



RURAL
MISSOURI

December 2013

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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Sac Osage Welcomes New General Manager

As the result of the retirement of General Manager, Tom Killebrew, the Board of Directors of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative announces the appointment of Jim Davis as the Cooperative's next General Manager.

Mr. Davis, a graduate of the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, began his career at Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in 1979. He has served as Assistant Manager/Engineer until present. In response to the announcement, Jim stated "I am so appreciative of the blessings afforded me in my thirty-four years at Sac Osage. I have been part of a great company that has a reputation for outstanding service and dependability. The support from the Board of Directors and employees has been incredible and greatly appreciated." Jim has experienced many changes in his years at Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.

He hopes to continue to pioneer new technology and provide quality leadership as he represents the Cooperative. Jim enjoys spending time with his family, studying astronomy and electronics, reading, and working Sudoku puzzles. He and his wife Kathy, a retired teacher, are parents of a daughter Tessa, a registered nurse.



Jim Davis



Joanne Emerson, CEO Of NRECA & former Missouri Congressman with General Manager, Tom Killebrew and Board Director Jan Neale at NRECA Regional Meeting in San Antonio Texas.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Put a new Energy Star-qualified appliance at the top of your Christmas wish list. Upgrading appliances such as washing machines, refrigerators and ranges to Energy Star-rated models can save up to \$140 per year over older inefficient models.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25th for Christmas Day & Wednesday, Jan. 1st for New Year's Day.

Weather Lore

Some say that if it rains on the first Sunday of December, it will rain for a week. Weather proverbs are our attempts to explain and understand our climate. Some are useful, some are ridiculous, but almost all are interesting. Here's another one relating to



the days of the month: If it storms on the first Thursday of the month, count the remaining days of the month, add to this the number of days until the New Moon (Dec. 3 this month), and that will give you the number of storms for that season.

Ancient superstitions

Many ancient vows and superstitions involved food. At medieval feasts, a roasted peacock, with its feathers and head intact, was often common fare. Knights would put a hand onto the roasted peacock's back and make a vow for the coming year, much like our New Year's resolutions. Ancient Egyptians believed that onions kept evil spirits away. When they took an oath, they placed one hand on an onion.



Ember Days

This Dec. 18, 20 and 21 follow the third Sunday in Advent, which makes them Ember Days. *The Old Farmer's Almanac* notes four annual sets of Ember Days because they are traditionally used for predicting the weather. The weather on Wednesday, Dec. 18, is supposed to predict the type

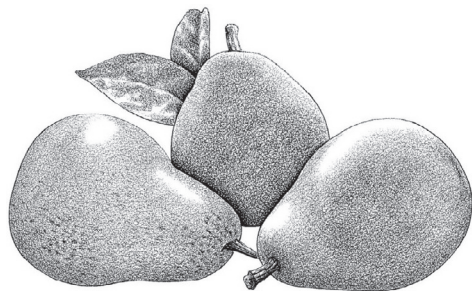


of weather for January 2014. Friday, Dec. 20, predicts the weather for February, and the weather on Saturday, Dec. 21, has something to tell us about March. Ember Days also follow the first Sunday in Lent, the seventh Sunday after Easter and the third Sunday in September.

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



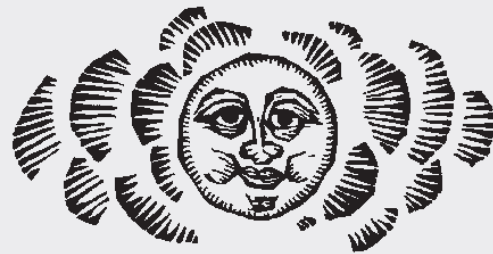
Recipe for Spiced Pear Shortcake



3 large pears, peeled, cored and sliced
3 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons sugar
6 shortcake biscuits
Whipped cream, seasoned with ground ginger to taste

Sauté the pear slices in butter, adding sugar when the fruit begins to soften. Cook just until tender. Spoon the fruit over split shortcake biscuits and top with spiced whipped cream. Makes 12 half-biscuit servings.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

If the wind blows much on St. Stephen's Day (Dec. 26), the grapes will be bad in the next year.

Many stars in winter indicate frost.

Between the hours of 10 and 2, will show you what the day will do.

Much sleet in winter will be followed by a good fruit year.

If at Christmas ice hangs on the willow, clover may be cut at Easter.

If the wolves howl and foxes bark during the winter, expect cold weather.

Black clouds in the north in winter indicate approaching snow.



H O M E C O M F O R T

Sizing up storm doors

A variety of options can fit any efficiency need or budget

Dear Jim: I feel air leaks around my doors, so I thought about adding storm doors. I want ones that also have screens, but my budget is limited. Is it worthwhile adding storm doors? What should I look for? — Candi M.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Candi: Even though a door is a relatively small area as compared to the entire wall area of a house, just one door can lose a significant amount of energy. Even insulated doors typically have some glass, which has a lower insulation value, and inadequate weatherstripping will allow air to leak through.

Before buying anything new, make sure your primary doors are as airtight as possible. Adding storm doors can certainly improve the energy efficiency of almost any house, but they are not designed to correct efficiency problems of an old, warped primary door.

If possible, purchase replacement weatherstripping for your existing doors from the original manufacturer. If you can't find it, most home improvement stores sell many styles of generic weatherstripping that should fit. Pry off the old door molding, fill any gaps around the framing with non-expanding foam insulation and caulk around the door frame.

The quality of the storm door construction is important for a pleasant appearance, long life and security. It must withstand a lot of abuse, so don't just pick the cheapest one. From strictly an energy-efficiency standpoint, though, the most important factors are the dead air space between the storm and primary doors and how well wind is blocked.

Buying an aluminum storm door and installing it yourself is the typical low-cost option. They're very lightweight and made to fit standard-sized openings, so installing one is a simple do-it-yourself project.

When you see the door on display attached to a wooden frame at the store, the aluminum frame will feel very strong. When you open the box at home, you may find the unattached aluminum frame strips are somewhat flexible. Be careful not to kink them during handling. Apply a generous bead

of caulk on the back of the aluminum frame when screwing it to the door frame.

If you plan to use natural ventilation during the summer, a self-storing triple-track storm/screen door is your most convenient option. I use this type at my own home. The screen panel has its own vertical track in

the door, so it never has to be removed. At the end of winter, just slide one of the glass panels down and slide the screen panel up for ventilation.

A fairly new design of storm/screen door uses a spring-mounted roll-up retractable screen built into the door. When you are ready for ventilation, just lower the glass and pull the screen down as far as you wish. This design is attractive because the screen is hidden away during winter without having to remove and store the screen panels.

When your budget does allow, some very attractive all-wood frame (made with mortise and tenon joints) storm/screen doors are available. These are strong and secure but do require some regular maintenance — similar to any wood door. For added security, ornate wrought iron storm doors are available with actual deadbolts and very tough, break-in resistant stainless steel screens.

If your budget is really tight, consider making your own storm door. It is easy to mount hinges in the existing door opening for the storm door. Make a simple wooden frame with only the top half open and a plywood lower panel. This panel improves rigidity for a more airtight seal and increased durability.

Most home improvement stores carry sheets of clear acrylic plastic to mount in the frame. Make another narrow wooden frame slightly larger than the open half and mount the acrylic sheet in it. Screw it over the storm door opening. Make a similar frame with screening in it for summer use.

If you prefer more durability and efficiency and a perfectly clear view outdoors is not critical, select double-walled polycarbonate instead of acrylic. You can barely



photo courtesy of Pella

This storm door has a retractable screen feature. The screen rolls up and out of sight when it's not in use and eliminates the need to remove and store it during the winter.

break the polycarbonate even with a big hammer.

Nail spring steel weatherstripping in the door opening on the latch side and top and bottom. This type of weatherstripping is very durable where there is sliding friction. Adhesive-backed foam weatherstripping is effective in compression on the hinge side.

The following companies offer storm/screen doors:

• Cumberland Woodcraft, 800-367-1884, www.cumberlandwoodcraft.com:

- Emco Specialties, 800-933-3626, www.emcodors.com;
- Homeguard Industries, 800-525-1885, www.home-guard.net;
- Pella, 800-374-4758, www.pella.com; and
- ProVia Door, 877-389-0835, www.proviadoor.com.

Have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? E-mail him at contact@dulley.com or write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Visit www.dulley.com to read past articles on energy efficiency.



Manager's Column — One More Milestone

They are called milestones. That is what special events are called that when they are out of the ordinary. If you have lived long enough, as I have, that is how we measure time. Marriages, births, deaths, graduations, first "real" jobs, moving to new homes are all important pieces of our lives and become event markers, or milestones.

My wife Sandy and I experienced such a milestone when we accepted the opportunity to come to work with the folks here at Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. We experienced a warm welcome from all, when we arrived in July, 2004.

Sometimes milestones occur when you least expect it. This milestone surprised me because retirement age crept upon me much too quickly effective December 31, I will close my 35 year career in the rural electric cooperative business. While looking forward to that date, it won't be easy to leave after working over the last nine and a half years with the Board of Directors and the hard working and dedicated employees that serve you every day. However, now is the time to hand over the General Manager's position to long time Sac Osage Electric's Assistant Manager to Jim Davis. I am confident he will continue a good job for you. I look forward to the next chapter in our lives.

I have enjoyed writing these columns as they have appeared on the back-page of the Rural Missouri monthly paper. I hope you have been informed of the issues that affect this business that you own as cooperative members. And as always. . . thank you for your continued patronage and support over the years.



Tom Killebrew
Manager

Merry Christmas!

\$\$\$ Capital Credits \$\$\$

The board of directors for Sac Osage Electric Cooperative has authorized the distribution of \$500,000 in capital credits for the remaining year of 1983 and a portion of 1984. If you are a current member who is a part of this capital credit refund, the amount will appear as a credit on your January bill.

"There is no better way to express the benefits and rewards of belonging to a coop and receiving service from Sac Osage Electric than the issuance of these capital credits," said Brad Thompson, president of Sac Osage Electric's Board of Directors. "When our members signed up for electric service from Sac Osage, the co-op agreed to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost." Electric utilities are a capital-intensive industry requiring a large investment in plant and equipment and each member of Sac Osage Electric contributes to the equity of the coop through the margins of the utility.

Member equity is the essential tool for Sac Osage Electric to build, maintain, and upgrade the facilities necessary in providing members with reliable, economical electric service. This investment is also necessary to keep up with construction during periods of growth and implement the latest necessary technology.

At the end of each operating year, any excess revenue is allocated back to the members (or former members) on a basis directly proportional to the amount of kilowatts used in a given year. In other words, capital credits are to

a cooperative what shares of stock are to a for-profit company. When a person owns stock in a for profit company, their stock may pay dividends based on the performance of that company.

At Sac Osage Electric, members accumulate dividends based on their total electrical costs for that given year. "If you are a customer of an investor owned utility, you have no equity to show for the bills you pay and regardless of how much you spend or how many years you contribute to their operation, you're only a customer and draw no return on your investment unless you also buy stock in the company," said Tom Killebrew Sac Osage Electric's General Manager. "On the other hand, members of Sac Osage Electric are owners of the coop.

They have democratic control of the cooperative and every time they turn on a light, watch TV or use their electric stove, members add to their equity in the co-op and accumulate capital credits." Retirement of member dividends is a direct result of achievement of the financial goals set by the Board of Directors for Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. Each year, the board may vote to retire a portion of these dividends, based on the financial stability of the cooperative.

