



RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

February 2016

P.O. Box 111, 4815 E HWY 54
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744
Telephone: 800-876-2701

Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com

It's Youth Tour Time...Picture Yourself Here!

WIN an all-expense-paid week in Washington D.C. this summer. Local winners will join about 80 Missouri high school students and will unite with a thousand other students from across the nation for a whirlwind tour of our nation's capitol and an opportunity to learn more about how government works. You will visit Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Wall and other war memorials, including many other sites such as the Jefferson and the Lincoln Memorial, just to name a few.

The purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity for outstanding youth to better understand the value of rural electrification and to become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capitol. This is achieved through visits to monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations. Also, the opportunity to visit elected officials allows youth to better understand how the federal government works.

The other winner will visit Jefferson City for an award winning Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) trip with lots of fun and an opportunity to learn more about our government, co-ops, and develop their own leadership skills.

If you know a high school junior, please encourage them to participate. It's their world to discover. It is an opportunity to see the process of government up close and personal. With the support of Sac Osage Electric members, it truly is an opportunity of a lifetime for these students and a chance to open more windows of opportunity for their future.



TRIP DATES:

Washington, D.C. Youth Tour:
June 10-16, 2016

Jefferson City, MO CYCLE:
July 20-21, 2016

To participate, high school juniors must write a 250-500 word essay. The schools in the following counties in our service area can participate in the contest: Cedar, Barton, Benton, Dade, Henry, Hickory, Polk, St. Clair and Vernon counties.

ESSAY TOPIC:

What sets Electric Cooperatives apart from Investor Owned Utilities?

Applying is simple. Visit our website www.sacosage.com or contact our office at 417-876-2721.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Saving water means saving money, especially if that water is hot. Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible. Install low-flow shower heads and faucets. Fix drips as soon as they happen. Insulate the first 6 feet of hot water pipes. Choose the right water heater to meet your needs, and make sure it is set no higher than 120 degrees.

Rebates Plan Continues in 2016

No changes have been made to the existing rebate program for this year.

Sac Osage Electric rebates for the following:

Dual-Fuel Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate (16.5 SEER minimum and must have a gas backup)
\$300/ton Ground-Source Heat Pump Rebate (19.1 EER minimum)
\$750/ton new install
\$300/ton replacement unit

IMPORTANT - Completed application AND invoice/receipt must be submitted within 90 days of purchase.

February 2014



Scouting Inspiration

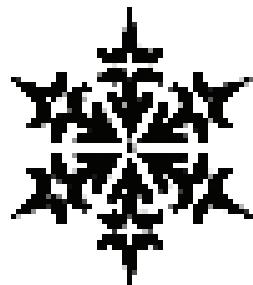
The story of Scouting is one of a young nation's response to need. William D. Boyce never had been a Scout himself, but he believed Scouting helped young boys grow into good citizens. He joined the Boy Scouts of America in 1910 and remained a life member, supporting them for his entire, remarkable life.



In addition to the BSA, Boyce founded the Boy Scouts of America, which he said was "the best kind of Scouting." Boyce was a leader in the Boy Scouts of America and helped establish the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts were founded by Boy Scouts of America.

The Full Snow Moon

Historically, American Indians kept track of the seasons by giving names to each month. In this case, the name for January is the moon that corresponds to the darkest point of winter. Although some tribes called it the "Cold Moon," others called it the "Snowy Moon." Other names for January full moons include Wolf Moon, Old Moon, and Star Moon.

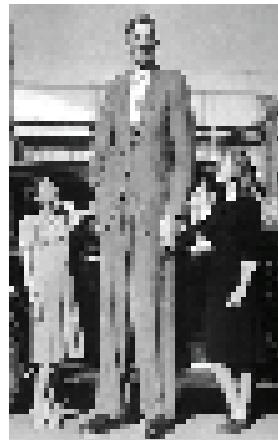


Moons, which come one full to Morgan County, the moonlight still brightens the world. Brightest star Venus now absent, it becomes darker when it crosses over the brighter moon. Other names for January full moon are Wolf Moon, Old Moon, and Star Moon.

Gentle Giant

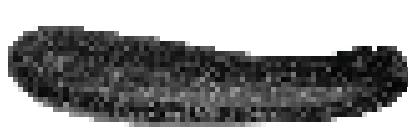
Recent weather has not been especially kind. It's been the wettest month in 2013, with record-breaking rainfall, the last two weeks. According to the National Weather Service, the month of January has been the wettest month since 1948, however, a record number of days have been dry. The month has been the driest January since 1948, but the month has been the driest January since 1948.

Another interesting note: the month of January has been the wettest month in 2013, with record-breaking rainfall, the last two weeks. According to the National Weather Service, the month of January has been the wettest month since 1948, however, a record number of days have been dry. The month has been the driest January since 1948, but the month has been the driest January since 1948.



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

Recipe for Zucchini Sausage Squares



1 pound ground beef
1 pound zucchini
1 medium onion, diced
1 cup mushrooms, sliced
1 cup zucchini, grated
1 cup bell pepper, diced
1 cup cheese, shredded
1 egg
1 cup bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 9x13-inch pan and set aside. Place the eggs in a large bowl and beat until well mixed. Add the bread crumbs, cheese, bell pepper, zucchini, mushrooms, onions, and ground beef. Mix all together until well combined.

THE OLD FARMER'S



WEATHER PROVERBS

Stick to your winter flannels until your winter flannels stick to you.

Violent north winds in February herald a fertile year.

If the bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy.

There is always one fine week in February.

If February gives much snow, a fine summer it doth fore-show.

If you walk on snow, you cannot hide your footprints.

Thunder in February frightens the maple syrup back into the ground.

Keeping temps comfortable

Indoor pets want their home to be cozy (or cool) just like you do

Dear Pat: I recently adopted a dog, but I work during the day. I want to make sure he stays comfortable without increasing my electric bill. Can you offer any tips? – Annie D.

Dear Annie: Congratulations on your new furry family member! It's a good idea to think about your energy bills. I remember working with a homeowner concerned about high energy bills and discovered an uninsulated double garage was being heated all winter to keep the dog warm. Keeping your pet comfortable and entertained when you're away doesn't have to take a bite out of your wallet.

Pet owners often assume their indoor pets want the same level of cooling and heating as the rest of the family. However, most dogs and cats can be comfortable with a wider range of temperatures. An exception might be an older pet or one with medical issues, which might require consultation with your veterinarian.

Here are a few tips to keep your pet cozy without cranking up the thermostat:

- A cozy, insulated doghouse might be all your outdoor dog needs, except on the coldest days.
- Make sure that your indoor pet has a warm place to sleep, such as a pet bed with a blanket. Consider giving him a few sleeping options throughout your home in different temperature zones so your pet can adjust his comfort as needed.
- If you have a drafty home or an older pet who may appreciate more warmth, a heated pet bed or bed warmer will use far less energy than running your central heating high all day. This solution also can be good for those who keep their pets in the garage and worry about them staying warm enough. Instead of heating a large, uninsulated space, provide a nice warm bed. If you only plug in the heated beds when needed, it will use far less energy.

Those with unique pets, such as birds or lizards, may need to keep

them in warmer environments. Consider moving these pets to a room that can be easily kept warm, but note that this may change during the course of a year. David Bopp, an energy adviser at Flathead Electric Cooperative in Montana, shared that he performed an energy audit for a member with tropical birds kept in a sunroom at more than 80 degrees. While this temperature was easy to reach in the summer, winter weather — combined with the sunroom's windows — resulted in high heating bills.

Pet doors are popular, but they also can be a major air leak that drives up your energy use. When purchasing a pet door, make sure it has energy-efficient features, such as thick construction, weather sealing and the ability to be closed off when not in use. Some newer models have magnet or battery locks: a small magnet or sensor on your pet's collar opens the door, and the rest of the time, the door is shut tight, keeping out other critters — as well as the season's blowing wind and snow.

Some people also leave their televisions or radios on while they're away, thinking that the voices will keep their pets from being bored. However, there are ways other than flipping a switch to keep your pooches and kitties entertained. Exercising your pet when you're home and giving them a variety of toys or a nice perch to see out a window when you leave will be more entertaining and less energy intensive than a TV. If you must leave something on when you're away, try soothing, calm music instead of a blaring TV.

We all love our furry family members, but remember, keeping them comfortable doesn't mean you have to pay more on your monthly bill.

Pat Keegan writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



It's not too early to prepare for the dog days of summer

When summer comes, you don't need to leave the air conditioning on full blast for Spot and Fluffy. Dogs and cats have higher body temperatures than humans, and they are comfortable with temperatures between 78 and 82 degrees. In addition, they sweat differently than humans, so running fans will not have the same effect it has on you.

Other ways to keep your pets comfortable when it's warm out include:

- For indoor pets, keep shades drawn and direct light filtered. Provide cool areas to rest, such as a basement or a tile floor with a cooling mat. For outdoor pets, provide a shady spot with plenty of airflow, such as under a tree or a tarp.
- Exercise pets during the cooler parts of the day to prevent heat fatigue.
- Give them plenty of water, perhaps with ice cubes, and cool treats such as a peanut butter popsicle. Get the recipe and more tips on The Humane Society of the United States website at www.tinyurl.com/PBpopsicles.





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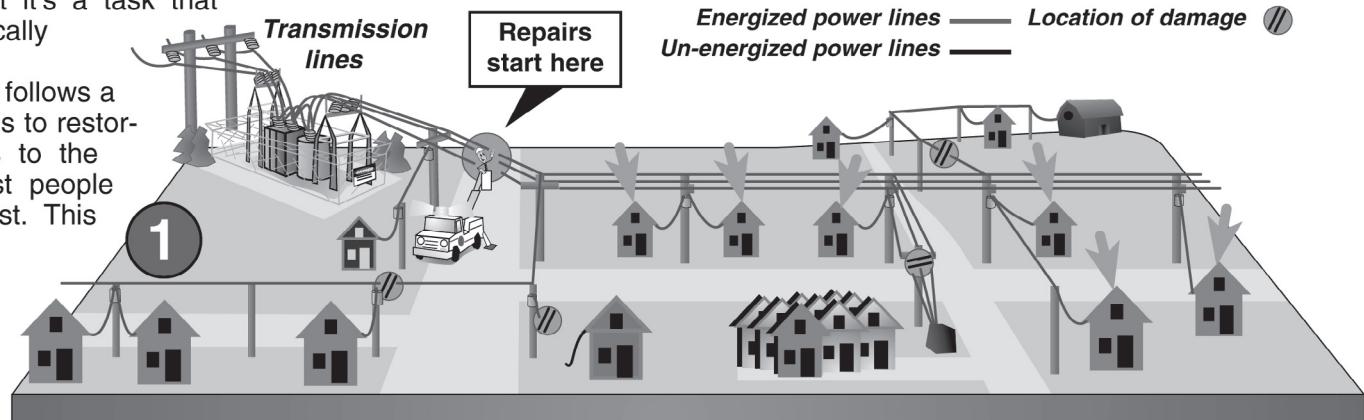
News

Getting back on line

We have come to expect that if we lose electric service it will be restored within a few hours at most. But when a devastating event, like a tornado, ice or snow storm causes major damage to a co-op's system, longer outages cannot be helped. Crews work long, hard hours restoring service, but it's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely.

Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power — priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines from the substations that can affect 200-600 members, and continues out to tap lines, which may affect 30-200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just 1-5 members.

A major storm has just hit this electric cooperative system. Here's a simplified look at how your co-op typically goes about the task of restoring electric service.

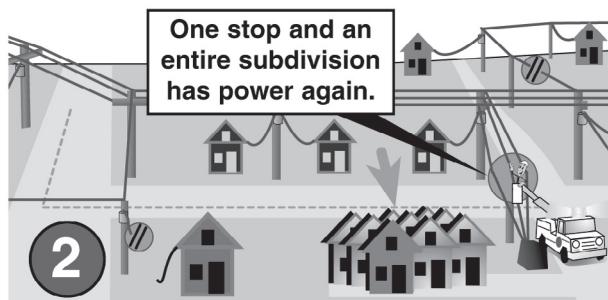


Step 1: The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power.

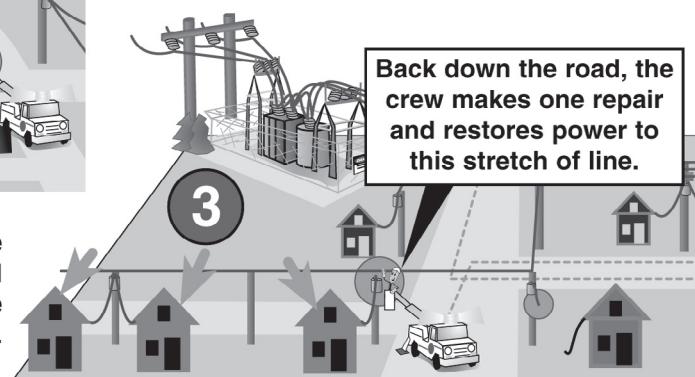
All repairs start with the main line. A large number

of members (shown with arrows) will have power returned once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless until this line is restored as it feeds all the other lines.

Step 2: With the main line restored, the line crew can isolate other damage and prioritize repairs. Though a couple of repairs were closer, fixing the line that serves this subdivision down the road will get a larger number of consumers on more quickly.

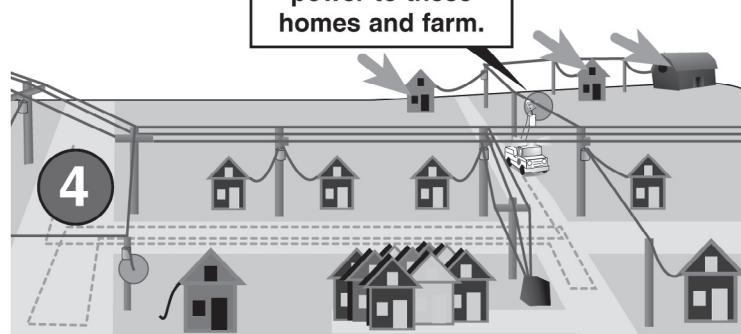


Step 3: Moving back down the road to fix this tap line will restore electricity to the three homes marked with arrows.



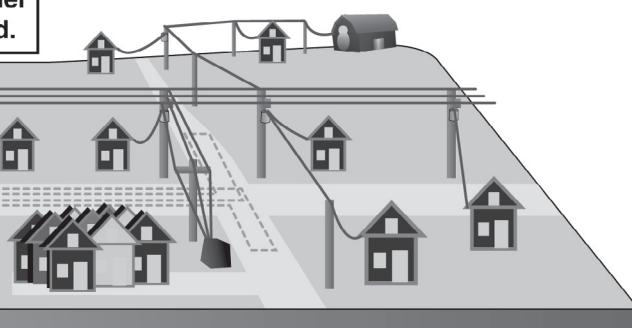
Step 4: A smaller tap line serving a number of homes and the farm on the hill is next on the list for the line crew. The move probably doesn't make the folks in the one house too happy. They've seen the crew driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in homes of all their neighbors but they don't have power!

That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter is damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.



Step 5: Only after the tap lines are repaired does the crew start work on individual service lines. The crew has been past the one home three times and could have stopped to restore power anytime after the first main line was repaired and electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. But it's not fair to other members for a crew to spend hours fixing one outage, when the crew can move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.

Individual repairs begin once all other lines are repaired.



Electric Consumer graphic by Richard G. Biever