

Farmers' Electric Cooperative
Together, we have the power to make a difference

Watts Up

A Monthly Publication of The FEC Companies

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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Watts Up! Your Farmers' Electric news adds pages and more

A few months ago the decision was made to expand the number of Farmers' Electric news pages in the *Rural Missouri* magazine. At the same time, the decision was also made to move our FEC pages inside the magazine.

There are so many important issues in the world right now that have an impact on your monthly bill. We need the extra space to provide you with more detailed information as to how these issues will or could make a difference in your life.

Plus, there is a ton of additional information to pass along to you, including energy efficiency tips, safety, rebates, and much more. This information needs to be presented to you on a monthly basis. As a result, the decision was made to change to a four-page "mini-newsletter" located in the center of the *Rural Missouri* magazine.

In recent months we have started a number of new programs at FEC that can make a difference in the quality of your life and in the lives of other members of Farmers' Electric.

In March we announced the FEC Co-op Connections Card, a discount card for FEC members only. Over 50 local businesses are now

participating in this program. Those businesses are listed on page 4 of this month's *Watts Up*.

In July we announced a major new program that involves your cooperative's charity and a change in an existing program that will assist you financially in specific appliance purchases.

Operation Round Up provides FEC members with the "Power" of cooperative member participation to provide revenues that will be used to assist area families who have children that have been ill or injured in which the parents do not have enough money or health insurance to cover the medical

costs. All of the money raised through Operation Round Up will be placed in your cooperative's charity, the Area Youth Benefit Fund. To date, nearly \$400,000 has been donated to area families in need throughout our nine-county service territory. The additional revenues received through the Operation Round Up program will allow higher dollar donations to be made for payment of expensive medical

bills.

In July we also announced a major change in our rebate program, which now includes a rebate on several Energy Star appliances, plus significant increases in rebates for dual fuel systems and geothermal, or ground source, heat pumps.

There are more announcements to be made in the near future so I encourage you to keep track of what your electric cooperative is doing each month in *Watts Up*. There will be articles every month that will save you money if you take advantage of the material we provide you. For example, energy efficiency expert Doug Rye will make regular appear-

ances in *Watts Up*, plus our member services department will also be providing information that will make a difference in your monthly payment to us.

Watts Up with Farmers' Electric? Check us out each month in your *Rural Missouri* magazine.

P.S. You also need to check out our web site at www.fec-co.com.



Mike Sanders
FEC CEO

Annual charity fund raising events set for August 17-18

The 16th annual fund raising events for Farmers' Electric's Area Youth Benefit Fund have been set for Sunday August 17 and Monday August 18.

The popular dinner-auction will be held for the first time this year at the new Jenkins Center, located in the Livingston County

Fairgrounds on the north side of Chillicothe.

"We were forced to move the location of our dinner because we simply outgrew the facilities at the Chillicothe Elks Lodge," said Mike Sanders, FEC CEO.

"We do want to thank the Elks Lodge for all of their support over the years. They were great to work with."

Until July 1 of this year, the dinner-auction and the golf tournament were the primary means in which money was raised for the charity. On July 1, FEC announced Operation Round Up (See story on next page), a new program that allows every member the opportunity to donate money to the Area Youth Benefit Fund.

FEC established the AYBF in 1993. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance toward the payment of medical bills for children 18 years of age and under. The fund is designed to

assist families with children who have been ill or injured in which the parents do not have enough money or health insurance to cover the medical costs. 272635

The AYBF, a 501 (C)3 charity, primarily operates in the counties of Linn, Chariton, Livingston, Carroll, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, DeKalb and Clinton. A family that resides in the counties listed above does not have to be a member of the cooperative to receive financial assistance. FEC members who reside in other counties are also eligible for assistance.

A separate board of directors administers the Area Youth Benefit Fund. All applications for assistance are made to this board and the directors have been empowered to administer the fund as they so choose.

At this writing, just over \$392,000 has been donated to families in north Missouri.

The August 17 dinner-auction features a number of silent auctions and games,

plus a main auction under the call of Colonel Mike Miller. A reception begins the evening at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30. The main auction usually begins around 7:45 p.m.

The main auction will have a variety of items for sale, including jewelry, limited edition art prints, Waterford crystal, furniture, sports memorabilia and much more.

"If anyone would like to donate an item to the AYBF auction, please contact Gina Truesdell or Steve Shoot," Sanders said. "Every donation to

the auction helps us raise money for the children in this area."

The golf tournament on Monday, August 18, is held at the 18-hole Green Hills Golf Course in Chillicothe. For the tenth consecutive year the tournament is being co-sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Chillicothe.

The tournament usually sells out about the first of August so please make reservations to play as soon as possible.

AYBF assistance county by county

CALDWELL	\$ 42,288.71
CARROLL	\$ 44,175.72
CHARITON	\$ 32,313.95
CLINTON	\$ 31,516.15
DAVIESS	\$ 32,915.44
DEKALB	\$ 41,364.83
LINN	\$ 40,690.39
LIVINGSTON	\$ 93,621.11
RAY	\$ 31,481.83
GENTRY	\$ 1,000.00
MISC.	\$ 800.00
TOTAL	\$392,168.13

Swap your old incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent bulbs...FREE!

If you have been waiting until your old incandescent light bulbs finally burn out to replace them with the more efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, then you no longer have an excuse. 277617

Beginning August 1, Farmers' Electric will swap light bulbs with FEC members...free. That's right, FEC members will be allowed to swap their old inefficient light bulbs for Energy Star CFL bulbs.

Each member will be allowed to swap up to 12 incandescent light bulbs for 12 CFL bulbs. Plus, if you sign up for Operation Round Up you will receive another three-pack of CFL's. If you also sign up for "Our Energy, Our Future," you will receive an additional three-pack of CFL bulbs.

Initially, members will have to travel to the FEC office in Chillicothe to swap their light bulbs. However, employees are already making plans to take this light bulb swap on the road to make it more convenient for members. Plans are to meet with FEC members at Pattonsburg, Lake Viking, Carrollton, Richmond, Brookfield and Brunswick. Details pertaining

Check out the September *Watts Up* for a location nearest you!

to the dates, times and locations will be published in the September edition of *Watts Up* in this *Rural Missouri* magazine.

Members will have the choice of CFL's that are 60-watt equivalent, 75-watt equivalent and 100-watt equivalent.

For a member to complete the swap they must bring either a Rural Missouri magazine that shows their address label and a photo ID, a recent bill with a photo ID, or their Co-op Connections card and a photo ID.

The light bulb swap is being sponsored by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., Springfield, FEC's power provider. AECI is committed to helping rural electric cooperative members residing within its distribution system become more energy efficient at their residences and businesses.

FEC employees will also be providing information to members at the light bulb swaps on a variety of additional topics, including heating and cooling, water heating, The Switch Team, Operation Round Up, the Tree Replacement

Check out the efficiency of heat pump systems

In the dog days of summer, heating your home for winter is hardly a priority. But in fact, this is a good time of year to plan how to reduce your largest energy expense: heating your home. 30525

If your heating system is more than 15 years old, it may be time to bump up to a more efficient system, particularly as energy costs continue to rise.

The reason heat pumps are so efficient: they move heat from one source to another instead of creating heat. If you heat with electricity, a heat pump can trim the amount of electricity you use by 30 percent to 40 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Air-to-air heat pumps have efficiencies of around 250 percent. Ground-source heat

pumps, which use the earth's more constant below-ground temperature, have 350 percent to 400 percent efficiency — a 3.5 times greater return on your dollar.

According to a survey conducted by Associated Electric Cooperative, about 30 percent of Missouri co-op members already use heat pumps. If you're building a new home or upgrading your existing heating and cooling system, call FEC and talk to the guys in members services about the different rebates they offer on specific heat pump systems.

Buying and installing a new heating system is a big-ticket purchase. But given that heating your home in winter is probably your greatest use of electricity, a new system could be the best use of your energy dollars. 276528

Teach your children to be safe around electricity

About the time you receive this issue of *Watts Up* summer will be about half over. There is still plenty of time to teach your children the importance of being safe around electricity when they play outside.

- Stay away from electrical equipment on the ground and overhead. Never climb a utility pole or tower. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. Electrical power poles and utility equipment should never be used as a playground.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if

the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.

- Never go into an electric substation. Substations contain high voltage equipment.
- Teach your child to look up and around. Always be aware of power lines.
- Water and electricity never mix. Keep electronics like radios away from pools and hot tubs. 231073
- Never touch an electrical appliance if you are wet. Always dry off completely.



From left, Parker Leatherman, Chillicothe High School, April Kiehl, Meadville High School, and Cody Pieper, Stet High School, were the essay contest winners from FEC for 2008.

Essay winners return from Washington, D.C.

Three area high school juniors returned from Washington, D.C., in mid-June, joining 81 fellow high school students from across Missouri.

Parker Leatherman, Chillicothe, April Kiehl, Meadville, and Cody Pieper, Stet, were winners in Farmers' Electric's 45th annual Youth Tour to Washington Essay Contest.

The six-day tour provided an action-filled week for the students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. Highlights included a special session on Capitol Hill with Senators Christopher Bond and Claire McCaskill to discuss the process of government and issues of the day and increasing their knowledge of cooperative electric utilities and American history.

The young people also visited with representatives from their congressional districts, toured famous monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums and Arlington National Cemetery. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with delegates from other states.

Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 1,500 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States.

Since 1964, REC's have sponsored over 40,000 students to Washington, D.C.

Doug Rye says... Don't forget the ductwork!

Folks, you can't imagine how much I enjoy having you call me with your energy questions. I'm also glad to hear from you that these columns are helping you make your homes more energy efficient. Please be sure to tell your electric co-op how much you appreciate the tips.

Did someone say electric co-op?

This is about the time of year when all electric companies start getting calls about high electric bills. That is, of course, unless you live in a home that is built to Doug Rye energy efficiency standards.

I expect nearly all folks wish their electric bills were lower. But, as we discussed during a past column, electricity is one of the best consumer buys available. That is, of course, unless a lot is being wasted.

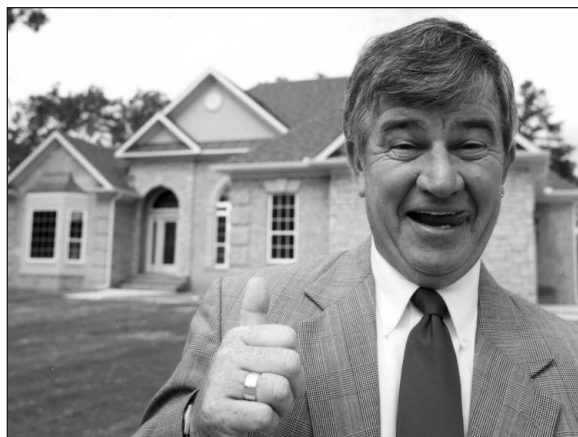
How do you know if you are wasting electricity? Try this. Over the years, I have developed a simple rule-of-thumb formula to give me some kind of idea as to whether a person's utility bills are lower than average, average or higher than average.

Here's the formula: Take the square footage of your house and multiply it times .07. Exam-

ple: 2,000 square feet X .07 = 140.

If your 2,000-square-foot house has average energy efficiency, you should never have a total energy bill (electricity plus gas) over \$140 in any month. If your calculation shows you are paying considerably more than this figure, your house probably has some serious energy efficiency problems.

When someone tells me, for example, that their 2,000-square-foot house sometimes has



Energy Efficiency Expert Doug Rye

energy costs of \$200 to \$300 a month, my first thought usually goes to the ductwork. With the exception of air infiltration problems, which we've discussed in earlier columns, the single biggest energy problem in residential construction is ductwork.

How can ductwork be such a major energy waster?

There are four basic ways.

- 1) The location of ductwork.
- 2) Sizing and design of ductwork.
- 3) Ductwork tightness.
- 4) Type of ductwork.

First, let's consider the location of the ductwork. This is so elementary I almost feel guilty writing about it. But let's do so anyway.

Where is the hottest place, by far, in your house in the summertime? That would be the attic,

which sometimes reaches up to 160 degrees.

How would you like to sit in the attic and make homemade ice cream or, should I say, try to make homemade ice cream? It would take a lot of ice and a lot of energy and it most likely still would not freeze. With that in mind, where is the one location you should at all costs avoid placing your ductwork?

You're right — the attic.

So why do so many houses have ductwork in the worst possible location?

You can answer that question any way you want to, but the only real reason is because that is the way it has always been

done and adults are hard to change.

What's the best option, you ask?

By simply installing your ductwork in the conditioned space, in the slab, or in the crawl space/basement, you would immediately account for a minimum 20 percent reduction in cooling energy costs.

Next month, we will discuss the other ductwork related issues that can lead to high bills.

In the meantime, feel free to call me here at the office at 501-653-7931 with any energy efficiency questions you might have.

Doug Rye can be heard on KGOZ and KAAN locally

Every Saturday morning Doug Rye hosts a live call-in show on several area radio stations. He can be heard from 9-10 a.m. on KGOZ, 101.7, Gallatin, and on KAAN, 95.5, Bethany.

Heat pumps are more efficient in heating and cooling

Electric heat pumps have been available for home heating for more than 30 years. The two most common types are air-to-air and ground-source heat pumps.

Air-source heat pumps, which draw heat from the air, are relatively easy and inexpensive to install and have been widely used. They operate at efficiencies of 250 percent or more, meaning they can deliver one and a half times more heat energy to a home than the energy consumed.

Because they use the outside air as a heat source, air source pumps are not as efficient in climates of extended periods of sub-freezing temperatures because there's less heat to extract in those conditions.

According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, air-source heat pumps are effective in winter at outdoor temperatures down to about 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Below that, a backup heating source is necessary.

However, talk to a trusted contractor or check your equipment's specifications for the optimal temperature for your heating system to run the backup heat.

In Missouri, ground-source heat pumps are the most efficient option. They can produce efficiencies of 350 percent to 400 percent because they use the ground as a heat source for warming. Ground-source heat pumps are more expensive to install because wells or trenches must be dug for the piping loops that carry a liquid solution to and from the system's heat exchanger.

Generally, ground-source heat pumps are installed at the time of construction or when retrofitting an existing air-to-air system.

How do heat pumps work?

Heat pumps are devices that move heat from one location to another.

Ground source - The typical closed-loop ground-source heat pump incorporates a piping loop buried five feet or more in the ground or in water. In Missouri, belowground temperatures run 55 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Horizontal piping loops are the most common in which pipes are buried in trenches. Where space is limited, vertical loops or wells are drilled. An anti-freeze solution circulates through these loops. In winter, the water

is warmed by the earth and pumped into a heat exchanger that removes heat and delivers it to the air inside your house.

In summer, the reverse happens. Heat from your house is pumped back into the ground.

Air source - This type of heat pump uses the difference between outdoor air temperature and indoor air temperature to heat or cool your home.

Take Control & Save
 A Cooperative Effort for Energy Efficiency

Area Co-op Connections Card Participants

Area Businesses

AA Cyclewear - Chillicothe: 10% off merchandise
AFC Insulators - Chillicothe: 10% off labor and materials for insulation of home, shop or business
Applebee's - Chillicothe: 10% this location only!
Bailey Studio - Chillicothe: Complimentary Studio Session
Bank 21 - Carrollton: \$10 off first check order for new customers. One time \$15 credit on check orders for current customers
Barnes-Baker Motors - Chillicothe: 10% off on parts & service
Chillicothe Bootery & Repair - Chillicothe: 7% off the purchase of new boots
Christie's Nails - Norborne: 10% off all services
Citizens Bank & Trust - Chillicothe: Free checking-Free gift-check buy back. Also 25% off first year rent of any new lock-box rental with new or existing checking account.
Clark's Furniture - Chillicothe - 5% off all purchases, plus free delivery and set up.
Cole Family Chiropractic Clinic - Chillicothe: 10% off vitamins & supplements
Countryside Banquet Hall - Cameron - 10% off banquet facility
Countryside Jamobree - Cameron - \$1 off admittance
Covenant Rehab Clinic - Chillicothe: Discount will be on all products and supplies not covered by health insurance. Biofreeze, Jobst Stockings, braces, splints, etc.
Dairy Queen - Chillicothe - 50-cents off blizzard
Domino's Pizza - Chillicothe: Free order of bread sticks or cinnamon sticks with purchase. Add cheese bread for \$1
Eckard's Home Improvement - Carrollton: 10% off carpet. See store for details.
FEC Services/Culligan of Chillicothe - Chillicothe: 10% off Culligan bottled waters, in stock electric grills & Pest-A-Cators
Fuel Espresso - Chillicothe: 10% off. Does not include beer, liquor, lotto and gas
Grand River Inn Hotel - Chillicothe: \$49 plus tax
Green Hills Golf Course - Chillicothe - 15% off green and cart fee, Monday-Thursday only.
H&R Block - Chillicothe & Trenton: \$25 off 2007 tax preparation for new clients only. \$5 off for existing clients. Valid in Chillicothe and Trenton only.
Hair Masters & Tanning Co. - Chillicothe: 10% off retail products. (Hair and Tanning Products)
His & Hers Sports Gallery - Cameron - 10% off regular priced items
Hometown Pharmacy - Chillicothe: 10% off non-prescription items. 20% off photo processing

Hy-Vee Food Stores - Chillicothe: 50% off photo processing at Kodak digital picture maker
J. Crowe Photography - Chillicothe: 50% off session fees
Jo-Don's Dolls 'n Things - Chillicothe: 15% off vinyl and porcelain dolls
Lauhoff Jewelry - Chillicothe: Re-mount special. Re-mount diamonds in a new mounting - 20% off
Lawns Unlimited & County Nursery, Inc. - Cameron: 10% off the purchase of all Perennial plants & shrubs
Lindley Funeral Home - Chillicothe: Cash rebate 10%
Little Blessings - Cameron - 10% off tea room and coffee bar, conference facility, massage therapy, retreat facility and bed & breakfast.
Mary Lue's Flower Shoppe - Braymer: Relay charge of \$1.50 on any orders we send out for you anywhere in the U.S.
Medicine Creek Trading Co. - Chillicothe: 5% off every item in store
Medicine Shoppe - Chillicothe - 10% off
Momma B's Cafe - Ludlow: Free drink with menu purchase
Murphy's Photography Studio - Chillicothe: 15% off portrait packages
Nelle's Restaurant - Cameron - 50% off appetizers with purchase of two dinners
New Beginnings - Cameron - 10% off
Oliphant's heating & Cooling - Rayville - \$20 off service call
PC's Elkhorn Steakhouse - Braymer: 10% off discount purchase
Piece of Cake Event Catering - Chillicothe: 10% off orders for 50 people or more
Pin Oak Hill - Bogard - 50% off dessert with purchase of entree
PJ's Storage - Chillicothe: 10% off
Premier Eyecare Associates - Chillicothe, Brookfield & Trenton: 10% off all services and materials
Principal's Office Gift Shop - Chillicothe: 15% off regular priced items
Royal Inn Pizza - Chillicothe & Trenton: \$2 off large pizza
Sensenich Jeweler - Chillicothe: 20% off.
Sharp Focus Video - Chillicothe: 25% off first 2 hours of home video to DVD transfer. 10% off of wedding video production. Not valid with any other offer.
Shirley's Shoes & Boots & Ladies Fashions - Carrollton: 15% off entire stock. Regular priced merchandise only.
The Fast Lane - Chillicothe: Show Connections Card and receive a punch card, bowl 2 games get 1 game free. At 10 games, sign back of card to enter for free bowling ball, shoes & bag.
**** A number of businesses have exclusions to some items. Contact each business to get exclusions.**

