

A Monthly Publication of The FEC Companies

THE BACK PAGE

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Check us out on the web at www.fec-co.com

Highway 36 East • P.O. Box 680 • Chillicothe, MO 64601 • 660-646-4281 • 1-800-279-0496 • If you have an outage: 1-800-927-5334

FEC sponsors 42nd Annual Essay Contest

Three students to win trips to Washington, D.C.; three students to C.Y.C.L.E.

Three area high school juniors will win all-expense paid trips to our nation's capital this summer as part of Farmers' Electric's Youth Tour to Washington Essay Contest. Three area high school juniors will also win all-expense paid trips to the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (C.Y.C.L.E.) this July in Jefferson City.

This marks the 42nd consecutive year that FEC has sponsored this academic competition.

The essay contest is open to all high school juniors attending a high school that is located within the service area of Farmers' Electric Cooperative. The contest is also open to a high school junior who resides in a home on FEC's system and attends a high school outside the cooperative's service territory where the essay contest is

not offered at that high school. 210021

The contest is not open to a student who attends a high school in FEC's service territory, but resides on another cooperative's lines that also conducts the essay contest to Washington, D.C. Children of cooperative employees and directors are not eligible to participate in the contest.

Junior class English instructors received the essay contest information and applications in early January. Applications may also be picked up at the cooperative office in Chillicothe or by calling the office and we will mail the application directly to your home. 71284

This year's topic is "What would life be like without electricity?"

The essay contest deadline is Friday, February 25, 2005, at 4:30 p.m.

Dual-fuel rebate program changes to promote efficiency

Farmers' Electric's rebate program in 2005 will change slightly, adjusting to conform with new mandatory efficiency guidelines set forth by the Department of Energy.

The cooperative's popular free water heater program will continue as well as the current ground source heat pump rebate. 274443

The only changes in the rebate program involve the incentives for installing a dual-fuel (add-on heat pump) heating/cooling system. The add-on heat pump program involves combining an air-source heat pump and a fossil-fuel furnace (propane or natural gas) to provide heating AND cooling to your home or business.

Rebates for these units is based according to the size of the heat pump installed and the efficiency of the unit. The more efficient the heat pump the higher the rebate will be.

The dual fuel guidelines will be as follows:

12-13 SEER	\$200 per ton
14-15 SEER	\$250 per ton
16 SEER & Higher	\$275 per ton

To receive the rebate, the cooling side of the heat pump must be placed on the cooperative's load management program. 150506

The ground source heat pump will be rebated at a price of \$150 per ton. For more information contact the FEC office in Chillicothe.



*New
Tree
Cutter*

FEC's new tree cutter is now in operation. The Franklin C3600 can handle a tree up to 18-inches in diameter, using a high speed blade. The new piece of equipment weighs 15,100 pounds.

FEC joins Missouri One Call

Farmers' Electric Cooperative is now a member of Missouri One Call. 192752

Before digging around or near an area with underground power lines, you must call 1-800-DIG-RITE (344-7483).

The one-cent kWh

"Our goal is to always be able to offer a one-cent kilowatt hours," I was told on one of the first two days I worked in the rural electric program. Of course, that was many years ago and the cooperative was in Colorado. Less than two years after that statement was made, the one-cent kilowatt hour, at least at that cooperative disappeared.

About that same time the average cost of a new home in the United States was just over \$30,000 and you could buy a postage stamp for a dime. Not long before this, I can remember going to a fast food restaurant and getting a soft drink and hamburger for the total of a quarter.

Times have really changed.

Today, only a few dinosaurs, like me, can remember that one-cent rate for the "all-electric" home. We'd even give the homeowner a gold medallion for their door, so they could show everyone who came to visit their new, award-winning home.

I am not aware of any one-cent kilowatt hour electricity today. With Farmers' Electric's rate increase last fall, the first in nearly 14 years, the average kilowatt hour will cost our members a little over eight-cents. The hamburger and soft drink I had for lunch today approached \$4.

As we move forward into this new year, none of us know what will happen to us on a personal basis from one day to the next. But, and this is

by dan bryan, fec ceo



good, we can tell you your rates will not increase this year, the service we offer will be every bit as good as it has been, and your cooperative will take steps to provide you with more of the services you need to enhance your style of life.

We'll probably never see the one-cent kilowatt hour again, nor the quarter soft drink/sandwich combination or the nearly 14 years without a rate increase for your electricity.

You will see a continued effort to be responsive to your needs, your concerns and your service from your cooperative.