



Helping Members Manage Energy with SmartHub.

Monitoring your account and energy usage is as easy as flipping on a switch.



SmartHub is the FREE, easy, and safe way to manage your electric account online. As a part of the Member Hub on our website, you can log in or download the SmartHub app to your Apple or Android device. Use it to monitor daily electricity use or other important real-time details. It's another way Farmers EC makes sure you're in power with interactive ways to manage your energy usage and your account.

No more writing checks or searching for stamps and envelopes! Use SmartHub to view and pay your bill online.

Follow the latest news and information, and keep in contact with your electric cooperative conveniently using SmartHub.

GO ONLINE AND SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB: FarmersElectric.coop



Stay connected by updating your contact information.



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

In the utility business, we know rough weather will occur, and sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. But did you know there are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible? By keeping your contact information up to date, you can take full advantage of the services Farmers Electric Cooperative offers.

You may have noticed prompts through our advertisements, social media, and in this very magazine requesting your updated contact information. If we don't have the correct phone number linked to your home address, it makes it much more difficult for you to report an outage.

In the not-so-distant past, members had to speak to a dispatcher in order to report a power outage. Waiting on hold could be frustrating and time consuming. Today, with the press of a button, you can easily report an outage.

At Farmers EC, we use the phone number you provide to link your service address to our outage management system. For example, if you call us to report an outage, our automated

system instantly recognizes your phone number and can determine the particular service address from which you are reporting an outage.

Once you give our system a response, your outage is reported. It's that simple! But remember – this only works if your current phone number is linked to your service address.

Updating your contact information is helpful because it also speeds up the power restoration process. With correct information, our outage management system can predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

Updating your contact information is also helpful when it's time to mail Capital Credit Member Bonus checks. Each year we get back hundreds of Capital Credit Member Bonus checks due to invalid addresses. Often times the phone numbers are no longer in service.

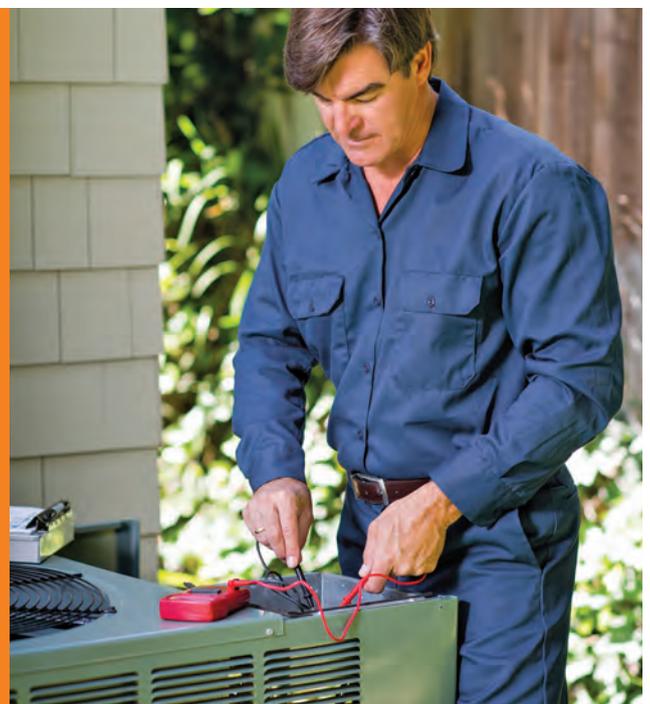
Update your information by calling the co-op at 903.444.1715 or use the form in the Member Hub at FarmersElectric.coop.



MEMBER RESOURCES

Your A/C unit could use a spring cleaning, too.

We make it easy with an HVAC Tune-Up Rebate.



JUNE DATES

Father's Day: Sunday, June 19

TAKE CHARGE & SAVE WITH 2016 REBATES

We offer many rebates to help members create a more energy-efficient home. These range from smaller items like light bulbs, to large scale changes of solar panels and attic insulation.

Learn more at: FarmersElectric.coop

2016 HVAC SYSTEM TUNE-UP

REBATE: \$50 | Existing / New Homes

RULES: Limited to one rebate per HVAC system per member per year. Rebates \$100 or less will be credited to your account.

2016 HVAC SYSTEM

REBATE: Up to \$500 | Existing / New Homes

RULES: Applies to new construction or replacement of an existing unit. Minimum seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of 15.0. Two-ton minimum to qualify. If replacing, it must include complete inside and outside components. NO rebates for window units or ductless units.

2016 ATTIC INSULATION

REBATE: Up to \$500 | Existing / New Homes

RULES: Additional insulation must obtain R-38 value to qualify for the rebate. The rebate is based on your attic's dimensions and the type of insulation you prefer.

2016 FULL WINDOW SOLAR SCREEN

REBATE: Up to \$200 | Existing / New Homes

RULES: Applies to the installation of new or existing windows. Purchase must have been made within 2016. Upgrades are for existing homes only. Rebate is \$10.00 per window up to \$200. Rebates \$100 or less will be credited to your account.

Save energy at home while on vacation.



Long holiday weekends away from home and summer vacation trips are just around the corner. Don't let your house waste energy while you're away. Before you load your suitcases into the car:

Check the thermostat. If it might get hot while you're away, leave the A/C on but set the temperature up to ward off mold and humidity. If you have pets at home, leave the thermostat at a comfortable setting.

Unplug appliances. You'll need to leave the refrigerator running, of course, but TVs, phone chargers, toasters, coffeemakers and other appliances use small amounts of electricity when they're plugged in but not in use. Unplug all of those devices before you leave so they won't use any electricity while you're gone.

Unplug computers. Chances are, your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, phone, printer and scanner are all near each other. Plug them all into a surge-protector power strip. That way, you have to pull only one plug to disconnect them all at once before you leave your home for an extended time.

Leave a light on. You don't want to advertise that nobody's home, so don't leave your house dark. Instead of indoor lamps and outdoor lights burning 24/7, connect them to programmable timers that will turn them on and off at the times you specify. Besides saving energy, the on-and-off lights will make your home appear occupied.



June: A time for fun and safety

While June is known for its warmer weather, vacations, and the first day of summer, many might not know that June is dedicated to safety: Both Home Safety Month and National Safety Month are observed during those 30 days. So take a break from fun in the sun to make sure your family is safe from electrical dangers.

Safe Electricity provides a checklist of basic safety essentials to help you keep your home safe from electrical fire and shock hazards:

Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children at home, install tamper-resistant outlets or cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.

Never force plugs into outlets. Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

Inspect electrical cords. Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high-traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors, or other objects.

Use extension cords only on a temporary basis—not as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect children from shock and mouth burns.

Check wattage to ensure that lightbulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Screw them in securely so they do not overheat.

Inspect ground-fault circuit interrupters. Make sure outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, garage, outdoors, or any area with water are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Test them monthly to ensure that they are working properly.

Be certain that fuses are properly sized for the circuit they are protecting. If you do not know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with one of the same size you are removing.

Faulty appliances or connections. If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect electronics.

Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, wires, or lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch, as well as lights that spark or flicker.

Be aware of constant fuse tripping. As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances, and electronics, your home's service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or breakers trip frequently, have a professional determine the appropriate upgrades.

COOL DOWN REFRIGERATOR COSTS

As warm temperatures settle in for the summer, refrigerators are set to get a workout keeping food and drinks cool for hot and thirsty friends and family members. Follow these tips to reduce the amount of energy your refrigerator uses.

Minimize the number of times you open your refrigerator. Plan accordingly so you don't have to leave the door open for prolonged periods of time. An open door allows warm, moist air to enter, which makes the compressor work harder.

Set the appropriate temperature. Keep your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit.

Place your fridge in a cool place. Position the refrigerator away from a heat source such as an oven, a dishwasher or direct sunlight from a window.

Allow air circulation behind the fridge. Leave a few inches between the wall and the refrigerator, and keep the condenser coils clean if you have an older model. Read the user's manual to learn how to safely clean coils.

Check the door seals. Make sure the refrigerator seals around the door are airtight. If not, replace them.

If you buy a new refrigerator, be sure to recycle your old one. Many appliance retailers will pick up and recycle your old refrigerator when you purchase a new one.



POWER TIP:

Having your AC inspected by a professional before you fire it up for the summer can save you money and headaches in the future. A service person should check the motor, blower, drain line, coils, operating pressures and temperatures, return and supply lines, refrigerant levels, and the air filter.