



May 2014

RURAL  
MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

# News

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Visit us on the Web - [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)

## SMARTHUB: AN EXCITING NEW SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

For years Sac Osage members have been able to make payments and see their bills online. It is a great convenience for someone sitting at a computer, but not especially handy for someone out and about with a smart phone. With the cooperative's new SmartHub service, that will change. SmartHub is a major improvement in how members can use technology to manage their electric service.



- automatic payment and paperless billing options
- the ability to communicate with Sac Osage regarding address changes, service issues, and much more, even reporting outages.

Members will have access to more information and be able to communicate with Sac Osage easier than ever before.

Creating a SmartHub account takes less than five minutes. Scanning the appropriate QR code on this page will direct members to the mobile apps on their phone, or you can search your app store for "Smarthub". Alternatively, members may go to [sacosage.smarthub.coop](http://sacosage.smarthub.coop) to sign into the service there or find the link at [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com). **Members who previously paid online using Sac Osage's E-bill service will use the same e-mail address and password to log into their SmartHub applications.**

### SmartHub Apps

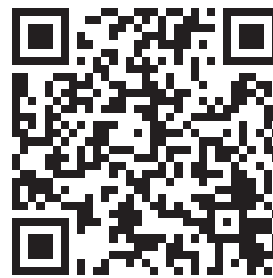
SmartHub will have dedicated apps designed to work on Apple and Android smart phones and tablets. This means members will have an easy-to-use interface customized for their device. The connection will be secure and accessible for members on the go, or those who rely on mobile service for their Internet connection.

If you need help using SmartHub, you can click on the "Help" button within the application on the upper, right-hand corner of the screen. If you have questions about SmartHub, please call the cooperative toll-free at 1-800-876-2701.

### SmartHub Functionality

With Sac Osage's current billing system (E-bill), members could make payments and view prior bills. SmartHub will do this (and do it better), but members will also have access to exciting new features, both in the mobile app and on the SmartHub website, including:

- usage graphs and tables including daily usage and weather information
- notification of payment issues, available bills, service issues, and outages



iOS Users  
Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Apple iTunes App Store.



Android Users  
Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Android Market.

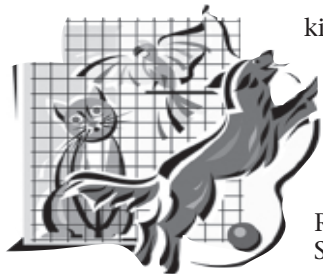


**OUR OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
MAY 26TH IN  
OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY.**

May 2014

## Be kind to animals week

The American Humane Association has designated the first full week in May (May 4-10 this year) as a time to appreciate pets and other animals. Dogs and cats were once worshiped as gods in some societies. In the 11th century, a dog called Saur was named



king of Norway by his master, the actual ruler, who was angry with his subjects for having once deposed him. English writer Samuel Johnson fed his favorite cat, Hodge, fresh oysters every day, while U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt invited the extra-toed cat, Slippers, to diplomatic dinners.

## Tornadoes

Most tornadoes in the United States occur in May, often striking suddenly and without warning. Few natural phenomena are harder to predict. Folk wisdom advises that a "pale green sky means the wind is high." In other words, the sky turns green just before a tornado forms.



Although no one knows for certain why this happens, one theory suggests that because storms usually develop in the afternoon, the longer wavelengths (red and yellow) of afternoon sunlight (already deficient in blue) turn the bluish, water-heavy clouds green.

## Spring cleaning

Spring cleaning took on another permutation in 1901 when British engineer Hubert Booth invented the first practical electric vacuum cleaner. Unlike the vacuums we know today, his version was sent out with a cleaning crew in vehicles.

They went door to door, offering the services of his



machine to vacuum the dust and dirt out of the house using long tubes.

In 1907, the Hoover Suction Sweeper Co. improved on the design; and then again, in 1921, a Swedish electric lamp salesman produced further developments and started the Electrolux Co.

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

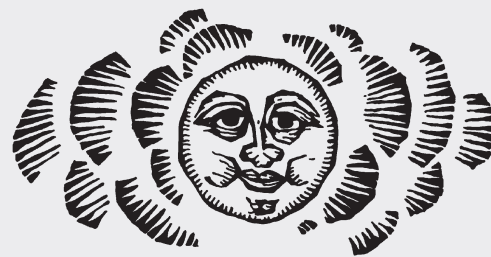
### Recipe for Sesame Cookies



5 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
1/2 cup milk  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
6 ounces sesame seeds

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Sift the dry ingredients into a bowl. Melt the butter and add it to the flour mixture, mixing well. Make a well and add the milk. Beat the eggs with the sugar until thick, then add to the batter, along with the vanilla. Knead the dough, then roll or pat out cookies, as desired, and dip each one in the sesame seeds. Bake on a greased cookie sheet for 20 minutes.

## THE OLD FARMER'S



## WEATHER PROVERBS

**A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely.**

**The weather usually clears at noon when a southerly wind is blowing.**

**With dew before midnight, the next day will sure be bright.**

**When the thrush sings at sunset, a fair day will follow.**

**Plant the bean when the moon is light; plant potatoes when the moon is dark.**

**Clover contracts its leaves at the approach of a storm.**

**Wind roaring into the chimney, there is rain to come.**

**A late spring is a great blessing.**



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

# Save on cooling with radiant barriers

*Attic radiant barriers can reflect money saved in your summer budget*

Dear Jim: My air-conditioning costs were high last summer, and we still felt too warm at times. I see ads for radiant barriers that are supposed to save a lot. How does a radiant barrier work, will it save much and how much does it cost? - Ann T.



by Jim Dulley

**D**ear Ann: Everyone has read advertisements or received sales calls about the huge energy savings from installing attic radiant barriers. The savings claimed often are the maximum possible and are exaggerated for the typical retrofit installation. Having said this, proper installation in a specific house can yield a reasonable payback and better comfort.

The savings from installing a radiant barrier in the attic vary considerably depending upon your climate and your specific house, orientation to the sun, etc. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory estimates the air-conditioning cost savings can range from about \$150 annually for hot climates to only \$40 for cold climates. Attic radiant barriers provide little positive or negative effect during the heating seasons. If your electric cooperative offers time-of-use rates, the saving may be higher.

It is important to understand the basics of heat transfer, i.e., how a house loses and gains heat, so you can evaluate whether your home is a good candidate for radiant barriers. The most important basic is that the rate at which heat flows from a hot area to a cold one is a function of the temperature difference between the two spaces.

Conduction is heat flow through a solid object or several objects touching one another. This is how the handle on an iron skillet gets hot on the stove. The walls and ceiling of a house also lose or gain heat this way because the building materials are all nailed together.

Convection is where heat flows through a moving fluid or gas. This generally increases the rate of heat flow compared to plain conduction through a solid. An example is how your skin loses heat faster during winter in the wind. This causes the



A construction stapler, utility knife and a long straight edge are really all you need for this do-it-yourself job.

wind chill factor creating an effective lower temperature.

Radiation is heat flow directly from one object to another through a vacuum, air, glass, etc. It is not dependent on touching or fluid flow. This is how the sun heats the Earth or you feel warm sitting in front of a raging fire.

What makes radiant energy unique is that it is much more affected by the temperature difference than the other types of heat flow. For conduction and convection, if the temperature difference between indoors and outdoors doubles, the heat flow also doubles. With radiation, the heat flow is 16 times greater when the temperature difference doubles.

This is why radiant barriers are most often used in the attic to block heat flow through the roof. On a hot summer afternoon, the temperature of a dark shingle roof can easily reach 150 degrees. This hot roof conducts heat to the roof

sheathing. From there, conduction takes over the heat radiant and carries it down through the insulation, to your ceiling, and into the house.

Radiant barriers require an air gap to prevent them from touching the hot surface; otherwise, they become a conductor like any other building material. Reinforced aluminum foil was typically used as the radiant barrier, but now many barriers use plastic films with reflective surfaces.

In addition to reflectivity, emittance is a property of radiant barriers. It should be lower than 0.25 — 25 percent — in order to be an effective barrier. Aluminum foil is well below the 0.25 level. There also are reflective paints, such as Low/Mit ([www.solec.org](http://www.solec.org)), which can be sprayed underneath the roof sheathing. Definitely check the emittance specification before signing any contract.

To get a good payback from the energy savings, it makes sense to

install the radiant barrier yourself. Companies, such as Innovative Insulation Inc. ([www.radiantbarrier.com](http://www.radiantbarrier.com)) sell double-sided reflective foil for about \$130 for a 4x250-foot roll. Invest in a hand construction stapler, a utility knife and a long straight edge, and you'll have everything you need.

The easiest method to install the radiant barrier is to cut it into lengths and staple it underneath the roof rafters. It is not important how neatly it is installed, but it is important to have adequate attic ventilation, preferably a combination of soffit and a ridge vent. When installing single-sided foil, face the reflective side down to take advantage of its low emittance.

*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.*



## SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC RECOGNIZES AND WELCOMES EMPLOYEES



Congratulations to Tysen Sayler, Josh Heiserman, Kelly Eck, and Mark Boultinghouse, as they step up to new challenges as 1st Year Lineman. Tysen, Josh, Kelly and Mark will be participating in the cooperative's four-year apprenticeship training program where they will learn all the necessary duties in the construction and maintenance of de-energized overhead and underground distribution lines. Upon completion of the program, Tysen, Josh, Kelly and Mark will become Journeyman Linemen, working on energized lines. They will be working with Working Foremen John Julian and Lindell Marshall.



Sac Osage Electric welcomes three new employees to the Right-of-way Crew Rodney Williams, Jared Asmus, and Robert Howerton III were recently hired as Tree Trimmers for the cooperative. They will work to keep our right-of-way clear to help prevent outages.



Sac Osage Electric would like to welcome Justin Wrinkle to the Cooperative. He is our new Warehouse/Materials Handler and will be available to provide service to our members in the Resale Department.

**Just a friendly reminder that May is catch up month for those members on Budget Billing.**

# can you dig it?

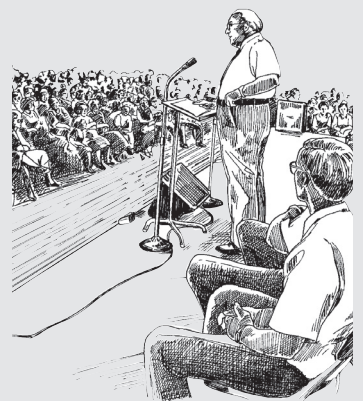
**Before you dig, get the dirt.**

Underground utilities exist everywhere, even in your yard.

Whether you're a homeowner or excavator, digging without knowing where it's safe to dig can cause tremendous damage and even loss of lives.

**Get the scoop.  
Call Or Click  
Before You Dig.**

**1-800-DIG-RITE  
or 811  
mo1call.com**



**SAC OSAGE  
ANNUAL  
MEETING WILL  
BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY,  
JUNE 10, 2014.**