



January 2013

RURAL  
MISSOURI

**Sac Osage Electric Cooperative**

**News**

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## Operation Round-Up Awards Local Projects

The Board of Directors authorized the Sac Osage Electric Operation Round-Up Committee to distribute funds collected from our members throughout the year to several local and regional projects. The committee members felt that it is during this particular time of year, this gift would be meaningful for each recipient to

provide additional resources for families through their organizations.

The Operation Round-up program uses the power of cooperative members who participate to provide these additional funds.

As members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, you can voluntarily choose to have your monthly electric bill "rounded up" to the next whole dollar. The most money individual members would possibly contribute is \$11.88 over a 12 month period. These excess payments are collected in a special account that is used for such special purposes. "This program is a very easy way for our members to help local



and area families who need a little help", said Tom Killebrew, manager of the cooperative. Please contact our consumer service representatives to set up your account, and start putting your pennies to work. Together our little change may make a big change for someone else.

The Operations Round-Up committee awarded \$200 to the following organizations:

1. El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund
2. Christmas Fund, Community Outreach, Nevada, MO.
3. Christmas Fund, Children's Welfare Advisory Board, Osceola, MO.
4. Christmas Fund, Stockton, MO.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is proud to participate in community activities like the El Dorado Springs Christmas Parade. The kids enjoyed seeing the bucket truck and of course the candy thrown from the truck. A special thanks to Mark Boultinghouse, Tree Trimmer and Janna Dody, Communications Coordinator along with Mark's daughter Halley and Janna's daughter Lainey and son Kole along with Riley & Tatum Quinlan for participating in the Christmas Parade.



Sac Osage Electric's Board Secretary/Treasurer Jan Neale presents Steve Wiseman a check for the El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund



Sac Osage Electric's Board President Brad Thompson presents Barbara Long a check for Christmas Fund, Community Outreach



Sac Osage Electric's Board Director Neale Johnson presents a check to Pat Patterson for the Stockton Christmas Fund



Sac Osage Electric's Board Director Jim Murray presents a check to Chris McCune and Helen Kidwell for the Christmas Fund, Children's Welfare Advisory Board

**Sac Osage Electric will be closed  
on Tuesday, January 1, 2013.**

*Happy New Year!*

## Feast of the Epiphany

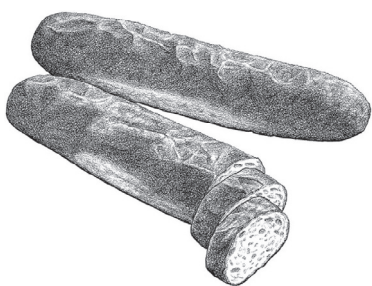
Jan. 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, or Twelfth Day, the end of Yule festivities. It translates as "manifest one," from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning "manifestation" or "appearance." More recently, Epiphany became associated with the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ's



divinity to the gentiles or, in the Eastern Church, the baptism of Christ. Tradition advises the removal of Christmas greens by the end of Twelfth Night (the night before Epiphany), lest bad luck come in where the drying evergreen needles fall.

## First Footer

In many countries, it is believed that the first person to cross the threshold in the new year, the "first footer," will bring good luck into the house for the coming year. Although this custom is known in countries from Ireland to China, it is particularly well observed in Scotland and parts



of England. Generally, a tall, dark male is thought to bring the best luck, but in some regions, fair men (especially redheads) are preferred. Regardless of his looks, the visitor must never arrive empty-handed. Traditional gifts are a piece of coal for the fire or a loaf of bread.

## Propitious for women

In ancient folklore, the 14th day of the month was seen as particularly propitious for the birth of women. The 13th was considered propitious for marriage, and the 10th and 11th were lucky days for the birth of men. Hesiod, from the 8th century B.C., marked each day of the month as fortunate



for some things and unlucky for others. The 9th was seen as a good day for the "works of men," while reaping fruit and shearing sheep were best done on the 10th or 11th. Although women had only one propitious birth day, their day was considered "holy above all."

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



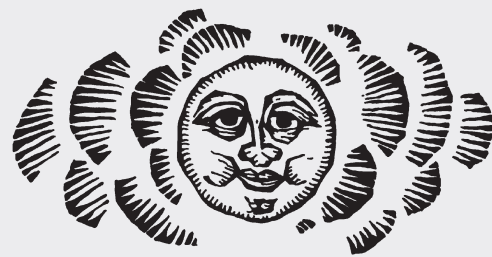
### Recipe for Alfredo Sauce



1/4 cup butter  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1-1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan or Gruyère cheese  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped

Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the cream and simmer for 5 minutes. Add garlic, cheese and nutmeg. Stir in the parsley and serve over pasta. Makes 2-1/2 cups.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**On St. Distaff's Day (Jan. 7), neither work nor play.**

**Fog in January makes a wet spring.**

**A fire hard to kindle indicates bad weather.**

**When the North Star twinkles, expect stormy weather.**

**When oak trees bend with snow in January, good crops may be expected.**

**It will be the same weather for nine weeks as it is on the ninth day after Christmas.**

**A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm.**





## HOME COMFORT

# Insulate to maximize efficiency

*Stop air leakage in non-obvious locations to boost your home's energy efficiency*

**Dear Jim:** The wall and blown-in attic insulation in my fairly new house are at recommended levels, but my utility bills are still too high. What other areas should I check for inefficiency? — **Ronnie J.**

**D**ear Ronnie: You are correct that the walls and ceiling are the areas of the greatest heat loss from a house. Proper insulation in those areas is of utmost importance; however, it's possible many other areas in the exterior thermal envelope of your home have insulation voids or air leakage. These cracks and gaps can contribute to unnecessarily high utility bills.

First, check your walls and attic. As your house is "fairly new," you can probably rest easy that the walls are adequately insulated — most likely with faced batts that fit tightly between wall studs. "Facing" refers to a material that acts as a vapor barrier.

Since you have blown-in attic insulation, check its depth. Depending on how it was blown in, it may have settled and no longer reaches the required depth and R-value for your climate. (The U.S. Department of Energy has a calculator that figures the amount of insulation you need for your climate zone: [www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html](http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html).) Also, using a rake, make sure it's level across the attic floor. Wind coming in the attic vents can blow it around, creating high and low spots.

Where there's a break in the thermal envelope of your home, there's potential for energy loss. One common spot is electrical wall outlets and switches on outside walls. Often, they are completely uninsulated, and the vapor/air barrier is not taped tightly to them.

Switch off the circuit breaker to these outlets and switches. Remove the faceplates. If you can get the tube from a can of urethane foam spray can into the wall around the conduit box, shoot some expanding foam in there. This should fill insulation voids and seal it.

Even if you were able to shoot in insulation — and definitely if you could not — install foam draft sealers behind the faceplates. They add only a slight amount of insulation, but they will improve the overall seal to reduce air infiltration.

Recessed ceiling lights are another typical area of energy loss. These are particularly bad because they get hot, which creates a natural upward draft. The most efficient option is to replace your old canister recessed lights with



**Above:** Caulk gaps between window frames and rough wall openings to seal your home's exterior thermal envelope and improve energy efficiency. **Below:** Spray expanding foam behind conduit boxes to seal openings where electrical wires pass through outside walls.



new, efficient sealed models.

Don't just pour or pack insulation against recessed lights in the attic. This can cause older styles, which were not designed to be insulated, to overheat. You can caulk around the hole in the attic floor and the canister, but some room air will still leak out through the canister itself.

Ceiling fans are another place to check. If you installed them yourself after the house was built and added support blocking, the insulation level will be less there. There also may be air leakage where you cut the hole to run the wiring. Push the insulation away and caulk the attic floor hole around the wire, then cover it with additional insulation.

The next time you are painting the trim around doors and windows, pry off the decorative molding. You may find quite a large uninsulated gap between the rough opening and the door or window frame. Apply low-expansion foam in the gap, but use it sparingly because it can deform the frame as it expands.

Another area that wastes a lot of energy is the sill plate and rim joist. The sill plate is the piece of lumber that rests on the top of the foundation. The rim joist rests on top of the sill plate, and your house walls rest on the rim joist. The rim joist, often 2-by-10-inch lumber or larger, typically is not insulated.

Buy kraft paper-faced fiberglass batt insulation and cut it into short lengths to fit against the rim joist between the floor joist. Standard wall insulation batts are effective. With their short length and the floor joists, they should

stay in place without stapling.

While you are looking at the rim joist and sill plate, you will probably see a gap between the top of the foundation and the sill plate in spots. The top of a concrete foundation wall is seldom perfectly level and smooth. Apply urethane foam insulation from a can all along the sill plate/foundation wall interface. This will block outdoor air leakage and add some insulation value to that area.

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



by Jim Dulley





## Manager's Column —

### Major Project Begins for Co-op

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative has launched a major project that will be the building block for decades to come as we develop greater efficiencies and reliability in our ability to respond to our member's power requirements. In mid-December, we began the process of implementing a Geographical Information System (GIS) that will provide many benefits both for you and the employees of the Cooperative.

A GIS system is a computer system model capable of capturing, storing, analyzing and displaying geographically referenced information on one single source. The system our cooperative is implementing will provide digital mapping, a graphical display of our entire electric distribution and

data analysis for asset and outage management.

During the initial stage of the project, you may see our Data Collection Crew working in your area. They must travel and locate every pole and record all existing equipment on each pole. Two of our linemen, Ronnie Simmons and Brian Fugate, will dedicate their daily working schedule over the next two years working to collect data from every pole, meter, underground junction box and pad mount transformer on our electric distribution system. They will walk a lot of the system. When necessary, they will walk through fields, into creeks, across pastures, and use their 4-wheelers to travel up and down the country roads. You may even see them on your farmsteads

down by your barns, or behind your homes locating each pole. They will be wearing bright yellow safety vests/jackets and their 4-wheelers have a Sac Osage sign attached. Of course, their pickups will have the familiar Sac Osage signage on their doors. If you have questions or concerns about the presence of these men on your property, please call our office at (800) 876-2701.

Accurate digital maps compliments our outage management system and work flow management software. Our asset management system will be easier to manage. Technology is constantly changing and advancing. The ease of integrating these new technologies with our GIS program will provide advance possibilities far into the future for the cooperative's



**Tom Killebrew**  
Manager

engineering and design as well at improving efficiencies in the cooperative's daily operation.

We appreciate your cooperation as our men complete this task that will help us identify outages and our response time can be improved.

## Sac Osage Implements GIS Project

### Cooperative Personnel Begin Working on Field Inventory of Cooperative System

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is in the early stages of implementing a new technology called a Geographic Information System or better known in the industry as GIS. It's really not as complicated as it sounds. Basically it combines detailed information about an electric distribution system with a digital mapping system. GIS will allow cooperative employees to view "the big picture" along with small details of the distribution system. These small details are the materials and types of configurations used on the poles that serve our homes today.

A person would think that once a power line is built it never changes but that really isn't the case. Poles and materials are replaced due to emergency work, storms or scheduled maintenance.

Power lines are moved, extended or retired. The result is that over time our records become dated and accuracy becomes an issue. The same is true with paper maps, such as those we use today. The maps we currently use are out of date within a few weeks of when they are printed. With digital maps displayed on computers, changes can be made on a daily basis. The updated maps will not only be available to office personnel but also the lineman in the field. This will not only create a safer workplace but will also increase productivity and shorten outage times.

#### Benefits of GIS:

Accurate system information leads to a safer work environment for our linemen. Effective outage management means quicker restoration of service interruptions.

The key to effective outage management is accurate system information. Improved work flow efficiencies save time and money. Accurate up-to-date information organized in one location provides better member service.

This technology, along with the Cooperative's Automated Meter Reading system will provide critical information to office personnel when troubleshooting line outages. It will also help our engineers make more informed decisions concerning upgrades of the electric system.

One of the first steps of implementing GIS is to establish the coordinates of every pole, pad mounted transformer, junction box and meter on our system. While at each of these locations a complete inventory of all materials will be acquired. We recently began working on the lines out of the El Dorado substation. As they work their way through the eleven substations on our electric distribution system you may see them in your neighborhood.

The field inventory process is scheduled to be completed by December 2014.

Our men will be easily recognized by their uniforms. Their vehicles will be marked as Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. They will be on foot or riding a four-wheeler, sporting bright yellow backpacks with an antenna and carrying handheld GPS computers.

As with AMR, the GIS technology is going to give us the opportunity to better serve the members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.



Ronnie Simmons, Journeyman Lineman will be in your area over the next two years inventorying our electric distribution system and collecting a GPS coordinate for each pole.



Brian Fugate, Journeyman Lineman will be in your area over the next two years. He will collect additional data to complete a digital mapping system for the Cooperative.