



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

November 2018



2019 Member Satisfaction Survey

Sac Osage Valley Electric Cooperative will be sponsoring a survey that is conducted every three years to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member. This survey will ask several questions about your satisfaction and energy usage with the cooperative.

In this random survey of members, a mixture of online and telephone interviews will be conducted. You may be sent an e-mail invitation to participate in the survey OR you may be sent a postcard in the mail inviting you to participate.

Members may also be randomly selected to complete a telephone interview. It should take approximately 11 minutes to answer all questions on the telephone. The call center conducting the survey will identify themselves as calling on behalf of the cooperative. They will be conducting calls Monday-Friday from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm and on Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 417-876-2721.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is proud to participate in community events like the Stockton Walnut Festival. Kids at the parade enjoy seeing the cooperative's trucks and scoop up the candy thrown. Special thanks to the two linemen who cover the Stockton area, Josh Berning, service lineman, and Justin Wrinkle, second year lineman, for participating in the 58th annual Walnut Festival Parade and throwing candy from the truck to all of the kids.



Longer nights on the way
Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 4th. That means long nights and extra hours of darkness. Don't forget to fall back an hour on Sunday, November 4th.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be open Monday, November 12th for Veterans Day and closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.



THANKFUL

As the seasons change and the bright colors of fall begin to give way to winter's gray, it's a good time to pause and give thanks for the many blessings we have. Some obvious blessings which come to mind are our friends and family, the great country we live in, the roof over our heads, and the ability to make a decent living. Unfortunately, we sometimes overlook some wonderful conveniences we are fortunate to have in a rural community.

One such incredible blessing we often overlook is the marvel of electricity and all the uses and comforts it affords to our everyday lives. These days, though, keeping this energy source available at a price that members can afford is becoming a challenge.

We realize that, over time, costs tend to go up, but certain government agencies and special interests groups are now pushing hard to implement expensive requirements that will hurt our most vulnerable Cooperative members. If no one objects to these requirements, many members who have taken affordable electric energy for granted may be forced to make significant unwanted changes to their budgets.

You can be thankful that in spite of environmental pressures, and the challenges of providing ever-higher levels of service, your energy requirements are being met by a caring Board of Directors and by employees who are dedicated to providing you safe, reliable and affordable electric energy that can power our lives and provide comfort to our homes.

So, as you pause to count your blessings this Thanksgiving, we hope you remember:

- The lineman who works in heat, cold, rain or snow so that you can be comfortable
 - The Board Member you elected who spends hours studying the electric industry in order to make wise decisions on your behalf
 - The Tree Trimmers who work year-round ensuring reliability by clearing limbs from your power lines
- The employees who stand ready to help solve your problems and answer your questions
 - The energy industry advocates who work behind the scenes with legislators to ensure that your best interests are served, and
- The Cooperative leaders of the past who established a three-tier system of generation, transmission and distribution which provides rural Missouri members with affordable energy

Together, we still have the ability to make a difference...and for that we can also be thankful!
Happy Thanksgiving from the Board and Employees of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.

THE OLD
FARMER'S ALMANAC
 FOUNDED IN 1792

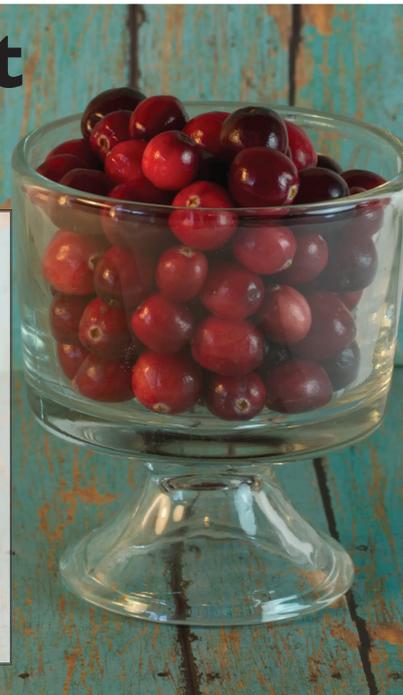


Historic weather

November, take flail, let ships no more sail!" advises the weather lore. Nov. 15, 1900, brought Watertown, New York, 45 inches of snow. Tucson, Ariz., received 6 inches of snow on Nov. 16, 1958. On that day in 1959, Lincoln, Montana, experienced a temperature of 53 degrees below zero. And on Nov. 18, 1989, Cleveland, Ohio, received 20 inches of snow. If this marked the end of mild-mannered Indian summer (traditionally Nov. 11 to 20), people must have wondered what winter would bring!

Don't forget cranberries

The cranberry is closely related to the blueberry. Our native American cranberry, larger than the European variety (also found in North America), is the one grown commercially. It has been in cultivation since at least 1840 and is prevalent on Cape Cod and in other parts of Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin. Commercial growers flood their bogs annually so that they can harvest cranberries throughout autumn.



WEATHER PROVERBS

A bad winter betide, if hair grows thick on the bear's hide.

A severe autumn denotes a windy summer; a windy winter, a rainy spring.

When you take up the teapot and find sparks on the bottom, it is a sign of cold weather.

A heavy November snow will last until April.

If snow begins at mid of day, expect a foot of it to lay.

Full moon in October without a frost, no frost till full moon in November.

Thunder in November, a fertile year to come.

Recipe for Day-After Turkey Soup



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| 2 tablespoons olive oil | 1 cup peas, fresh or frozen |
| 1 to 2 onions, finely chopped | 1 to 2 cups chopped leftover turkey |
| 3 to 4 carrots, diced | 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme |
| 3 to 4 stalks celery, diced | salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste |
| 2 quarts turkey stock | 1/4 cup chopped parsley |
| 2 cups noodles | |
| 1 red bell pepper, diced | |

Heat the olive oil in a soup pot and cook the onions, carrots and celery until soft. Add the stock and bring to a boil. Add the noodles and cook until just tender, about 6 minutes. Add bell peppers, peas and turkey, and simmer for about 5 minutes. Stir in the thyme, salt and pepper. Add the parsley and serve.

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

Efficient Holiday Lighting Options

Deck the hearth and home with energy-smart lighting

Dear Pat: We love decorating our home with holiday lights every year, but I feel guilty about the higher energy bill we get in January. How can we light up the holidays without wasting electricity? — Jessica

Dear Jessica: It's a shame that holiday lighting can lead to higher energy bills, but the good news is there are strategies that can save you money without dampening your holiday spirit!

One of the best ways to save energy is LED lights, which use about 80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. The amount of money you can save depends on a lot of factors, including your electric rate and how many hours your holiday lights are turned on.

We've seen a number of savings estimates in energy costs. One report said that replacing five strings of traditional incandescent outdoor lights with LED bulbs could lower your bill from about \$14 to 22 cents. Another report said that replacing incandescent lights on a typical indoor tree with LED bulbs could possibly lower your monthly energy bill up to \$15.

The reason incandescent bulbs are so inefficient is that at least 90 percent of their energy is converted into heat, not light. LEDs, by contrast, convert virtually all of their energy to light. This means up to 20 strings of LED lights can be linked together, whereas incandescent sets are typically limited to between three and five strings in a chain. The efficiency of LED lights also makes them safer because they generate so much less heat.

Aside from their energy efficiency, LED lights can last longer — around 200,000 hours or more, which is about 25 times longer than incandescent lights. The bulb is more durable because it is made of an epoxy instead of glass.

But not all LEDs are created equal. An LED that is not designed properly can flicker, change color or draw power even when it's turned off. To avoid these problems, purchase Energy Star-rated LEDs. To qualify for the Energy Star rating, LED products must use 75 percent less energy than incandescent lighting and pass a number of additional tests.

The drawback of switching over to LED lights is the upfront cost. Incandescent bulbs can be purchased for 19 to 50 cents each, while

a replacement LED will likely cost \$1 or more. But one estimate we ran across showed the estimated cost of buying and operating standard C-9 lights for 10 seasons is \$122 for incandescent bulbs and \$18 for LEDs. Plus, the LED lighting is more likely to last the full 10 seasons, meaning less trips to the store.

There are other ways to cut energy expenses. You can use decorative solar light sets, which store energy during the day and release light during the night. Timers are also a good idea because they can reduce energy use, especially if you don't always remember to turn the lights off before bedtime.

Innovative decorating ideas can make your display more dynamic and interesting, which might help you get by with fewer lights. This could reduce energy costs and still keep your holidays bright:

- Color-changing LED lights can cycle through the colors in sequence and can even be set to change colors in response to music.
- A laser light projector sits on the ground or other flat surface and projects multi-colored patterns onto the wall of your house. Most include a timer function and may come with a remote control and additional features. They come in a range of prices from \$20 up to \$150 or more.
- You can recreate the excitement of a laser light show (using LED lights) by installing a smart lighting system that creates pre-set or programmable light shows through your smart phone or other devices.
- For maximum effect with the smallest amount of energy use, try distributing the lighting across a broader space. In the spaces between light, add reflective ornaments, mirrors and other decorations to increase the effect of the lights and add interest.

Hopefully these tips help raise your holiday spirits without giving you the budget blues this winter.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information about saving energy on holiday lighting, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.