



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

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



Farmers Electric Cooperative strives to bring value to our members by helping them better manage their energy usage. One of those methods is through our Energy Rebate Program. This program is unmatched by any other Texas co-op and is another way we help you save money on the things that save energy.

HVAC System Tune-Up: \$50 Rebate

This rebate is for existing homes and is limited to one rebate per HVAC system per member per year.

**FIND MORE MONEY SAVING REBATES
ONLINE AT: FarmersElectric.coop**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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YOU'RE IN POWER.

Give your electric bill a vacation too.



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

Taking some much-needed time away during spring break can be expensive. A great way to save money is to give your electric bills a vacation too. There are several steps you can take to trim your electricity usage while you're away.

Start by unplugging some of your household appliances. Your house has many items that always use electricity when they're plugged in, even when turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy but also can prevent fires during your absence. Some of the more common items are: TVs, DVD players, cable TV boxes, microwave ovens, toasters and other small kitchen appliances.

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. The fridge can be set as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can be set at 5 degrees. On these settings, you can conserve up to 40 percent of the refrigerator's electric usage.

If you are going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off entirely. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

Set the thermostat higher (or lower) than the typical comfort level. You should consider lowering your thermostat but to no lower than 55 degrees. Typically, you can save 10–30 percent on heating costs by doing this.

In warmer weather, you can shut off the air conditioner during your absence, or set it to a higher-than-normal temperature, 80 degrees or above. A programmable thermostat can make these adjustments automatically.

Turn down the water heater. A large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping



the water at the selected temperature. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the temperature to the lowest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.

Consider using timers to turn lights on and off every night. Timers can save energy and also give an appearance that someone is home. For the lights that will be on the longest—inside and outside—use CFL or LED bulbs. These use at least 75 percent less power than traditional bulbs and last longer.

Follow these tips while you're away for spring break and put your mind at ease about electric bills. Then you can enjoy that vacation even more!



ENERGY SAVING TIP

Water heating

Set water heater temperature no higher than 120°F—or 115°F if there are only one or two people in the household.

DOWNLOAD MORE ENERGY SAVING TIPS AT: FarmersElectric.coop

How does your HVAC flow?

Keeping it in tip-top shape creates efficiency and savings.



Top 5 energy users in U.S. homes



13%
Space cooling



11%
Lighting



9%
Water heating



9%
Space heating



7%
Refrigeration

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.

Source: America's Electric Cooperatives. Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014



Your HVAC system plays a key role in your comfort. The connections at vents and registers in your heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system are common spots for air leaks. Disconnected ductwork costs you money.

Make sure these areas are well sealed where they meet the floors, the walls and the ceiling.

Sealing and insulating ducts can help with common comfort problems, such as rooms that are too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter.

Leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling system efficiency by as much as

20 percent. Sealing and insulating ducts increases efficiency, lowers your energy bills and can often pay for itself in electricity savings.

Clean the area around the outdoor components of your HVAC system. Outdoor debris can build up over the seasons and effect efficiency.

As the seasons change, it's a good idea to have a professional inspect and tune up the HVAC system.

Don't forget to change air filters regularly. Dirty filters lower efficiency and increase the cost of operating your HVAC system.



Changing your air filters has never been easier.

Replace your air filters regularly for efficient HVAC performance. Shipped directly to your door, Farmers EC makes it easy with FilterChange.coop. Order online and set up reminders while saving up to 15% on heating and cooling costs.

SIGN UP TODAY AT: FilterChange.coop

AND LOOK FOR MORE MONEY SAVING REBATES ONLINE AT: FarmersElectric.coop

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



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

2018 Farmers EC Scholarships

Each year, Farmers EC awards \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors. The scholarships can be applied toward tuition, housing, meal plans and/or books at a college, university or technical school of the student's choice.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Parent or guardian must be a member of Farmers Electric Cooperative at their principal residence.
- Student must be currently enrolled as a high school senior.
- Student must be planning to attend a college, university, or technical school as a full-time student in the fall of year for which the scholarship is applied.
- Student must have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

2018 Scholarship Application deadline April 6, 2018.
Download an application at: FarmersElectric.coop

March Dates

Daylight Savings - Sun 11th
Set your clocks an hour ahead.

Power Tip

The seasons are changing!
Call a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning tech to inspect your HVAC system before switching over from winter heating to spring and summer cooling.

Did you know?

Refrigerators in the U.S. collectively consume about the same amount of energy as 25 large power plants produce every year. Newer models run more efficiently than older ones, drawing less electricity and saving money on users' electric bills.



RECIPE

Raspberry Shortbread Thumbprints

A version of this recipe was a winner in the Cookie Swap recipe contest for November 2008.

INGREDIENTS

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raspberry jam

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine sugar, butter and almond extract. Beat at medium speed 2–3 minutes, scraping bowl often, until creamy. Reduce speed to low, add flour and beat 2–3 minutes more, scraping bowl often, until well-mixed.
3. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. With thumb, make an indentation in the center of each cookie (edges may crack slightly). Fill each indentation with about $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of jam.
4. Bake 14–18 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Let stand 1 minute, then remove from cookie sheet.