

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

April 13, 2015 is National
Lineman Appreciation Day.



2015 Member Photo Contest



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2016 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.



Go to www.sre.coop and find the Photo Contest Rules and Entry Form under News & Community.

2015 Annual Meeting Saturday, April 11

Youth & Ag Building
916 East Elm Street,
Lancaster, WI

9:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Meeting

Lunch catered
by Rooster Andy's.

Reminder

If you mail your payment or any correspondence to our office in Darlington, please make sure you list PO Box 127. The post office has been returning letters that do not have the PO Box listed.



Energy Rebate Deadlines

Whichever date comes first, information must be sent to SREC:

1. No later than 6 months after purchase date.
2. No later than January 4, 2016.

Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and the Safe Electricity program (www.safeelectricity.org) urge them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. “Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks,” says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating pre-planned routes that avoid hazard areas.”

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

“If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative for help,” explains Hall. “If the power line is energized and you step outside, your



body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.”

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home’s air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This actually has the effect of making them more efficient, but it also increases resistance and reduces airflow. Remember to check filters once a month.

Source: EnergySavers.gov

Wings Over Wisconsin

Date: Friday, April 10th

Time: 9:00 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Scenic Rivers
Energy Cooperative
(Lancaster)

Lunch will be served.

If it's not in use, turn off the juice!

How saving energy saves you more than money

Reducing household energy use doesn't mean doing without. It doesn't require walking around your house wearing extra sweaters and earmuffs in the dead of winter, or stripping down to the bare essentials in the summer. It means being smarter about how you manage the energy you do use. Consider Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative your trusted resource for exploring energy-saving strategies. Not-for-profit, member-owned electric co-ops want to help their member owners. Sometimes that involves lowering their members' bills, and other times it involves increasing efficiency options to reduce operating costs.

Energy efficiency means performing the same job and getting a similar outcome using less energy. This efficiency is often achieved through a mechanical change, such as replacing an older, less efficient appliance or mechanical unit with a new model, but sometimes a minor change of habit is all that's needed. Examples could include dimming lights, turning down the thermostat or washing clothes in cold water instead of hot.

The benefits of energy efficiency and conservation

So why are energy conservation and energy efficiency more important than ever to our members? What are the benefits of efficiency and conservation? The short answer is that energy reduction in your home 1) saves you money; 2) improves our economy by enabling consumers and businesses to spend and invest in other areas; and 3) reduces the amount of pollution emitted from power generation.

The more complex answer is that modern life means we are placing increasing demands on all forms of energy. For example, consumers are more reliant on devices, computers, phones (with charging stations), sophisticated media/home entertainment and video gaming systems, and "smart" technology that all rely on electricity. The wide array of new electronic devices is improving our quality of life, and electric co-ops are promoting efficiency to bring new conveniences at a lower cost.

Energy efficiency: the "First Fuel"

In this period of rapidly changing technology, Americans are increasingly aware of the need to reduce energy consumption. Many now call energy savings the "first fuel", because the easiest way to reduce fuel cost and carbon emissions is to save energy. Energy is a valuable commodity, and while the discussions over climate change and carbon footprints continue, we must all do our part to conserve this precious resource. Protecting and preserving the quality of water and air is also our shared responsibility. Using less energy may even boost the economy by relieving the ever-tightening family budget, allowing dollars to be spent on more tangible goods.

Americans have demonstrated a willingness to take steps toward reducing their energy consumption, both to save money and out of concern for the environment. Accord-

ing to the January 2014 Nielson U.S. Consumer Energy Sentiments Report, 91 percent of consumers are willing to change their energy-use behavior to save money on energy costs. The same report indicates that 77 percent would change their behavior out of concern for the environment.

Electric co-ops can help you use less electricity

Consumers recognize that conserving energy and becoming more energy efficient are the smart and right thing to do. But they are also looking for guidance on how to do just that. Electric co-ops are a great local resource for helping consumers develop individual plans tailored to their needs and the local environment. Our employees understand better than most that every household has its own complex energy system.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative offers energy assessments, energy-saving tips, and recommendations on the latest technology, and advice on choosing and maintaining heating and cooling systems. The first step in this process is easy – simply reach out to us for help with taking control of your own energy use, and you'll be well on your way to achieving the ideal balance of efficiency and conservation. In turn, you will be helping yourself, your community and the environment – and that benefits all of us.

For information on how you can be more energy efficient, contact Ron Jentz at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

By Anne Prince. Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

FIVE TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY AT HOME

- 1** Set a programmable thermostat to turn down the heat when the house is empty or everyone is asleep.
- 2** Insulate your electric water heater.
- 3** Plug leaks around windows, doors, and power outlets with caulk and weather stripping.
- 4** Purchase ENERGY STAR® products.
- 5** Monitor your energy use to spot trends and sudden changes.

Recipes

The following recipes are a couple rhubarb favorites from Cathy Skaife (Platteville).

Rhubarb – Raspberry Crumble

Filling:

- 8 cups sliced Rhubarb, fresh or frozen
- 1-1/2 c. Raspberries, fresh or frozen
- 2/3 c. Sugar
- 2 Tbsp. Cornstarch
- 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

Topping:

- 1/2 c. All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 c. Rye Flour (or use 1 cup of All Purpose Flour)
- 1 tsp. Baking Powder
- 6 Tbsp. Brown Sugar, firmly packed
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 8 Tbsp. Butter, cold
- 1/2 c. Pecans, coarsely chopped



Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9x13 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Combine rhubarb, raspberries, sugar, cornstarch and vanilla in a bowl. Pour into baking dish. Let stand while making the topping. Combine flour, brown sugar, baking powder and salt in a mixing bowl. Pinch butter into the flour mixture with your fingertips until it is pea-sized. Squeeze a handful of dough firmly in your palm, then crumble it coarsely over the rhubarb mixture. Sprinkle with pecans. Bake until the fruit is bubbling and the top is golden brown, about 50 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Pineapple Rhubarb Jam

- 5 c. sliced Rhubarb, fresh or frozen
- 5 c. Sugar
- 1 can (20 oz.) Unsweetened Crushed Pineapple, undrained
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) Strawberry Gelatin
- 1 box of Sure Jell
- 3/4 c. Water

Directions

Combine rhubarb, sugar and pineapple in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 25 minutes or until rhubarb is broken down. Mix water and sure jell in another saucepan and bring to a boil. Boil 2 more minutes. Pour into rhubarb and pineapple mixture. Add the package of strawberry jello. Mix well. Pour into small containers and let set for 24 hours. Store in refrigerator or freezer.



Vegetation Management

Zielies Tree Service, Inc. will be working on the Mt Hope Substation in Grant County.

Also, we have had some members calling and wondering why the brush has not been cleaned up yet. The mowing crews will eventually get to the brush that is cut after the Jiraff (piece of equipment) has been through. It will get done, but it may take a few weeks.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.



Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

www.sre.coop

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