



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

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October 2014

News

Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com

SAC OSAGE BIDS FOND FAREWELL TO HIGGINS AND THOMPSON

The Board and Employees of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative respectfully bid a fond farewell to outgoing Board Directors, Ray Higgins and Brad Thompson. Neale Johnson, Board President and Jim Davis, General Manager presented a plaque to the outgoing board directors for their dedicated service as directors for the cooperative. Ray Higgins, elected in 2005 to represent the membership in District 4 of rural Osceola, and Brad Thompson, elected in 2005 to represent the membership in District 5 of rural Walker, faithfully served the Cooperative members for 9 years, the maximum consecutive number of years permitted in the bylaws. Both directors took leadership positions on the cooperative board. Ray Higgins was elected Vice President in 2006 a position he held for five years, and Brad Thompson was elected Board President in 2011 a position he held for three years.

Their fair-minded and diplomatic leadership fostered a spirit of cooperation that helped direct Sac Osage Electric Cooperative on the course of success we enjoy today, along with the ability and responsibility to address members' needs with compassion. Sac Osage thanks you for your faithful service and support of the members. Your contributions will not be forgotten.



Neale Johnson, Board President (R) presented director, Ray Higgins, a plaque for 9 years of dedicated service.



Neale Johnson, Board President (L) presented director, Brad Thompson, a plaque for 9 years of dedicated service.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Insulating windows with draperies is a low-cost, quick fix for drafty windows. They will help keep you warm in the cold winter months. And they will also help out in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. Be sure to get energy-efficient shades with an insulated back.

October 2014

A pitcher of relief

Molly Pitcher was pensioned by Pennsylvania in 1822, and if you can say that three times fast, you're quick-tongued indeed! Mary Ludwig Hays was nicknamed Molly Pitcher after she carried water to soldiers in the 1778 Battle of Monmouth during the American Revolution.



She was born on Oct. 13, 1754, near Trenton, N.J., and died in 1832. A rumor that she manned her husband's gun is probably untrue, most likely stemming from confusion with Margaret Corbin (1751-1800), another American Revolution heroine and the first woman pensioned by the government.

Where the proof is

In England, October was the start of pudding season, as the beef and suet Christmas puddings were begun. One London establishment, Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Inn, gave new dimensions and an old interpretation to this culinary stew, making a 50-



to 80-pound pudding filled with steak, gravy, wild larks, mushrooms and spices. It was cooked for 16 hours. If it sounds more like a pastry gone wild, you can only blame the inclusion of ye olde ale in the kitchen and other alcohol used for soaking the pudding.

Linking up

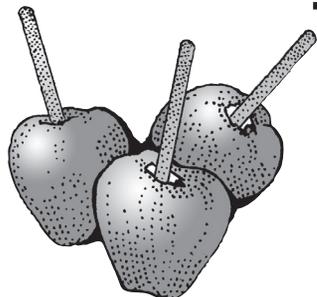
Oct. 26 marks the anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The 363-mile-long canal created an important water route from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean, but convincing Congress to authorize funding for the project was a long and difficult



process. The canal's champion, DeWitt Clinton of New York, originally approached Congress in 1810. His plan was rejected, but in 1815, this time as mayor of New York City, he tried again, and funding was finally approved in 1816. Construction began on July 4, 1817.

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

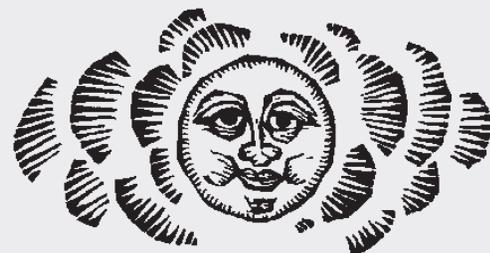
Recipe for Candy Apples



- 9 red apples
- 9 wooden skewers
- 3 cups sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- Red food coloring

Wash and dry apples. Remove the stems and insert skewers; set aside. Combine the sugar, cream of tartar, salt and water in a deep saucepan. Add food coloring to get desired color. Place over heat and stir until sugar is dissolved. Cook rapidly without stirring to medium crack-stage (290 degrees on a candy thermometer). Remove from heat and immediately dip apples. Twirl to cover and place on greased waxed paper until hardened. Serves 9.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

If the chickens are snug in their coop during a rainstorm, the rain will soon be over.

If October brings heavy frosts and winds, then will January and February be mild.

When squirrels bury nuts early, it will be a hard winter.

If the hare wears a thick coat in October, lay in a good store of fuel.

As the weather in October, so it will be the next March.

When snow falls in the mud, it remains all winter.



H O M E C O M F O R T

Ready to replace a few home appliances?

Taking time to compare Energy Guide labels can save money in the long haul

Dear Jim:
Other than just comparing each of the Energy Guide labels, how can I determine the savings when buying new home appliances? - Megan H.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Megan: For major appliances, comparing the EnergyGuide label is the best method to determine the cost to use each new one. Based on the purchase price, you can then calculate which appliance provides the best return.

The most efficient appliance is not always the best buy from a payback standpoint. However, there are other factors to consider. Some people are concerned about the environmental impact of using appliances, so they are willing to spend extra for the most efficient models. Selecting an Energy Star-qualified model is a good choice. Visit TogetherWeSave.com and take the "Home Tour" to learn about potential energy savings on Energy Star appliances.

In order to determine the payback on a new appliance, you must first determine the cost to operate your existing appliance. You may have kept the old EnergyGuide label with your paperwork from the old appliance, or you may be able to do an Internet search to find it.

Keep in mind that even if you have the EnergyGuide labels showing annual operating costs, these figures are only averages. If you already are energy conscious, your current operating costs are likely on the low side, and your savings from installing a new appliance will be lower than the average annual cost figures indicate.

There are a couple of ways to calculate the cost to use an electric appliance. The simplest and quickest way is to download the "Save Energy, Save Money" app from TogetherWeSave.com. This easy-to-use app provides several calculators for appliances found in your home.

Another way to calculate the cost of appliance use is to use an actual formula. First, find the wattage rating on the nameplate. Divide this by 1,000 and multiply the result by your cost per kilowatt-



When considering a new washing machine, front-loading clothes washers are the most energy efficient. If floor space is an issue, matching washer and dryer sets can be stacked on top of one another.

hour electric rate to get the operating cost per hour. If the nameplate lists amperage, multiply it by 120 to get watts. For appliances with a thermostat, reduce the operating cost by about 50 percent.

The rate of efficiency improvements and meaningful new features in most major appliances is slowing, so there is no need to wait if you really need a new one. One exception is televisions because their prices are constantly dropping and features and quality improving.

In general though, it makes economic sense to keep your older, major appliances about 10 years or until they need expensive repairs. If you make a concerted effort to use your older appliances as seldom and as efficiently as possible, they will not cost a lot more to use than a newer one. Even for the refrigerator, which has to keep cool continuously, usage habits really influence the electricity consumption.

If you have a large family and do much laundry, the cost to use the clothes washer also includes the cost of the water and the cost to heat the water. Upgrading your water heater, to perhaps a heat-pump water heater, also will reduce your dishwashing and bathing

costs in addition to laundry costs.

New front-loading clothes washers are typically more energy efficient than top-loading ones because front-loaders require less heated water. The actual electricity use by the motor is about the same for both types. Also, since a front-loading washer uses less water, less detergent is needed.

A secondary, but significant, savings with a front-loader is its faster spin cycle. The horizontal axis tub design can spin very fast. By spinning faster, more water is extracted from the rinsed clothes. This greatly reduces the drying time, so the dryer needs to run less and uses less electricity.

When selecting a new dishwasher, make sure it has a built-in water preheater. This allows you to set your water heater temperature lower without sacrificing the cleaning effectiveness of hotter water. Spend a little extra and select a model with many cycles. With more cycles, you can more accurately target the cycle length to the requirements of each load.

Just like a house, a smaller refrigerator has less interior space to keep cool and uses less electricity. Also, with a smaller model, there is less insulated outside surface area to absorb heat, which the com-

pressor must remove to stay cold inside.

Don't go to extremes on the small size though. Adequate space inside the refrigerator for convenient access to items is important. If you have to keep the door open while you move things around to find what you want, more energy will be wasted than the amount you saved with a small one. Modern refrigerators, such as Energy Star models, use about half of the energy that a 10-year-old model uses. The "Save Energy, Save Money" app includes a calculator to help you compare the cost of different sizes, styles and ages of refrigerators and freezers.

There is not a major difference in the energy efficiency of the various types of new ranges. Convection ovens bake faster, so they use less electricity for some foods. Induction elements lose less heat to the room air, so overall electricity use is somewhat less. The best way to save when cooking is to use the microwave or smaller countertop appliances whenever possible.

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.



Sac Osage is inviting everyone to celebrate cooperatives in Missouri — and across America — during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique. Seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

This Co-op Month, we're focusing on "The Electric Co-op Connection: Discover the meaning of membership." Co-ops exist to serve their members, but they also play a major role in their local communities.

"Cooperative membership is unique," says Jim Davis, General Manager. "Electric cooperatives are committed to providing members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but there's more to it than that. We're local, and that means we care about our community. Sac Osage Electric helps members, supports local schools and enhances communities through programs like Operation RoundUp®, Youth Tour, CYCLE, and Safety Demonstrations."

Electric co-ops provide power for many Show-Me State residents, with 40 electric co-ops serving more than 600,000 members. Other co-op businesses thrive in our state, too, with Missouri's co-op economy



employing more than 60,000 residents.

Sac Osage Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

"In the 1930s, rural America needed electricity just as much as anyone else," Jim Davis, General Manager said. "It was a major challenge that big utilities weren't interested in tackling. So, the men and women of rural America banded together and made it happen. And that's why we celebrate in October. We celebrate the power of working together for the common good and bettering the quality of life for our friends and neighbors."

GET RID OF LOW HUMIDITY IN WINTER

Low humidity in your home is typically not a problem in summer in Missouri, Iowa and Oklahoma. But in winter, heaters and wood stoves can dry out our houses.

Below 30 percent relative humidity, you can suffer from dry mucus membranes, dry throat and skin and static electricity shocks, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Too little humidity can dry out furniture. You'll also feel warmer when the humidity is between 30 and 50 percent. Add a little humidity to the air, and you'll be less tempted to crank up the heat.

Here's an example from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of Energy. You'll feel cooler in a room at 75 degrees and 25 percent relative humidity than in a room the same temperature with 40 percent relative humidity.

Generally, dry outside air in winter creates low humidity by seeping inside through cracks and openings in the building shell. The more outside air that leaks into the house, the dryer the indoor air becomes.

Here are some ways to add humidity to your house this winter:

- Bowl of water — Simply set a bowl of water on a table, counter or stove top, and let it evaporate. Boiling a pan of water on the stove will do the same only faster.

- Eco-humidifiers — These non-electric devices hold water in containers that attach to the top of baseboard heaters and use the warmth to evaporate water. Other non-electric humidifiers include units that can be placed over a floor register, near a wall unit or on a radiator. Heat blows through, and natural evaporation does the rest. See Purity Planet, www.purityplanet.com, for reviews.

- Efficient room-sized and whole-house humidifiers — The Iowa Energy Center suggests a couple of portable humidifiers in problem areas. Or, if you have forced-air heat, install a whole-house humidifier that attaches to the ducts of your heating system. Look for energy-efficient models that use less rather than more water. Many drum styles reduce water use because they don't flush any water out as waste. Systems without heating elements rely on furnace air for evaporation and can be big energy savers. But when fans are added to increase the efficiency of their water use, power consumption goes back up.

- Vaporizers — These devices are fairly water efficient because they boil and evaporate all the water that's put into them, but they use electricity to boil the water. Waterless vaporizers are another option useful for adding medicated mist to the air, as well as saving water and electricity.

- Energy recovery ventilators (ERV) — The Iowa Energy Center points out that in tightly sealed houses, this type of ventilator can transfer humidity from the outgoing exhaust air to the incoming fresh air, helping raise the home's humidity to a comfortable level. If there's already too much humidity in your home, the ERV will vent the excess humidity outdoors. During warm months, the ERV can exhaust humid air outside, helping the central air conditioner.

