



February 2013

RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

P.O. Box 111, 4815 E HWY 54
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744
Telephone: 800-876-2701

Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com

Attention: High School Juniors

You could win a trip of a lifetime! It's so much more than politics and monuments.

It goes without saying that a trip to Washington, D.C., includes visiting many beautiful monuments and getting a good dose of politics. But that's to be expected in the nation's capital. It is a unique, educational and leadership experience for high school juniors to experience.

Inspired by Lyndon Johnson during a 1957 address to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour officially began in 1964. Johnson said, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

If you are a high school junior living within Sac Osage Electric Cooperative's service area you could have a chance to win! We will select one outstanding delegate to win this all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., set for June 2013. The delegate will join more than 80 Missouri students and over 1,500 students from across the U.S. on this week-long tour of D.C., visiting memorials, museums, and getting a first-hand look at our government at work.

The first runner up delegate will be awarded an all expense paid trip to attend the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE), set for July 2013 in Jefferson City.

The schools in the following counties in our service area can participate in the Youth Tour and CYCLE contest: Cedar, Barton, Benton, Dade, Henry, Hickory, Polk, St. Clair and Vernon counties.

The 2013 Youth Tour Essay topic is:

"How could Sac Osage Electric as Member Owned Cooperative keep electric affordable and reliable?"

Applying is simple. Visit our website www.sacosage.com, contact our office at 417-876-2721 or visit with your school English teacher.



Courtney Hooper represented Sac Osage Electric Cooperative at the 2012 Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C. Courtney stated "It was a trip of a life time that I will never forget."

Rebates Plan Continues in 2013

2012 was another big year for the rebate program and will continue in 2013 offering rebates on dual-fuel air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps.

Effective January 1, 2013, to qualify for a rebate, dual-fuel air-source heat pumps and ground-source heat pumps must be higher than Energy-Star energy efficiency minimum ratings. For a complete outline of requirements of our rebate program or to download an application, logon to our website at www.sacosage.com, or give us a call at our 1-800-876-2701.

IMPORTANT - Completed application AND invoice/receipt must be submitted within 90 days of purchase.

Dual-Fuel Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate (16.5 SEER minimum and must have a gas backup)
\$300/ton Ground-Source Heat Pump Rebate (19.1 EER minimum)
\$750/ton new install
\$300/ton replacement unit



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Today's computers, TVs and video games are much more energy efficient than they were just a few years ago. But often, these energy-efficiency settings are not enabled when they are shipped from the factory. Look under the settings menus and make sure options such as sleep settings are turned on.

A day for the birds

Most of us associate Valentine's Day with romance, but some old-timers used it as a gauge of their goose's productivity: "On Valentine's Day will a good goose lay; if she be a good goose, her dame well to pay, she will lay two eggs before Valentine's Day." Another old belief was that "on St. Valentine's



Day, all the birds of the air in couples do join." Poet Geoffrey Chaucer wrote: "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day/ Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." Doves became a symbol of Valentine's Day in part because they mate for life.

Little half-pint

Feb. 7 marks the birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder, who was born in 1867 and known affectionately by her "Pa," Charles Ingalls, as "Little Half-Pint." Her series of "Little House" children's books has been a favorite for generations and gives a vivid picture of early American



pioneer life. At one time, an attempt was made to ban "Little House on the Prairie" from some library and school bookshelves because of its portrayal of American Indians. The effort proved to be ill-considered and unsuccessful. In fact, the books are quite open-minded about the effects of early settlement.

Spilt Milk?

On Feb. 18, 1930, a Guernsey from Missouri gave milk under rather unusual circumstances. The brave cow had boarded a plane at the St. Louis International Air Exposition. With a corps of reporters in attendance, Elm Farm Ollie made aviation history as she became not only the first cow to fly, but also the first cow to be milked while aloft. The milk was sealed in paper containers and parachuted over St. Louis, proving that while it may be true that pigs don't fly, cows apparently do!



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



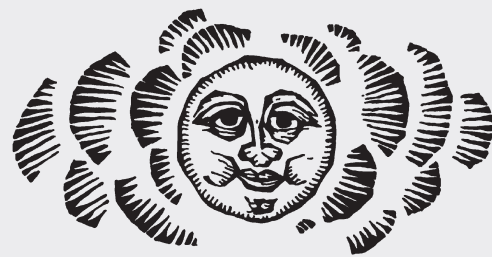
Recipe for Cornmeal Cookies



1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 egg yolks
2 teaspoons lemon zest, grated
1-1/2 cups sifted flour
1 cup yellow cornmeal

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg yolks, zest, flour and cornmeal and mix well. Shape dough into a log about 2-1/2 inches in diameter and chill for one hour. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cut the dough into slices, place on a greased baking sheet and bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on a rack.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

Stick to your winter flannels till your winter flannels stick to you.

Violent north winds in February herald a fertile year.

If the bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy.

The full moon brings long cold snaps; a pale full moon brings rain.

If February gives much snow, a fine summer it doth foreshow.

If you walk on snow, you cannot hide your footprints.

Some say thunder on Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 12) foretelleth wind, store of fruit and plenty.



H O M E C O M F O R T

Don't overlook the door

Options abound for those looking to improve the energy efficiency of their garage doors

Dear Jim: I do projects in my garage, which also has a bedroom above it. The garage door is an old metal one with no insulation, so I think I should replace it. What type of garage door is best? — Stephen K.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Stephen: It sounds like you definitely need to make some efficiency improvements to the garage door, both for your comfort while working and for the energy losses from the bedroom floor above it. If the builder installed an inexpensive, inefficient garage door or it's an older building, it's likely the bedroom floor above the garage isn't well insulated either.

When evaluating energy-efficiency projects, keep in mind: Hot air goes up, but heat energy moves in all directions, including down. If your garage doesn't have a furnace duct going to it, but it stays reasonably warm, it's getting heat from somewhere. It's probably from an adjacent house wall and down from the bedroom floor above it.

Before you invest in a new garage door, inspect your existing one. If it's in relatively good condition and there are no significant drafts coming from the joints between the panels, consider installing a garage door insulation kit. Some kits provide an insulation value as high as R-8, but they won't seal air leaks through the joints between the door panels.

Owens Corning makes an easy-to-install garage door insulation kit. It includes vinyl-backed fiberglass insulation batts, retaining clips and tape. Cut the batts to fit the door panels. Apply strips of double-sided tape on two spots on each panel. Stick the retaining clips on the tape and push the insulation over them. A top clip snaps over each clip to hold the insulation securely in place.

Several other advantages of installing an insulation kit are reduced outdoor noise and lower lighting costs. The exposed white vinyl backing reflects light, so you need fewer lights on in the garage.

If you decide you need a completely new door, there are several options. The most common garage door materials are wood, insulated steel, insulated fiberglass and aluminum/glass. Of these, the insulated steel or fiberglass offer the best efficiency because of the insulation value and the rigidity of the door to remain airtight over its life.

Many insulated steel doors are "wind rated" for severe weather. Even if your area doesn't have frequent high-wind storms, install the horizontal galvanized steel supports across the inner surface of the door if they were included with the door. As the door rolls up to open, the edges are not interlocked to support each other. Without the supports, the panels may flex and begin to form cracks over time.

If you prefer the appearance of wood but want higher efficiency, select a clad-insulated



photo courtesy of Clopay

Today's insulated garage doors offer style and energy efficiency. This model from Clopay provides an insulation value greater than R-19 and features a thick polymer coating that simulates the look of wooden carriage-style doors.

steel garage door. Clopay developed a method to apply a half-inch-thick polymer coating on the exterior steel skin. It has authentic wood grain molded into the surface so it looks identical to real stained wood. Another option is an embossed simulated wood finish.

A very popular garage door style today is a simulated swing-open carriage type. It still rolls up like a typical panel garage door, but from the street it appears that two doors would swing open. These attractive doors often have some type of decorative glass across the top panel for aesthetics and for natural light in the garage.

An insulated steel door is probably the least expensive design to meet your efficiency and comfort needs. Some foam-insulated steel doors have insulation values as high as R-19.



photo courtesy of Owens Corning

If your existing garage door is in good condition, installing an insulation kit offers an economical means of improving your door's overall energy efficiency.

The foam inside the door can be either glued-in rigid polystyrene or blown-in urethane foam. Urethane foam has a higher insulation level, but either should be satisfactory.

When choosing a steel door, look for one with a thermal break separating the outdoor and indoor metal skins to reduce heat loss. This is not a factor on a fiberglass door. If you have children, look for pinch-resistance panels. These are designed to push a finger out of the panel joints as the door closes. If you want glass in the door, make sure it's at least double-pane, insulated glass or low-E for better efficiency.

A garage door insulation kit is available from Owens Corning, 800-438-7465, www.owens-corning.com. The following companies offer efficient garage doors:

- Amarr Garage Doors, 800-503-3667, www.amarr.com;
- Clopay, 800-225-6729, www.clopaydoor.com;
- Overhead Door, 800-929-1277, www.overheaddoor.com;
- Raynor Garage Doors, 800-472-9667, www.raynor.com; and
- Wayne-Dalton, 800-827-3667, www.wayne-dalton.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.



Emerson selected new NRECA CEO

8th District Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson has been selected as the fifth chief executive officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Emerson, who has represented Missouri's Eighth Congressional District since 1996, will assume her duties as CEO on March 1. She will follow Glenn English, who has been CEO since 1994 and announced his retirement earlier this year.

"We conducted an exhaustive search to identify the very best individual to lead a great association," said NRECA Board President Mike Guidry. "We're convinced we found that person in Jo Ann Emerson. Her background as a member of Congress and a trade association executive coupled with her extensive knowledge of the issues facing electric cooperatives and rural America make Jo Ann eminently qualified to lead NRECA and represent the interests of our members."

"The respect she has from both sides of the aisle and her proven ability to bridge political and policy divides and find common ground will serve NRECA well," he added. Emerson has been a strong supporter of electric co-ops during her congressional career. She received the NRECA Distinguished Service Award in 2006 for her advocacy of co-op interests in Congress. "Energy has a direct relationship with the vitality of rural America."

Without reliable, affordable electricity delivered by electric cooperatives serving thousands of communities, millions of Americans would be left without the energy that brings economic opportunity, unsurpassed quality of life, and the promise of growth in the future," Emerson said in a statement accompanying the announcement of her new position.

"NRECA is committed to the electric cooperatives of this great nation that fulfill this vital need, and work so hard every day to improve the quality of life



JoAnn Emerson



Glenn English

for their member-owners. I am so very honored to join an outstanding organization to work on their behalf," she said.

Emerson will retire from Congress in February. Emerson will be officially introduced to the electric cooperative membership in February at the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Current CEO Glenn English will retire March 1.

Rates to Remain Stable in 2013

The Sac Osage Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved the cooperative's 2013 Budget at their December Board Meeting. After examining every cost driver we experience each year, the decision was made to hold our current electric rates the same for this year. This certainly is good news, as many families and businesses in our service area continue to struggle economically.

Wholesale power pricing strategies are changing in 2013, as our power supplier works to equalize our wholesale rates between demand and energy consumption. Our wholesale power bills will be changing later in 2013, but currently our overall cost projections appear to be stable for the coming year.

Sac Osage Electric's single greatest monthly cost is the wholesale power we purchase and then distribute to you, our members. Therefore, when this cost

component changes, it influences our retail rates. Key factors affecting lower wholesale power costs include projected low-to-moderate natural gas prices, stable rail transportation costs and moderate coal prices. But the country's sluggish economy has done more than anything else to diminish the need to expand new generation facilities to satisfy greater power requirements. Thus, for the short term, we will not have to increase our rates in 2013.

However, due to the uncertain economic, political, and regulatory environment we are experiencing, long term promises regarding future electric rates simply cannot be made. We continue to promise you, our owners, that we will be diligent in our efforts to find ways to serve you better in the year ahead. Thank you for your patronage and support.

We Have A Plan!

Should winter weather cause havoc with our power lines, we have a plan to get you back on in a hurry. Your electric cooperative has a time-tested emergency preparedness plan that tells every employee what their role will be in the event of a major outage.

Often this plan is enacted long before the weather man even tells you bad weather is on its way. There are employees at your electric cooperative who keep their eyes on the sky (or perhaps the weather radar) year round.

Likewise, there are people tasked with making sure there will be food and drinks for those working outside. There are people who will keep you informed of progress through local media and our own communications. Others will make sure there are adequate supplies of material on hand. And of course, there are many people who will head into the fray and make the repairs, without regard to the temperature or time of day.

When those repairs get underway, the first step is to evaluate the extent of the damage so that crews can be directed to the trouble areas. When they head out, they already are trained in work procedures that will get the most people on in the shortest amount of time.

The first order of business is to make sure transmission lines are operating. While it's rare for a transmission line to go down, when this happens it can cause outages for a large number of people. Often, this can be fixed simply by rerouting the power over another line.

The next step starts at the substation, where

electricity from the transmission lines is stepped down to a voltage our lines can handle. Repairs made here also will turn power on for large numbers of people.

Working from the substation out, the crews will next repair the main distribution lines. These lines may power entire subdivisions or small towns.

Finally, individual tap lines that power the transformers outside your home or business are repaired. Often, those without power will ask linemen why they don't do these first. The answer is, it wouldn't help if the problem is farther up the line.

Should your home still be without power after the taps are repaired, the problem may be on your side of the meter. For example, the line from the transformer to your home may be down, or your breakers could have been tripped when the power went off.

For this reason, always report outages to your electric cooperative. Don't assume we will know when your service is out.

Should the outage situation be extremely bad, your electric cooperative is not alone. A network of electric cooperatives can be called upon to help should they be needed.

The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives based in Jefferson City coordinates an emergency assistance program that brings linemen and equipment from systems out of harm's way to those areas that need more help. Since the program was



started in 1948, it has been used countless times to speed repairs.

In recent years, electric cooperatives in Missouri have sent crews to assist neighboring states, including those ravaged by hurricanes and those hit hard by ice storms. This goodwill has resulted in those states sending crews to major disasters in Missouri, such as the ice storms in 2007 and 2009.

One blessing of the rural electric program is that standards for line construction put in place by the Rural Utilities Service ensure workers from one co-op know exactly how to repair lines owned by a different co-op.

While we can do much about Mother Nature's wrath, we can and will do whatever it takes to repair the damage. In recent years, this means hardening our system so that damage is minimal in the first place. It also means working long hours, investing in a stockpile of ready materials and poles and keeping our crews skilled and trained to work safely.