

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

5 POINT PHILOSOPHY

3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

OPERATION ROUND UP

Members helping members, and our community.



Voted on by our members in 2006, Operation Round Up was enacted to become a way for outreach into the areas we serve. Each month, a member's electric bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. Some months may be a few cents more, others are a few cents less. On average, most members contribute about 50¢ per month. But through the strength of the entire cooperative, that change adds up to provide meaningful help to others.

This voluntary program gives members the ability to help those in need through the support of social, charitable, and civic programs in our service area.

Yearly giving for a member:

12¢ – \$11.88 annually

Average per member: \$6 per year

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES IS A FOUNDING PRINCIPLE OF ALL COOPERATIVES. LEARN MORE AT: FarmersElectric.coop



800 541 2662 | FarmersElectric.coop



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

YOU'RE IN POWER.

Giving Back Is the Co-op Way



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

Cooperatives across the globe adhere to Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions—from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is one of those principles, and one of Farmers Electric Cooperative's Five Point Philosophies. During this time of year, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of caring about and giving back to their communities. Farmers Electric

Cooperative sponsors community events like Boo on Ballard, the Wylie Championship Rodeo, the Hopkins County Fall Festival, and the Hot Rocks Bike Ride. Our members help us give back, too. Through the Operation Round Up program, members can round up their energy bills to the next whole dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping community service organizations or individuals and families in need right here in our community. So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially challenging during the holiday season. We are glad to be able to help Coventry, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Community Seeds, and many others.

Monetary donations to charities are one of the best ways to help, but there are many other ways you can support the community. Go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or you don't wear. Bag those items up and take them to a local charity. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly, or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need. You can get the whole family involved by helping sort donations and wrap gifts at a local charity. Just spending time with folks who feel forgotten, particularly at the holidays, also can be a tremendous gift.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give, we strengthen our community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Operation Round Up September grant recipients.

Coventry Reserve
Hopkins County Community Chest
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Terrific Tuesdays
Wylie Christian Care Center

Youth Tour & Scholarships

Each year Farmers EC sponsors two high school students to attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in Washington D.C.

We also offer scholarships for eligible high school seniors whose parents are co-op members.

Learn more about Farmers EC's commitment to our community at: FarmersElectric.coop.



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YOU'RE IN POWER.

4 WAYS TO WASTE ENERGY THIS WINTER.



What are the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to winter energy use? According to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, they are:

1. Buying big.

Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. An oversized unit wastes energy and will cost more on heating and cooling bills in the long run than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.

2. Overlooking leaks.

When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most efficient, most expensive system won't perform at peak if heated or air-conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

3. Under insulating.

Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. It's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space, and walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.

4. Skipping fans.

Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or air-conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break—and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity, but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

Find energy saving tips and rebates at: FarmersElectric.coop



Stay safe and warm this winter.

Heating a home typically accounts for 45 percent of energy bills, making it the largest utility expense for most consumers, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Being aware of potential hazards and using the device that's most efficient for your needs can make a big difference in safety and comfort. Farmers EC offers tips for heating your home in safe and smart ways.

Furnace

Check your furnace at least once annually. Removing built-up debris can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently. Also remember to replace your furnace filter regularly during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the airflow and make your home more energy efficient.

Thermostat

Turning the thermostat down a few degrees when you are away from home or sleeping also helps reduce your monthly utility bill. To help you do this automatically, consider investing in a programmable thermostat, which can lead to a 10–15 percent reduction in energy costs.

Space heaters

Space heaters are not cost-efficient when used to heat more than one or two small areas. However, they are a smart option when only one room needs to be heated. Make sure that you consider safety first and purchase only certified models that have been tested by an independent laboratory. Always place your space heater on a steady surface away from foot traffic to prevent it from being knocked over, and be on the lookout for units with a tip-over switch.

Electric blankets and heating pads

Make yourself aware of manufacturer's instructions, and use the product only as it is intended. Never use an electric blanket that is wet, or folded so that the wires are crimped. Perform regular checks to look for scorch marks or visible damage.

Fireplaces

Always make sure that your chimney is clear, and open the damper if there are warm ashes in the hearth that could lead to a dangerous build-up of poisonous gases.

Small-scale strategies

Remember not to overlook minor changes to help you stay warm this winter. When possible, dress in layers, with clothes that are tight and close to the skin so that they can trap heat near the body. Switch the rotation of your ceiling fan so that it circles in a clockwise direction, blowing rising warm air downward. Additionally, use curtains to help block out the cold air when closed at night and to let in the sun's heat when parted during the day.

Odds & Ends

Fair, festival, class or show—share your community event with us and we'll help you get the word out with the Farmers EC Community Calendar.

SEND TO: event@FarmersElectric.coop



CONGRATULATIONS TO GARY REPESEH, OUR NEWEST GREEN FARMER.

2017 Annual Meeting Grand Prize Winner

Gary won a 500kWh block of renewable energy for 5 years. When you sign up to purchase renewable energy, you'll lock in a reliable, affordable five-year rate that makes becoming a green farmer easy. You decide how much renewable energy is right for you: choose one block of power or eight blocks—up to 800 kWh.

**BECOME A GREEN FARMER.
LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP
AT: Go360Green.com**



HOLIDAY HOURS

Farmers EC offices will be closed for:

Christmas - Dec. 25 & 26
New Year's - Jan. 1

RECIPE



German Potato Bake

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups cubed, hot, cooked potatoes
- ½ pound processed cheese, cubed, divided use
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 5 crisply cooked bacon slices, crumbled, divided use
- ¼ cup chopped green onions, divided use
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 2 jar (2 ounces) chopped pimientos, drained
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon paprika

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large saucepan, combine potatoes, half the cheese and butter. Stir over low heat until cheese is melted.
3. Add 2 tablespoons bacon, 2 tablespoons green onions, mayonnaise, sour cream, pimientos and pepper. Mix well.
4. Spoon into 1½-quart casserole dish. Top with remaining cheese, bacon and onions. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake 20–25 minutes or until heated through.

Power Tip

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures such as turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with light-emitting diodes and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Did you know?

Animals are more sensitive to electric currents than humans. If you notice outdoor pets or livestock shying away from objects or hesitating to enter doorways, call an electrician. You might have stray voltage caused by poor grounding or defective electrical equipment.