



RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

October 2012

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## SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC CREW HELPS RESTORE POWER FOR HURRICANE ISAAC VICTIMS IN LOUISIANA

When it comes to electric utilities, it's not uncommon for electric cooperatives to help each other in times of crisis. In fact, "Cooperation among Cooperatives" is one of the basic tenets under which all cooperative business operates. Sac Osage Electric Cooperative was quick to act when assistance was requested after Hurricane Isaac slammed into Louisiana. Four linemen, John Julian, Brian Fugate, Randy Fletcher and Ronnie Simmons, and two trucks from Sac Osage Electric's office rolled out on Thursday, August 30th and headed to the Gulf Coast to the rural area east of Baton Rouge, Louisiana to assist Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) in the restoration efforts. DEMCO sustained extensive damage as Hurricane Isaac swept ashore in southwest Louisiana as it devastated those systems in its path, snapping poles and

leaving power lines on the ground. DECMO is the largest electric cooperative in Louisiana in terms of number of meters and currently serves 100,000 members.

Sac Osage Electric is proud of the crew for their willingness to help out with the recovery. We are grateful to these employees who were willing to travel away from home and help those in need.



from left to right – John Julian, Working Foreman, Brian Fugate, Journeyman Lineman Randy Fletcher, Journeyman Lineman and Ronnie Simmons, Journeyman Lineman



OCTOBER  
IS  
CO-OP  
MONTH



October 2012

## A pitcher of relief

Molly Pitcher was pensioned by Pennsylvania in 1822, and if you can say that three times fast, you're quick-tongued indeed! Mary Ludwig Hays was nicknamed Molly Pitcher after she carried water to soldiers in the 1778 Battle of Monmouth during the American Revolution.



She was born on Oct. 13, 1754, near Trenton, N.J., and died in 1832. A rumor that she manned her husband's gun is probably untrue, most likely stemming from confusion with Margaret Corbin (1751–1800), another American Revolution heroine and the first woman pensioned by the government.

## Where the proof is

In England, October was the start of pudding season, as the beef and suet Christmas puddings were begun. One London establishment, Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Inn, gave new dimensions and an old interpretation to this culinary stew, making a 50-



to 80-pound pudding filled with steak, gravy, wild larks, mushrooms and spices. It was cooked for 16 hours. If it sounds more like a pastry gone wild, you can only blame the inclusion of "ye olde ale" in the kitchen and other alcohol used for soaking the pudding.

## Linking up

Oct. 26 marks the anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The 363-mile-long canal created an important water route from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean, but convincing Congress to authorize funding for the project was a long and difficult

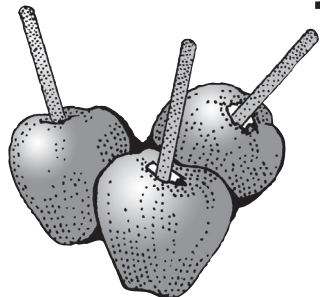


process. The canal's champion, DeWitt Clinton of New York, originally approached Congress in 1810. His plan was rejected, but in 1815, this time as mayor of New York City, he tried again, and funding was finally approved in 1816. Construction began on July 4, 1817.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



### Recipe for Candy Apples

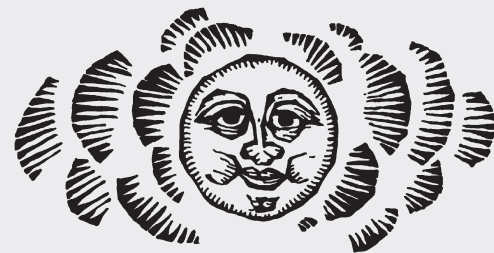


9 red apples  
9 wooden skewers  
3 cups sugar  
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 cup water  
Red food coloring

Wash and dry apples. Remove the stems and insert skewers; set aside. Combine the sugar, cream of tartar, salt and water in a deep saucepan. Add food coloring to get desired color. Place over heat and stir until sugar is dissolved. Cook rapidly without stirring to medium crack stage (290 degrees on a candy thermometer). Remove from heat and immediately dip apples. Twirl to cover and place on greased waxed paper until hardened. Serves 9.

[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)

## THE OLD FARMER'S



# WEATHER PROVERBS

**If the chickens are snug in their coop during a rainstorm, the rain will soon be over.**

**If October brings heavy frosts and winds, then will January and February be mild.**

**When squirrels bury nuts early, it will be a hard winter.**

**If the hare wears a thick coat in October, lay in a good store of fuel.**

**As the weather in October, so it will be the next March.**

**When snow falls in the mud, it remains all winter.**



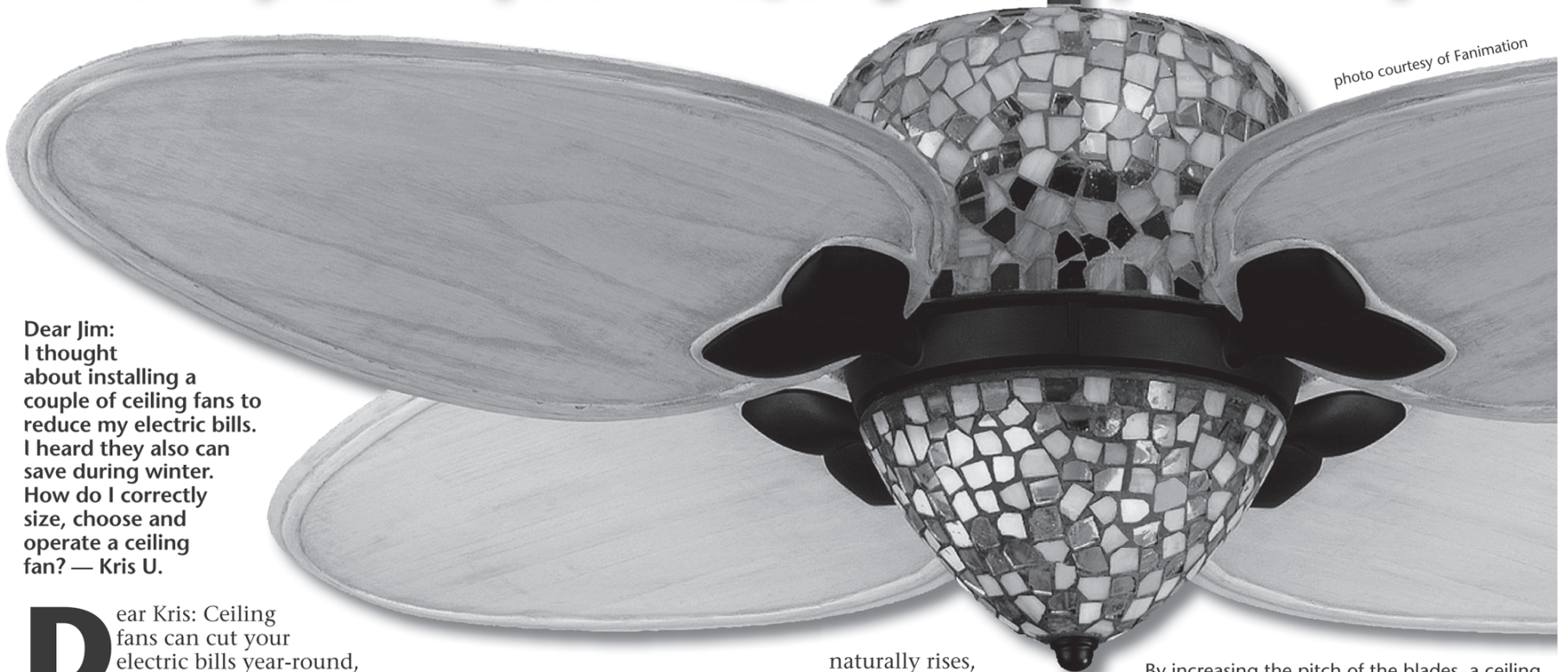


## H O M E C O M F O R T

# Cool breeze, cool electric bills

*Used in conjunction with your thermostat, ceiling fans can help lower electricity use*

photo courtesy of Fanimation



**Dear Jim:** I thought about installing a couple of ceiling fans to reduce my electric bills. I heard they also can save during winter. How do I correctly size, choose and operate a ceiling fan? — Kris U.

**D**ear Kris: Ceiling fans can cut your electric bills year-round, but before you run out and buy a few, it's important to understand how they save energy. If you install a ceiling fan and don't adjust your thermostat settings accordingly, you may be more comfortable, but it actually increases your summertime electric bills.

The important thing to remember is that the fan itself does not cool air or objects — fans cool people, so they should be turned off when the room is empty.

During summer, ceiling fans cool the skin by creating a downward breeze, which should make you feel comfortable enough to turn up the air conditioner a few degrees. Look at the pitch of the blades to determine which rotation direction makes the air blow downward. Setting the thermostat higher saves much more electricity than the ceiling fan consumes.

In general during the summer, run your ceiling fans on medium or high speed to create the cooling effect.

During winter, flip the switch on the side of the ceiling fan housing to reverse the blade rotation. Run the fan on low speed so it creates a gentle, upward breeze away from people in the room. This will force the warm air, which

Some ceiling fans today are equipped with a built-in electric that can be operated by a hand-held remote control. This feature allows you to heat just one room or area.

naturally rises, back down where it's needed. Then, you can set your furnace a few degrees lower and save energy on your heating costs.

Some new ceiling fans also have a built-in electric heater with a hand-held remote thermostat/control. It functions the same way as a standard ceiling fan during summer. During winter, it automatically reverses rotation when it is switched to the heating mode. The heater allows you to take advantage of zone heating.

The size of a ceiling fan is rated by the diameter of the blades. This is more important during summer when you want to feel the breeze on your skin. A common sizing rule of thumb is to use a 36-inch fan for rooms up to 150 square feet, a 48-inch fan for up to 300 square feet and a 52-inch fan for up to 450 square feet. For larger rooms, use two fans spaced about one-quarter of the way in from opposing walls.

Price often is a good indication of the

By increasing the pitch of the blades, a ceiling fan can move more air at a lower speed.

quality of a ceiling fan. Better ceiling fans typically have a greater pitch (twist) on the blades. This requires a more powerful motor, but it moves more air at a lower rotation speed. Lower speed results in less sound and less chance of annoying wobble. Some motors use more copper wire in the windings, up to several miles worth, so they have a higher price.

A hand-held remote control is a convenient feature included with both inexpensive and pricier models. Natural wood blades are attractive, but inexpensive ones made of synthetic materials are generally well balanced. A rubber-mounted hub reduces noise and vibration. Even the best ceiling fans may require you to attach small balancing weights to stop wobble at high speed.

The following companies offer ceiling fans:

- Broan, 800-558-1711, [www.broan.com](http://www.broan.com);
- Casablanca Fans, 888-227-2178, [www.casablancafanco.com](http://www.casablancafanco.com);
- Emerson Electric, 800-237-6511, [www.emersonfans.com](http://www.emersonfans.com);
- Fanimation, 888-567-2055, [www.fanimation.com](http://www.fanimation.com); and
- Reiker, 800-283-7031, [www.buyreiker.com](http://www.buyreiker.com)

Have an energy question for Jim? Write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).



by Jim Dulley







## Manager's Column —

### COOPERATIVE STRENGTH THROUGH COOPERATION

You've probably heard the saying, "There's power in numbers." I have to agree. Cooperation is a key word for electric cooperatives, and a concept vital to our form of business.

Consumer-owned co-ops like Sac Osage Electric Cooperative operate under seven key guidelines, including the Sixth Cooperative Principle, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." In short, electric cooperatives serve their members best while strengthening the overall co-op movement by working together.

At the most basic level, electric cooperatives support one another in times of crisis. If a storm or other disaster hits one of our sister cooperatives, we offer whatever help we can to ensure that service gets restored as quickly as possible. When Hurricane Isaac hit the Gulf coast last month, we sent two trucks and four linemen to the rural area east of Baton Rouge, Louisiana to work with hundreds of other cooperative crews to repair

service for the cooperative members in that area. We appreciate John Julian, Foreman, and his crew of Brian Fugate, Randy Fletcher, and Ronnie Simmons making the journey south to work in extremely unfavorable conditions. We know that if we need help, our electric co-op "family" will be there for us.

When it comes to local and statewide issues, electric co-ops in Missouri combine forces through the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, our statewide association, in Jefferson City. The results show that when small organizations such as electric co-ops use the power of aggregation, we grow in clout, efficiency, and economy. By working together, good things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state capitol when legislators make decisions that affect us. We share training resources and expertise. We also save money through AMEC as we utilize their services in testing our

trucks and equipment annually in order to keep our linemen safe when working on our lines. By working through AMEC we lower printing and production costs of this publication through economies of scale.

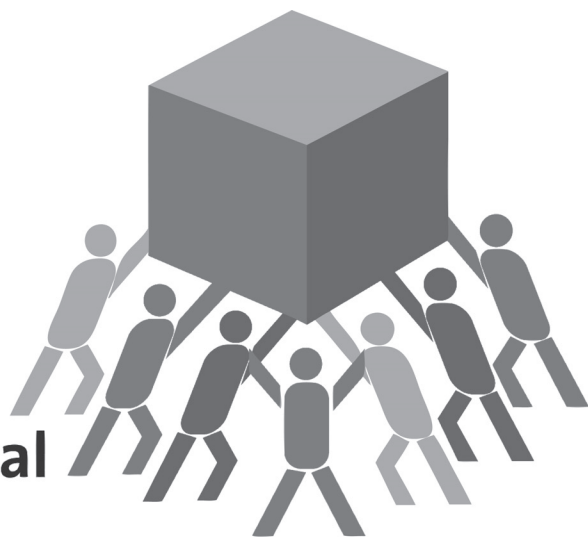
Nationally, we collaborate with other electric co-ops through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Arlington, Va.-based national service organization representing more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts, and public utility districts in the United States. NRECA presents a unified consumer voice, particularly through the Our Energy, Our Future campaign, a grassroots movement among electric co-ops and their members urging lawmakers to create legislation that's in the best interest of electric co-ops. Not only does the organization have the ears of Washington, D.C., decision-makers, it also represents cooperative interests before federal regula-



**Tom Killebrew**  
Manager

tory bodies. And through NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, we receive information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity, and deliver superior service to you.

Even if we were in this alone, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative would still provide you with the very best service at the lowest price possible. But when we pool our resources—work cooperatively—we offer you better value. In addition, by adding our voice with other cooperatives, our message gets heard loud and clear by legislators. And that's the cooperative difference. We continue to thank our membership for the patronage and support throughout the years.



# 2012 International Year of Cooperatives



#### Energy Efficiency

#### *Tip of the Month*

Insulating windows with draperies is a low-cost quick-fix for drafty windows. And they'll be helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight that will cause your air conditioner to work overtime.