



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



November 2020

This Thanksgiving, Thank a Farmer

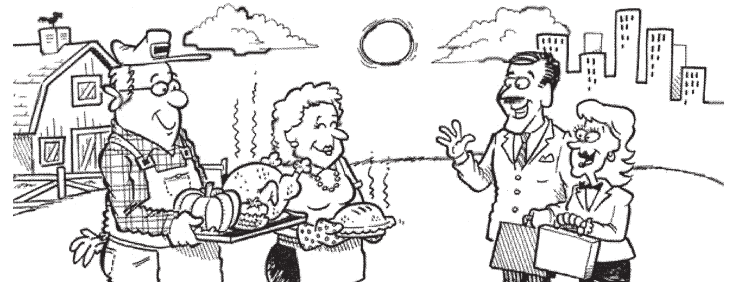
It's easy to take electricity for granted when all we have to do is flip a light switch or plug a computer in to use it.

And it's common to forget about the farmers who spend their days and their lives making sure we have a safe and plentiful supply of food to eat, when all we have to do is drive to the grocery store and pick up whatever we want.

Here's a friendly reminder to thank a farmer as you slice into your golden, juicy turkey this Thanksgiving.

Here are 10 reasons why, courtesy of the nonprofit Farm Policy Facts:

1. America's food supply is among the world's safest. Plus, we have plenty to eat and generally pay affordable prices for it.
2. Farmers work really hard to get that food on our table. They don't get to take a day off when it's 100 degrees outside or snowing like crazy.
3. Agriculture creates loads of jobs: more than 24 million and counting in the U.S.
4. Our country's farmers produce about 40 percent of all the corn in the world.
5. Each farmer feeds an average of 155 people.
6. For every dollar you spend on food, guess how much farmers get? Twelve cents.
7. Some farms are big, corporate enterprises. But most are family-owned.
8. Eighty percent of our food and fiber is produced by just 210,000 full-time American farmers.
9. As the world's population grows from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050, farmers will need to double the amount of food they produce to feed us all.
10. Our grocery bill is about 10 percent of our income —the lowest percentage of any other country.



Don't Shoot!

Safety and power reliability are top priorities at RVEC. Each year, many power providers experience outages caused by people, either intentionally or inadvertently, shooting at important power equipment such as utility poles, line insulators, 06.10.02 transformers and transmission towers. Even worse than the outages, is the potential for bodily injury caused by shooting at live electrical equipment. Not only could the shooting result in injury or even death, it also presents a risk to RVEC's line crews who must repair the damages and to member-owners who rely on the delivery of safe power for health care needs.

Shooting at power equipment is also vandalism and could result in fines and/or jail sentences.

If you are hunting or target shooting, we ask that you please take caution not to shoot at any utility facilities. Further, if you notice this type of vandalism on Cooperative lines, please contact the office.

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

The power you purchase from RVEC is not generated here (except for solar and a little wind). Most power is purchased by RVEC under a contract with Corn Belt Power Cooperative, a “generation and transmission” or “G&T” cooperative based in Humboldt, Iowa. They have some generation and purchase the rest of what they need from Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, ND. Corn Belt then uses their transmission lines to send the power to RVEC.

The power we purchase from Corn Belt is by far the largest share of our expenses. We do a good job of controlling expenses here, and work very hard to monitor and influence decisions at Corn Belt and Basin to provide how their actions affect you, the

member-owner “at the end of the line”. In a few weeks, RVEC management will present a 2021 budget that for the fourth straight year, will not have an electric rate increase. This is big! 21.05.01

In order to continue to deliver reliable, affordable and responsible energy to you, RVEC must continue to look for ways to save money. In the coming months, RVEC will implement programs that will reduce cost, make use of past capital investment, and save energy for our member-owners. Load management measures are coming to RVEC in 2021. Over the coming months, we will demonstrate what load management is and how it benefits the cooperative and you, the member-owner. Load management is when RVEC reduces, or “shaves” our energy use at the time of the month when Corn Belt is billing us for a “peak demand” period. The cooperative saves money and a rate increase is avoided.

One of the ways of using load management is on the electric water heaters on our system. If you have an electric water heater purchased from RVEC, you likely signed a “load management agreement” and received a discount on the unit plus an incentive. This agreement also allows RVEC to manage when the water heater heats the water. We use a sophisticated system of load management of water heaters so that you don’t even know it’s being done, but managing these units can save RVEC some of the peak demand charge from Corn Belt. Each water heater under load control management can save RVEC more than \$100 per year. Load management makes sense when it helps us hold off the next rate increase due to rising costs.

You will see much more in the coming weeks about load management and other programs that can help us keep costs down so we can continue to safely provide reliable, affordable, responsible power to our member-owners.

What Is A Water Heater Demand Response Program?

Showers, laundry, dishes – they all require hot water. We use a significant amount of energy to heat water. Now, utilities and manufacturers are teaming up to bring you water heaters equipped with technology that can make the electric grid smarter and more efficient.


For decades other electric co-ops have partnered with their member-owners on “demand response programs,” which allow the co-op to turn home water heaters on and off to reduce how much power the co-op uses during peak periods, when power is more expensive.

Electric coops have been working with efficiency advocates, manufacturers and others to ensure that we can take advantage of new technologies that benefit our member-owners.

WATER HEATER DEMAND RESPONSE

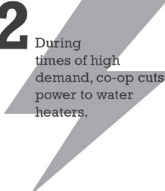
💧💧💧💧 HOW IT WORKS...

1




Controllable, high-efficiency electric water heaters are installed in homes.

2



During times of high demand, co-op cuts power to water heaters.


3



When demand drops, water heaters are turned back on to run during the night and provide warm water for the next day.

FUN FACTS


Water-heater-control programs let co-ops take full advantage of wind generation, which is most active at night.



About 250 co-ops in 35 states currently have load management programs that include water-heater control.

BENEFITS:

- 💧 Co-ops avoid peak pricing.
- 💧 Members use power when it's cheaper.
- 💧 Helps avert need for new power plants.





**VIEW YOUR KWH
USAGE AND PAY
YOUR BILL**

Save yourself some time.
Go to www.rvec.coop
and pay your bill online.



**Look Up,
Look Down,
Look Out!**

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Iowa's electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

**RVEC Puts
Safety First!**

Utility bill assistance available for Iowa households financially impacted by COVID-19

Governor Reynolds recently announced a new program designed to provide eligible Iowa households up to \$2,000 towards their electric, natural gas and water bills if they are at risk of disconnection due to an inability to pay because of a COVID-19 related loss of income.

As part of the federal CARES Act funding allocated to Iowa, the Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program is managed by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Finance Authority. Payments through the program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicants' accounts.

To be eligible to receive assistance, a residential electric, natural gas and/or water utility consumer must have:

- A primary Iowa residence with active residential utility accounts (renters may apply as long as the utility account is in the applicant's name);
- An unpaid utility bill balance or have previously entered into a payment plan with their utility provider;
- An annual income that is 80% of the median family income, based on county and household size;
- Experienced a COVID-19 loss of income (job loss, reduction in hours, reduction in pay) on or after March 17, 2020, that resulted in hardship in paying bills for electric, natural gas, and/or water utility service provided between March 17, 2020, and October 31, 2020.

Applications will be accepted at www.iowahousingrecovery.com through November 20, 2020, or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first. Assistance will be awarded based on application completeness and eligibility in order received until all funds have been exhausted. The website includes answers to frequently asked questions and complete eligibility requirements. You can also call Iowa's Utility Recovery Hotline at 515-348-8976 or 877-463-3269 for more information about this program. 19.06.04

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative



Veterans Day
November 11th

will be

CLOSED

for
&



Thanksgiving

November 26th & 27th

WATTS CURRENT

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

Pole Inspections

If you see a vehicle with Karze Utility Services, LLC, they will be doing pole inspections for RVEC starting in mid-November in the Breda and Wall Lake areas. They will inspect each pole itself, all attachments, line clearances, loose hardware, tree clearances, loose guy wires, etc. A detailed report is then produced telling our crews where repairs need to be made. Their vehicle will have both company logos. So if you live around the Breda or Wall Lake areas and happen to see them on or near your property, rest assured that they are there in our continuing effort to bring you the safest and mores reliable power possible. 33.05.04

RECare

RVEC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income members.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added to your monthly electric bill. You may also make a contribution part of a matching fund, if there is a matching fund available. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

Yes, I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

____ I will contribute \$_____per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

____ My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Account No. _____

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.