

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Crawford County Farm Safety Program

On Friday, May 15th the Crawford County Safety Day Camp, sponsored by the Crawford County Farm Safety Council, took place at the fairgrounds in Gays Mills. The program was well attended by fifth grade students from the surrounding schools: Prairie du Chien, Seneca, Wauzeka and North Crawford.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative has been handling the electrical safety part of the program for many years. Safety is our #1 priority and we want to share our electrical knowledge with people of all ages so that it becomes a priority for them as well. We share our knowledge each year through hot line demonstrations that take place at each of our offices during the October Member Appreciation Celebrations and then for the safety day programs that are planned by Grant, Crawford and Lafayette counties.

This year's hot line demonstration at the Crawford County Safety Day Camp was handled by lineworkers Earl Winsor and Reggie Lomas from our Gays Mills office. Through the presentation, the students learned about the following:

- Appliance and extension cord safety.
- How power lines operate and function.
- The danger of power lines and the importance of staying away.
- Underground power line safety.
- Demonstrations on tree/animal problems and electrocution hazards.



Keeping you safe during and after summer storms

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – for during and after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water – When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

Skip the makeshift shelter – During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

Portable generators – Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Flooded areas – Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power

lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative by calling 1-800-236-2141 immediately.

Electrical equipment – Never use electrical equipment that is wet – especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is a proud member of Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Along with 750 electric cooperatives nationwide, we have partnered with Touchstone Energy to put safety as our number one concern. For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to <http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>.

By Laura Cook ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Circulate savings! Ceiling fans are a great way to keep cool during summer months and can even allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4 degrees without affecting your comfort.

Source: energy.gov

Summer Storm Safety Tip

Strong summer storms can create dangerous situations. Always avoid downed power lines - the wire could be live, which could be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed power lines to your local electric cooperative.



Beat the heat with cool products

When temperatures soar in the summer, utility bills can do the same. There are several small ways to manage your energy use this summer – and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is always happy to help you with those simple, no- or low-cost ways to save – but for those who are considering remodeling or making larger purchases, here are a few ideas that may help keep your energy use in check and keep your wallet cool.

Remodeling?

If you are making esthetic changes to your home, consider products that will also make it work more efficiently. The biggest energy users in our homes are heating and cooling systems, so if you are making upgrades to your floors and cabinets, consider making some energy efficient upgrades to your HVAC system, too.

If you're making additions to your home or converting attics or basements into living spaces, a ductless heating and cooling system is a great option. A ductless system does not require adding pipes or ductwork to a home's existing system, making it a more affordable upgrade for many. Ductless systems tend to be more efficient, meaning homeowners will use less energy and save on their electric bills. Contact your local HVAC expert for more information.

If making changes to your heating and cooling system doesn't seem like the right upgrade for now, consider installing a smart thermostat. These "cool" devices learn your behavior and adjust heating and air conditioning settings with a goal to save energy. Smart thermostats also have the capability to connect to the Internet, allowing homeowners to manage energy use via a smart phone app. There are several smart thermostat options available on the market, and they typically cost between \$200 and \$400.

Purchasing new appliances?

If you are considering purchasing new appliances that will use less energy, but may not have the budget for a complete appliance overhaul, your clothes dryer is a great place to start as dryers are big consumers of electricity. For example, dryers typically use around 900 kWh each year as compared to a refrigerator, which uses around 455 kWh each year.

There have been big developments with dryers in

recent years, and Energy Star awarded two stand-outs – the LG EcoHybrid Heat Pump Dryer and the Whirlpool HybridCare™ Heat Pump Dryer – the 2014 Emerging Technology Award.

Using heat pump technology, these dryers offer 40 percent in energy savings if operated on their most efficient settings and can save more than \$400 over the life of the dryer. If you are interested in purchasing other appliances or products, remember to visit energystar.gov and check out their "Most Efficient 2015" list to help you determine which products – from windows and HVAC systems to televisions and washers – are the most efficient for your home.

And don't forget that Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is your partner in energy savings.

By April Lollar, APR, CCC. April Lollar 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. ■

Discover the Cooperative Advantage.

ABOUT AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
The nation's member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops comprise a unique sector of the electric utility industry – and have a unique set of advantages.

Distribution cooperatives form the foundation of the rural electric network delivering electricity to 47 million co-op consumer members. Generation & transmission cooperatives (G&T) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

Whether it's a co-op serving a remote fishing village above the Arctic Circle or a co-op serving a major research lab in the Florida Keys, electric co-ops share a single purpose: providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to their consumer members.

CO-OPS ARE GUIDED BY 7 PRINCIPLES

- 1 Voluntary & Open Membership
- 2 Democratic Member Control
- 3 Members' Economic Participation
- 4 Autonomy & Independence
- 5 Education, Training & Information
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7 Concern for Community

NRECA

Recipes

My 10 year old daughter, Hannah Pierce, found this Tennessee recipe in a cookbook for her school project. It is very good and very rich! This is a recipe that I plan to keep and make again and again!

Butterscotch Pecan Cream Cheese Pound Cake

- 1 c. Butter
- 8 oz. Cream Cheese, softened
- 2-1/4 c. Sugar
- 6 Large Eggs
- 2 tsp. Vanilla
- 2-2/3 c. Flour
- 1 c. Chopped Pecans, toasting is optional
- 2/3 c. Butterscotch Chips



Beat butter and cream cheese for 2 minutes at medium speed. Gradually add sugar. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating after each addition just until yellow disappears. Add vanilla. Gradually add the flour at the lowest speed just until blended. Stir in pecans and chips. Spoon batter into greased and floured bundt pan. Bake at 325 for 1 hour and 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan.

Glaze (optional)

- 2/3 c. Butterscotch Chips
- 1-2 Tbsp. Milk

Melt together in microwave and melt. As it sits, it gets thicker, so letting it set for a bit before drizzling on the cooled cake will help it stay on the cake.

This recipe comes from Rita Kruser (Cuba City). She said, "Adding dried fruit, chocolate and nuts to these cookies boosts their nutritional value, texture and taste."

Trail Mix Cookies

- 4 Tbsp. Butter, softened
- 1/2 c. Brown Sugar, light or dark
- 1/4 c. Raw Cane Sugar
- 1/2 c. Honey or Agave Nectar
- 2 Egg Whites
- 1 c. Flour
- 1/2 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1/4 tsp. Salt
- 2 c. Rolled Oats
- 1/2 c. Mixed Seeds or Nuts (pumpkin seeds, almonds, etc.)
- 1/2 c. Mixed Dried Fruit (cranberries, cherries, blueberries, etc.)
- 1/4 c. Semisweet Mini Chocolate Chips



Preheat oven to 350 and line baking sheet with parchment paper. In a mixer, cream the butter and sugars until smooth. Add the honey, egg whites and mix until blended. Then in a small bowl, whisk together the flour, soda and salt. Add flour mixture and then the oats to the wet ingredients until combined. Then fold in the seeds, nuts, dried fruit and chocolate chips. Bake 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service, Inc. will be trimming on the north, south and west circuits of the Mt Hope substation in Grant County. They will be spraying on the north and south circuits of the Soldiers Grove substation and all circuits of the Mt Zion substation in Crawford County.

SREC will be spraying on all circuits of the Gratiot substation in Lafayette County. Then will move to all circuits of the Harrison substation and then all circuits of the Castle Rock substation in Grant County as time permits.

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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Heidi Pierce Editor

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