

## Let's Go Green Together

### Get your REC newsletter electronically

**Y**ou can now subscribe to receive the Hawkeye REC Newsletter monthly by email! You can do your part to help save paper, save money on mailing costs and help save our environment!

Go to [www.hawkeyerec.coop](http://www.hawkeyerec.coop) to sign up (on the bottom of the home page). You will receive a monthly email with a link to the electronic newsletter. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader downloaded on your computer (a free version is available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). Remember to notify us if your email address changes at any time. Your email address remains confidential.

If you do not contact the REC office, you will still receive a printed copy of the newsletter

each month by mail.

Remember, a copy is also always available to download on our website at [www.hawkeyerec.coop](http://www.hawkeyerec.coop).

#### Save a Stamp

Why not sign-up for E-Bill or automatic payment programs too!

When you sign up for the E-Bill (online payment program), you can choose to receive your bill electronically as well.

Become environmentally friendly together with your electric cooperative.



*New!*

Receive your copy of the REC newsletter by email.



## How They Reduced Their Carbon Footprint

**H**ave you heard the expression “reducing your carbon footprint”? With all the recent buzz of ‘going green’ and being environmentally friendly, it’s important to understand this terminology. Hawkeye members John and Lou Ann Hall of rural Cresco have made a major impact on their carbon footprint and would like to share the small changes they implemented with the rest of the membership. They reduced their annual kilowatt usage by 30 percent!

First of all, what is a carbon footprint? A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact your activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation etc. The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

*(continued on page 9)*

### Inside this issue...

<b>PAGE 2</b>
Energy Manager
<b>PAGE 3</b>
Electrical Inspection Meter Reading
<b>PAGE 4</b>
Annual Meeting Info.
<b>PAGE 5</b>
FirstCall USDA Grants
<b>PAGES 6-7</b>
Springtime is Here
<b>PAGE 8</b>
Long-time Retirements
<b>PAGE 9</b>
Carbon Footprint (Cont.) Do you Remember?
<b>PAGE 10</b>
2009 Lighting Rebates Energy Efficiency
<b>PAGE 11</b>
Microwave Recipes
<b>PAGE 12</b>
Dates to Remember Touchstone Energy

# Carbon Footprint (from front cover)

Let's take a look at the comparison from John and Lou Ann's usage from 2005 to 2008. (This is solely based on electric consumption)

	2005	2008
Total kWh's:	8,362	5,824
Average kWh's:	696.8	485.3

They saved 2,538 kWh's which is equivalent to a savings of over 1 ton of coal.

They reduced their kilowatt usage by 30 percent since 2005 and used 47 percent less than the national average in 2008.

What an impressive change! All members of Hawkeye are encouraged to do the same! Let's make a difference in our future!

## What they did to reduce their energy usage:

- Purchased a new energy star washing machine
- Purchased a dehumidifier for the summer
- Used the air conditioner less
- Reduced dryer use by 60 percent in the summer
- Kept their house a few degrees warmer in summer
- Kept their house a few degrees cooler in winter (65°)
- Replaced some light bulbs to CFL's (compact fluorescent light bulbs)
- Turned off lighting in rooms when not in use
- Turned off hot water heater designated for their in-floor heat during the summer



*"They reduced their kilowatt usage by 30 percent since 2005 and used 47 percent less than the national average in 2008."*

To learn more on how to reduce your carbon footprint and to calculate your actual footprint, go to <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/>

## LAST CALL

**Hawkeye REC offering five \$500 scholarships**

**A**ny graduating high school senior, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, are eligible for the Hawkeye REC scholarship. Applications are available at your area high school guidance counselor office, at the REC office or can also be downloaded at Hawkeye's website [www.hawkeyerec.coop](http://www.hawkeyerec.coop). Please visit our website for additional information, requirements and this year's essay question.

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)

## "Do You Remember When?"

*In December of 2011, Hawkeye REC will be celebrating 75 years since the formation of your electric cooperative. We will be celebrating throughout the anniversary year, but would like to first gather stories and photos from people who "remember when the lights came on." Please contact Meagan at the REC office if you or someone you know would be interested in passing their story down through the generations. In order to meet deadlines to publish the anniversary book, please contact Meagan by May 1, 2009.*