives for 2009

Rebate form can be downloaded at www.hawkeyerec.coop

Appliance Rebates

Effective January 1, 2009 (invoice date)

Requirements:

- Must be a member of Hawkeye REC
- Appliance must be purchased in Chickasaw, Howard or Winneshiek counties
- Rebate must be submitted to Hawkeye within 90 days of purchase
- Rebate will be applied to your electric account
- Please attach a copy of your purchase receipt with model and serial numbers

**To receive the Energy Star rebate, you must include a copy of the Energy Star decal from the appliance.*

ELECTRIC RANGE

\$25

REFRIGERATOR (10 cubic ft. or larger)

\$15 w/o Energy Star Rating

\$25 w/ Energy Star Rating

DISHWASHER

\$10 w/o Energy Star Rating

\$25 w/ Energy Star Rating

ELECTRIC DRYER

\$25

WASHER

\$20 w/o Energy Star Rating

\$50 w/ Energy Star

FREEZER

\$25 w/Energy Star

DEHUMIDIFIER

\$25 w/Energy Star

ROOM AIR CONDITIONER

\$25 w/Energy Star

Water Heaters (80-gallon)

Must participate in load management control program

Electric Replacement \$ 150.00

New Load \$ 1.00

Gas Replacement \$ 1.00

Heating & Cooling Rebates

Resistance Heating* \$ 10.00 per kW (\$200 max)

ETS Heating* \$ 30.00 per kW (\$1,000 max)

Electric Boiler* \$ 25.00 per kW(\$400 max)

Electric Heat Pumps

Geothermal* \$ 200.00 per ton

Air-to-Air pump* \$ 120.00 per ton
(SEER 14)

Air-to-Air must be under load management control program

Efficient Central Air Conditioner

Must be under load management control program

SEER 14 \$ 60.00 per ton

Energy Efficient Retrofit Lighting Program

5 count minimum requirement

This program is available only to agricultural, commercial and industrial members who wish to improve the efficiency of existing retrofit lighting systems.

Electronic Ballasted

Fluorescent \$ 6.50 per ballast

Metal Halide Fixtures \$ 10.00 per fixture

Sodium Vapor Fixtures \$ 10.00 per fixture

Interruptible Rates

To be on interruptible rate, you must have an automatic backup heat source.

**Qualifies for the following rates*

Summer Rate (May 1—October 31) 8.8¢ per kWh

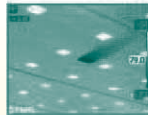
Winter Rate (November 1—April 30) 5.8¢ per kWh

Thermal Imaging Home Evaluation

For a fee of \$75, an energy professional from Hawkeye REC will complete an in-home evaluation with this thermal imaging camera to evaluate the thermal efficiency of your building's insulation, doors, windows and other penetrations. The camera can also detect loose ventilation and heating/cooling (HVAC) system fittings that lead to moisture issues and poor building airflow! Problem areas are detected immediately with color photos to help you make an informed decision to improve your home's energy efficiency and help save some money. Please call the office for more information.



Moisture located on siding and wooden trim of house.



Facility AC vent cycling air in the incorrect direction.



Window sill leak noticeable from exterior of house.

Replacing your Grain Dryer... Adding Geothermal in 2009?

USDA Rural Development is offering grants and guaranteed loans to help rural business or agricultural producers looking to produce renewable energy or make energy-saving improvements to their facilities or farms. A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems.

**Funds are not available for residential use.*

Contact Pat Boyle at (563) 547-3801 for more information or go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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



Are you building or remodeling your home?

Plan to Attend Hawkeye's Home Efficiency Expo

Thursday, March 19, 2009

4:30 - 9 p.m.

Nob Hill Supper Club

2955 U.S. Hwy. 52

Decorah, IA

(5 miles north of Decorah)



This FREE workshop is open to contractors, builders and the public. Attendees can come and go as their schedule allows.



No registration is required.

Go to www.hawkeyerec.coop for a schedule of events and a list of exhibitors.

Experience the Wonder of Washington

Who: High school sophomores and juniors

What: Free trip sponsored by your local electric cooperative

Where: Washington, D.C.

When: June 11-18, 2009

Why: The Iowa Rural Youth Tour is a perfect opportunity to travel, work with REC leaders, and enhance your leadership skills! You will travel with 40 other students

from Iowa and meet over 1,000 teens from across the nation! It's a great way to make new friends. Students that have participated in the Youth Tour in the past will tell you what a great experience it is, something truly unforgettable.

How: Fill out the form below and send to Cindy at Hawkeye REC. You will receive Youth Tour study materials and an open book test which must be completed and returned to



Hawkeye by **March 16, 2009**. The five students with top scores will qualify for the final examination and judging. Judges will select the winner of the Washington D.C. trip and an alternate.

Invest in your future! Sign up now to compete with area students for your chance to win an unforgettable trip to our nation's capitol. Complete application form and return to: Hawkeye REC, Attention: Cindy, PO Box 90, Cresco, Iowa 52136.

Iowa REC Youth Tour • June 11-18, 2009

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

Signature: _____

We certify that we are the parents or legal guardians of the youth who has signed above and that we give our permission for him/her to participate in the Youth Tour 2009 Contest and to participate in the trip to Washington, D.C. should he/she be selected.

Date: _____ REC Service Location No: _____

Signature(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

For more information regarding the Youth Tour, please visit: www.hawkeyerec.coop or contact Cindy at (563) 547-3801.

Log-on to www.hawkeyerec.coop to complete the open book test after you submit the application and receive the study materials.



Hawkeye REC offering five \$500 scholarships

Any graduating high school senior, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, are eligible for the Hawkeye REC scholarship. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2009. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

How Do You Apply?

Applications are available at your area high school guidance counselor office or at the REC office in Cresco. Applications can also be downloaded and printed on Hawkeye's website at www.hawkeyerec.coop.

Return the completed application to the Cooperative by April 13, 2009 with the following:

- Copy of the student's high school transcript
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, advisor or counselor

- Essay (minimum 250 words) answering the following question:

The Iowa Office of Energy Independence's 2008 Plan for Energy Independence encourages energy efficiency and calls on electric utilities to realize 1.5 percent **annual** energy-efficiency savings, which is roughly double the savings rate Iowa's utilities achieved through 2006. **If this plan becomes a mandate, how will Hawkeye REC and its' members accomplish such an energy savings plan?**

Capital Credit Search

Please contact our office if you have a forwarding address for any of the following names.

Reuben Adam Estate
Telford Ansten Estate
Antenna Farms Inc
Leonard J Barloon Estate
Harold Bateman Estate
Wm Bauer
Walter P Bender
Clara Birtwistle Estate
Lynn Bjerke
Linus Bodensteiner
Craig Bodley
Rillie Broghammer Estate
Ray Bronner
Margaret Burkett
Don Burns
Peter Burt
June Callary
Lyle Carpenter
Leonard J Chihak Estate
John H Church
Casey Clark
Ernest Corson
Lawrence Courtney
Carl Deutsch Estate
Doris Dieken
Mary Donlan Estate
Irene H Drew
Raymond A Duneman Estate
Ron Eichenberger
Chad Ernst
Farms Bountiful
Maynard Folstad
Curtis Foltz Estate
Rosemary Fossum

Dennis M Gilbert
Leo Hackman Estate
Adrian J Hageman
Leon Hageman
Harmony Cattle Co
Marcella Haskovec
Bryan Hauser Estate
Stanley Heinrich
David Hillesland
Brad Horne
Ed Houdek Estate
Delmar Hulett
Tom Hurst
Tilferd Ingvalson Estate
Harry Janvrin
Albert M Jones Estate
Daniel L Kalkwarf
Blaine Keller
David Kempe
Inez Klepper
John C Knutson
Luke Kollasch
Leonard C Kreitzer Estate
Raymond Krueger
Arnold Kruse
Thelma Lane
David Larson
John H Logsdon Jr
Donald Losure
John Malanaphy Estate
Kelley S Martin
Donald Mattingly
Lorraine McCabe Estate
Charles McMaster

Miles Farm Corp
Ray Morrison
Daniel Mracek
Dale Murphy Estate
Jayme Neubauer Estate
Vince Neubauer Jr
Crystal Nierling Estate
Perry Olsgard
James J Opat Estate
Ed Piasecki
Victor Polashek Estate
Gregory A Portee
Paul F Riniker
Earl Roberts Estate
Helen Rovang
Dean Rowson Estate
Luverne Rowson
Orville K. Salvesson
Jerry Scheffert
John M Schmitt
Reuben Schutte Estate
Scotts Rolling Hills
Floyd Seegmiller
Robert Q Seegmiller Estate
Charles Shono
John J Sieverts Estate
Ella Slifka
George Snell
Charles T Spence
Galen Staley
David Stanley
Loren E Stapher
Orlando A Stinger Estate
Sun Prairie Partnership



Ralph E Teetshorn
Lester H Teslow Estate
Russell Titch
Richard Thompson Deceased
Thelma Thorson
Henry Tollefson Estate
Regi Tysland
Layne Uhlenhake
Orin Vaala Estate
Sivert Valland Estate
Gary Vanvliet
Claretta Vikdal Estate
Ronald Waddle
Ronald Webb
Russell R Webb Estate
Walter A Weidler Estate
Whitestone Farms LLP
Gerald A Wilson Estate
Henry A Wilson
Irvin Winter Estate
John J Zidlicky Jr

**2008 checks mailed
in December**
**REMEMBER TO CASH
YOUR CAPITAL
CREDIT CHECKS**

Energy Efficiency Tip...



It's Valentine's Day. Feeling green?

Move over red. Green is the new color of Valentine's Day. Saving energy and the environment is newly romantic, and retailers are set to help you prove it this Feb. 14. Stores are stocking up with earth-friendly gifts. Still, it's not about what you give, but how you celebrate, that can make your Valentine's Day energy efficient.

- ♡ Save on gas and reduce emissions by staying home and cooking a meal
- ♡ Buy local food to cut down on energy-wasting miles that the food has to travel to reach you
- ♡ To save time and electricity, prepare your meal in a crock-pot

- ♡ Dim the lights and eat by candlelight
- ♡ Give sustainable gifts, like greeting cards printed on recycled paper or long-lasting potted plants rather than fresh-cut flowers



“Sweet Gift” of Spring

(Continued from cover)

To share this natural treat with others, the Green’s have hosted a Maple Syrup Festival each spring since 1991. It’s a time to enjoy pure maple syrup drizzled over hot pancakes and savor wood smoked kielbasa sausages prepared and served right at the Sugar Bush farm. Families can enjoy pony and wagon rides while getting a glimpse of how maple syrup is processed. What a way to celebrate the beginning of spring and the closing stages of this ‘endless winter’!



Wagon rides are provided through the sugar bush during the Festival.













Quick Facts

- Sap is 98% water. Remaining is a mixture of sugars, calcium, potassium, phosphorous, iron, and trace amounts of B vitamins. That’s why it takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup after all the water is removed.
- Maple syrup was first collected by Native Americans and later adopted by European settlers.
- During WWII, people were encouraged to ration their foods by sweetening with maple syrup and maple sugar. Recipe books were even changed.
- The natural antioxidants in pure maple syrup are good for your immune system, male reproductive systems and helps prevent damage to the heart.

Sources: www.realmaplesyrup.com and Wikipedia

How the Green’s produce their maple syrup

-  Dale closely watches the weather forecast each spring (early March) when the snow starts to melt.
-  Each tree is tapped. (A new tap is required annually for each of the 1,900 trees)
-  A 7/16” hole is bored 3 inches in the sugar maple tree and a spile (hollow spike) is inserted.
-  The hole releases the sap and it drips into the metal pails when conditions are right.
-  Two teams of horses pull tanks through the woods and 4-5 people help to gather the sap.
-  The sap is stored in underground glass lined cisterns
-  The sap is heated in a large wood fired evaporator to ‘boil off’ hundreds of gallons of water.
-  A thermometer is used to know when syrup is done (7° hotter than boiling water). Have to calculate the barometric pressure.
-  Heavy Orlon filters ensure the consistent quality of the syrup and remove sugar sand and calcium.
-  The hot, pure maple syrup is finally poured into glass containers for the rest of us to enjoy!



Festival attendees from all over Northeast Iowa come to partake in the annual Maple Festival at Green’s Sugar Bush near Frankville.



Pancakes, kielbasa sausages, applesauce, pure maple syrup, coffee and milk make a real treat to savor!



Recipes...

Try using your fresh maple syrup from Green's Sugar Bush in these recipes. Enjoy!



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



March – No newsletter

April – Recipes that are cooked in the microwave (Need by March 15)

All recipes can be found on our website.

French Toast Casserole

8 eggs
1 ½ c. Half n Half
1/3 c. maple syrup
1/3 c. brown sugar
10-12 slices Texas toast
Double stack in pan

Topping:

½ c. butter
½ c. brown sugar
2/3 c. maple syrup
2 c. pecans (chopped)

Grease 13 X 9 pan (casserole). Mix eggs, milk, syrup and sugar in bowl and place bread in dish. Cover with mix. Then cover with Saran Wrap overnight. Cook topping 1 to 2 minutes and stir in nuts. Pour over the mixture. Bake 45-50 minutes and then allow to set 10 minutes. Serve.

Janice Dougherty – Waukon

Maple Nut Cookies

These chewy cookies are flavored with maple syrup and coconut, plus macadamia nuts for crunch. You may substitute other nuts or double up on the coconut. If you like, add some white chocolate chips.

1-½ c. all-purpose flour
2 t. baking powder
½ t. salt
½ c. shortening
1 c. packed light brown sugar
1 large egg, lightly beaten
½ c. pure maple syrup (not imitation)
1 t. vanilla extract
½ c. shredded sweetened coconut
½ c. chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat oven to 375°. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream shortening and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg, maple syrup, and vanilla extract. Beat on medium speed until well-combined.

Add flour, coconut, and macadamia nuts. Stir with a large fork just until combined.

Scoop tablespoons of dough and place on prepared baking sheets 2 inches apart. Bake 10 to 12 minutes until golden. Let cool 5 minutes and remove to racks to completely cool. Store in a covered container.

Yield: 3 dozen

Priscilla Keck – Decorah

Maple Butter Twists

½ c. milk
¼ c. margarine
3 T. sugar
1 ½ t. salt
2 unbeaten eggs
1 pkg. dry yeast
3 ¼ - 3 ½ c. flour

Heat milk with margarine, sugar, and salt until margarine is melted. Cool to lukewarm. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add milk mixture and eggs. Mix well. Gradually add flour to form a stiff dough. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise until light (1-1 ½ hours). Toss dough on well-floured surface. Divide dough in half. Roll out one portion into a 14x8 rectangle. Spread with half of the filling. Roll up starting with 14" side. Cut roll in half lengthwise and twist strips together, put cut sides up in the pan. Shape into a ring and place in well-greased 8" round pan. Cover. Repeat with remaining dough using another 8" pan. Let rise till light (45 minutes) and bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Frost if desired using a powdered sugar frosting.

Filling

¼ c. soft margarine
½ c. brown sugar
1/3 c. white sugar
¼ c. maple syrup
2 T. flour
½ t. cinnamon
½ t. maple flavoring
1/3 c. walnuts

Cream together all ingredients.

Lisa Lensing – Decorah

Bohemian Pancakes (Sputniks)

1 t. salt
1 c. flour
1 c. milk
5 or 6 eggs



Beat salt, flour and milk; add eggs, then beat until smooth. Heat oil in a skillet on the stove. Pour a thin batter in skillet. Brown and turn over, the edges will curl up. Serve with butter and real maple syrup.

My kids always ask for them when they come home.

Judy Spalla – Decorah

DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- Feb. 10 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on January meter reading.
- Feb. 11 Bills are mailed to members from NISC in St. Louis.
- Feb. 24 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- Feb. 25 Member reads meter and records on payment voucher. Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of March.
- Feb. 28 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- March 1 Bills become delinquent.
- March 2 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.

OTHER EVENTS

- March 6 Hawkeye REC Board Meeting
- April 15 Annual Meeting

I have
the greatest
neighbors in town
a community that means
the world to me
a driving desire to help people

an electric cooperative that's looking out for me and my community.

At Hawkeye REC, our mission is to provide reliable electricity and peace of mind to all of our members. We look out for you and your entire community. And we do so for a very simple reason—it's our community too. That's one way we're always looking out for you.



The Power Is Yours

Looking out for you.

Hawkeye REC News

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www.hawkeyerec.coop

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