

December 2015



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com



Capital Credit money owed to YOU!

The Board of Directors of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative recently authorized \$500,000 of general and deceased capital credit distributions. The general distribution should fully retire capital credits for the years of 1986, 1987, 1988, and a portion of 1989. If you are a current member that was served by Sac Osage Electric during those years, you will receive a portion of this capital credit distribution, which will appear as a credit on your January bill.

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 co-op through the margins of the utility. Member equity is the essential tool for Sac Osage Electric to build, maintain, and upgrade the facilities necessary to provide members with reliable, economical electric service. This investment is also necessary to finance construction during periods of growth and to implement the latest necessary technology.

At the end of each operating year, excess revenue of the Cooperative is allocated back to members (or former members) on a basis directly proportional to the amount of kilowatt-hours used in that given year. In other words, capital credits are to a cooperative what shares of stock are to an investor-owned utility. When a person owns stock in an investor-owned company, their stock may pay dividends based on the performance of that company.

As a member of Sac Osage Electric, you accumulate dividends based on your electrical usage for each given year. However, if you were a customer of an investor-owned utility, you would have no equity to show for the bills you paid regardless of how much you spent or how many years you contributed to that utility. Customers of investor-owned utilities earn no return on the profits of a utility unless they purchase stock in that company. On the other hand, members of Sac Osage Electric benefit by being owners of the Cooperative, thereby entitled to share in capital credit allocations and distributions.

Members have democratic control of the cooperative and every time they turn on a light, watch TV or use their electric stove, they add to their equity in the co-op and accumulate capital credits. There is no better way to express the benefits and rewards of belonging to a co-op and receiving service from Sac Osage Electric than the issuance of these 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.

Merry Christmas!

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



December 2015

Do you see what I see?

While many think of Santa Lucia as the Swedish saint with candles in her hair, bringing back the light to the solstice season, the saint is primarily the patroness of eyesight in Sicily. Legend has it that an admirer flattered her for her captivating eyes, upon which



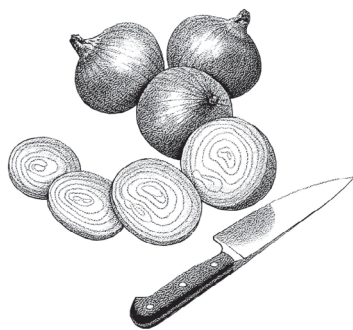
she plucked them out and sent them to him so she would be sure to resist the temptations of love. Italian churches often display ornate masks of silver or wax in her honor, and those faithful to St. Lucia hang similar ornaments in their homes to protect against eye disease. St. Lucy's Day is Dec. 13.

Chill December

And after him (November) came next the chill December; Yet he through merry feasting which he made, And great bonfires, did not the cold remember . . ." Edmund Spenser (1552–1599) penned rhymes such as this for each of the 12 months and thus gave us a modern-day prescription for warming the days of this wintry month. With the holidays ahead, festive feasts with family and friends may consume you. Mark your calendar now, reserving time for planting "Paper White" narcissus, preparing baked gifts, roasting chestnuts and enjoying the snow — if you have some. Remember the gift of time; not all presents can be purchased.



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 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.

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

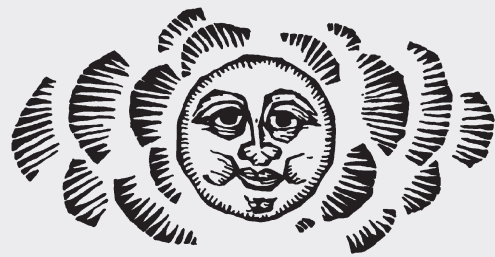
Recipe for Chocolate Brownie Pie



2 squares unsweetened chocolate
2 tablespoons butter
3 large eggs
1/2 cup sugar
3/4 cup dark corn syrup
3/4 cup pecan halves
1 unbaked pie shell (9-inch)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Melt the unsweetened chocolate and butter over hot water. Beat together the eggs, sugar, chocolate mixture and corn syrup. Stir in the pecan halves. Pour into the unbaked pie shell. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or just until set. Serve warm or cold with ice cream or whipped cream. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

If the wind blows much on St. Stephen's Day (Dec. 26), the grape 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.



photo courtesy of Lasko Products

This convection model has wireless remote digital controls and thermostat. Place the sensor next to you and set the heater to your desired level of comfort.

Keeping small spaces cozy

Space heaters aren't always right (or cost effective) for every situation

Dear Jim: I'm considering a small electric space heater for my living room and bedroom. What space heaters are best for these spaces, and will they cut my utility bills as some ads claim? — Greg R.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Greg: This is the season when electric space heaters really earn their place in your home. They're especially helpful when you have a room that's chillier than the rest of the house or at times when only one or two rooms in your home are occupied. In those cases, heating a small area is all you want.

Small electric space heaters can reduce your utility bills, but only if you set your central heating system (heat pump or furnace) thermostat lower. They make sense if there are only one or two people living in a house with no need to keep vacant rooms warm.

Another common situation is when there is a room or two in a house that do not stay warm enough. Often a person gets chilly in one of those problem rooms and turns the central thermostat higher. This warms the entire house and more heat is lost through the walls, windows and ceiling. It is much more efficient to use a small space heater in these rooms.

First, it is important to understand all electric space heaters are effectively 100 percent efficient. Don't let advertising stating this fact influence your buying decision. This just means all of the electricity it consumes ends up as heat in your house. It does not mean it's cheap to operate.

Also, the maximum heat most small space heaters can safely produce is about 5,100 Btu per hour. Houses typically use central heating systems with a capacity of 50,000 to 100,000 Btu, so a single space heater cannot heat an entire house. Be wary of advertising stating a small electric space heater can allow your central system to run dramatically less for 50 percent or more savings.

There's not a "best" electric space heater for every situation. The proper selection depends on the room and how you plan to use the heater. For example, are you looking for quiet heat in a bedroom at night or heat for just one person watching TV?

Choose between direct radiant and convection (air circulation) space heaters; both types have advantages. Within each group, there are many comfort features and options that may impact your decision. If you have young children, there also are safety considerations.

Radiant Space Heaters

Radiant-style heaters heat quickly. These use a red-hot ribbon, long quartz or carbon tubes to produce infrared heat radiation similar to the sun's rays. They primarily heat objects and people directly in front of them. Carbon tubes produce infrared heat that penetrates objects and skin slightly below the surface. This makes it comfortable, effective heat.

Radiant heaters are quiet and ideal for heating a specific spot. For example, I use one across from my computer desk to keep me warm while I am writing. My body and the furniture in its path gradually reradiate the heat so the room air also heats up slightly. To heat a slightly larger area, select a model that automatically oscillates.

Convection Space Heaters

Convection heaters are designed to heat the air in the room. This is often done using a built-in fan to circulate room air over the heating elements. Oil-filled, old radiator-style heaters use natural air circulation (hot air rises) to move room air over the heat source, gently warming a room without bursts of heat.

For a living room, often the largest room in a house, consider a convection style heater. This heats an entire room more effectively. Choose a model with a thermostat and multispeed fan to control the heat output. A ceramic convection heater is safe around young children. If the air flow gets blocked, the heating output automatically drops and there are no red-hot ribbons.

In a bedroom, where quiet operation is important, use an oil-filled radiator or a convection heater with a low-speed setting. Another option is a radiant model facing the bed if you don't mind the red glow.

Do you have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? Email him at contact@dulley.com or write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244.



Removal of Idle and Unwanted Lines and Poles

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is burdened with non-revenue producing overhead powerlines that require costly maintenance of poles, conductors, right-of-way, and additionally, a tax liability. To reduce unnecessary expenses to its members, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is in the process of retiring those lines that have not been in use for ten or more years. Policy 200, Section K reads, "Idle services ten years or older shall be systematically retired. Upon retirement, applicant requesting service shall abide by current line extension policy." If you own property that has electrical lines that are no longer in use, please contact the Cooperative at (800) 876-2701 if you wish to have them removed.



Notice of Net Metering Law

On January 1, 2008, the State of Missouri's Net Metering Law took effect requiring all electric utilities to offer a net metering program to customers generating up to 100 kilowatts of electricity. These systems can generate electricity using wind energy, solar-thermal energy, hydroelectric energy, photovoltaics, fuel cells using hydrogen produced by one of the aforementioned resources, and other sources of energy certified as renewable by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Systems must be intended primarily to offset part or all of the member's electricity requirements and must be located on property owned, operated, leased or otherwise controlled by that member. The Net Metering Law states that any power that is not used by the member generating the power (commercial or residential) will be credited to their utility bill at the utility's avoided-cost rate each month. Credits from net metering must be used within twelve months of generation or they expire.

Members must complete a Net Metering application and agree to terms and guidelines before their generating system will be connected to the cooperative's system. For further information or to request an application, please contact our office toll free at 800-876-2701.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Save energy while cooking your Christmas goose by checking its progress through the oven window, not by opening the door. You can lower the oven temp by as much as 25 degrees each time you open the door. Today's kitchen appliances use 50 percent less energy than those made 10 years ago, so put new ones on your wish list for even more savings.

SAFETY FIRST!

The holidays are a great time to practice safety. Those lights, cords and decorations could have faulty wiring. Check your decorations that use electricity and replace any that have frayed cords, broken bulbs or other safety issues.

