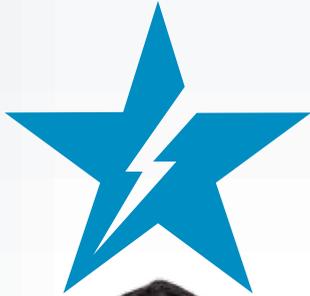


FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



5 POINT PHILOSOPHY



WE'RE FOCUSED ON OUR MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

- 1 LONG-TERM RATE STABILITY.**
We are locking in value with long-term consistent prices.
- 2 YOU'RE A MEMBER NOT A METER.**
Members are in power and it doesn't get any simpler than that.
- 3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.**
Giving back to our communities is a founding principle of all cooperatives.
- 4 OUTAGE PREVENTION.**
Whether replacing damaged lines or trimming trees, we are on it everyday.
- 5 MEMBER SERVICE INNOVATION.**
From easy payment methods to free home energy audits, we put members first.

LEARN MORE AT: FarmersElectric.coop



Electric grid reliability and resilience



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

Keeping the lights on in the event of a natural disaster or cyber incident is a major—and growing—concern for the electric industry. At Farmers Electric Cooperative, we take steps to lessen potential damage and ensure that the system recovers quickly so it can get back to the business of providing you power.

What's the Difference?

Power grid resilience and power grid reliability are frequently, and often interchangeably, referenced in conversations about keeping the lights on. This raises the question: What is the difference between reliability and resilience? Reliability means the ability of the power system to deliver electricity in the quantity and quality demanded by users. Reliability means that the lights are always on in a consistent manner. Resilience concerns the ability of a system to recover and, in some cases, transform from disruptive events. Resilience focused approaches to stabilizing the grid emphasize the idea that such incidents occur regularly, and systems should be designed and shored up to bounce back quicker and stronger.

Steps Toward Stability

A panel of national experts, including scientists from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, recently conducted a study on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy to make recommendations for improving grid security. The panel recommended more cooperation among stakeholders and stepped-up coordination on threat assessment, training and joint recovery planning. Major emphasis was placed on the need for research involving government and industry players, including NRECA and its member cooperatives. At Farmers EC, our own resiliency efforts involve every aspect of our operations—from the member service representatives in the call center to the linemen in the field, from the engineers in the control room to the communicators keeping the media and members updated.

Electric co-ops serve the most rugged, remote terrain in the country, covering more than 70 percent of the nation's landmass. We have learned how to restore power in incredibly difficult circumstances, and we're focused on increasing reliability and resilience for you, our members.

ONLY CRACKPOTS TAKE POTSHOTS



It doesn't take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot. During hunting season, careless shooters taking potshots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric company. Here's why:

- 1. You are inconveniencing your fellow member-owners** whose electricity has been disrupted. It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life-support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- 2. Damage to electrical equipment is expensive to repair.** Lines could be cut or weakened from a shot, and they might sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- 3. Broken insulators can cause power outages that are hard—and expensive—to find.** An insulator cracked by a bullet can remain on line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport, but be a responsible hunter. Teach children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.

10 TIPS FOR LOWER WINTER ENERGY BILLS



1. Use ceiling fans to make rooms feel warmer. Running your fan slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weatherstripping or caulk around windows and doors. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange furniture. Move sofas and rugs that are blocking vents, which can cause uneven heating.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. Turning back your thermostat for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades open during daylight hours to heat your home. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair leaks with a ductsealing compound.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature.
8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can help keep your home warm.
9. Install LED lights in the fixtures you use the most.
10. Limit your hot water use. Wash clothes in cold water and take shorter showers.

Take advantage of money saving Farmers EC Rebates this winter. Learn more and download your 2017 rebate form at: FarmersElectric.coop



Save energy while preparing a delicious holiday feast.

Baking pies, roasting a turkey and warming up the side dishes for your family's Thanksgiving feast can be hard on your electric bill if you rely on your oven to do all the work. This Thanksgiving, consider using your stovetop, barbecue grill, microwave oven, slow cooker, toaster oven, electric skillet or even your blender or food processor to prepare your bird and all the trimmings. Here are some tips for a more energy-efficient Thanksgiving.

Get busy grillin'.

Give your oven a break and your family a treat by frying, grilling or smoking your turkey outdoors. The smoky flavor can be a nice change from a traditional, oven-roasted turkey.

Quick warm up.

Use the microwave oven to heat up vegetables, potatoes and other side dishes.

No-bake side dishes.

Consider serving some foods that don't need cooking. The turkey, stuffing and potatoes will be nice and hot. Add some variety to the menu by preparing a few cold salads and raw vegetables with dip. Experiment with no-bake desserts, like frozen peanut butter pie or no-bake cheesecake.

Keep the oven door closed.

When you do use the oven, resist opening the door to check on the food. Every time you open the door, you let heat out, and the oven has to work harder to get back to the proper temperature. Use the window and light instead.

Bake everything at the same time.

The more your oven can do at once, the less time you'll need to use it. Leave enough room between items for air and heat to circulate.

Use energy efficient cookware.

Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They cook food at temperatures as much as 25 degrees lower than metal pans.

Perfect match.

The burners on your cooktop will work more efficiently if you match the size of the burner to the size of the pot. Placing a small pot on a larger burner wastes the heat from the part of the burner that doesn't touch the pot.

Keep burners and the oven clean.

There's no need for your appliance to spend any energy heating spilled, baked-on food that you haven't cleaned up yet. If you make a habit of using the self-cleaning function on your oven while it's still hot after you use it, it will use the residual heat and work more quickly.

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

BE PREPARED

Power outages

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



Water

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



Tools

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



First Aid

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medication for the family.

For more preparedness and storm safety tips visit Member Resources at: FarmersElectric.coop

Reminder

Daylight Savings is Sunday, Nov 5. Roll your clocks back one hour.

Holiday Hours

Our offices will be closed: Nov. 10 for Veterans Day, and Nov. 23 -24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Crews will be on standby in case of outages.

Power Tip

Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home, accounting for about 42 percent of your utility bill. With proper equipment maintenance, insulation upgrades, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.



RECIPE

Cranberry Piecake

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups frozen cranberries, thawed
- ½ cup walnuts, finely chopped
- 1½ cups sugar, divided use
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, melted and cooled
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon almond extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine cranberries, walnuts and ½ cup sugar, and spread over the bottom of greased 10-inch springform pan or pie plate.
2. Mix eggs, butter, reserved sugar, flour, salt and almond extract until smooth, then pour over cranberry walnut layer.
3. Bake 40 minutes or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.