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Brown
County

South Central

Nobles

Federated

Cooperative Alliance Partners

Connections

Connecting our co-ops & members to a progressive future



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electricity demand...Pages 2 & 7*

Federated

Rural Electric

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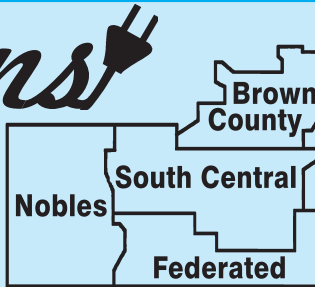
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Cooperative Alliance Partners *Connections*

This publication focuses on CAP's members, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.

Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor
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"Owned by those it serves"

'State of the Union' addresses growing electricity demand

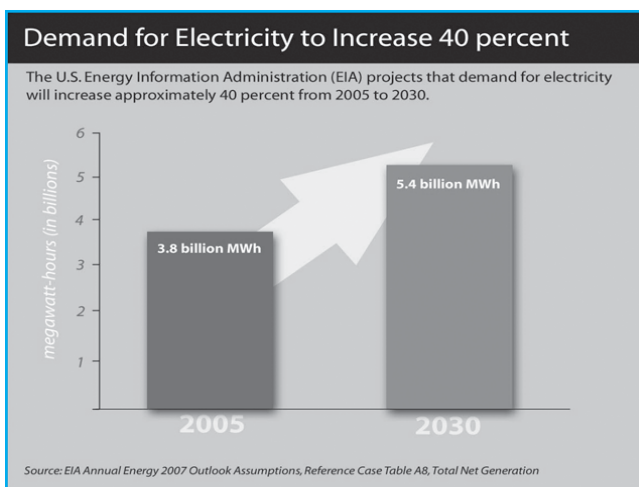
This time of year we are used to hearing the President give the "State of the Union" address highlighting the year's outlook for our nation.

Your co-op also provides a "State of the Union" address on the nation's increasing electricity use.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, demand for electricity nationally will increase by 40 percent over the next 22 years — even with a 9 percent reduction in electricity use due to efficiency. As the economy expands, the need for power grows.

Nearly every respected analysis, however, finds that our country is running out of power. As a result, there's a good chance consumers could experience brownouts and even rolling blackouts in the not-too-distant future if we don't act soon.

A recent report from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) confirms that unless more resources come online, it will not be long before power needs



cannot be met. The predictions made by NERC shed light on the urgent need to bolster our nation's power grid. It is no longer a question of if, but when we need to build.

Electric co-ops nationwide are experiencing 2.6 percent overall load growth (twice the national average); we take our responsibility of maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power seriously. We are working hard to implement

a strategy that meets your needs with the right mix of energy efficiency, renewable energy and new technologies for electricity generation involving clean coal, nuclear and natural gas.

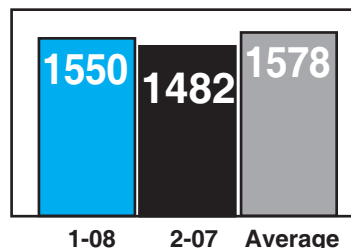
Energy efficiency helps

Electric co-ops are industry leaders in promoting energy efficiency and wise energy use. Nearly half of all rural electric systems provide financial incentives — such as low- or no-interest loans for household energy improvements and a standby generator program to reduce power use when — *Continued on Page 7*

Cover Connections

Talk may be cheap, but energy isn't. Electric cooperatives need to address the "State of the Union" when it comes to power demand in the future. Ensuring reliable service and adequate supply requires nationwide attention. How will this affect your electric rates? Read the story on Pages 2 & 7 to find out. ⚡

Weather affects your electric bill



This chart compares the heating degree days for January '08, January '07 and the 63-year average for your monthly electric bill. ⚡

Brown County Rural Electric member of the month

On your marks, get set...fly!

Pigeon racing is one sport that is for the birds

“Last one home is a rotten egg.”

That old saying is made for pigeon racing. Today, many people are unfamiliar with the sport, but a handful of enthusiasts, like Roger Besemer, New Ulm, keep it alive.

“I became interested in pigeons at a young age,” Besemer said. “I’d climb into the barn rafters and catch them in their nests. Once the pigeons were old enough, I’d take them down the road and release them. It fascinated me the way they could find their way back. Today’s kids have video games to keep them entertained, but my generation had to make their own fun. I remember trading pigeons with the neighbor kids. If you happened to catch a white pigeon...that was really a big deal.”

After high school Besemer wanted to farm, but his father wanted him to attend college. “I felt it would be a waste of time, but dad insisted,” Besemer said. “We finally found a compromise. Since my uncle was a barber, I would go to barber college because it was only nine months long. However, it turns out everyone wanted to be a barber back then. I went to take the entrance exam and 460 other people showed up. To make the odds even longer, the school said they’d only accept 18 people. I figured I had no chance and was in a goofy mood so I just marked answers without really reading the questions. The last question was an essay question: ‘Why do you think you’d make a good barber?’ I wrote ‘Because I was the regional FFA cow clipping champion of 1965.’ A few weeks later I got a call from the college. They said my test received the lowest score ever, but they enjoyed my answer to the final question and invited me to attend college. One thing led to another. I ended up getting a master’s degree in barbering, served a stint in the military, got married, had kids, ran a barbershop in New Ulm and farmed on the side.”

Through it all, Besemer’s interest in pigeons remained. “Raising pigeons as a child led to participating in pigeon sports as an adult,” Besemer said. “I started with rolling pigeons and branched into pigeon racing. Roller pigeons are birds with the hereditary disposition to do backward somersaults in flight. Competition involves building a flock of these birds, which is called a kit. The kit is judged on how far and how fast the birds roll as a unit. I’ve been all over the country as a competitor and judge at these events. People are often surprised at how extensive pigeon sports are, but the number of participants is shrinking as my



Roger Besemer, New Ulm, holds one of his feathered friends. Besemer has been racing pigeons for 15 years.

generation retires from competition. Nevertheless, it’s an interesting diversion and I have visited a lot of different places around the country.”

Besemer started racing pigeons 15 years ago. “I joined a club in Mankato called the Minnesota River Racers,” he said. “First, you get your pigeons registered. A band goes on their leg when they are young and they grow into it. This band has a number on it that is official all over the world. When I first started pigeon racing, we all had a special clock that we’d synchronize. The birds would then get a numbered rubber band and be trucked to Omaha, Nebraska; Oklahoma; or wherever they were starting from. When the bird returned, you’d insert that rubber band into a special hole on the clock and twist a knob that printed a recording of the date and time. Today it is all done electronically so you don’t have to be present when the birds return. Fortunately, I had an understanding wife when we used the manual clock. I remember being late for a few weddings and graduations because we had to wait for the pigeons to come back.”

Pigeon times are recorded in yards-per-minute, rather than miles-per-hour. Plus, the first bird home is not necessarily the winner. “This is because the birds don’t all travel an equal distance,” Besemer explained. “One roost

— *Continued on Page 14*

See an increase in energy savings and efficiency with a C&I Program grant

Example #1 Hog barn

- 50 25-watt CFLs installed to replace 100-watt incandescent bulbs.
- Project cost: \$137.01
- Co-op C&I Rebate: \$68.50
- **75 percent savings in wattage.**

Example #2 Warehouse

- Changed out warehouse lighting to T-8 High Bay Fluorescents.
- Project cost: \$6,510
- Co-op C&I Rebate: \$2,480
- **Up to 50 percent savings in wattage.**

Example #3

Grain Handling Motors

- Installed 2 high-efficiency electric motors (40- and 20-horsepower)
- Project cost: \$2,758
- Co-op C&I Rebate: \$1,200
- **End project cost: \$1,558**

Dollars and cents add up to savings with the co-op's Commercial & Industrial rebates as demonstrated by these three projects from last year. Talk to the co-op's energy expert about your 2008 project for possible funding.

Seeing is believing. If you are a cooperative member who wants to see energy-efficient improvements occur in your business, your electric cooperative can help.

Qualifying businesses include industrial/processing plants, schools, farms, local governments and more. The co-op's Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Program provides cash incentives to applicants for energy-efficient improvements, audits and design assistance for new and existing facilities. The grants typically pay for 20 to 40 percent of the project.

The following types of energy-efficient electric equipment qualify for C&I grants.

- Space conditioning (heating and cooling systems, ventilation equipment and controls).

- Lighting systems. Examples of lights that qualify include high-pressure sodium, regular/pulse-start metal halides, LED exit signs, fluorescent T5 lamps with electronic ballasts, certain T8 lamps, hardwired/modular compact fluorescent fixtures, industrial multi-CFL fixtures and certain high-bay fluorescents. Automatic controls, like photocells, ceiling or wall-mount occupancy sensors, qualify too.

- National Electrical Manufacturers Association listed premium efficiency motors and adjustable speed drives.

- Refrigeration.

- Compressed air systems.

- Occupancy controllers for vending machines.

- Dairy equipment, such as the well water pre-cooler and waste-heat exchanger.

Contact your co-op's energy expert for details on the C&I rebates and pre-approval. The C&I Program is limited. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. ➔



Eldon Kazemba is delighted with the C&I program. He switched out 30 750-watt incandescents with Eiko CFLs in the Sioux Valley Lutheran School gym.

Monthly ENERGY[®] wise tip

Pop open savings on your pop machine — If your business or school has a pop machine, your electric co-op can help you save money with the Vending Miser. This device's motion detector powers down the machine when the area is vacant and back up when it detects people. The pop remains at a cool temperature. However, this device cannot be used for perishable food machines containing, milk, sandwiches or juice. A typical pop machine uses 400 watts or \$300 a year with 8-cent electric rates. The vending miser costs \$175 and comes with a co-op rebate of \$75. Most pop machines use less electricity with Vending Miser saving \$40 to \$80 a year — providing a one to two-year payback. Call the cooperative's energy expert to learn more about the Vending Miser. ➔

Watts new

Shed light on trouble spots with bright LED trouble light

Are you restoring an old car with an old trouble light? Is the light fixture so hot that you are burning your hands or forehead? Perhaps you dropped it or banged the trouble light against something, breaking the bulb.

Did you drop a tool or a screw somewhere and go looking for it with the trouble light, only to discover that you only have enough cord to reach so far? Maybe you have a flashlight and set it down to retrieve something, only to have it roll away.

Try an LED trouble light. It is bright without the heat or cords. Plus, the bulb won't break. Plug it in to charge and the light is ready to go! Features include:

- 78 individual pure white, super-bright LEDs.



The trouble light enters the 21st Century! Any professional and amateur mechanic can shed high-tech light on trouble with an LED trouble light from Neiko Tools. Best of all, no cord exists to trip over or get entangled. The light works with rechargeable batteries.

- 100,000+ hour-life.
- Long-life 7.2 volt battery: one charge lasts up to six continuous hours.
- UL-listed AC quick-charger fully charges the light in less than two hours.
- Impact resistant case with rubber bumpers, powerful magnet and two hooks for easy placement.
- Two settings of high and low light. (See inset photos.)
- One-year warranty.

Since the light is cordless it can be used in more places than the repair shop. Use it like a flashlight around the house, under sinks and more. It's also great for camping or late night walks. It costs \$26 on amazon.com. 🖱

Safety sense

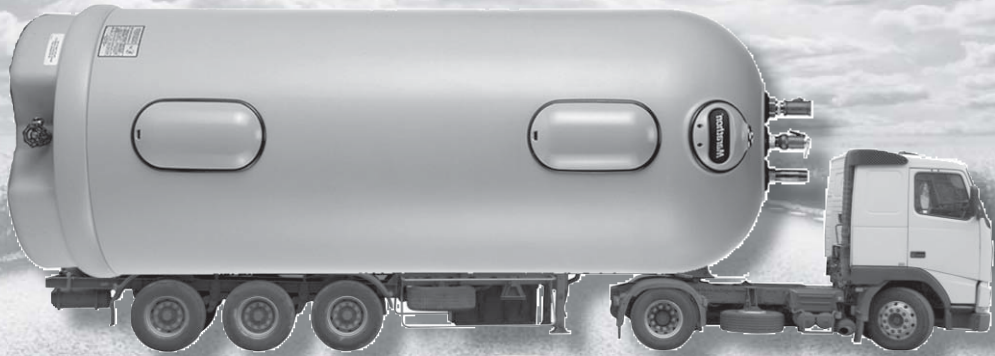
Snowmobile safety is 'snow' joke

If you snowmobile this winter, it is very important that you be aware of the danger in colliding with powerline anchors, guy wires, underground cabinets and pedestals. Collisions with any of these pieces of equipment could cause serious injury or death. Please be careful.

Be aware of the obstacles along the rights-of-way. Your electric cooperative has poles, guy wires, cabinets, pad-mount transformers and pedestals installed on thousands of miles of rights-of-way in our co-op's service area. Guy wires need special attention as they can be on several sides of a pole and can be difficult to see. Remember that your electric cooperative is only granted easements to build and maintain lines in these areas. The property does not belong to us. Be sure to check with the property owner before snowmobiling on their property. 🖱



Marathon water heaters are in it for the long haul



Marathon water heaters are built to last. They come with a limited lifetime warranty. Electric, efficient, economical and enduring — Marathon water heaters save you a trip when it comes to high energy bills.

Call your electric co-op today



Brown County
Rural Electrical
Association
507-794-3331



Nobles Cooperative
Electric
507-372-7331 or 836-6107



Rural Electric
507-847-3520 or 728-8366



South Central Electric
Association
507-375-3164 or 628-5571

Building new power plants takes time for licensing & construction

— Continued from Page 2
consumption spikes. Plus, co-ops provide interactive energy-use calculators on their websites. More than 40 percent offer efficiency and weatherization services, including rebates for high-efficiency lighting systems, electric water heaters, geothermal and air-source heat pumps and Energy Star appliances. Simply put, the more we can do to conserve electricity and use it efficiently means fewer power plants must be built in the future.

Renewables have limits

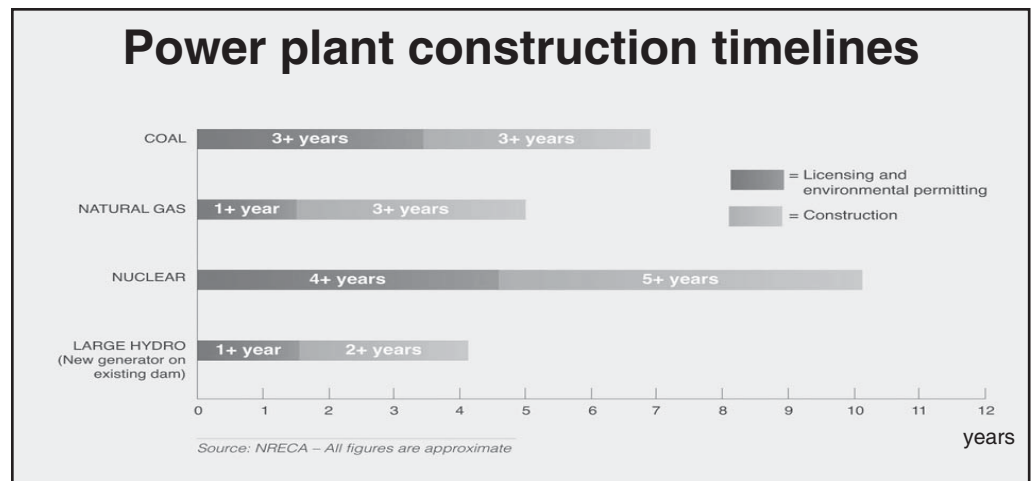
Renewable energy, like wind and solar power, holds great promise. Consumer-owned electric co-ops blazed trails when it comes to developing renewables. Today, more than 80 percent of the nation's 900-plus electric co-ops supply electricity produced by wind, solar, hydro, biomass (including landfill gas, livestock waste, timber byproducts, and crop residue), and other "green power" sources. This makes up about 11 percent of all co-op kilowatt-hour sales.

Yet, renewables have some limits. Wind, for example, which has the potential to meet 20 percent of the country's electricity needs, must overcome two main hurdles: construction of additional high-voltage transmission lines to bring generation produced at wind farms, usually located in remote rural areas, to population centers; and "intermittency" when the wind only blows 30 percent to 40 percent of the time and generally not during times of peak electricity use on hot, humid summer weekday afternoons. Electric co-ops are heavily involved in research needed to develop better batteries to store wind and solar energy; this breakthrough would allow these resources to become full-time sources of electricity. Additional work must take place before these batteries become viable.

New power plants needed

These changes will help, but electric co-ops must plan for the future and building new power plants. Unfortunately, power plant construction costs skyrocketed recently as international demand for coal, steel and concrete climbs.

Presently, 50 percent of the nation's electricity supply and 62 percent of electric co-op power requirements come



from coal. Despite rising costs, power plants built in the near-term will burn coal more cleanly and efficiently than ever before. Even more encouraging, concerns over coal's contribution to climate change could be alleviated within a decade if power plants captured carbon dioxide gas before it goes up a smokestack, compress it and then pump it deep underground for permanent storage; this requires Congress providing sufficient funding for the necessary research and development.

Nuclear energy also remains part of the solution, even though only a handful of nuclear power plants have come online in this country over the past 20 years. None have been ordered since the 1970s. Nuclear power, which emits only clean water vapor, generates 20 percent of all electricity in the U.S. and about 15 percent of electric co-op power needs. Estimates suggest it will take 10 years to bring a single nuclear reactor online.

Providing more electricity and dealing with climate change are important challenges our country faces. Our commitment to you, as we strive to keep the lights on, will be encouraging lawmakers and regulators to seek out practical, long-term remedies to our nation's energy problems based on new technology. Solutions will allow us to continue providing safe, reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion.

Electric co-ops have no magic bullet to offer — only our hard work and a commitment to your best interests. We will continue to put you, our members, first. 🗡️

— Courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Federated focus:

Iowa members may resolve complaints



If you have a concern or complaint regarding Federated Rural Electric, it should be addressed to: Richard Burud, manager, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or call 507-847-3520.

If Federated does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from: Utilities Board, Department of Commerce, 350 Maple St., Des Moines IA 50319-0069 or call 515-281-5979.

If your complaint is related to service, rather than rates, and Federated does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Utilities Division too.

Cogeneration notice posted

Federated is obligated by state and federal law to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and power producers. Federated will provide upon request a copy of the "Plan for Compliance" that discusses: rates; terms and conditions of interconnections; technical requirements; a sample contract containing the applicable terms and conditions; and pertinent rate schedules.

Disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are resolved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. If interested, call Federated; ask for Richard Burud or use info@federatedrea.coop.

Got a building project in 2008?

Let Federated know if you are planning on building or remodeling your house, adding grain bins or hog barns. You may need your electric service upgraded. We want to make sure we have sufficient materials on hand and include it in the work schedule planning. Call and talk to Joe at 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520. 📧

It takes a big hole to 'plant the seed' for co-op's wind turbine



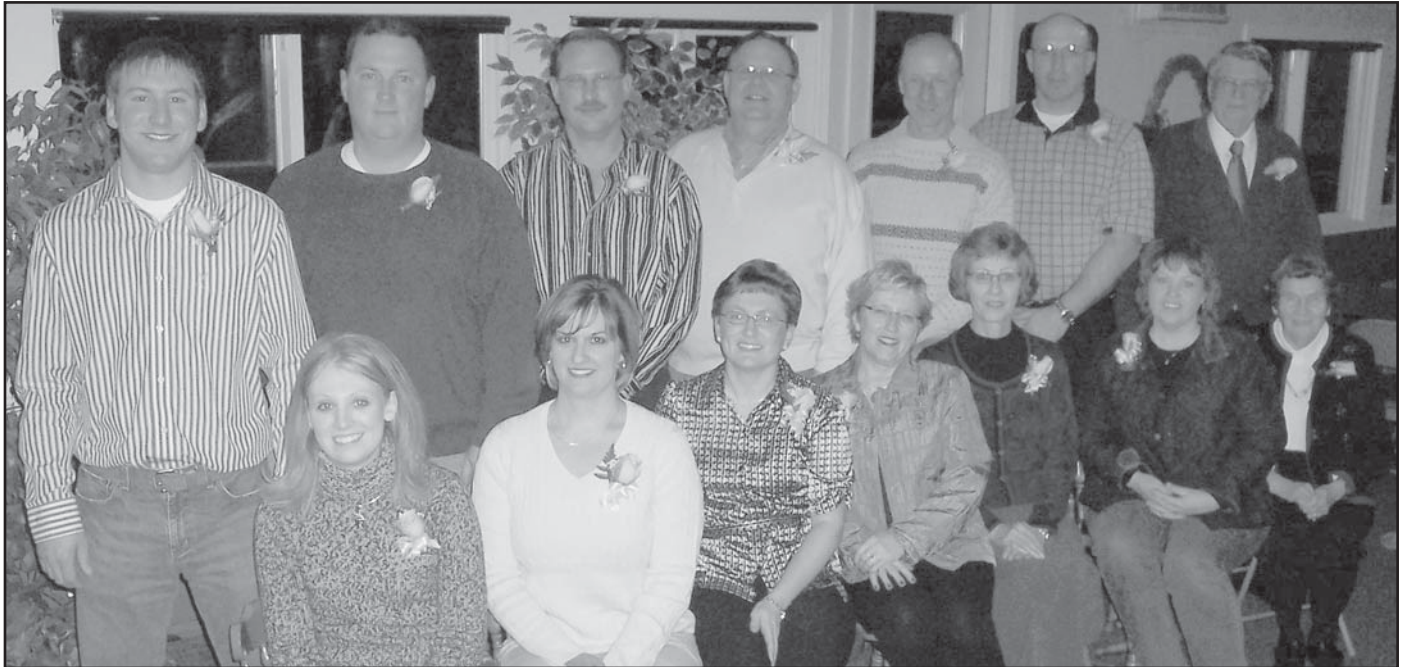
After much nurturing, the co-op's wind turbine east of Welcome will sprout in February! The 30-foot deep hole for the foundation was dug in January. Crews are installing the foundation. The Suzlon turbine tower sections are slated to arrive from Porter, Minnesota, in mid-February. The blades are built in Pipestone, Minnesota. With good weather and a little luck, Federated hopes the wind turbine will sprout (be erected) in March.



Workers line up the anchor bolts in the frame at the bottom and top of the 15-foot wide hole (above photo). Then they add the 1 3/8-inch bolts on top to secure it to the frame before the concrete is poured (below photo). 📧



Tipping the hard hat for 140 years of service!



Congratulations! 2007 Federated anniversaries were recently recognized. The Federated employee or director is listed first and they are pictured (left to right) with spouses (in front or back). Kollin & Lisa VanDeVere; Julie & Carl Edlin, Andrea and Dean Christoffer, Joan and Dave Hargan, Maureen Clark, Kerry Ella, Mike & Connie Scheff, Lyle & Millie Fisher.

140 years of service were recognized at last month's recognition banquet for employees and directors.

In addition, retired Director Richard Barke (21 years) and former lineman Mark Raboin (33 years) were recognized for their Federated service.

Federated thanks these individuals for their service to cooperative members. 🛠️

2007 Federated Anniversaries

Kollin VanDeVere, Journeyman Lineman	5 years
Julie Edlin, Customer Service Representative/Billing	5 years
Maureen Clark, Executive Secretary	10 years
Lyle Fisher, Director	15 years
Andrea Christoffer, Marketing & Communications Manager	15 years
Mike Scheff, Journeyman Lineman.....	20 years
Kerry Ella, Journeyman Lineman.....	30 years
Joan Hargan, Customer Service Representative/Billing	40 years

Look for our booth

Pick up info on our rebates & money-saving programs

- Fairmont Spring Expo at Five Lakes Center March 7-9
- Jackson Farm & Home Show at AGCO Training Center March 15

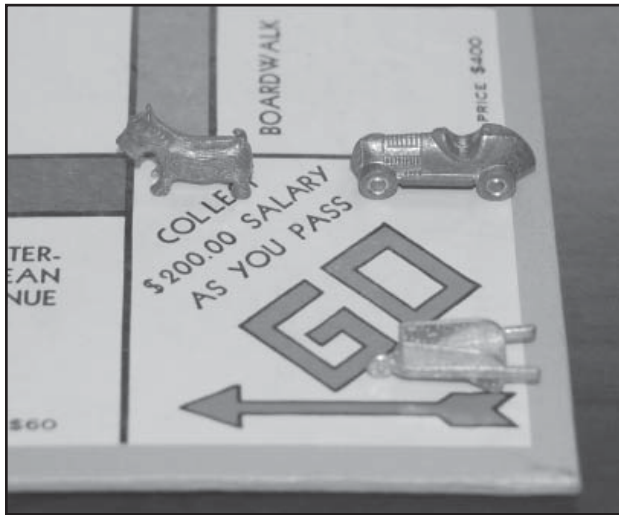
Register for door prize

Teens: Win Federated's free trip to Washington, D.C June 14-19

Encourage high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors to enter by February 29.

The student fills out the application & writes a 300-word essay on an energy-related topic. Five finalists will be interviewed March 24.

Applications are available from school counselors. Otherwise, call Federated (847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520) or e-mail (info@federatedrea.coop).



No one has a 'Mon Help us find these

Help us find these former members. It's their turn to pass "Go" and collect capital credits.

Your electric co-op is trying to locate these missing members. After moving off the cooperative's system, we no longer have their current address. They passed go without collecting money — capital credits checks. If you know the location of any of these members, call or e-mail the appropriate co-op with the member's current address. You're helping us find these former members!

Unclaimed capital credits checks are donated to a tax-exempt organization. Brown County REA, Nobles Cooperative Electric and Federated Rural Electric give unclaimed capital credits to their Operation Round Up program. Brown's Round Up Trust Board donates to programs that benefit their rural residents and local communities. Nobles and Federated's Round Up Trust Boards award high school scholarships. South Central Electric donates funds to local fire departments and rescue squads. 🐾

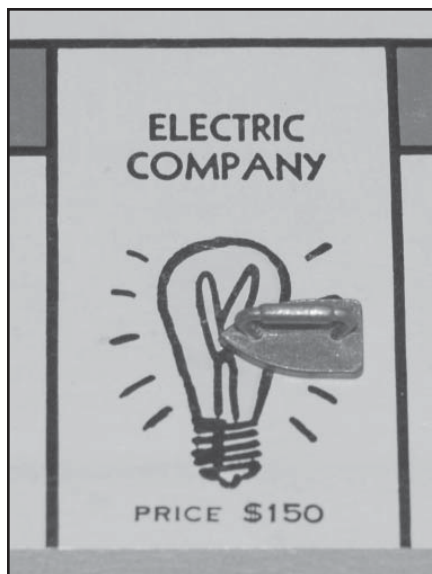
Former Brown County members: Call 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail bcrea@sleepyeyetel.net.

Ackerson, Stewart L.	Fargo, ND
Bartol, David H.	Pine River
Blaschko, Norita	Columbus, OH
Burghart, Dorothy	Little Rock, AR
Carmichael, Terry	Rowlett, TX
Catherman, Daniel R.	La Valle, WI
Cline, Dale	Huxley, IA
Dahlen, Larry A.	Irving, TX
Danielson, Curtis D.	Sleepy Eye
Duis, Martin L.	Wadena
Eastmann, Shawn M.	New Ulm
Elias, Kenneth L.	Racine
Erickson, Glenn L.	Mankato
Erickson, Rebecca	Shell, WY
Fitzgerald, John P.	New Ulm
Frederiksen, Scott C.	Wabasso
Gonzales, Jesus	Hanska
Hall, Ted J.	Maple Shade, NJ
Halverson, Steve P.	New Ulm
Hemb, Randall	Oak Creek, WI
Henrichs, Steven L.	Fairfax
Hensley, Edna L.	Franklin
Hillesheim, Joseph A.	Pickerington, OH
Hovland, Sr., Hubert D.	Battle Lake
Huelskamp, James J.	New Ulm
Iffert, Daniel L.	Clark, SD
Ittel, Mrs. Joyce	Winthrop
Johansen, Julius H.	Osceola, WI
Johnson, Delores L.	Monticello

Johnson, Paul D.	New Ulm
Kliner, Dale	Blackstone, VA
L.P. Triax Midwest Assn.	Denver, CO
Lenzen, Dennis J.	New Ulm
Luong, My Van	Bartlesville, OK
Malsch, Daniel J.	Marysville, WA
Martens, Kenneth W.	Mankato
Mastick, Rob R.	Highlands Ranch, CO
Miller, Dean	Redwood Falls
Moser, Todd W.	Morris
Musich, Michael J.	Redwood Falls
Nelson, Devin	New Ulm
Neubauer, Vincent T.	Mankato
Nowak, Randy A.	Minong, WI
Oswald, Roger L.	Burnsville
Peterson, Diane M.	Winnebago

Roeser, Alan	New Ulm
Rosales, Jr., Felix	Sleepy Eye
Rose, Jayme	Belleville, WI
Schultz, Edward C.	Searles
Sirovy, Edward L.	New Ulm
Sonnenburg, Charles	Crete, IL
Spicer, Debbie L.	New Ulm
Spicer, Gary	New Ulm
Stibal, Mabel	Silver Lake
Thompson, Dwight L.	New Ulm
Thompson, Kim M.	Rapid City, SD
US West Communications	Denver, CO
Westra, Stanley S.	Magnolia Springs, AL
Williams, Edward C.	Hanska

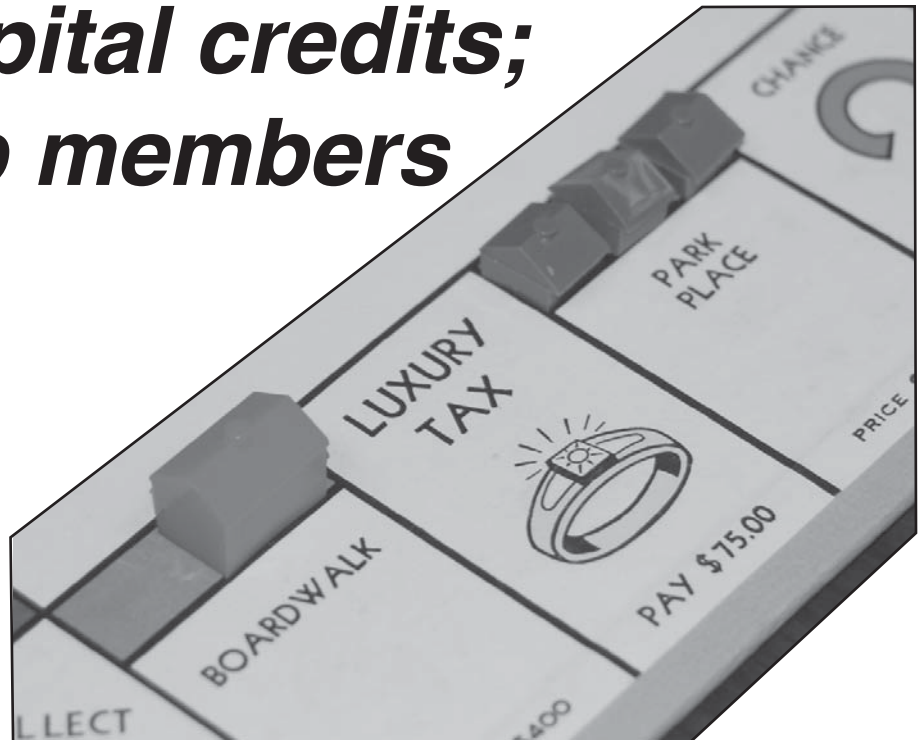
Former Federated members: Call 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Nina or e-mail billing@federatedrea.coop.



Abel, Henry	Fairmont
Adams, Jeff	Worthington
Anderson, Donald	Wilmington
Anderson, Michael	Heron Lake
Barbee, E. L.	Sun City, AZ
Black, Brad	Keota, IA
Blien, Phillip James	St. Paul
Bonnicksen, Terry	Fairmont
Bremer, Donald J.	Mesa, AZ
Buhler, Larry A.	Windom
Bullock, Robert	Windom
Burmeister, Lee & Janet	Fairmont
Cramer, Lawrence	Mankato
Carnes, Geraldine	Estherville, IA

opoly' on capital credits; former co-op members

Cypher, John	Truman
Diekmann, Eugene	Fairmont
Dirks, Douglas	Ellsworth
Domek, Marty	Estherville, IA
Engler, Jake	Lakefield
Flatbo, Craig	Jackson
Frick, Velvet	Mankato
Fritz, Valda G.	Fairmont
Hatch, Arnie	Truman
Henderson, Opal	Cushing, IA
Hillmer, Mrs. Ralph	Fairmont
Illif, Diane	Blue Earth
Isaak, Ruth Ann	Carroll, IA
Iseminger, Richard	Palmer, AK
Jacobson, Greg	Heron Lake
Johnson, Alan	Wells
Jones, June	Lakefield
Kain, Calvin	Findlay, OH
Kling, James B.	Ceylon
Knutson Mortgage % Cavers Realty	Fairmont
Krumholz, Mark	Fairmont
Larson, Jim	Rushmore
Larson, Scott	Blue Earth
Luebben, Marcelline	Hastings
Maday, Doug	Welcome
McDowell, Kelly	Wimberley, TX
Meyer, Steve	Windom
Oelkers, James	Dunnell
Potter, Rex	Windom
Randall, Russell	Truman
Raasch, Lyle J.	Jackson
Rasche, Dennis	Sherburn
Reese, Richard	Spirit Lake
Risk, Duane	Welcome
Sasse, Daniel	Rushmore
Schliecher, Dean	Hastings
Schwager, Steve	Sherburn
Shank (Werner), Cindy	Osage, IA
Slykhuis, Curtis	Norfolk, NE
Streng, Calvin G.	Windom
Stump, Kent	Rapid City, SD
Sunseri, Joseph	Fairmont
Theisen, Leon	Fairmont
Thiele, Allan	Round Lake
Versluys, Rhonda	Welcome
Wagner, Bonnie	Lakefield
Webster, David	Fairmont
Weinrebe, Robert	Jackson
Wells, Teresa M.	Brewster
Wilcox, Alfred	Sioux Falls, SD



**Take it out of “Park” and go along “Boardwalk”
to help us find these missing members!**

Former South Central

members: Call 375-3164,
628-5571 or 1-888-805-7232; ask
for Betty or e-mail [bjohnson@
southcentralelectric.com](mailto:bjohnson@southcentralelectric.com).

Adams, Jerry	Oakland, IA	Fischer, LeRoy	Litchfield
Ager, Ross	Butterfield	Foster, Terry	Estherville, IA
Anderson, Ray H.	Faribault	Frederickson, Tim	New Carlisle, IN
Arends, Robert	Windom	Funk, Craig	St. James
Bell, Larry	Minneapolis	Funk, James	Donna, TX
Bicknase, James	Fairmont	Geerts, Francis	Charles City, IA
Bray, Paul	Fort Collins, CO	Glanzer, Andrew	Westbrook
Bredeson, Dan	Buffalo Center, IA	Goin, Paul	Boulder City, NV
Brogger, Steven	Jamestown, TN	Hampel, Brigham	Alpha
Brouk, Mike	Bruce, SD	Hanson, Joan H.	Mountain Lake
Carmichael, John	N. Mankato	Hawkinson, Max R.	Fremont, NB
Collins, Todd	Northrop	Heeren, Scott	Dunnell
Daly, William	Muscatine, IA	Heidelberger, Kenneth	Moorhead
Des Moines River Telemedia	Storden	Hendrycks, Jan	Lake Crystal
Dotson, Pat	Boca Grande, FL	Herman, Betty	Alpha
Douangboutdy, Nounpay	Storm Lake, IA	Hockel, Gary	Fairmont
Edwards, John	Danube	Hogan, Thomas	Sherburn
Emerson, Russel	Murfreesboro, AK	Holmgren, Douglas	Alexandria
Erickson Jr., Roger	Moville, IA	Janssen, Paul	Trimont
Fairchild, Jenell	Windom	Jeffers Metal Prod Mfg	Windom
Ferguson, Daniel	Jacksonville, FL	Johnson, David A.	Somerworth, NH
Fiala, Kenneth	Mountain Lake	Johnson, Thomas H.	Comfrey
Fink, Clarence	Fairmont	Johnston, Greg	Mankato
		Koch, James	Sioux Falls, SD
		Larson, Michael	Nisswa
		Leiferman, Paul	Owatonna
		Mertesdorf, Lee	Casa Grande, AZ
		Miller, Bob	Madelia
		Mudgett, Randy	Mapleton

— *Continued on Page 12*

Do you by 'chance' know wher

— Continued from Page 11

Nachreiner, Pat	Madelia
Nelson, Bruce	Warren
Nelson, Don	New Ulm
Nelson, Joey W.	Spirit Lake, IA
Nerhus, Robert	Mt. Zion, IL
Olson, Wayne A.	Madelia
Pederson, Marvin	Westbrook
Polzin Farms	Windom
Ramsey, Michael	Mountain Lake
Rengstorf, Ivan	Anoka
Ripley, Scott	Lynd
Schultz, Mike	Richmond
Shelstad, Raymond	Marshall
Smith, Gordon Charles	Barnum
Smith, Larry	Windom
Smith, Marcella R.	Lake Crystal
Soleta, Stella	Sanborn
Surber, John	Edgemont, SD
Valentien, Lyle	Alexandria
Voth, Vera V.	Windom
Waterbury, Vernon	Truman
Wedge, Alice	St. James
Welton, Richard	Windom
Werner, Wesley	Sanborn



If there is a 'chance' you can help us find these missing members, give us a call!

Former Nobles members:

Call 372-7331, 836-6107, 1-800-397-4592; otherwise, e-mail nce@noblesce.com.

Abels, Marvin	Brewster
Amundson, John L.	Currie
Andresen, Joel A.	Billings, MT
Barker, Elta E.	Jeffers
Baumgard, Herbert G.	Fulda
Bents, Steven C.	Lakefield
Berghorst, Richard L.	Edgerton
Bird, Michael J.	LaSalle
Bixby, Steven L.	Worthington
Bleyenber, Bob D.	Nunda, SD
Bottoms, Clarence A.	Slayton
Bradtke, Nancy & Richard Breczinski	Fulda
Brinks, Gerrit G.	Worthington
Brua, John	Eau Claire, WI
Buesing, Thomas M.	Slayton
Christensen, Ernest M.	Reading
Christensen, Robert L.	Sioux Falls, SD
Cole, Julie Weihert	Okabena
Clancey, Michael	Fairmont
D & D Farm	
%David Schleusner	Prior Lake

Dahlke, Kay L.	
(Kay L. Mulder)	Marshall
Dahms, Brian	Worthington
DeCock, Tom	Fairmont
DeGeest, Dan	Willmar
DeGroot, Mabel	Adrian
Detlefsen, Leo J.	Lamberton
Didier, Ryan	Fulda
Dittbenner, Eugene G.	Sanborn
Eldred, Gregg	Ellsworth
Eral, Adrian W.	Madison, WI
Erickson, Dale	Woodstock
Ewald, Edwin	Brewster
Feller, Raymond J.	Brewster
Foster, Stephen J.	Worthington
Frandsen, Gary M.	Marshall
Fresvik, Craig N.	Slayton
Gannon, Jacqueline	Ocheyedan, IA
Geerdes, Chris C.	Unknown
Giesen, Merlin	Windom
Ginter, Robert J.	Tracy
Hargens, Don	Slayton
Harris, Robert W.	Marshall
Heacock, R. J.	Tracy
Henderson, Don W.	Marshall
Hintz, Elton	Truman

Hoffman, Dennis A.	
%Dottie Hoffman	Bonifau, FL
Hohler, Herbert	Tracy
Holt, John D.	Rochester
Houselog, Darrell	Holland
Houwen, Kathleen	Worthington
Immens, Denise	
%Betty Aegerter	West Branch, IA
Johnson, Edwin L.	Napa, CA
Joldersma, Gregory	
%Progressive Adver Serv	Slayton
Jones, Dorothy F.	
%E. J. Malone, Agent	Luverne
Johnson, Rick J.	Slayton
K M Industries Inc.	Adrian
Kadolph, Ruby E.	Brookings, SD
Kinney, Joe	Sioux Falls, SD
Krall, Jeffrey A.	Fresno, CA
Kramer, David M.	Medford
Kramer, Steven L.	Adrian
Kroontje, Lila	Luverne
Lanie, Karen S.	Slayton
Larkin, Robert	Eau Claire, WI
Larson, Robert M.	Brandon, SD
Lemae Livestock	Primghar, IA
Lietzau, Shirlene	Arlington

Where are these missing members?



Lofthus, Imo J.	Minneapolis
Lowe, Clarice	Omaha, NE
Maras, Douglas J.	Brewster
Markl, Joe	Wilmont
Maus, Art	Ivanhoe
McBride, Russell J.	Slayton
McGirr, Jeffrey	Wessington, SD
McGraw, Peter J.	Reisterstown, MD
McLagan, Clayton L.	Sioux City, IA
McMillan, Pat	Fairbank, IA
Meier, Martin C.	Champlin
Meyeraan, Ronald	Wilder
Mischke, Tommas	Brewster
Miesner, Duane	Sherburn
Minnesota Livestock Supply Inc.	
Sioux Falls, SD	
Moe, Virginia	Pipestone
Moline, Ruth	
%Annabelle Nackerud	Walnut Grove
Motorola Inc.	Schaumburg, IL
Muecke, Phyllis R.	Slayton
Nelson, Gary D.	Mahnomen
Nelson, Harry B.	Slayton
Northwestern Bell	Denver, CO
Onken, William	Slayton

Oolman, Steven D.	Sioux Falls, SD
P & K Enterprise	Ruthton
Pantekoek, William C.	Mesa, AZ
Paplow, Gene	Fulda
Parker, Gary	Rockford
Peschges, Sherlynn	Walnut Grove
Peterburs, Loren	Lismore
Petersen, Byron M.	Lismore
Rathlisberger, Joyce	Prescott, WI
Rayl, Jr., John R.	Brooklyn Center
Reith, Bernice	Fulda
Rockman, Rodney	Webster City, IA
Rogne, Barry	Pipestone
Ruppert, Paul R.	Boise, ID
Sauer, Steven J.	N. Mankato
Schoer, Gary M.	Pemberton
Schomaker, Steve	Worthington
Schulte, Duane H.	Ruthton
Sittig, David R.	Sherburn
Speer, Violet E.	
%June Pantekoek	Glendale, AZ
Spencer, Richard L.	Marshall
Staples, Kent R.	Miltona
Steffler, Rod	Ruthton
Stenke, Arthur	Windom
Stephens, Jeffrey N.	Okabena
Stewart, Kathy	Dolan Springs, AZ
Swanson, Jeffrey D.	Slayton
Sweetman, Patrick J.	Marshall
Tellinghuisen, Leon C.	Chino, CA
Terpstra, Linda J.	Des Moines, IA
Thoene, Nancy Jo	Worthington
Toel, Louis	Le Mars, IA
Toering, Keith	Edgerton
Trout, William S.	Windom
Uhlenkamp, Jr., Leroy H.	Waseca
Uppman, Mary Lee	Worthington
VanderHaar, Harriet	Chandler



VanderVeen, Bernard	Worthington
VanDyke, Timothy W.	Jasper
Voss, Laura A. (Lori A. DeBates)	
Worthington	
Waddell, John R.	
%Jackie Sieverding	Westbrook
Wagner, James	Adrian
Weber, Steven	Paola, KS
Weller, Richard J.	Bloomington
Wentworth, Howard	Inwood, IA
Wentzel, Bruce	Sioux Falls, SD
Wilder, Tim A.	Marshall
Windmills West Inc.	Primghar, IA
Wysong, Nick	Steen
Ypma, Evert	Glenwood
Ziemke, Robert S.	Marshall



Thanks for helping these members pass go to collect their money!

Tell me more about capital credits

As a member-owner, you have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric co-op. Your co-op's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make loan payments and provide an emergency reserve. Revenues in excess of the cost of doing business are returned to members as capital credits. The co-op holds onto these capital credits for a period of years, according to policy, before returning them to you, the member-owners. The reason your co-op holds onto these monies is because your co-op is a very capital-intensive business. It needs to invest a lot of money in substations, transformers, poles, wire, etc. This then allows your co-op to provide reliable electricity to its members. ➡

Just like human athletes, the racing pigeons need proper diet & training

— *Continued from Page 3*

might be further from the starting line than another. Hence, the bird with the best yards-per-minute rating wins. The fastest I've had a bird fly the 600-mile distance between here and Oklahoma was 11 hours and 45 minutes. On average they fly about 40 miles-per-hour. With a good tail wind they can reach 70 miles-per-hour. A bad head wind reduces them to 8 miles-per-hour."

Once released the pigeons circle two or three times to get their bearings and then head for home. "No one understands how pigeons find home," Besemer said. "The most accepted answer is that it involves electromagnetic fields. If the birds have their nose plugged, they find home. If the birds are blindfolded, they find home. If a magnet is placed on their back, they can get lost."

Besemer reports that age and experience make a difference in the success of the pigeons. "About 50 percent of first-year racers complete a 300-mile race. Some might get lost; hawks might attack others; and even storms can stop them. Second-year racers also have a 50 percent chance of making it back because they race further, typically 600 miles. Once a bird reaches its third year of racing,

it has the experience to make the journey nearly every time no matter the distance."

Besemer feeds his pigeons like they were athletes. "They need protein, fat and carbohydrates to race," he said. "Their diet is a mixture of wheat, milo and other grains. They also require training to get in shape. I let the young birds fly around the home place until they get used to it. Then I take them a mile or two down the road, then 5 miles, 10, 20 and so on until they are strong enough to compete."

Genetics are also a key component in raising strong birds. "You have to use selective breeding to get the best pigeons," Besemer said. "Pigeons typically lay two eggs. The male and female then take turns sitting on them. Once the chicks hatch they are fed pigeon milk. Both male and female birds produce this substance. It is secreted from the lining of their crop. As the chicks grow, the adult birds give them a mixture of pigeon milk and solid food until they are old enough to digest solid food."

Pigeon owners keep their birds healthy by being alert for various diseases. "Pigeons contract things like e-coli, salmonella and other illnesses," Besemer said. "They can also have problems with lice and mites.

Not surprisingly a lot of veterinarians don't have much experience with birds since people don't keep a lot of poultry these days. Hence, I monitor their health myself. Pigeon owners also keep an eye on their own health. An allergy called 'Pigeon Lung' exists. Pigeon feathers have a fine dust on them that can affect humans after prolonged exposure. I've never had a problem with it, but I do wear a mask when I work with them now."

Besides racing, Besemer also uses his birds for public events. "I have some white pigeons that I release for funerals, weddings, ball games, Memorial Day celebrations and Relay for Life," he said. "You just show up, let them go and they are waiting for you when you get home."

Like human athletes, pigeons have a Hall of Fame. "World of Wings is a pigeon museum in Oklahoma City," Besemer said. "Not only does it have displays on pigeon sports, but it also has a lot of information on their history and how they were used to deliver messages in World War I and World War II. If the soldiers saw pigeons, they would often shoot at them in case they carried messages. As a result, many birds flew home wounded. Those stories can be pretty amazing." ✎

Don't dig up trouble! Contact GSOC first this winter!



1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep. Make this call 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register on the website at www.gopherstateonecall.org. This gives utilities time to mark their underground lines up to your meter so you are safe! Then contact a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ✎

Readers' recipes

Beef up meals with a few new beef recipes

Herd your family to the table with these beef recipes. Enjoy! 🐾

Pig out with pork!



Pig out on pork meals. Share with us your recipes using pork, whether it's pork chops, pork roast, pork ribs, pork sausage, bacon or ham!

Mail these pork recipes by March 24 to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, drop it off at your local electric co-op. Add your name and phone number. 🐾

Flavorful Pot Roast

by Bev Hines, Bingham Lake

Two 2½ lb. boneless beef chuck roasts

1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix

1 envelope Italian salad dressing mix

1 envelope brown gravy mix
½ c. water

Place both chuck roasts in a 5-quart slow cooker. In a small bowl combine the salad dressings and gravy mixes; stir in the water. Pour over the meat. Cover and cook on low for 7-8 hours or until tender. If desired, thicken the cooking juices for gravy. Yields: 12-15 servings. 🐾

Oriental Skillet Dinner by Robin Gehl, Dundee

5 stalks celery, sliced diagonally
2 onions, sliced in rings
1 green pepper, sliced thin
1 or 2 lbs. minute steak or a similar meat, sliced into small chunks
1 can tomatoes (stewed tomatoes can be used and add fresh chopped tomatoes, if desired)

Fry the celery, onion and pepper in hot oil until crisp tender. Put these in a bowl until later. Quickly brown the meat in the same pan. When the meat is browned, add the sauce and stir until thickened (1 or 2 minutes). Add the drained tomatoes, celery, onions and pepper. Heat and serve over rice.

Sauce: 2 or 3 T. cornstarch 2 T. vinegar 2 T. white sugar
Juice from tomatoes and water to equal 2 c. liquid ½ c. soy sauce 🐾

Appetizer Meatballs by Rita Lear, Slayton

2 lb. hamburger 1 med. onion, minced or 1 T. dry minced onion
1 tsp. salt ½ tsp. each garlic salt and pepper
2 eggs, beaten 5 slices bread soaked in milk, squeeze out milk.
Mix well; shape into bite-sized balls. Place on a baking sheet and bake at 450° for 15-20 minutes or brown in the microwave.

Sauce: 29 oz. can diced or chopped tomatoes ¼ c. vinegar
1 c. plus 2 T. brown sugar ½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. onion, grated 8 to 10 gingersnap cookies

Cook the sauce until thick; put in the meatballs and simmer a half hour or place in a crockpot and cook on high one hour or low for two hours. Leave on warm in the crockpot until ready to serve. 🐾

Barbecued Beef Roast by Carol Lochner, Sleepy Eye

3 to 4 lb. beef chuck roast 1 T. vinegar 1 med. onion, chopped
1 tsp. salt ¼ tsp. pepper

Bring the above to boil in enough water to cover the meat. Simmer about three hours. Remove the meat and cool some. Keep some juice. When cool enough to handle, remove the fat and shred the meat.

Sauce: 14 oz. bottle ketchup 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
½ to 1 c. sweet pickle relish 8 oz. can tomato sauce

Mix well and serve warm on buns. Some juice can be added if needed. Mix well and serve warm on buns. Some juice can be added if needed. 🐾

Baked Steak by Irleen Deling, Ceylon

1 slice round steak, any size
1 pkg. dry Lipton onion soup mixed with 1 c. water
1 can cream of mushroom soup
Place the steak in a shallow pan. Pour the soup over the top. Cover tightly with aluminum foil. Bake 2½ hours at 325°. 🐾



Look for this Energy Star logo when buying appliances. See which ones the co-op offers rebates on before shopping.



Richard 'Rick' Burud

Manager's message

Power costs to Federated increased January 1st

As I have stated previously, the increased price of wholesale power purchased from Great River Energy (GRE) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) increased January 1st. The price will be passed on to members dollar for dollar in the power cost adjustment (PCA) on your monthly billing. It should be between \$5-\$7 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours used since January 1st. Remember, you will not see this PCA until you receive the electric bill mailed February 27.

Wind project progressing

Your cooperative's wind project is officially under construction! The footings will be completed by the first half of

February with the erection of the turbines hopefully completed in March if all goes as planned. As you know, building in the winter has additional challenges and our schedule is subject to Mother Nature. Check our website for photos to watch the construction progress.

Energy-saving compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) approved by Board

You will see your cooperative give rebates, selling CFLs at substantial savings and helping you, the customer, save on your energy costs, while keeping the same lumens of light. Look for these promotions throughout 2008.

What's the future for our electricity?

I'm often asked about this as I visit with members. Well, I've been in the business since 1970 (that dates me) and I believe that we'll see the following:

1. It becomes harder to build power plants and transmission lines.
2. Environmental mandates will be imposed, increasing costs and challenge our ability to provide power.
3. Demand for electricity will continue to increase, but will slow with the economy.
4. Prices will increase annually. These usually lag behind LP, natural gas and oil price increases.
5. New innovations will reduce electricity use in areas. For example, watch for LED light bulbs, energy-efficient buildings and even more efficient appliances.
6. Renewable power will evolve to be an economical option for power supply.
7. Look for hybrid vehicles to make large advances, but it increases the need for "off-peak" electricity.

Got a question? Drop me a note!

If you have a question or concern about your electric cooperative, just drop me a note with your electric bill and I promise to get back to you with the answer. Otherwise, e-mail info@federatedrea.coop. Again, thanks for your patronage. 🖱



Rural Electric

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Monday-Friday

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Jim Oltman, Sec./Treasurer — 464-3479
Glenn Dicks — 662-5321
Lyle Fisher — 847-4757
David Meschke — 238-1122
Jon Saxen — 764-3771

The Board of Directors meets the last business day of the month at 9 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

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