



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The eightieth official Annual Meeting of the members began as all those previous, with prayer, the pledge of allegiance and the National Anthem. Members were welcomed Tuesday, June 11 by board president, Neale Johnson. The business meeting was conducted by cooperative attorney, Chris Hoberock. He presided over the election of three board members. District 1 will continue to be represented by Tim Minehardt who was first elected in 2007. District 2 will continue to be served by Tony Underwood, first elected in 2007. District 3 elected Ted Woodrell to serve his first three-year term. His biography appeared in the June issue and can be found at www.sacosage.com.

In a first for SOEC Annual Meeting, Associated Electric Cooperative provided virtual tours of a power plant. Joe Wilkinson, Vice President, set up the headsets that let members experience the Thomas Hill Power Plant.

The night included bluegrass music from The Circle S Boys. Pulled pork sandwiches from Sugarfoot restaurant feed over 1200 members and guests. Each registered member went home with a bucket and extension cord. Eighteen youngsters won new cycles. Forty prizes including a 50" television were awarded by drawing at the end of the evening.



The Sac Osage Electric Cooperative board and employees appreciate all the members who joined us for this evening. Make plans to come out to the event next year when the rural cooperative tradition will continue.



Energy Audits

With all the talk about peak hours, demand, and Sac Osage Electric's new rate design, it is easy to forget that the best money saving measures are those that save energy all the time. With a higher demand charge for the hours of 6-9AM and 4-7PM members are looking for ways to move usage to off-peak times and save money. Water heater timers, programmable thermostats, and keeping high usage appliance off during the peak hours are legitimate money savers. However, other proven energy efficiency measures still provide the biggest bang for your buck.

Proper insulation, air leak sealing, efficient appliances and LED lighting will pay for themselves over time saving in both demand and energy consumption. To help members identify energy saving measures, the cooperative has contracted with West Central Community Action Agency to provide certified energy audits. The cost of the audit is \$300.00, but Sac Osage Electric Cooperative picks up half the cost. And more rebates are available by taking action on the audit's recommendations. See www.sacosage.com or call 800-876-2701 for more details.



Power savers on the farm

Your local cooperative serves a rural/suburban mix of members, including full- and part-time farmers, hobby farmers and folks in semi-rural subdivisions. Many of these members have one or more outbuildings, barns, greenhouses and high tunnels for livestock; poultry; vegetable production; hay; equipment; grain storage; and mechanical, metal or woodworking shops.

All of these buildings and the fields, pastures and feed lots they support use electricity to power pumps, motors, fans, furnaces, coolers, compressors, drills, saws and more. Outside the buildings themselves, there are gates, fences and irrigation systems powered by electricity.

It adds up to a lot of potential for energy saving. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service points out that producers with animal feeding operations can save up to \$250 million annually nationwide by regularly maintaining their ventilation and heating systems and using more energy-efficient features and equipment for animal housing. In most cases, electricity powers the equipment.

Dairies use a lot of electricity as well. Refrigeration heat recovery units, scroll compressors, plate/pre-coolers and variable-speed milk pumps are examples of energy-efficient equipment to invest in.

Iowa State University's Extension offers these steps, from the Corn+Soybean Digest website, on steps to take in becoming more energy savvy on the farm:

Complete a farm energy audit to identify waste – Check with your local cooperative to schedule an audit.

Scrutinize electric pump motors – Change out older models for newer, more efficient ones.

Look at processes where liquid or airflows are controlled by a valve or damper – “There's usually a very quick financial return on an adjustable-speed drive that

runs the motor at a more appropriate speed,” said Kip Phiel, an NRCS energy specialist. There could be a rebate when installing the adjustable-speed drive/variable frequency drive (VFD) motor for HVAC pumps and fans in an existing facility. Check with your local cooperative.

Insulate pipes – Reduce the amount of electricity it takes to keep pipes functioning by wrapping them with insulation.

Upgrade lighting – Your local cooperative may offer rebates on swapping out old incandescent bulbs for light-emitting diodes. Go to <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=341> for

a guide on efficient farm lighting from the National Sustainable Agriculture Assistance Program, part of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT).

For confinement barns, confirm set points that turn furnaces and fans on – You don't want heaters and fans to fight each other. Also, the NCAT has a resource at <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=302> on efficient farm buildings that's worth looking at. Efficient building materials and techniques, combined with efficient lighting and heating and cooling equipment, will go a long way to saving energy.

Examine how electric equipment is used – Phiel points out that you may pay almost as much for electrical capacity as for actual electricity. Look at electric bills and try to manage your use of electricity outside of peak times.



Unclaimed Capital Credits

We are trying to locate former members with unclaimed refunds. Please visit www.sacosage.com/content/capital-credit-claim-form for more information and to view the full list of names.

SAFETY FIRST!

Downed power lines can energize the ground for 35 feet around them, and even more when the ground is wet. Consider all downed lines live and dangerous. Call 911 and make sure no one goes near the line until it can be repaired.



Rebates

- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Dual Fuel Heat Pumps
- Water Heaters
- Energy Star Room Air Conditioners

-New this Year

- Advanced Programmable “Smart” Thermostats (Energy Star Rated)
- Engine Block Heaters with Timer
- Variable Frequency Drive motors for HVAC

Details available at www.sacosage.com



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When August heat hits, learn to love your microwave and grill. Nothing drives up energy costs faster than adding heat to your house by using the oven or range top. A microwave, by contrast, cooks much faster and adds little heat to the room. A better choice may be taking your cooking outside altogether. Grills are a tasty alternative that keeps the heat where it belongs.