



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com



Grayson Jamroch, Stockton R-I High School was one of 100 high school juniors who participated in the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience program.

The annual CYCLE conference was held July 18-20, 2012, at the Double Tree Hotel in Jefferson City. Selected as an outstanding young leader by her local electric cooperative was Grayson Jamroch of Stockton. Jamroch was sponsored by Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in El Dorado Springs.

Each year in July, an action-filled three days provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, the cooperative form of business and being a leader. The program included nationally known speakers, a day at the Missouri State Capitol and education about electric cooperatives. The group was also divided up into smaller teams that competed in various events like the "build a cooperative" game. One highlight was hearing from the Rachel's Challenge group. This national program was founded by the father of Rachel Scott who was tragically killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Their challenge is to make a positive difference in your school and community.

The CYCLE program is in its ninth year and recently received the National Community Youth Service award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as the top youth program among all electric cooperatives in the country.

For more information about this program, go to www.amec.org/youth.html#cycle.



Labor Day

The office of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

As the winter cooling season approaches, learn how you can make your home more energy efficient. You can easily conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and any problems you find.

Read all about it!

On Sept. 3, 1833, publisher Benjamin Day distributed the first issue of his New York newspaper, *The Sun*, a four-page daily selling for one penny. Day gave New Yorkers what he thought they wanted: sensational accounts of crime and horror, human-interest stories and no politics. One of the



first things Day did was to run this ad in his second issue: "To the unemployed — A number of steady men can find employment by vending this paper. A liberal discount is allowed to those who buy to sell again." Ten-year-old Barney Flaherty responded, was hired and became the first "paper boy."

Grandma Moses

Grandma Moses was born on Sept. 7, 1860. She was a farmer's wife who lived near Hoosick Falls, N.Y. In her late 70s, she decided to take up painting and displayed one of her "primitives" in a drugstore window in town. An art collector happened to see it and traced her to her farm, where he bought all 15 of her existing paintings. He exhibited them in 1939 in a show of contemporary unknown painters in New York City. Her fame began.



Autumnal Equinox

This year's autumnal equinox occurs at 9:49 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Sept. 22. It is said that the wind and weather at the time of the equinoxes foretells the wind and weather during the following three months. If the autumn



is warm, it is reputed that the winter will be long. If there's much autumn fog, there will be much winter snow. If the autumn is clear, the winter will be windy. If the storms of September clear off warm, however, you can expect the winter storms to be relatively warm as well.

For recipes, gardening tips and weather forecasts, visit:
www.almanac.com



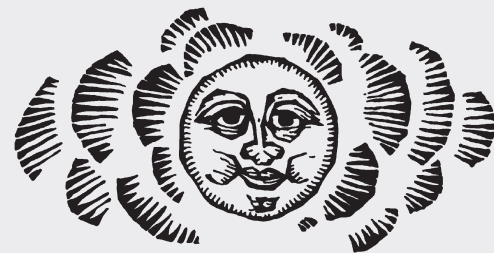
Recipe for Quick and Easy Cupcakes



1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1-1/4 cups sugar
2 eggs
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2-1/4 cups flour
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2/3 cup milk

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a muffin tin with paper liners. Cream the butter and sugar, then beat in the eggs. Add the vanilla. Sift the dry ingredients and add, alternately, with milk. Fill paper liners no more than two-thirds full. Bake for about 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Frost as desired. Makes 12 cupcakes.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

Fair on Sept. 1, fair for the month.

September dries up ditches or breaks down bridges.

If St. Michael (Sept. 29) brings many acorns, Christmas will cover the fields with snow.

If red the sun begins his race, be sure the rain will fall apace.

Dew is produced in serene weather and in calm places.

When pigs carry straw to their sties, bad weather may come.

When the bubbles of coffee collect in the center of the cup, expect fair weather.



H O M E C O M F O R T

Assessing home energy use

Calculate your home electricity use and decide which energy-efficiency measures to take

Dear Jim: I want to make my house more energy efficient. I am not sure what improvements it needs, and I don't want to invest in a professional energy audit. What do I need, and how can I do my own energy audit? — Kim G.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Kim: Most homes, unless they were built with energy efficiency in mind, can benefit from improvements. The older your home is, the more likely you can significantly reduce your utility bills. Compared to the return on most other forms of investments today, home energy-efficiency improvements can provide a favorable financial return.

First, check with your local electric cooperative to see if it has a low- or no-cost energy audit program. You can get professional advice as a benefit of your co-op membership.

If your co-op doesn't offer a program, first do a quick, simple analysis to determine how energy efficient your house is by calculating all the energy your house uses throughout the entire year.

Keep in mind, this does not take into account the number of people living in the household or other factors that can significantly affect your energy use. If someone has a small business in a home office as I do, you need to have computers, printers and other electronics running the majority of the week and, unfortunately, most weekends.

To determine how much energy your house consumes annually, check your utility bills or other receipts. The calculation will be based on total British thermal units (Btu) of energy used. A Btu is about the amount of heat given off by burning a wooden kitchen match.

To convert various amounts of energy consumed into equivalent Btu, use the following conversion factors:

- 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity: 3,414 Btu
- 1 cubic foot of natural gas: 1,025 Btu
- 1 gallon of propane: 91,000 Btu
- 1 gallon of fuel oil: 138,700 Btu
- 1 cord of wood: 19 million Btu

Once you have calculated the total annual Btu, divide this number by the annual sum of the cooling and heating degree days for your area — for the current year, not a historical



photo by Jim McCarty

Vicki Lange of Three Rivers Electric Cooperative in Linn uses an infrared camera to check exterior walls for air infiltration during an energy audit at a member's home. Energy audits are just one way electric cooperatives are helping members save energy, and many Missouri co-ops offer their members audits at low or no cost.

average — which you can find via your local weather service. Finally, divide this number by the square footage of your house.

The number for most houses falls between 10 to 20, which means a variety of energy-efficiency improvements will be beneficial. Greater than 20 means your house is very inefficient, and almost any improvement will help a lot. A number lower than 10 means significant improvements will be difficult to achieve without serious investment.

Every house is unique, but indoor air leakage typically accounts for 35 percent of annual energy consumption. Check the windows and doors for leaky gaps and joints. Also check for gaps where the walls rest on the top of the foundation, called the sill. Heat loss (or gain during summer) through the walls and ceil-

ing accounts for about 30 percent more. The remaining energy used is for items such as lighting, water heating, cooking and electronics.

Holding a lighted stick of incense near walls, windows and doors and observing the smoke trail can identify leaky spots. Move the incense around the edge and any place there is weatherstripping or a caulked joint. It's best to test this on a windy day. Also check for leaks at ductwork seams.

If you have an all-electric house, turn on all the vent fans to create negative pressure indoors and then do the incense test. Do not use this method if you have gas, oil or any combustion appliances because backdrafting — in which depressurization will pull dangerous gases back into the home — can occur.

If you want to check for specific hot and cold wall areas, indicating air leaks or lack of insulation, Black & Decker offers a Thermal Leak Detector for about \$40 online at www.blackanddecker.com. It uses infrared technology, similar to professional models, to sense cold and warm on areas such as walls and windows. The sensor beam turns red on hot spots and blue on cold spots.

Check the accuracy of your central furnace/air conditioner thermostat by taping a bulb thermometer next to it on the wall. You may find the thermostat is inaccurate, and you're actually keeping the house warmer or cooler than you think.

Have a question for Jim? Write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

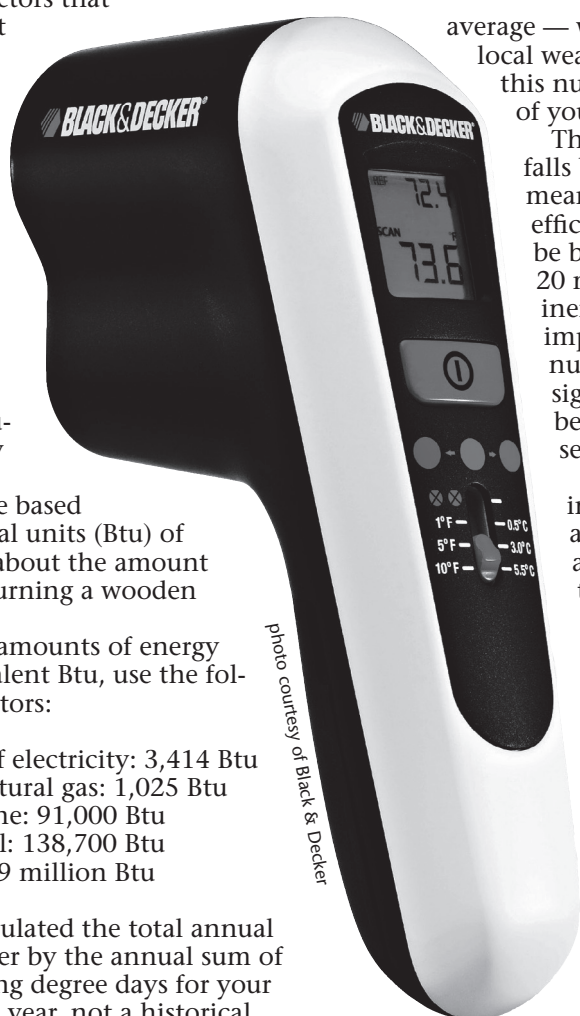


photo courtesy of Black & Decker

Black & Decker's Thermal Leak Detector can sense warm and cool spots in your home, helping you determine where energy-efficiency improvements would be beneficial.



Manager's Column —

WHAT A SUMMER! AGAIN!

The topic of most conversations these days has to do with the weather we have been experiencing this summer. Here at Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, the topic is more than conversational. Weather extremes of any nature, heat, cold, or rain can cause serious challenges to our system's reliability and stability. We have faced such situations throughout 2012. But, we didn't just start talking about these weather related challenges in the last few weeks. We planned years ago to design our electrical system to address the demands of such extremes.

Generally, every four years we develop the Cooperative's Work Plan that is submitted to the Rural Utilities Services for their approval. Each Work Plan demonstrates the many hours of discussion and planning as the engineering process evolves into a viable plan. The Four Year Work Plan is actually a detailed version of a broader plan that the Cooperative develops every twenty years. One of the major tenants

driving each Work Plan is centered upon one theme: to improve the system's reliability and stability for the near and long term future.

When you see our men and equipment building three phase power lines in rural, remote areas, we are executing a very deliberate, well planned system improvement that has likely been in the planning stages for a very long time. We continue to upgrade the system to handle increasing loads that occur during extreme weather conditions.

Some of you see our right of way crews methodically cutting, trimming, and mowing trees and underbrush along our power lines every day. This program is essential as demonstrated last month with the wind and storm damage near the Lockwood and Greenfield rural areas. We have to also plan for the approaching winter and icy conditions that often come with those associated weather extremes. Our rights of way continue to demand a sizable part of our budget dedicated

to tree and brush clearing. This program has a direct bearing on the quality of our system reliability standards.

As hot as this summer has been, you may be surprised that our energy sales figures reflect that our members purchased more electricity during June 2010 and June 2011 than in June of this year. While overall electricity sales have generally declined since January of this year, our patterns of seasonal extremes continue to affect our demand for power that you require. The fact that you don't have to be concerned about your availability of power during these extreme periods, is a testament to the cooperative's planning and engineering achievements over the years. We just want you to manage your power usage more efficiently.

With the knowledge that using energy wiser not only helps you by lowering your energy bill, we also encourage you to re-schedule some of your household jobs, by waiting until after our 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. peak period.



Tom Killebrew
Manager

As more and more of our members "shift" their greatest power consumption into other time periods, the Cooperative will avoid escalating wholesale peak demand energy charges that we incur during our peak periods. Any savings that we achieve will be reflected in your bills in the long term.

Whether we are trying to manage our households, our farms, our businesses, or an electric utility, every one of us must pay more attention to the way we use the power we need. Managing our resources will benefit us all in the long run. Thanks for your continued patronage and support of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.

Simplify

Just visit sacosage.com and click on the e-bill button. Use your Sac Osage Electric account number and password of your choosing to set up an online bill pay account.

Automatic bank draft is easier...

At sacosage.com, click on Member Information under the Auto with draw menu. Download an application form, fill it out and send it in with a voided check. We'll arrange to draft your checking account or credit card on the 20th of each month. All you have to do is open your bill and make a note in your check register.