

December 2016



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Capital Credit money owed to YOU!

The Board of Directors of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative recently authorized \$650,000 of general and deceased capital credit distributions. The general distribution should fully retire capital credits for the years of 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and a portion of 1996. 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 Monday, Dec.
26th for Christmas & Monday,
Jan. 2st for New Year's Day.**



December 2016

Memorable Women

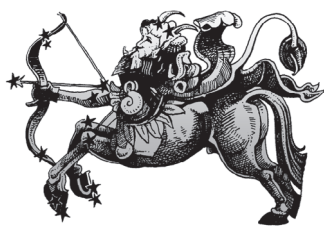
Dec. 13 marks the feast day of St. Lucia, patroness of blindness. Also called St. Lucy's Day, in Sweden, young girls parade through the towns, wearing crowns of candles and delivering cakes and coffee. Dec. 13 also marks the day



"Grandma Moses" died in 1961. She was a farmer's wife who did not begin to paint until she was in her seventies. Her painted "primitives" of country scenes became popular and were exhibited throughout the world.

Happy Birthday, Sagittarius

This is the time for Sagittarius, those born between Nov. 23 and Dec. 21. Some of this sign's birthday people include painter Gilbert Stuart (3rd); actor Jeff Bridges (4th); U.S. president Martin Van Buren (5th); lyricist Ira Gershwin (6th); and actress Felicity Huffman (9th). Sagittarians



are considered optimistic, honest and jovial. They make excellent leaders because they are strong-willed and good at organizing. Their ruling planet is Jupiter and their body sign is the thighs — a weak spot for them in terms of their health.

Boxing Day

The origins of Boxing Day (Dec. 26) date back to the old custom of giving Christmas gifts to servants and tradespeople on the day after Christmas. The boxes were made of earthenware; each was broken open to obtain the money gift inside. Today, the



money gift is often contained in a holiday greeting card and given before the holiday. Where celebrated, Boxing Day is welcomed as a quiet day of recuperation from the season's more hectic festivities.

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

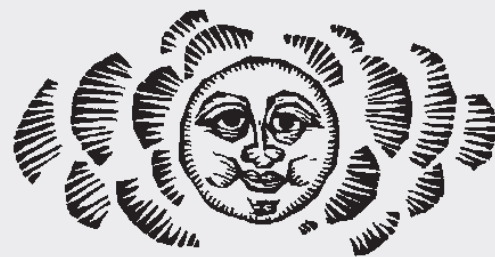
Recipe for Chocolate Bread Pudding



- 1 cup soft bread crumbs
- 2 ounces baking chocolate
- 1-1/4 cups sugar
- 1-1/3 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup milk

Grease a 1-1/2-quart baking dish and preheat the oven to 350 degrees and combine the first four ingredients in a double boiler; cook until smooth. Stir in the butter and remove from heat. Beat the eggs; stir in the remaining ingredients and add to the chocolate mixture. Cook over hot water until thick. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 20 minutes. Makes 4 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.

When oxen or sheep collect together as if they were seeking shelter, a storm may be expected.

Black clouds in the north in winter indicate approaching snow.

Do you need to vent?



Your home performance contractor can work with you to determine whether whole house ventilation is needed.

photo courtesy Weatherization Assistance Project Technical Assistance Center

Dear Pat: Now that winter is here, I'd like to make my home more comfortable by keeping cold air out. I'm planning to have a contractor inspect and seal air leaks. However, a neighbor mentioned that I could seal up my home too much and cause ventilation problems. Is this true? — Tricia

Dear Tricia: You're certainly on the right track. Sealing air leaks is usually one of the best energy efficiency investments a homeowner can make. A typical home leaks, on average, about half of its air every hour, which is like having your kitchen window open all day, every day. Sealing air leaks can also eliminate drafts that keep your home from being cozy.

However, it is possible to seal up some homes so "tight" that they have little ventilation, which can contribute to indoor air quality problems or a build-up of moisture. The challenge is to achieve the best home performance and energy savings while maintaining air quality.

The first step to take is to eliminate or reduce indoor air pollutants, such as smoke or chemicals. Experts then recommend sealing air leaks as much as possible and installing mechanical ventilation, as needed. Simple mechanical ventilation can be controlled and consistent, as opposed to "natural" ventilation from air leaks, which can result in a home being too drafty in more extreme weather and not ventilated enough in milder weather.

The best way to inspect your home for air leaks is to hire a contractor or energy auditor who will conduct a blower door test, which uses a powerful fan to measure the air infiltration rate. During the test, the contractor will be able to locate and seal air leaks. After sealing, the contractor can measure the resulting air infiltration rate and talk with you about any ventilation needs. There is no simple way to determine how much mechanical ventilation your home will need — it depends on a combination of factors, including the rate of air flow into your home, what kind of climate you live in, the layout and occupancy of your home and whether there are other indoor air quality concerns, such as radon or combustion appliances like gas furnaces.

Mechanical ventilation systems allow for controlled air movement and a rate of ventilation in your home on which you can depend, helping ensure good indoor air quality and appropriate levels of moisture. Generally, newer homes that have been sealed well and manufactured homes have the greatest need for mechanical ventilation.

There are two primary categories of mechanical ventilation. Many people are familiar with spot ventilation systems — these are the

fans that you find above your oven range, in your laundry room, in your bathroom and perhaps above a garage workshop. They focus on removing moist air and indoor air pollutants at the source. Generally, these fans only work when you turn them on, but you can install condensation sensors or humidistats so the fans will turn on whenever they sense a higher moisture content in the air. Keep in mind running these fans constantly can take too much heated or cooled air out of your home, increasing your energy bills.

Whole-house ventilation circulates air throughout the home and introduces the right amount of outside air. There are four categories of whole-house ventilation systems; determining which method is best for you will depend on your home's needs, your budget and your climate:

- Exhaust ventilation systems: Fans pull air out of your home, which increases infiltration from the outside, either through air leaks or vents.
- Supply ventilation systems: Fans bring outside air into your home.
- Balanced ventilation systems: Both supply and exhaust fans circulate air in and out of the home.
- Energy recovery ventilation systems: Fans, combined with heat exchangers, modulate the temperature and humidity of incoming air into your home.

Talk with your energy auditor or home performance contractor about whether you need additional mechanical ventilation, and if so, which system would work best for your living space.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on ventilation, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

**Have more questions?
Contact your local
electric cooperative to
see how we can help.**



Merry Christmas from Sac Osage Electric Employees

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

When cooking holiday meals, don't open the oven door to take a peek at what's cooking inside. Instead, turn on the oven light and check the cooking status through the oven window. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature by as much as 25 degrees, which increases cooking time and wastes energy.

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.

