



LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

March 2023

“Operation Round-Up” A Community Helping Hand

As the economy continues to struggle, so do local charities and volunteer organizations. If you feel fortunate and would like to help your local community for no more than 99 cents per month, Woodbury County REC has a wonderful program available.

This program, called “Operation Roundup”, enables REC members to voluntarily have their monthly electric bill rounded-up to the next highest dollar. Those funds are available to help support local community organizations such as ambulance squads, fire departments, the county fair, food banks, etc. No funds are given to political campaigns or to “for profit” businesses.



Your small monthly contribution, no more than 99 cents or as little as one penny, could make a big difference in your local community. If you would want to participate in this very worthwhile voluntary program, give the Woodbury County REC office a call and we will help you sign up. Call (800)469-3125 or (712)873-3125.



Energy Trail Tour 2023

Woodbury County REC and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Woodbury County REC.

Four lucky couples from WCREC will be selected at random from those who sign up.

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 28-30	1st	2nd	3rd	(please circle)
July 12-14	1st	2nd	3rd	
July 26-28	1st	2nd	3rd	

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.


First Person _____
 Second Person _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by May 15, 2023.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

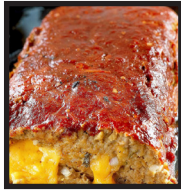
Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



The Recipe Corner

Cheese Meatloaf



- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 ½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 c. tomato juice or sauce
- 1 lb. ground beef – the leaner the better
- 1 c. coarsely crushed saltine crackers
- ½ c. grated cheddar cheese
- ¼ c. chopped green pepper
- ¼ c. chopped onion

In a bowl, beat together the first six ingredients. Add remaining ingredients and mix by hand. Shape into loaf in baking pan. Bake 45-50 minutes at 350 degrees. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

Smart Choices e-Newsletter Winners

Each month in 2022, your Cooperative hid a code in one of our Smart Choices articles. Member-Consumers who subscribed to the monthly Smart Choices e-newsletter could find the hidden code buried in one of the featured articles. Participants simply clicked on the code, complete the prize entry registration form and submitted for a chance to win. One lucky winner was chosen at random each month from all submitted entries to win a \$25 bill credit. The following members were drawn from the monthly entries in the third and fourth quarter of 2022 and received a \$25 bill credit on their monthly billing statement:

- Randy Bradley, July
- Dennis Lumphrey, August
- Mike Mooney, September
- Tom Verzani, October
- Max Jones, November
- Dane Zarbano, December

From all submitted entries for the third and fourth quarters, one winner per quarter was chosen at random for a premium prize giveaway. Linda Hayworth won the third quarter prize of an ultrasonic humidifier. The fourth quarter prize winner was Ryan VanderMolen for a Pizza Pizzazz. Congratulations to all winners.

You Can use SmartHub to report power outages

SmartHub can be used for more than just managing your Woodbury County REC account or paying your bill. You can also report a power outage using SmartHub.

This can be done through both the SmartHub website at www.woodburyrec.com or by using the SmartHub Mobile App.

When using the SmartHub website, after logging in to your SmartHub account there is a button in the top right corner of the screen that says “Report and Issue/Inquiry”.

Click this button and choose “Power Outage”. Your account number will appear. If you have more than one account, be sure to have the correct account selected, then choose an outage situation, choose the most fitting one and please add additional comments. Click “Continue”.

A green checkmark will appear to let you know your outage has been submitted. You may then exit SmartHub, or there are two options in the bottom right corner to either report another outage or view the status of your outage.

To report an outage using the SmartHub Mobile App start by clicking “Report an Issue/Inquiry” on the home screen. Next, click on the line that says “Power Outage” then click “Continue”. It will ask you to select an outage description and comments may be added. Click “Send”, a message will appear to let you know an outage has been submitted.

Power outages may still be reported by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 1-800-469-3125.

Access SmartHub by visiting the Woodbury County REC website, www.woodburyrec.com, or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).



Electric Vehicle FAQs

By Kent Amundson

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, it has become clear that the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles (EVs) from Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) members, so I thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in my column this month.

Q: Why is Woodbury County REC communicating about EVs?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and our co-op is providing information about charging requirements so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Why is the co-op interested in EV infrastructure issues?

A: All electric utilities are planning now to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs. It is important to be involved now to be sure these changes don't jeopardize the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, Woodbury County REC is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the EV future.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Q: What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

A: Woodbury County REC offers a rebate of up to two chargers per household. Please call our office at 712-873-3125 for more details regarding the EV rebate. There are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area to ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make a purchase or just exploring what this transition might look like for you, we're here to be a local resource for your EV charging needs.

Kent Amundson is the general manager/CEO of Woodbury County REC.

10 Do's and Don'ts When Using Portable Generators

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Woodbury County REC reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.



Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

1. **DO:** Install backup CO alarms.
2. **DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
3. **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
4. **DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
5. **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
6. **DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
7. **DON'T:** Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
8. **DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
9. **DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
10. **DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous even deadly if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

Change Your Air Filter

It only takes a couple of minutes to change the air filter in your heating/cooling system. It's simple and easy. As TogetherWeSave.com has shown, changing your filter every month can save you \$82 a year.

But that's not all you can save. A dirty air filter makes your system work harder to keep you cool, which wastes energy. Changing your air filter regularly helps to insure efficient operation and keep your electricity bill in check. What's more, a dirty air filter allows dust and dirt to build up in your system. Changing your air filter regularly can reduce the need for costly maintenance and prevent damage to your system.

