

Membership has its privileges.

We keep the best interests of our members at heart.



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

A few years ago, credit card company American Express had an advertising campaign with the slogan “membership has its privileges.” The point of the campaign was

that life was easier if you carried an American Express card.

Membership in Farmers Electric Cooperative has its privileges, too. Whether you signed up for service last week or shortly after we organized back in 1937, you are a member, not a customer, of this electric cooperative. We are more than just a utility provider that you pay each month for electricity. We strive to keep the best interests of our members at heart by providing solutions that make life easier.

A home energy audit is one of the solutions we offer our members that help to make life easier. Becoming energy efficient isn't an easy thing to do. But some sage advice from a trained energy auditor is a good place to start, especially when it doesn't cost you a thing. Once onsite, one of our auditors will check your home for air leaks, inspect your ductwork and insulation, and determine the temperature of the air coming out of the vents, among other things. Best of all, the energy auditor will make recommendations on how to improve your home's energy efficiency which will help to keep your electric bill in check.

We provide home energy audits at no cost to members of Farmers Electric Cooperative. If you haven't scheduled an appointment for your free home

energy audit, give us a call today at 903-455-1715. A free home energy audit is just one of the ways we keep our members best interests at heart.

If you prefer the do-it-yourself approach, we also offer an online energy audit through Touchstone Energy. This web-based app calculates energy consumption based on a detailed description of your home, its appliances, and its geographic location. Click the energy savings home tour at TogetherWeSave.com to get started.

We keep the best interests of our members at heart by providing an energy efficiency rebate program. With nine rebates in all, we believe we have the most robust energy efficiency rebate program of any utility around. Click the Rebates and Incentives link on our homepage at FarmersElectric.coop to get a full list of all the rebates we offer.

Did you know that members of Farmers EC are eligible for a \$50 rebate on HVAC tune ups? According to the Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for about 48% of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes. An HVAC tune up will get your system running efficiently so it doesn't have to work so hard to close the gap between the indoor and the outdoor temperatures.

Here's another did you know. Did you know we offer members a \$100 rebate when they replace their old fashioned incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs? Here's why we offer a rebate on these bulbs: According to Energy.gov, you can save \$75 each year when you replace your home's five most frequently used light bulbs

with LED models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating.

Membership in your electric cooperative does have its privileges. A FREE home energy audit and an energy efficiency rebate program are just two of the ways we keep our members best interests at heart. Visit our website at FarmersElectric.coop for other the solutions we offer members that help to make life easier.

HOLIDAY HOURS NOTICE

Farmers EC offices will be closed on:

Veteran's Day - Nov. 11TH

Thanksgiving - Nov. 26TH – 27TH



ENERGY TIPS

Helping Members Manage Energy

Keep the draperies and shades on your southfacing windows open during the day to allow warm sunlight to enter your home. Close draperies and shades at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Set your thermostat to “auto” so the blower fan will not operate continuously. A 1/2 HP blower fan consumes 3,850 kWh annually if it runs round the clock. It may only need to run a third or less if set on “auto.”

Membership Pays

Capital Credit Member Bonuses and a vehicle giveaway are added values to members.



This year, more than 49,000 members received their share of \$4.5 million in Capital Credit Member Bonuses returned by Farmers Electric Cooperative. Plus, one lucky member left the Annual Meeting with the grand prize: a 2006 Chevy Malibu. These are shining examples of the value of membership and how we value you as members. Our power is your power.

We thank all the members who participated in the Annual Member Meeting held in October.

Capital Credit Member Bonuses are a result of our financial stability.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR COOPERATIVE AT: FarmersElectric.coop





Fall Storm Preparations

Member Services in emergencies.

We typically think of Spring as the time when thunderstorms roll across our area, but Fall storms can also create problems. Here are a few guidelines on how to prepare, plus information about how we restore electric service.

Be Prepared

Keep a storm survival kit ready in case of a power outage. Be sure that you have drinking water, fresh batteries, a battery-powered radio and flashlights handy. You should also add your cell phone to your account so that you can send and receive outage alerts.

Service Restoration

Farmers EC's first priority in all situations remains the same: the safety of the members and our employees. We begin the service restoration process by determining the extent of damage in the affected areas; this information determines where we need to start our repairs.

1. Repairs are made first to eliminate any life-threatening conditions, such as downed wires or outages in public safety buildings and hospitals.

2. Repairs are next made in areas that will result in restored service for the largest numbers of customers.

3. Repairs that affect single homes are completed.

Because we can reroute power by remote control from our system operations center, many power interruptions last only a short time. However, if trees fall across power lines or high winds or lightning damage equipment, we need to dispatch crews to those areas; this can make the service restoration process take longer.

Please remember that more than one location on a power line can be damaged. If you see our crews leaving your area before your power is restored, it may mean that another area needs repair before power can safely be restored to your area, or the crew may need more equipment to finish the repairs. If all of your neighbors' lights are on and you are still without power, please call the coop at: 903 455-1715.

IF THE POWER GOES OUT

1. Report your outage

Use the Outage Center at: FarmersElectric.coop or call: 903 455 1715

2. Enact your emergency plan

Have a 72 hour kit. Communicate your plans with family members.

3. Stay away and call

Treat all downed wires as live and dangerous. Stay at least 20 feet from lines.

4. If it's dark, don't depart

Stay inside and don't venture out into darkness because you may not see downed power lines.

CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

It's hard to predict the weather, but it's easy to prepare for it. Here's how to plan ahead for unavoidable power outages that can accompany winter storms.

1. Have an Emergency Weather Band Radio

Listen to weather forecasts often so you'll know when high winds, heavy rains, or ice are on their way. Check batteries seasonally.

2. Prepare a 72 hour kit that contains:

fresh batteries, flashlight, candles, matches, a wind-up clock, bottled water (1 gallon per person per day), paper plates & utensils, and games for kids & adults.

Keep a stock of canned food and a manual can opener. Consider buying a camp stove and fuel that you can use (outdoors only) if you can't cook on your electric stove.

Pile a few extra blankets and sweaters together so you can find them easily if the heat goes out

3. Teach children the plan and dangers

Tell them about the dangers of fallen or sagging power lines. They could be energized and dangerous, even if the power is out. Show them how to use 911 and other emergency numbers.

4. Post outage reporting phone numbers

for Farmers Electric Cooperative on your refrigerator so they will be handy if you must report an outage: To report an outage, call 903-455-1715 or report your outage by text message. Text FEC to 85700 to begin.

We all hope that the weather will spare us, and we won't have any outages this winter. If we do, however, you can count on Farmers EC to restore power as quickly as possible.

Text Alerts give you instant outage info.

Another way we supply valuable information during an emergency.



We take pride in the service we provide the members of Farmers Electric Cooperative. That's why we've recently added the ability for members to notify us by text message during a power outage. Members can still report an outage by phone or online at our Outage Map. Once you sign up, you'll be able to report outages by text and receive notifications from us when the power has been restored.



Text the keyword
FEC to 85700
to begin.

Cell phone numbers must be listed on your account.
Call the co-op at **903 455 1715** to update your
membership record.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT TEXT ALERTS AND
THE OUTAGE CENTER AT: FarmersElectric.coop**

