

ADAMS



Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 247, 4800 St. Rte. 125
West Union, OH 45693
Phone: 937-544-2305
Toll-free 1-800-283-1846

ADAMS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. • • • ADAMS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Charles L. Newman Vice President
Kenneth McCann Secretary
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William Seaman William Wylie

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Pay stations

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact the office before the due date and we will issue another.

For the convenience of Adams REC members, we have established several ways to pay your bill:

Pay online at www.adamsrec.com.

Pay by phone at 1-800-809-6352.

Pay directly from your bank account.

Pay at these collection points:

The 5/3 Bank of Southern Ohio
Manchester, Peebles, West Union

The First State Bank of Adams County
Manchester, Seaman, Winchester,
Peebles and West Union

The National Bank of Adams County
218 N. Market St., West Union

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Low temps = High use

Many consumers of Adams Rural Electric have called with concerns over high electric bills received for January. The cold wave that we had the first two weeks of January caused an increase in all electric use. It only takes a few very cold days to see the kilowatt-hour use really increase. In that time frame, most days were 10-18 degrees below the average normal temperature. I have a heat pump at home and it didn't come on during that time because the temperature outside was colder than the temperature point setting on the unit.

General Manager's Report

by
Bill Swango



You can help your furnace out by making sure your windows are tight, furnace filter is clean and duct work is in good condition. If you live in a mobile home, make sure your underpinning doesn't have pieces missing or holes that let cold air in. It is always a good idea to have a tube of caulking handy for sealing doors and windows or even plastic to put on windows, which will help to insulate your home.

While we're speaking of high energy bills, we were somewhat surprised when we received the cooperative's power bill from Buckeye Power in January. It was a whopping \$790,171, the most it has ever been. The next highest month was January 2009, which was \$652,867.

A lot of consumers believe that the cooperative gets to keep every dollar generated from the sale of electricity, when in fact almost 52 cents out of every dollar goes to pay for the power that we sell. The cooperative paid a total of \$7,171,437 for wholesale electricity in 2009. Although total system sales were down by 2 percent in 2009, the cost of the power we purchased increased by \$574,275, or 8.7 percent.

As I'm writing this article, it's the last week of January and the weather reports are saying another round of arctic air is moving in this weekend, with highs only in the middle 20s. But the good part is that when you read this, spring will be just around the corner!

How tall is that tree going to grow?

As spring planting begins to enter your mind, new trees may be part of your landscape plan.

Winter ice storms and summer thunderstorms show the effect trees can have on the flow of your electric service, which is why it's important to think about more than just the tree.

So while you make plans for what trees will enhance the look of your property, make sure you look up to see how those trees will affect the overhead utility lines.

When it comes to trees, your cooperative needs your help in maintaining a constant flow of power for you and your neighbors. Plant responsibly.

Also, if you have trees on your property that are in danger of coming in contact with power lines, let the co-op know and our right-of-way clearing crews can take care of things before a problem occurs.

This-N-That

by ALICE L. BAIRD

Power lines can be KILLERS

Weather, vehicle accidents, fallen trees, etc., can all contribute to downed power lines. Always assume that any fallen power line is energized or “live,” and report it immediately to the police, fire department and Adams REC.

Here are some guidelines if you see a low or downed line:

- Move away from the line and anything touching it.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the line, do not touch the person—you could become the next victim. Call 911.
- Do not attempt to move a line or anything in contact with it by using an object such as a broom or stick. Even nonconductive materials like wood can conduct electricity if slightly wet.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- If you are in a vehicle that has contact with a line, stay inside. Use your cell phone to call for help. Honk your horn to keep others away.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- Be careful when operating large farm equipment near overhead lines.
- When doing outdoor yard or house work, take care that ladders or long poles do not touch overhead lines.
- And, of course, always call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) at 811 before you dig for any

reason, to avoid contact with underground utility lines.

Reminders

Warmer weather brings with it spring cleaning and yard sales. Remember when you post your flyers and signs advertising your yard sale, upcoming event or perhaps lost pet that the staples, tacks and nails used to hang these notices pose serious safety hazards to utility employees. The management at Adams Rural Electric Cooperative asks that you please **DO NOT ATTACH ANYTHING TO THE UTILITY POLES**. Please consider the safety of our employees and determine a better way to advertise. 910850015

Just a reminder: The deadline for scholarship applications is March 11. The deadline for Youth Tour applications is March 15.

An early reminder: Adams REC will be closed on April 2 in observance of Good Friday.

If you have an event that you would like to have published in the local calendar of events, please mail the information to me two (2) months before the event is scheduled. Mail to: Attn.: Alice, Adams Rural Electric, P.O. Box 247, West Union, OH 45693. Please keep in mind that space is limited, so not all events may be listed. This calendar is for community events only. Please do not submit business advertisements or ads for yard sales, personal family events, etc.

If you need information concerning the youth programs, calendar of events or capital credits, or have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at the office by phone at 937-544-2305 or e-mail at aliceb@adamsrec.com.

High-tech thermostats offer potential savings

Keeping your home hot or cold—depending on the season—accounts for a big chunk of your annual budget. In fact, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$2,500 a year on home energy, with 56 percent—or \$1,400—going toward heating and cooling costs.

Not surprisingly, savings can add up in a hurry when heating and cooling systems are tweaked for maximum efficiency. You easily can trim your energy bills in winter by setting the thermostat at 68°F while you're awake and back a few degrees when you go to sleep or are away from home.

Even better, turning your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours can save about 5 to 15 percent a year on your heating bill—about 1 percent for each degree. Savings may even be greater for homes in milder climates.

The location of your thermostat can greatly affect its performance and efficiency. Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows.



Read the manufacturer's instructions to prevent “ghost readings” or unnecessary furnace or air conditioner cycling.

Installing a programmable thermostat can take the thought out of saving energy. Your heating and cooling system will ramp up or switch off according to a preset time of day or even day of the week. Most models let you manually override the schedule without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Programmable thermostats generally are not recommended for heat pumps. In cooling mode, a heat pump operates like an air conditioner, so turning up the thermostat will save energy and money. But when a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice.

To automatically manage electric resistance systems, such as electric baseboard heating, steam heat-

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Tornado safety

by ALICE L. BAIRD

Last year at this time I was writing about the ice storm. I am so thankful that we did not have a repeat of last year's storm. I must say as I write this article (Feb. 1) that it is very cold. We have had a fair amount of snow this winter and extremely cold temperatures which have caused an increase in our heating bills, but spring is on its way!

Springtime conjures up thoughts of flowers blooming, trees budding and birds chirping. It represents a renewal of life—an awakening, so to speak, when everything appears fresh and new. Unfortunately, with spring also comes tornado season.

Ohio is on the far eastern edge of an area that reaches from the western plain states through the Mississippi Valley, to the Gulf Coast and northward into the Ohio Valley, west of the Appalachians, called “Tornado Alley.” The area is so named because the highest number of tornadoes typically forms in this part of the country.

Tornado facts:

- Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. Whirling winds can reach 300 miles per hour. Tornadoes may strike with little or no warning. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.

- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.

- The average tornado moves southwest to northeast, but they have been known to move in any direction.

- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.

- The peak season in the southern states is from March through May; in the northern states from spring through the early summer months; usually between 3 and 9 p.m., but they can occur anywhere, at any time of the year and any hour of the day or night.

Tornado terms:

- **Watch** — Tornadoes are possible. Stay alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information. This is a good time to remind family members where the safest places within your home are located.

- **Warning** — A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

Tornado safety:

- If you are in a building, move at once to a windowless interior room, a storm cellar, basement or the lowest level of the building. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway, bathroom or closet. Stay away from the windows and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.

- If you are in a mobile home, GET OUT! Find shelter elsewhere. If there are no safer buildings, lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the home.

- If you are outside, try to get inside a building. If none is available, or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or crouch near a strong building.

- If you are in a car, GET OUT IMMEDIATELY!

Never try to outrun a tornado; it can change directions quickly and can lift up a car or truck and toss it through the air. Take shelter in a nearby building or, if necessary, lie in a ditch or low-lying area.

- Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as gymnasiums, auditoriums, cafeterias or shopping malls.

- Take the time to develop an emergency communication plan with your family members so that you can get back together in the event you become separated.

- As with any emergency situation, be prepared with essential medications, radio, flashlight, food and water, etc.

After a tornado:

- Help as best you can any injured or trapped persons. Don't try to move those who may be seriously injured.

- Check on your neighbors to see if they need help.

- Stay out of damaged buildings, and be aware that there may be damage to utility lines. Turn off the gas and electricity on the outside if you are concerned about leaks or damage, and contact a professional.

Stay safe and healthy, and as always, if you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact the office.

High-tech

(—continued from page 28)

ing or radiant floor heating, you will need to purchase a programmable thermostat specifically designed for the task. Of course, when shopping for a programmable thermostat, always look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

More information on what may be right for your home can be found at energystar.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Hidden account number credit

Find **your** account number in the LOCAL PAGES (the four center pages of this magazine), then call our office and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. You must call by the end of each month in which your account number appears.

Capital credits

Capital Credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for January 2010 totaled \$11,022.61. Estates paid in 2010 total \$11,022.61.

In case of the death of a member of Adams Rural Electric, contact Alice Baird at 937-544-2305 or 800-283-1846.

WE MADE PAYING YOUR BILL EASIER
3 ways to pay with:

NO STAMPS! **NO ENVELOPES!** **NO DRIVING!**

- ONLINE AT OUR WEB SITE
- BY PHONE
- DIRECT PAYMENT FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

*Pay online at www.adamsrec.com; just click on the "Pay Your Bill" link and follow the instructions. You can pay by credit/debit card or from your checking/savings account.

*Pay by phone with our Payment Hotline. Dial 1-800-809-6352 and follow the directions. You can pay by credit/debit card or from your checking/savings account.

*Call the office to sign up for Direct Payment from your bank account.

If you have any questions you may call the office at 937-544-2305.

Adams County area calendar of events

MARCH

6 **Adams County Amish Bird Symposium** — 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Wheat Ridge Road, 250 person maximum. Contact: Chris Bedel, Cincinnati Museum Center's Edge of Appalachia. coa@bright.net or 937-544-2880, ext. 11.

20 **Spring Equinox** — FOSM will be there to assist the staff at Serpent Mound. Contact FOSM at 1-937-587-3953.

APRIL

3 **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** — Rain or snow date: Apr. 10, Children's Home. Contact: Sharon Rivers 937-544-2511.

3 & 4 **Adams County Trade Days** — Adams County Fairground, 868 Boyd Ave., West Union. Contact: Connie McDonald 937-217-1522 or Nathan Vogel 513-256-8370.

17 **Northern Adams County History Bus Tour.** Contact: Lynn Newman 937-587-3358 or Mary Fulton 937-587-2043.

17 & 18 **Fourth Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage of Southern Ohio** — Choose among over two dozen field trips to botanical hot spots in southern Ohio (Adams, Highland, Pike and Ross counties). Arc of Appalachia Preserve System. Call 937-365-0101 or visit www.highlandssanctuary.org.

24 **Ohio Brush Creek Sweep** — Along Ohio Brush Creek. Interested participants should contact Bill Wickerham at Adams County Soil & Water, 544-5121.

24 **Bentonville Anti-Horse Thief Society Banquet** — 7 p.m., Bentonville. Contact: Verna Naylor 937-549-3360.

30 – May 2 **Flora-Quest** — Shawnee State Park and Forest and Edge of Appalachia. To learn more: www.flora-quest.com.