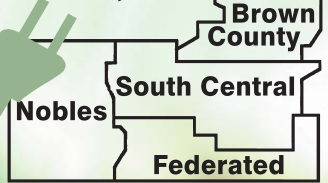


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Cooperative Alliance Partners *Connections* Connecting our co-ops & members to a progressive future



USDA helps fund rural energy efficiency projects...Pages 2 & 10



Federated Rural Electric
Federated 'pedals' path to energy efficiency...Page 8

Dual Fuel credit changes after two decades...Page 9

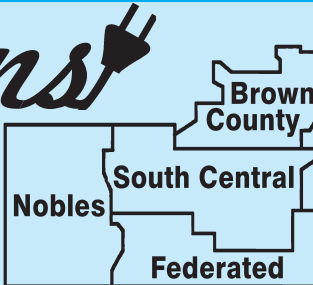
Manager's message
...Page 16

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Alliance Partners *Connections*

This publication focuses on CAP's members, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.

Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor
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"Owned by those it serves"

USDA's Rural Energy for America Program helps finance renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects

USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program provides grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems or to make energy-efficiency improvements.

Since the program's inception in 2003, Minnesota has been awarded over \$20 million in grants, the most in the nation. Applicants may apply for a grant, loan guarantee or a combination grant and loan guarantee. Grants can pay for 25 percent of the project up to \$500,000.

Many non-residential projects that reduce energy use and result in savings for the agricultural producer or small business are eligible energy-efficiency projects. Examples of energy efficiency projects include grain dryers, irrigation equipment, lighting, insulation, upgrades to heating and ventilation systems, confinement curtains, bulk tanks and ovens. Renewable energy projects include projects that produce energy from wind, solar, biomass and geothermal. The project can produce any form of energy including, heat, electricity or fuel.

"We are pleased with the interest Minnesota has taken in this program and look forward to the additional funding that the 2008 Farm Bill provides," stated Steve Wenzel, State Director of Rural Development in Minnesota. "We look forward to assisting even more agriculture producers and small businesses with energy projects in the future. This year Minnesota received applications for self-use and generation wind projects, solar, biomass, geothermal (ground source heat pumps) and a wide variety of energy-



A USDA Grant can help ag producers replace an inefficient grain drying system with a more efficient drying system.

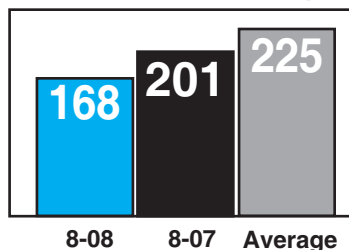
efficiency projects."

Wenzel also highlighted how the project benefits more than just farmers and small businesses. "It provides reduced demand on imports of energy, reduced production of greenhouse gases and energy conservation," he said. "Rural areas — *Continued on Page 10*

Cover Connections

Rural farmers and business owners can apply for a USDA Grant to help make their energy-efficient projects possible. As part of the Farm Bill, money is available in the form of grants and guaranteed loans to help fund things like wind projects and even ground-source heat pumps. Read more about it on Pages 2 & 10. ➤

Weather affects your electric bill



This chart compares the heating degree days for March '08, March '07 and the 63-year average for your monthly electric bill. ➤

South Central Electric member of the month

Glad Corn: the natural corn snack that started with a bang — literally

Mountain Lake, 1990 — It was a quiet November night on the Friesen farm. Stan's inventiveness and interest in alternative energy led him to build a biomass furnace, a tractor and experiment with bio-fuels. This particular evening he was in the kitchen cooking up a new ethanol recipe on the stove. Previously, sweet sorghum juice was used. This time Stan was using corn. Meanwhile, his wife, Gladys, was in the bedroom catching up on some reading. Stan left the stove to speak to her for a moment...

KABOOM!

"We immediately ran back to the kitchen," Gladys remembers. "There was exploded corn all over the place. Stan was more concerned with tasting the stuff than cleaning it up and that's how Glad Corn was born."

Two weeks later the couple shared their accidentally-discovered snack food with others at a Mountain Lake Christian School Christmas party. "It took me 11 hours to make an ice cream bucket full," Gladys said. "I took it to the party and people asked me what it was called. Minnesota Golden Nuggets, I replied, for lack of a better name. Everyone was hesitant to try it at first. Some even said it looked like bird food. Then one woman took a bite and convinced her husband to try it because he loved salty snacks. Pretty soon everyone was eating it. A brainstorming session for a new name came next. Glen Letellier got the idea to incorporate my name, calling the snack Glad Corn."

"Initially, we thought about licensing it to food manufacturers," Stan remembers. "However, none of them were interested. They wanted products that had established markets. Nevertheless, we thought Glad Corn was too good of an idea to let die so we decided to manufacture it ourselves. We invited a food inspector out to look at the hog barn I had converted into an ethanol distilling plant and asked him what we needed to do to bring it up to code for food production."

"We made our first commercial batch of Glad Corn on June 15, 1992," Gladys said. "We produced 23 cases and tried to sell them to local convenience stores. Some were interested, but most required us to go through their corporate offices. This led me to wonder about other markets. I happened to be in Springfield and noticed a gift shop. I figured gift shops were always looking for unique products so I stopped in and ended up making a sale."

"The gift shop market opened a lot of doors for us," Stan



It's not popcorn and it's not Corn Nuts; it's something in between. Stan and Gladys Friesen, Mountain Lake, hold a bag of Glad Corn. The Friesens have been manufacturing the snack food since 1992 after Stan accidentally invented it while trying to make ethanol fuel.

said. "We attended product shows so more and more shops started carrying Glad Corn. Since many gift shop customers are travelers passing through the area, they spread word of our product from coast to coast. Eventually, we got a call from United Natural Foods, Inc. The caller said their delivery truck driver, Richard, tasted our product in Windom and liked it... 'and Richard doesn't like anything.' They asked us to come to their office in the Cities and make a sales presentation. After that, they took on Glad Corn and Richard still picks up our shipments to this day."

Today Glad Corn is available all over the country. Local outlets are in St. James, Butterfield, Mountain Lake, Windom, Worthington, Jackson, New Ulm and more. "The easiest way to find a local store is to visit our website," Gladys said. Go to www.gladcorn.com to find a "store locator" on their home page. "In addition, people can call 1-800-692-6762. It's always fun to hear from people. Almost daily we get calls from folks who just wanted to tell us how much they love Glad Corn."

Presently, the Friesens make Glad Corn about two days a week. "We process about 5,000 pounds of corn each time, which makes around 700 cases of Glad Corn," Stan said. "We grow the corn, dry it, store it, clean it and market it all from our farm. We can't give out the details of making

— *Continued on Page 10*

Ensnare escaping energy \$\$ with insulated attic door

Zip, zap...wrap your trap door to cap energy losses.

Cold air is always looking for ways to get into your home; warm air is always looking for ways to get out. The attic trapdoor offers a convenient escape hatch for heat and a secret entrance for cold in the winter and heat during the summer.

Winter heat loss is a combination of heat flow through an uninsulated trapdoor and warm air leakage where it rests on the molding. The attic trapdoor is usually located in a hallway or closet so air leakage through it is not readily noticeable.

During summer, heat from the roof radiates down into your home through an uninsulated trapdoor. With adequate attic ventilation during the summer a slightly negative pressure exists inside the attic area. If you run the air conditioner, a leaky trapdoor draws cool air from your house and forces your air conditioner to run longer.

If your trapdoor is simply a piece of thin plywood resting on uneven wood molding around the access opening, correct this. (See what it costs you under the adjacent energy tip.) An easy way to do this is stick thick adhesive-backed, closed-cell foam weather stripping on the top of the molding. Cut each of the four lengths slightly longer than each side of the molding because it may shrink over time. Also,



Insulated attic trapdoors help reduce your energy bills. This covering from Insulsure cuts down heat loss in the winter and prevents heat from coming in during the summer.

it may have stretched somewhat when it was pulled off the roll.

Next, nail a layer of drywall over the

the room below.

— Continued on Page 12

Monthly ENERGY[®] wise tip

What does my uninsulated attic door cost me? If the attic door is 2' x 3' and the current R-value of the 1/2" thick plywood is 0.62, an increase to R38 can significantly reduce the heating and cooling losses there. This assumes the attic temperature is 90°F for 12 hours a day for three summer months for a total of 1,080 hours. During the winter, let's assume a 50°F average temperature in the attic for three months (2,160 hours). The temperature difference in the winter is 18°F (68°F-50°F) for 2,160 hours and during the summer it is 14°F (90°F-76°F) for 1,080 hours. This is a reduction of 370,000 Btu, which costs about \$6 with an 80 percent efficient gas furnace and a natural gas costing of \$1.30/therm. If there are cracks around the attic door frame, the energy savings from insulating the door and sealing the cracks might be in the \$10-15 range. Summertime savings with insulation would be around \$2. — Courtesy of *Questline.com*

Watts new

Compact clothes washer and dryer are big on convenience

Now laundry can be done in small spaces with compact units.

Laundry baskets quickly accumulate heaping piles of dirty clothes, which get transferred to washers and dryers. In out-of-the-way places, like cabins, dirty clothes just accumulate with no place to go. Live in an apartment without a washer and dryer? Dirty clothes accumulate until you drive to the laundromat after scrounging up a handful of quarters, of course. The Haier company brings relief to this problem with a compact washer and dryer.

Washer for your wish list

The Haier Compact Washer suits your basic washing needs with variable water level and temperature selections and easy-to-operate functions. Perfect for a small apartment, dorm room, cabin or camper, this machine will wash up to six pounds of laundry (two pairs of pants and a shirt is one capacity combination).

Choose from three water levels based on the size of the load — save water by choosing a lower level for smaller loads. The unit's standard wash cycles include normal, heavy duty, whites, soak and delicate; its special wash cycles include hand wash, sanitary, unique or exclusive. The washing machine delivers a maximum spin speed of 740 rpm and its cycle status lights, estimated time-remaining display and end-of-cycle signal provide added convenience. Fill and drain hoses are included.

Other features include:

- The quick-connect sink adapter is included. It takes just five easy steps to connect the machine to your sink.



The Haier Compact Washer can do six pounds of laundry in a device about the size of a garbage can. This makes it convenient for cabins and apartments.

- It is cold, warm and hot water compatible for the perfect setting.
- Removable lint filter.
- The adjustable leveling legs make individual legs longer or shorter to balance the machine if it rests on uneven ground or flooring.
- The Haier Compact Washing Machine plugs into a standard outlet and is estimated to use 230 kilowatt hours per year or about \$19 a year. However, this clothes washer is not an Energy Star model so it does not qualify for the cooperative's rebate.
- The washing machine measures 17¼" x 18" x 30" and carries a one-year warranty.
- The device costs approximately \$200 from amazon.com.



The Haier Compact Dryer can be mounted in tight places, saving space and making drying clothes easy using a 110-outlet.

Dryer delivers delight

The Haier Portable Dryer goes anywhere you need it. Portable and lightweight, you can move or mount the dryer at your convenience.

Features include:

- Three heat selections
- Delicate and heavy cycle
- 220-minute timer
- Wall-hanging bracket included
- Countertop installation.
- 31" x 28" x 18.5"
- One-year warranty.

The dryer costs approximately \$280 and is also available on amazon.com.

The Haier Compact Washer and Dryer can also be found at stores like Target and Wal-Mart. Otherwise, visit www.haieramerica.com for more information.

Many people don't like the big job of doing laundry. The Haier Compact Washer and Dryer at least make doing laundry a small job — literally! 🛠️

MARATHON

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SAVE MONEY!

SAVE ENERGY!

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY!



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OF WATER HEATING BILLS!**

Call us for your next water heater



Brown County
Rural Electrical
Association
507-794-3331



Nobles Cooperative
Electric
507-372-7331 or 836-6107



Federated
Rural Electric
507-847-3520 or 728-8366



South Central Electric
Association
507-375-3164 or 628-5571

Safety sense

Don't let the sun set on safety during this season's harvest

Harvest yields higher numbers of electrocution, shock and burn injuries. Nationwide, an average 60 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more are injured in electrical accidents each year.

"Take note when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons and large combines," said Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. "Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them. The minimum 10-foot distance is a 360-degree rule — below, to the side and above lines."

Moving portable grain augers poses the greatest risk because those who are on the ground moving the equipment would provide a direct path for electricity if there's contact with overhead wires. Therefore, always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result. Use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help.

Farm workers also are advised not to use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins; use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

- Some equipment safety considerations:
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise a power line to clear a path.
- It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact



with a power line. It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. In that case, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on the dampness, dust and dirt contamination. ⚡

Don't dig up trouble! Contact GSOC first this fall!




1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep. Make this call 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register on the website at www.gopherstateonecall.org. This gives utilities time to mark their underground lines up to your meter so you are safe! Then contact a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ⚡

Federated focus:

Operation Round Up deadline

 The next deadline for Operation Round Up funds is October 3. Local organizations that can apply for equipment funding includes: fire departments, ambulance squads, disaster relief, environmental and nonprofit organizations. Go to Federated's website to download the application (www.federatedrea.coop) or call Federated to request an application; ask for Sherry or Andrea. Funds will be awarded at Federated's Annual Meeting November 22.

Count on CFL savings

Count how many ways you can save money when buying CFLs:


1. Stop by Federated's office to pick up your compact fluorescent light bulbs. A \$2 rebate is built into these prices for co-op members.

2. Use your GE multipack coupons from August's electric bill. More coupons are available online at www.mnbrighterideas.com or Federated's office.

3. Register to win the \$1,000 CFL lighting makeover at www.mnbrighterideas.com.

4. Starting October 1 you can buy CFL bulbs at reduced prices with an instant rebate at the Worthington Ace Hardware and Fairmont's Fleet & Farm Supply.

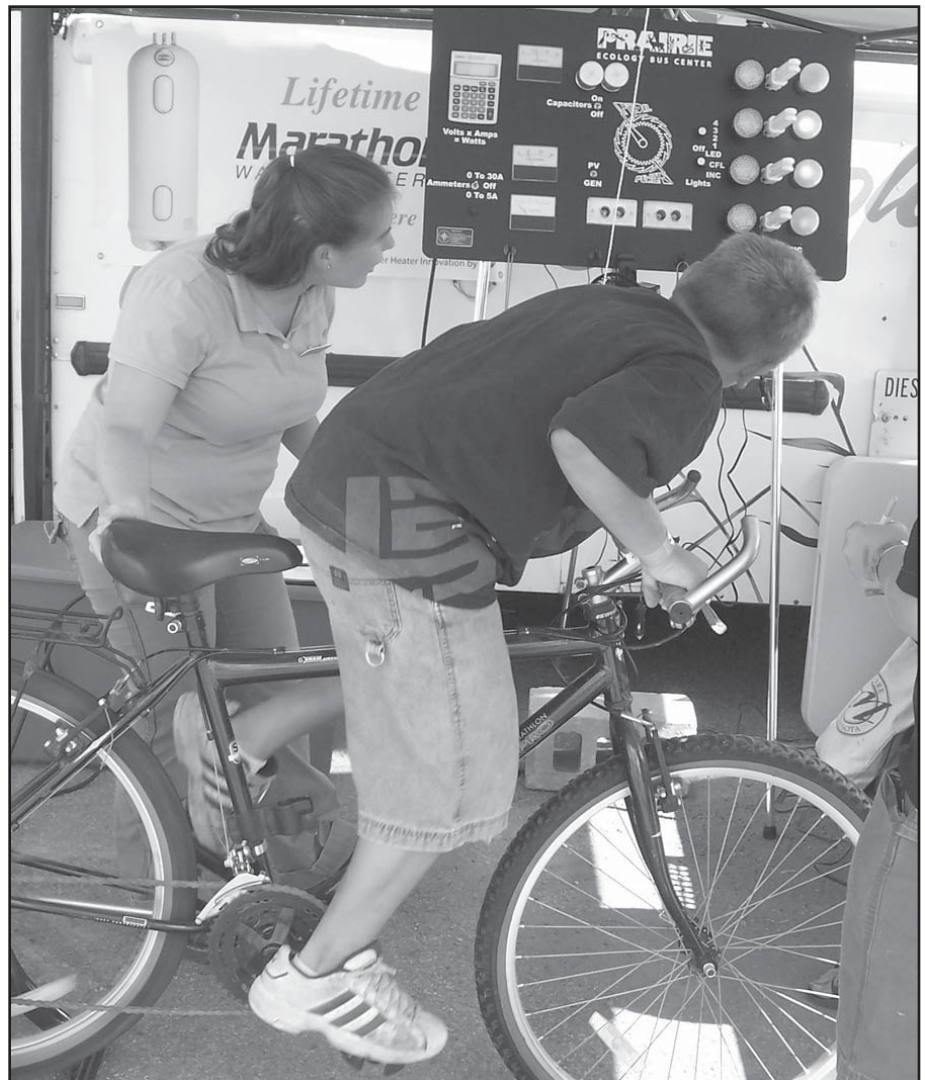
Grilled to perfection!

 Fall delivers more days for grilling. Go with an electric grill from Federated. Select from the tabletop or cart grills or even one with a rotisserie. Prices range from \$50 to \$162 or even the electronic stainless steel grill for \$550.

Chilly? Use electric woodstove

Chilly fall evenings and mornings call for an electric woodstove or fireplace. Choose the model to fit your home decor. Woodstove prices start at \$150. ➔

Federated & partners bring CFLs, LEDs & pedal power to the Martin County Fair Aug. 15-16



Federated partnered with the Prairie Ecology Bus, Lakefield, and Fairmont Public Utilities to bring hands-on and feet-on lessons in energy efficiency to Martin County fairgoers August 15-16. This teenager pedals a bicycle powering three types of light bulbs (incandescent, CFLs and LEDs). It shows how much work it takes to generate electricity.



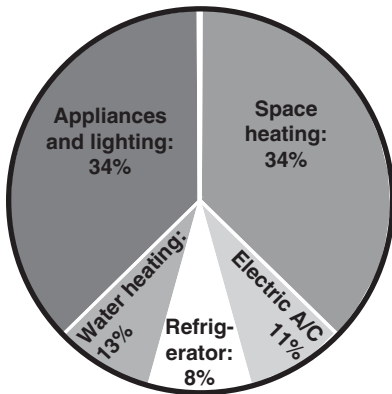
Andrea Christoffer, Federated marketing and communications manager, talks with visitors about the energy-savings from CFL bulbs.



Sharon Rosen, Welcome, went aboard the bus to view the energy-efficiency displays; she won \$50 worth of CFLs by registering at the event. ➔

Rising costs and demand impact Dual Fuel rate

September 22 marks the first day of Autumn when members begin to think more and more about the heating season. It is no wonder since heating and cooling uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 34 percent of our energy is used for space heating.



The past several years, the rising cost of propane and fuel oil has made the Dual Fuel program even more popular. This new heating load is having a big impact on the wholesale price we pay for energy.

What is Dual Fuel?

Dual Fuel is a program that combines electric heat with your existing heating system. Dual Fuel allows you to save money by using an off-peak electric rate offered by Federated. The separately metered electric unit is used as your primary heat source and during peak demand periods you rely on your alternate heating source.

This heating system is a great option for members building new homes or looking to add electric heat

Rapid growth in Dual Fuel

Currently, about 935 of our 5,000 members use a Dual Fuel system to heat their home. Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, and its member cooperatives, including Federated, have seen a 52 percent increase in the connected load of Dual Fuel and electric thermal storage systems since 2004. This load is now so large it can not be met by baseload generation.

When members use more energy, electric service providers have significant financial investments in transmission lines and generating resources. These factors along with price fluctuations on equipment and supplies are raising our investment in each new Dual Fuel system.

Dual Fuel rate change

Beginning September 1, there will be a change to our Dual Fuel rate. The cost of energy for this program has increased, leaving no other option than to adjust the current Dual Fuel rate. The rate is currently 2.2 cents credit per kilowatt-hour. It will change to 1.4 cents credit per kilowatt-hour this heating season. The market will continue to affect the cost of energy for this program and may drive costs even higher than expected.

What does the future hold?

The cost of heating a home with electricity continues to be the best

option when considering the cost of home heating fuels (see the chart below). Electricity is a good value when you consider the convenience, comfort and productivity it brings us each day. When our members use energy more efficiently and take advantage of our load management programs, the cooperative is able to control costs more effectively and provide you the option to reduce your energy costs. This equates into real savings for your cooperative. In 2007 alone, our Dual Fuel members saved \$137,516. From December 2007 to March 2008, Great River Energy and its distribution cooperatives saved \$836,680 by controlling a total of 98 hours. The Dual Fuel rate is still better than a propane or fuel oil system. Dual Fuel systems help keep future rates low by reducing energy that needs to be purchased at peak times on the market.

In the future Federated will continue to provide the Dual Fuel program to existing members and will accept new Dual Fuel installations. In addition, Great River Energy anticipates more load control this winter; make sure your LP or fuel oil tank is filled. See Jon for any questions regarding Dual Fuel.

Your cooperative will continue to review, develop and look at ways to keep rates stable, now even more than before, with the changing and challenging landscape of energy legislation. ↩

Annual heating cost comparison

System	Efficiency	Energy	Est. Unit Cost	Annual Heating Cost
Ground source heat pump	375%	7,181 kWh	\$0.068*	\$488.31
Electric thermal storage/Air source heat pump	100%/250%	21,314 kWh	\$0.068*	\$1,449.35
LP gas/Air source heat pump	90%/250%	512 gal./6,380 kWh	\$2.25/\$0.044**	\$1,432.72
LP gas furnace	90%	1,267 gal.	\$2.25	\$2,850.75
Oil furnace	80%	862 gal.	\$4.00	\$4,000

*Includes general rate and estimated power cost adjustment ** Includes general rate, power cost adjustment and Dual Fuel credit

A-maizing corn snack loved by many

— *Continued from Page 2*

Glad Corn, but we can tell you that it doesn't have any preservatives and the Original flavor has only three ingredients: field corn, non-hydrogenated soybean oil and salt. It comes in four flavors: Original, Jalapeño, Bar-B-Q and Gourmet Cheddar. Package sizes include half-ounce, one-and-a-quarter ounce, four-ounce, twelve-ounce bags, plus 12-pound and 24-pound bulk boxes. The bag material is purchased from a California company, and the graphics/logo was designed by a friend of ours."

"We currently have five part-time employees and one full-time employee to help us out," Gladys added. "Dianne, Larry, Carol, David, Ross, and Chantal are the best of the best! When we visit trade shows, people ask us how we can afford to be away from the business. We tell them that the people who work with us care for and take pride in every aspect of the business like it is their own. They won't even let a shoddy-looking box onto a truck."

One of the Friesen's initial goals with Glad Corn was to grow the business debt-free. "That made everything pretty labor intensive in the beginning," Gladys said. "Stan would get up at 4 a.m. on processing days. His dad, Arno, would come in around 8 a.m. and we would hand package everything. We would do about 30 to 50 cases a day back then. From there we modernized as cash flow allowed, utilizing used processing equipment and, eventually, a new packaging machine which enables us to do 700 cases a day."

"We just went with the flow," Stan agreed. "Our commitment is to capitalize from savings and expand from earnings. I've had ideas on how to expand the manufacturing plant even further, but I don't want to do that unless sales warrant it. Things

seem to have reached a plateau this year, but we keep plugging away. Marketing is the most challenging part of the business. Fortunately, we have great word-of-mouth advertising; we're happy with the way things have progressed. It's been rewarding — both in the people we've met and in the way it keeps my creative and inventive side busy."

"We encourage other farmers to also find ways to reach the consumer directly," Gladys said. "One just has to start small and create a brand name. Locally-grown products are becoming a big deal these days and create great opportunities."

When they're not making Glad

Corn, Stan and Gladys continue to farm and live on the acreage where Stan grew up. While Stan grew up in the area, Gladys was the daughter of a pastor and grew up in Montana, North Dakota, California and Kansas. "My father was the pastor of the North Butterfield Church from 1978 to 1982," Gladys stated. "That's how I met Stan."

"It's worked out," Stan said. "My weaknesses are her strengths and vice versa. We hope everyone enjoys Glad Corn as much as we've enjoyed this journey."

The tale of Glad Corn is "a-maizing" from start to finish. It's the snack food that started with a big BANG! 🍌

2008 farm bill increases funding for energy efficiency & renewables

— *Continued from Page 2*

will also benefit through the creation of high-quality jobs, overall economic development, the retention of capital and the creation of new sources of income."

Projects must be located in non-metropolitan areas, must be technically feasible and must be controlled by the applicant. For more information on this USDA program visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn or contact Lisa Noty at Lisa.Noty@mn.usda.gov or 507-373-7960, extension 120.

In addition, be sure to talk with your electric co-op on potential rebates for geothermal, solar and energy-efficient lights, motors and adjustable-speed drives.

Editor's Note: This is the program that provided \$500,000 toward both the Federated and Nobles' wind turbines. New Vision Co-op also received funds toward grain dryer improvements in Worthington and Brewster. 🍌



This Jacobs 31-20 kW wind turbine received a \$17,500 USDA grant.

Change-A-Light sale coming October 1



Believe it or not, when you switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, you'll actually be changing the way you use electricity — using less of it. Save up to 70 percent on your lighting costs.

Take advantage of the Change-A-Light incentives offered by these local stores **starting October 1:**

- Fleet & Farm Supply, Fairmont
- Fleet & Farm ACE, St. James
- McCabe's Ace Hardware, Sleepy Eye
- Worthington Ace Hardware
- Roerig Ace Hardware, Winnebago
- Retzlaff's Ace Hardware, New Ulm.

This is how the "Change a Light, Change the World" program works. From October 1 through November 30, 2008, electric cooperative members can buy up to 12 Energy Star compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) at participating ACE Hardware stores. A \$2 instant rebate applies, while bulb supplies last. It's simple. Just let the cashier know that you are an electric co-op member. Then fill out a rebate slip to receive an instant rebate on each bulb. ➡



CFL bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, which is harmful to the environment. Minnesota prohibits placing CFL lamps in the garbage. Call the co-op to request a listing of the local bulb recyclers.

Trap pennies with an insulated trapdoor

— Continued from Page 4

The above method works well for a small trapdoor, but not necessarily for a large one. Fortunately, several products are designed specifically for large trapdoors and ones with folding stairs. First, install plywood on the attic floor around the opening. This provides a flat surface so a cover seals well and creates a safe place to step when you enter the attic.

Battic Door (call 508-320-9082 or visit www.batticdoor.com) offers a reasonably-priced (\$30-\$60) simple design, which is basically a very strong cardboard box sized to fit over the trapdoor and stairs. Attach your own fiberglass batt insulation to the top and sides of the box. The box is delivered collapsed to your home. It is simple to open it; just glue or staple the insulation over the outside surface.

Another option is an insulated zippered-opening cover by Insulsure (call 877-660-5640 or visit www.insulsure.com). The cover is flexible and is attached to plywood on the attic floor around the opening for a good seal. To enter the attic use a stepladder or pull down folding stairs, climb up, unzip the top of the cover and fold it back. The cover is made of a flexible material filled with one-half inch of microfiber urethane insulation for R-3.2 insulation value. There is an optional reflective foil top to block the radiant heat from the hot roof during summer. Depending on the size required, the cover costs \$200-\$230.

The third option by Atticap (call 888-292-2229 or visit www.draftcap.com) is a domed molded foam cover made of expanded polystyrene (similar to a foam cooler) designed to fit over the stairs and opening. It is 60"x30"x9" and weighs only about eight pounds, yet has an insulation value of R-12. You can easily lift and move it to the side when you enter the attic. It costs approximately \$100. 🖱

— Information courtesy of www.jamesdulley.com.

Minnesota law offers bill payment arrangement to active duty military

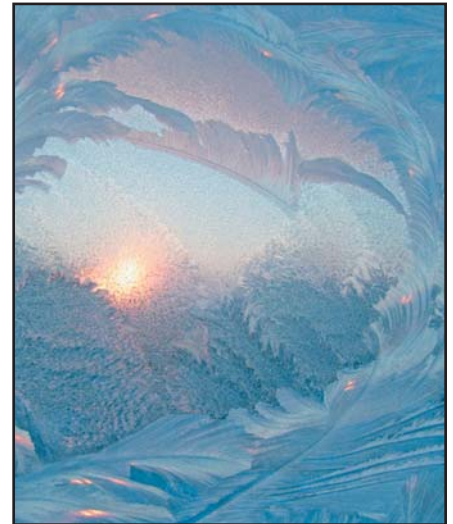


Minnesota law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their electric bills. The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and an annual notice to cooperative members.

Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for military personnel with active duty, deployed or a permanent duty station change.

The form can be requested from the cooperative's billing department. Call or e-mail us for details. 🖱

Cold weather winter disco



Co-op members do not need to worry about cold homes from winter disconnection. Just follow the five main points of the cold weather rule to avoid winter disconnection.

Residential customer notice

An electric cooperative utility must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit **when all of the following conditions are met:**

1. The customer has requested a utility shutoff protection form provided by the utility. A customer receiving energy assistance has demonstrated this inability.
2. The customer's household income is less than 50 percent of the state median income;
3. Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the utility, unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility as

er rule outlines process to avoid nnection and loss of electricity

mentioned above;

4. A customer whose account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15 or who, at any time, enters into a payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and is reasonably current with payments under the schedule; and

5. The customer receives referrals to energy assistance programs, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

Customers facing disconnection

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or electric cooperative association must provide the following information to a customer:

1. A notice of the proposed disconnection;
2. A statement with the customer's rights and responsibilities;
3. A list of local energy assistance providers;
4. Forms on which to declare an inability to pay; and
5. A statement explaining available time-payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.

Restrictions for disconnection

1. If a customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with residential disconnection provisions, it must not occur on a Friday or the day before a holiday. In addition, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required, as previously listed, was mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice was personally delivered to the home.

2. If a customer does not respond to a disconnect notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residence is occupied. If occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days written notice of the proposed disconnection

to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

3. If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Call your local electric co-op with any questions. ➤

Emergency energy assistance phone numbers for members needing help

Brown County Family Services...	1-800-450-8246 or 354-8246
Brown County Energy Assistance	507-359-6504
Cottonwood County Family Service.....	831-1891
Jackson County Human Services.....	847-4000
Jackson County Sheriff's Department	847-4420
Martin County Human Services	238-4757
Martin County Sheriff's Department	238-4481
Minnesota Department of Energy Services (Ask for fuel assistance)	1-800-657-3805
Minnesota Valley Action Council	1-800-767-7139
Martin County	238-1663
Nicollet County	934-5224
Sibley County	237-2981
Watonwan County	375-5748
Murray County Human Services	836-6144
Nobles County Family Service Agency	372-2157
Redwood County Human Services	637-4050
Renville County Family Services	523-5522
Renville Sheriff's Department	523-1161
Salvation Army's Heat Share Program	
Jackson and Martin Counties	238-9797
Sibley County Human Services	237-4000
Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc.	
Nobles County	376-4195
Murray County	800-658-2444
Watonwan County Human Services	375-3294
Western Community Action Program	
Jackson and Cottonwood County	1-800-658-2448
Redwood County	1-800-658-2480

If you live in an area that is not listed, call the co-op for details. ➤

Got questions? Electrical inspectors have answers

Got electrical questions? Electrical inspectors from your area would like to share the answers to some of their most frequently asked questions.

Can I do my own wiring?

Yes, with these limitations: only in your primary and secondary (lake home) addresses and the associated structures to these residences. This could include the garage for cars, the garden shed, the gazebo, etc... Examples of exclusions would be rental property; if you own it or rent it, you can't wire it. Business property, which includes retail, agricultural (farm), corporate and private businesses are also excluded.

Does my wiring need to be inspected?

Yes. Contact your inspector before you begin your wiring project. The inspector will assist you with the inspection forms.

Inspections must be made on concealed wiring before the wall finishes (insulation, drywall) are applied. Failure to do this could be costly as these finishes will need to be removed for a proper inspection. By law people are required to file a permit for inspection on or before the date they begin the work.

I had some wiring done by a licensed electrician. Do I call the inspector?

No. In cases like this the electrical contractor is responsible for handling all aspects of the inspection process. However, a call to the inspector would be appreciated in helping to schedule the inspection.

I got my bill from the contractor, the inspection fees were listed and I have paid. When does the inspector show-up?



Getting access is the hardest part of inspecting, but the solution is simple. Just give the inspector a call. Every inspector is available between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. each weekday.

I was billed from my electrician and nothing was listed regarding an inspection. Do I need one?

Maybe. Again, call the inspector. New circuits and old circuits that have been extended need inspection. If your electrician did minor repair like change a broken switch, then no inspection is required. To be absolutely sure just give them a call.

What's the big deal with all this inspection stuff?

This one is the easiest question to answer. It's the law and it helps keep everyone safe. An inspection service has existed in southwest Minnesota since the 1950s.

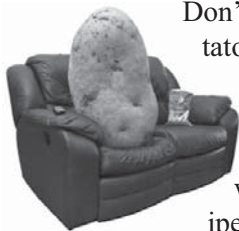
Let's also answer this question from another point of view. Will your property and equipment be covered and will warranties be honored on malfunctioned equipment when the vendor calls and asks if there is an inspection record for the wiring needed for that equipment? All of this info, such as the Homeowner Request for Inspection Form and the phone numbers for your local inspector, are available at www.electricity.state.mn.us. 🖱️

Readers' recipes

Give your food some pop with soda pop!

Add some "pop" to your next supper or dessert with soda. Soda pop gives any dish some "fizz"! Enjoy! ➡

One potato, two potato, three potato...have some more!



Don't be a couch potato. Play a game of hot potatoes... by cooking them! Share with us your recipes using potatoes, whether they are mashed, baked, twice-baked, deep-fat fried or more. Every meal is more filling with potatoes!

Mail these potato recipes by September 24 to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, drop it off at your local electric co-op. Add your name and phone number. ➡

Salad Supreme by Joan Sauer, Fulda

- 1 quart applesauce
- 2 3-oz. pkgs. lime Jell-O
- 2 cans 7-Up
- ¼ lb. marshmallows
- 2 small pkgs. cream cheese
- ½ pint whipping cream
- Maraschino cherries

Heat the applesauce. Dissolve the Jell-O in the applesauce. While hot, add the 7-Up, stirring slowly. Cut up the marshmallows and break up the cream cheese. Put marshmallows and cream cheese in a bowl and pour whipping cream over them. Let it stand in the refrigerator overnight. In the morning simply beat the mixture up with a fork and spread over the salad. Decorate with maraschino cherries. ➡

Coca-Cola Roast Beef by Randy Larsen, Sleepy Eye

- 12-oz. can Coca-Cola
- 4 lb. beef roast
- 1 T. canola oil
- 1 pkg. Lipton Onion Soup Mix
- 1 can Cream of Celery Soup
- 1 c. chopped onions
- 2 c. chopped celery

Brown the roast on each side in canola oil. Mix all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Pour half of this mixture in an uncovered roasting pan. Put the roast in the pan and pour the remaining mixture over the roast. Bake at 300° for 3½ hours. If you are hungry, bake at 350° for 2½ hours. Coca-Cola makes an excellent gravy. You may thicken it if you wish. Serve over rice, potatoes or pasta. ➡

Applesauce Salad by Doris Anschutz, Windom

- 3 c. natural applesauce
- 6-oz. pkg. sugar-free cherry Jell-O
- Bring applesauce to a boil. Add Jell-O. Stir until Jell-O is dissolved. Remove from heat. Add orange juice and 7-Up. Chill. ➡
- ½ c. orange juice
- 12-oz. can diet 7-Up

Yummy Yeast Rolls by Dorothy A. Fricke, Lakefield

- 2 pkg. yeast
 - ¾ c. warm milk
 - ¾ c. warm Mountain Dew
 - ½ c. butter (cut up)
 - ¾ c. sugar
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - 4 eggs
 - 6½ c. flour
- Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Add warm Mountain Dew, butter, eggs, sugar, salt and 2 c. flour. Beat well. Stir in the remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn on a floured surface. Knead until smooth. Place in greased bowl and let rise about one hour. Form into rolls; let rise. Bake 350° for 18 minutes. ➡

Pepsi Cake by Bev Hines, Bingham Lake

- 2 c. sugar
- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. Pepsi (not diet)
- 2 sticks margarine
- 3 T. cocoa
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ c. buttermilk
- 1 tsp. salt
- Mix sugar and flour. Mix Pepsi, cocoa and margarine and bring to a boil. Stir in sugar and flour; add the rest of the ingredients. Bake 45 minutes at 350° in 9x13" pan. While warm top with the frosting.
- Frosting: 1/3 c. Pepsi
- 1 stick margarine
- Mix Pepsi, margarine and cocoa. Bring to boil. Add the rest of the ingredients. This recipe will also make three dozen cupcakes. ➡
- 3 T. cocoa
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- 1 c. nuts (optional)

Strawberry Soda Pop Cake by Mary Kay Truesdell, Sherburn

- 1 yellow or white cake mix
 - 1 large pkg. strawberry Jell-O
 - 1 c. boiling water
 - 1 c. strawberry soda pop
 - 1 large container Cool Whip
- Prepare cake according to directions. Bake in greased 9x13" pan. While the cake is still warm, puncture the cake with a fork every two inches. Combine the Jell-O and boiling water. Stir to dissolve. Add strawberry pop to the Jell-O, stir and pour over cake. Spread Cool Whip over the cooled cake before serving. ➡



Manager's message

Dual Fuel credit changes

Your Board of Directors reduced the discount you'll receive on Dual Fuel this past month in direct response to a reduction of the discount received from our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy. See the article on Page 9 for more information. Each member affected will get a personal letter. With the changes you'll still find electricity more economical than LP or fuel oil when it comes to keeping your home warm this winter. If you'd like more information call Jon Beckman at 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520.

CTV channels

I sincerely apologize for the poor service on CTV's analog channels. Our engineers have determined the problem and are enlisting help to find the best corrective action. Hopefully, the remedy will be here shortly.

Keep harvest safety in mind

As harvest is coming, please be careful to avoid injury during this busy time. As I say, you can't replace an arm or leg like you can replace machinery. Be sure to look up for power lines when moving augers.

Nominating Committee meets

The Nominating Committee met and is completing its job securing director and nominator candidates for the cooperative. If asked, please consider doing your part for the cooperative. As a co-op member-owner, you can vote on these candidates at Federated's Annual Meeting November 22.

Wind turbine is commissioned

Yes, you're probably tired of my reports...However, our cooperatively-owned wind turbine near Welcome is commissioned, running and receiving renewable energy certificates. This was a big project for our cooperative to help serve your needs. Thanks go to all of the employees who helped make this project a reality. 🖱

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Glenn Dicks — 662-5321
Lyle Fisher — 847-4757
David Meschke — 238-1122
Jon Saxen — 764-3771

The Board of Directors meets the last business day of the month at 9 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

Board meeting highlights

Federated Rural Electric's Board of Directors met for their July board meeting August 29. They acted on these issues:

- Approved the 2009 employee Wellness Program to receive a discount on health insurance rates.
- Approved changing the Dual Heat electric discounts effective September 1 due to the changing rated from Great River Energy. (See story on Page 9).
- Reviewed the expenses and evaluations from the July Coal Creek Tour and August Renewable Energy Tour.
- Approved USDA loan paperwork for the Ceylon fire truck and Tenhasen township hall.
- Reviewed the results of the Martin County Fair event (See Page 8).
- Approved proceeding with bill payment program offering online bills, online payment, billing history and meter reading submission. 🖱

Federated Rural Electric and Nobles Cooperative Electric **'Tour'mendous time on 3 energizing trips**



Hard hats and headsets accessorized the 2008 Coal Creek Tour participants. Federated and Nobles' co-op members listened to the guide (on the right) during the power plant tour. They also enjoyed visiting the lignite coal mine and the Medora Pitchfork Fondue and Musical July 22-24.

Renewable Energy Tour July 1-2

Duane & Linda Carlson, Balaton; Marvin & Mary Mattson, Balaton; Keith & Margaret Schroeder, Worthington; Thomas Had-dock & Frieda Harders, Bigelow; Harvey & Helen Horn, Slayton; Marvin & Loxie Heeren, Worthington; Wayne & JoAnne Smith, Brewster; Charles & Marlene Kuntz, Sherburn; Kenneth & Betty Wolken, Jackson; Larry & Jane Fullerton, Welcome; Jim & Carol Kluver, Fairmont; James & DeMaris Calkins, Granada; Arno & Karen Norman, Fairmont; Kurt & Linda Lintel-man, Round Lake; and Tour Guide Adam Tromblay and wife Christine, Slayton.

Coal Creek Tour July 22-24

Charles & Sharon Rosen, Welcome; Gene & Audrey Wright, Fairmont; Dennis & Mary Senne, Burnsville; Paul & Connie Markquart, Sherburn; Laurence & Mary Gail Lau, Fairmont; Tom & Kathy Jorgensen, Fairmont; Robert Malo & Sara Franks, Sherburn; Don & Darlene Bach, Fairmont; Angie Ziemer, Ceylon; Duane & Shari Gehl, Dundee; Duane & Janet Duis, Avoca; Marvin & Loxie Heeren, Worthington; Richard & Glenda VanHill, Edgerton; Darwin & Linda Gunnink, Woodstock; Roger & Charlotte Vander-Schaaf, Lake Wilson; Eldon Kruger & Arlene Gillette, Lake Wilson; Marlin & Jean Lundholm, Ruthton; Tracy Kuipers, Worthington; and Federated employee; Tour Guide Andrea Christoffer & son Josh.



Mountains of shredded garbage become fuel to create electricity at Great River Energy's Elk River power plant. Co-op members also toured a peaking power plant and a wind turbine.



Tour participants check out one of the "recycled lunchrooms" at the GRE building. The countertop is made from broken glass. The cabinets are made from pressed cardboard and wheat. This is one way GRE tries to be environmentally-friendly.

Renewable Energy Tour August 19-20

James & Joan Bregel, Windom; Joe & Betty Altman, Sherburn; Gary & Martha Naab, Worthington; James & Eileen Rozeboom, Chandler; Abram & Lydia Westenberg, Leota; Gerrit & Harriet Kroontje, Leota; Bev Holland & Pat Demuth, Slayton; Paul & Marlys Busse, Sibley; Larry & Gail Byers, Slayton; Dale & Lora Lee Knuth, Worthington; Ray & Ivy Goergen, Slayton; Dan & Marg Christensen, Garvin; Eldon & Lorna Kruse, Rushmore; Lowell & Ruth Nystrom, Worthington; David & Elizabeth Peterson, Garvin; Darrel & Donna Bruns, Iona; Bill & Terry Crowley, Iona; Stan & Judith Kirlin, Fulda; Jon Beckman, tour guide. 🐾