

Storm Preparation Tips

Severe winter weather is upon us. We encourage members to be prepared.

Before a storm hits, gather these items:

- flashlight and extra batteries
- battery-powered portable radio
- plenty of water – one gallon per person per day
- high-energy foods that don't require refrigeration or cooking
- a non-electric can opener
- a week's worth of medicines and first-aid supplies
- sleeping bags, blankets and pillows
- ABC-type fire extinguisher
- If a family member relies on life-support equipment, make alternative living arrangements.
- Check the batteries and test all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.

Using a Portable Generator:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions and learn how to operate your generator.
- Make sure the extension cord is in good shape and rated for a load greater than the total wattage of all connected other devices.
- Keep the generator dry, and don't operate it indoors or in a garage or porch.
- When the power is out for several hours, use the generator to run the refrigerator every few hours so food won't spoil – instead of just powering lights in your home all day long.
- Always switch the engine off and allow it to cool before adding fuel in a well-ventilated area.
- Turn off the generator's circuit breaker before starting, so the load doesn't draw current until the generator is running smoothly. Turn off the breaker before stopping the generator.

**If you Experience
a Power Outage,
Please Call the
24-hour
Outage Number
(800) 927-5265**



What would you do with EXTRA TIME?

Life just got a little easier with E-Services...

E-Services is a free service that Hawkeye is proud to offer our members. It is an online resource that allows you to manage your electric account at your convenience, anytime, anywhere!



- **24/7 access** to your account information
- **View, print or download** your monthly statement
- **Automated e-mail notification** indicating that your monthly statement is available
- **Review** your billing, payment and usage history.
- **GO GREEN** and take advantage of paperless billing
- **Sign-up for AutoPay** and have your payment automatically drafted through any bank, savings or checking account or debit card as well as a VISA or MasterCard.

Register today at www.hawkeyerec.coop

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Touchstone Energy

Straight talk about... Wise investments in energy efficiency



Make it your New Year's Resolution--

The economic uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with, our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house generally pays big dividends. And when boosting energy efficiency is one of them, the decision becomes a no-brainer.

Energy prices at Hawkeye and all other electric utilities across the nation have been steadily increasing. Unfortunately, recent projections that have come across my desk show a continuation of that upward pricing trend.

In fact, our 2010 projection for wholesale power costs from our power supplier, Dairyland Power, forecast a 7% increase in wholesale power for the coming year. A 7% wholesale power increase would amount to over an \$700,000 increase in operating expense to our cooperative. While I'm not announcing a 7% increase in your retail electric rates for 2010, you need to be aware of our continued pricing pressures. We will know more on our 2010 retail rate pricing upon the completion of our 2010 operating budget in January and would not anticipate any price changes until May 2010.

My point is that with energy prices increasing, we need to take action on what we can control and to use the resources available. I encourage you to make energy efficiency part of your New Year's resolutions.

For qualifying energy efficiency work made at your residence during the coming year, Uncle Sam will foot 30 percent of the bill, not a bad deal! Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—better known as the stimulus bill—the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements made to existing homes during 2009 and 2010.

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials, exterior doors, windows and roofs designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, hot-water boilers and biomass stoves.

For weatherization-related work, the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems as well as biomass stoves, installation costs also count toward the credit.

So how does the math work out? Say you spend \$1,000 on new insulation. You would get, in the form of a tax credit, \$300 back. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you'd have a \$900 tax credit to show for it.

To take advantage of the program, a home improvement must have taken place after Feb. 17, 2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy efficiency criteria. A few rules of thumb will help you determine those criteria.



Brian Krambeer, CEO
(563) 547-3801 or (800) 658-2243
bkrambeer@tec.coop

For exterior windows and skylights, rely on the Energy Star label. For other efficiency upgrades, request what's called a "Manufacturer's Certification Statement" that the product or component qualifies for

Invest in Energy Efficiency Now to...

\$ SAVE WITH THE STIMULUS

For more information and for suggestions on how to make your home more energy efficient, call your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative and visit www.togetherwesave.com.

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections

the tax credit. Many manufacturers post these on their websites, but be sure to verify that the product does qualify before making a purchase. **I urge you to visit www.irs.gov/recovery to review guidelines for eligible purchases.**

Energy tax credits reduce taxes owed, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to following years. While they can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695, with a total maximum value of \$1,500 for qualified improvements made in 2009 and 2010.

For suggestions on how to make your home more energy efficient, please don't hesitate to give us a call. We are your resource for helping you make your home or business more energy efficient.

As we come to the end of 2009, I want to express my appreciation to the membership for all your support and I look forward to another challenging, but successful year for our cooperative in 2010. Happy New Year!



BOARD *Report*

Hawkeye's Board of Directors conducted its monthly board meeting on December 22, 2009 in Rushford, Minnesota in conjunction with the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board.

Highlights of the meeting:

- Reviewed the Energy Adjustment Cost (EAC) for December and approved a reverse (credit) EAC of .001 cent per kWh for December.
- Approved April 7, 2010 for the date of the Hawkeye REC Annual Meeting
- Appointed nominating committee for 2010 director elections
- Met with Architectural Design and received an update on the design for the cooperative's new headquarters facility on the existing facility site. Toured the Tri-County Electric Cooperative headquarters facility.
- Met with the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board and discussed the continuation of the shared management arrangement and other shared service opportunities for the two neighboring cooperatives.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives



December Outage Report

Individual Outages – 11
 Planned Outages – 1 (Dayton Township)
 Weather Related – 1 (Military Township)
 Total Outages – 13
 Total Members - 36

When the lights go out, so do we

(800) 927-5265

24-Hour Outage Number

1. Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage
2. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored.
3. Have emergency kit prepared.



Be a Leader in Your Cooperative

Are you interested in serving as a board member for Hawkeye REC? Consider becoming part of your electric cooperative by submitting your name as a director candidate in this year's election. Becoming a director is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative, work with local legislators and create new relationships that will last a lifetime. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars which are designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of Hawkeye REC and the electric utility industry. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative and they represent the entire membership. Director applications are available by calling (800) 658-2243 or emailing cchristensen@hawkeyerec.com. The application deadline is Feb. 1. If you have any questions about serving as a director, contact the cooperative.

The nominating committee will be meeting on Feb. 3, 2010 to select candidates.

Once the nominating committee posts the candidates, a member would have to be nominated by petition

containing the signature of not less than 1% of the cooperative membership. Such petition must be received by the Secretary not less than 45 days before April 7. The Secretary shall post the nomination(s) at the office alongside the list of nominations made by the nominating committee.

Nominating Committee Members

James Shatek - Chickasaw County
 David Balk - Chickasaw County
 Richard Ollendieck - Howard County
 Joseph Thraenert - Howard County
 Matt Herold - Winneshiek County
 Dean Darling - Winneshiek County

Directors up for re-election • 3-Year Term



John Hockspeier
Chickasaw County



Norman Dickman
Winneshiek County



Dennis Young
Winneshiek County



Janelle Mahr
Howard County

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

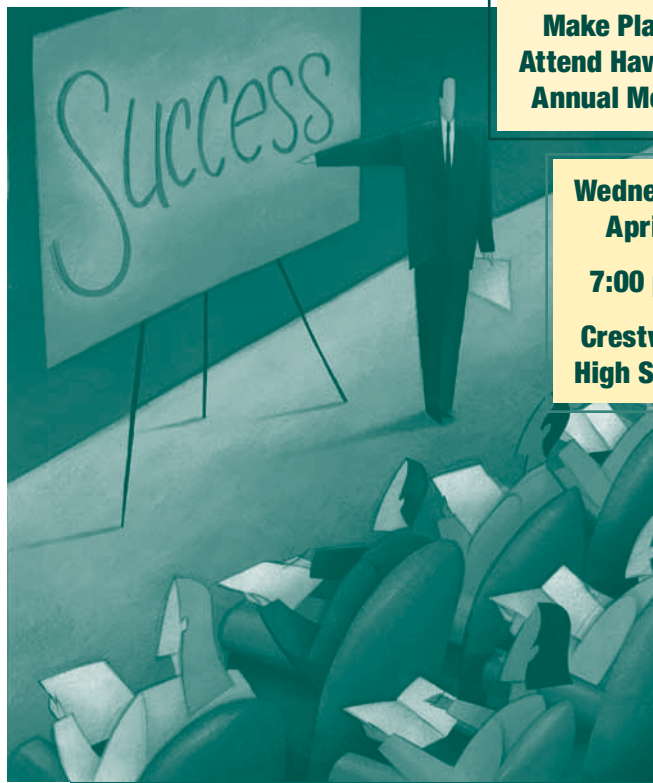
Replacing your Grain Dryer...Adding Geothermal in 2010?

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

With Hawkeye's assistance, members received over \$1,150,000 in grants during 2009 for energy efficiency / renewable energy projects.



Make Plans to Attend Hawkeye's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 7

7:00 p.m.

Crestwood High School

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 2010. 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 12, 2010 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:

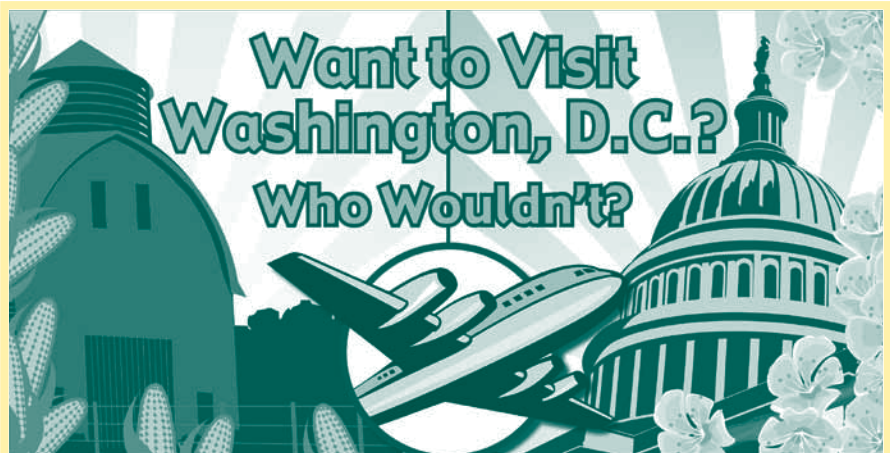
What can cooperative members do to become more energy efficient?



What can cooperative members do to become more energy efficient?

*Happy
New Year*

*from the employees
and Board of Directors
of Hawkeye REC!*



Who: High school sophomores and juniors

What: Free trip sponsored by your local electric cooperative

Where: Washington, D.C.

When: June 12-17, 2010

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: Log-on to www.hawkeyerec.coop to download the application form and return to Cindy at the REC office. You will receive Youth Tour study materials and an open book test which must be completed and returned to Hawkeye by March 1, 2010. The five students with top scores will qualify for the final examination and judging to be held March 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Cooperative. Judges will select the winner of the Washington D.C. trip and an alternate.

Red flag rules: How will they affect you?

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates as many as nine million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Because of this rapidly growing crisis, the FTC issued Identity Theft “Red Flag” Rules, which organizations, including Hawkeye REC, are required by law to enact.

The law stipulates that only the account owner(s) or authorized users may have access to information on member accounts. It also requires organizations to develop and maintain strict policies and guidelines to protect consumer information. Additional rules and regulations are also being established to verify the identities of new account owners as well.

Hawkeye is serious about protecting your personal information. We have refined our policies and procedures to comply with the new rules and to better protect our members.



Please do not be offended if you are asked extra questions when you call in or if there is a limit to the information we can provide. The extra security measures are for your protection and Hawkeye is doing its best to continue the trusted relationship that we have with our members.

Need caulk? Do it yourself



Caulking is an easy, inexpensive way to seal drafts around your home and make it feel warmer in the winter. Beyond keeping your house more comfortable, caulking can pay for itself through energy savings in only one year. The best part? It's a do-it-yourself job.

Most caulking compounds come in disposable cartridges that fit in half-barrel caulking guns. Look for a caulking gun with an automatic release for the smoothest application. Caulk forms a flexible seal and works best for cracks and gaps less than a quarter-inch wide. To make your first caulking job a breeze, follow these application tips:

- ▲ Before application, remove old caulk and paint from the area using a putty knife. Clean and dry the area to avoid sealing in moisture.
- ▲ Hold the gun at a consistent 45-degree angle along the crack. This angle will help force the caulk immediately into the crack as it is applied.
- ▲ Caulk in one straight, continuous line. Avoid starts and stops.
- ▲ Release the trigger before pulling the gun away to avoid excess caulk. An automatic release will help avoid this problem.

Recipes...

Use
up the
leftovers!

Looking for ways to use leftovers from the holidays?



This makes an awesome sandwich!

- 1 large can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1 large bag of Pepperidge Farm stuffing (Herb)
- Leftover turkey

Mix together and scoop onto bun.
Enjoy!

Carolyn Huber • New Hampton

Beef & Broccoli Stir Fry

- 4 c. cooked rice
- 1 T. vegetable oil
- 1 lb. boneless beef cubes
- 8 oz. fresh sliced mushrooms
- 3 c. steamed broccoli
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 t. cornstarch
- 1 T. chopped pimento



In a large skillet, heat vegetable oil. Cook beef cubes until done. Add mushrooms and broccoli. Sauté with beef cubes for 10 minutes or until broccoli is tender. In a small bowl, combine soy sauce, lemon juice and cornstarch until smooth. Add this mixture to beef vegetable mixture. Cook on medium heat until thickened. Fold in pimentos. Serve over hot cooked rice.

Serves 4

Judy Spalla • Decorah

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 All recipes can be found on our website.

February - Stir Fry Recipes (need by Jan. 15)

March - Annual Report

April - Recipes that use Refrigerator Rolls (need by March 15)



Pork Quesadillas

Cut a cooked pork tenderloin into 1-inch cubes or smaller. Toss in a bowl with ½ t. ground cumin, ½ t. ground oregano and 1 jalapeno (minced). Heat a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, place 1 (10-inch) flour tortilla in the skillet. Top with 1/4 the pork mixture and 3 or 4 T. shredded cheddar, Mexican blend or jack cheese. Top with another tortilla, and cook on 1 side until nicely browned. Turn and cook on the other side. Remove from heat; cut into wedges. Repeat with 4 more tortillas for 2 more quesadillas. Serve with salsa, sour cream or guacamole, as desired. Makes 3 quesadillas.

Janice Lansing • Cresco

Spanish Rice

Whenever I have leftover Manwich and beef, I just add rice to it. Heat the two together and call it Spanish Rice. My kids love it!

Rose Goetsch • Cresco



Chicken or Turkey Casserole

Enough meat to equal about 6 small breasts
1 c. mayo
1 c. celery (chopped)
2 cans soup (or 1 cream of chicken/1 cream of mushroom)
1 pkg. Pepperidge Farm dressing
1 pkg. slivered almonds
1 can mushrooms
1 can chestnuts
½ c. onions (chopped)
Put meat in bottom of glass pan, mix mayo, celery, soups, mushrooms, chestnuts and onions. Spread on top of meat and add Pepperidge Farm dressing. Then top with almonds. Bake at 350° for 40-50 minutes. This makes a good dressing by adding Sage.

Janice Dougherty • Waukon



29049 State Hwy 9 - 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)

Payment and billing inquiries are available 24-7 after office hours

OUTAGES

1-800-927-5265

**IOWA STATE ONE CALL
 1-800-292-8989**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Fisher, President - Lawler
 Charles Frana, Vice President - Calmar
 Dennis Ptacek, Secretary/Treasurer - Elma
 Norman Dickman - Decorah
 John Hockspeier - Alta Vista
 Janelle Mahr - Lime Springs
 Roger Nibaur - Elma
 Dean Nierling - Burr Oak
 Dennis Young - Decorah

PERSONNEL

Brian Krambeer, Chief Executive Officer
 Mike Walton, Operations Manager
 Jim Murphy, Information Tech. Manager
 Cindy Christensen, Communications Manager
 Peggy Berg, Chief Financial Officer
 Pat Boyle, Business Dev./Mbr. Serv. Manager

EDITOR

Meagan Moellers

Hawkeye REC

PO Box 90
 Cresco, Iowa 52136



Nurses Are Part of Our Electric Cooperative.

When you're part of a co-op, you know exactly what the co-op stands for.

Members of your electric co-op come from all walks of life. Members are community leaders, teachers, business owners, farmers and students.

Be proud to be part of a local cooperative!

DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- Jan. 11 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on December meter reading.
- Jan. 12 Bills are mailed to members from NISC in St. Louis.
- Jan. 26 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- Jan. 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 February.
- Jan. 28 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- Jan. 31 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- Feb. 1 Bills become delinquent.

OTHER EVENTS

- Jan. 29 Hawkeye REC Board Meeting

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