

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

Trustees

Charles Grimes President
Charles L. Newman Vice President
Donald Holton Secretary
Blanchard Campbell M. Dale Grooms
Kenneth McCann Donald C. McCarty, Sr.
William Seaman William Wylie

Personnel

Bill Swango General Manager
Erika Ackley Rodney Little
Alice Baird Ronald Lynch
Monica Baldwin Dave McChesney
August Brooks Kristina Orr
Gary Call John Polk
Rex Chapman David Ralston
Joyce Grooms Jack Ross
Keith Grooms C. Wayne Sears
Ronald Carl Hanson Donnie Shoemaker
John Hayslip Kimberly Smith
David Henry Gary Tolle
Steve Hoop Mike Whitley
Dave Kirker Charlotte Willett
Chris Koenig Betty R. Young

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

Fuel costs and your electric bill

In November of 2007, the CEO of a large investor-owned utility (IOU) stated that a spike in coal prices would not hurt his company's profits. What he didn't say was it wouldn't hurt profits because it would be passed on to consumers who would bear the brunt of the increase so the company's stockholders could continue to receive dividends.

General Manager's Report

by
Bill Swango



But you know that higher fuel costs and other factors do affect you and your cooperative. Because electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, member-owned and locally governed utilities that operate "close to the bone" in order to provide cost-based rates, your electric bill is primarily a reflection of wholesale generation-and-transmission overheads. One of the primary costs of generating electricity is fuel—in Buckeye Power's case, the cost of coal and natural gas—and related inputs at the power plant level.

You've seen your monthly bill go up in the last few years. This trend is directly related to fuel: what it costs to purchase and transport coal for supplying the power plants, and the environmental technology needed to meet ever-stricter federal clean air regulation.

Supply and demand

Supply and demand affects the price of fuel. Remember when natural gas prices spiked a few years ago? How about last summer's \$4-per-gallon gasoline pump prices? On the wholesale power generation level, there's a new wrinkle. Industrializing Asian nations, led by China and India, in recent years have exerted additional demand pressure on the coal market. China alone is building hundreds of coal-burning power plants, and the Chinese appetite for new fuel sources is predicted to become even greater.

In 2008, before the economic recession set in full force, domestic coal prices had doubled. The cost of other inputs related to the burning of fossil fuel also spiked. China continues to buy and stockpile foreign coal, as does India. The recession has had some effect on competition for coal supplies, but not much. It is becoming more difficult to negotiate long-term coal contracts because of the market's volatility.

While our political leaders in Washington, D.C., dither about climate change legislation and want to eventually abandon coal as a fuel source, other nations are hungry for this resource found so abundantly in the U.S. They plan to continue burning coal to produce electricity to

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Justin Morgan participates in Youth Tour

Justin Morgan of Peebles joined 35 other Ohio students from 21 cooperatives on the 2009 Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Youth Tour to Washington D.C. June 12-18. The sophomores and juniors joined more than 1,500 other students from rural communities representing 44 states and several countries. The trip is part of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour that takes place each June and has been ongoing for more than 40 years. It is a wonderful opportunity for the participants.

In addition to touring the nation's capital, students met with members of their Congressional delegation, toured the Library of Congress and attended a performance at the Kennedy



Center for Performing Arts.

When commenting on his trip, Justin said, "Thank you for an awesome experience!" He said he liked meeting with kids his own age and that he learned a lot about the past as well as things that are happening in the present.

According to our cooperative statewide newsletter, *Changing Currents*, nearly a fourth of this year's participants were able to boast of a brother, sister or cousin who has been on the trip; however, Justin holds the distinction of being the only one whose father was a Youth Tour participant. Justin is the son of

Jeff and Anita Morgan.

You can find out more about the Youth tour by visiting <http://www.youthtour.coop>

Fuel cost and your electric bill

fuel their economies. Overseas demand is certainly one of the cost drivers of rising electric bills.

Environmental impacts on fuel

Added to the cost of fuel for conventional steam-turbine power plants are the technological additions needed to scrub, filter and neutralize byproducts of the coal combustion process: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury and particulate matter. Buckeye Power's Cardinal Station units and the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation capacity soon will be equipped with the latest environmental controls. As we noted last month, the price tag at Cardinal alone is nearing \$900 million—and in the future it appears technology to capture and store carbon dioxide will need to

be added. No one knows what this will cost.

The power generation industry is anxiously awaiting finalization of climate change and energy policy before deciding on future output and investment options. One thing seems certain, though. The price of energy will continue to go up. How much it will rise remains to be seen. Rest assured that your cooperative is doing every thing it can to keep rates affordable and your power supply reliable. These are trying and uncertain times, but our greatest strength is in our difference—we keep our members and owners in mind at all times. We are, first and foremost, consumer organizations. You deserve to know why rates are rising and what we are doing about it. Stay tuned for more information, and never hesitate to call us with a question or comment.

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CFL BULBS

Now available at
the Adams REC
office. Ask about
how to receive your
bulbs.

Hidden account number credit

Congratulations to Phil Dryden, he found his account number in the June *Country Living* issue. He won a \$20 credit on his account.

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.

This-n-that

by ALICE BAIRD

Hidden account number

Congratulations to Phil Dryden who found his account number that was hidden in the June issue. He received a \$20 credit on his electric account. Look for your account number in these local pages. If you find it, contact me at the office and you also will receive a credit on your electric account. Remember, you must call by the end of the month in which your account number appears.

It is in your best interest to keep Adams Rural Electric updated on your mailing address and current phone number. There is space allotted on your bill stub to enter any changes to your address or phone number.

CFL bulbs available

You probably have been hearing about the energy and money saving compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs a lot, but it still bears repeating. CFL bulbs save energy, money and help the environment.

CFL bulbs:

- Use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs, (a 19-watt CFL bulb is equivalent to a 75-watt incandescent);
- Produce about 75 percent less heat than standard bulbs which makes them safer to operate and can cut home cooling costs; and
- Last up to 10 times longer than a regular bulb which could add up to a savings of about \$30 or more over the life of the bulb

CFLs do contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing—an average of 4 to 5 milligrams. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury—an amount equal to the mercury in about 125 CFLs. Thanks to advances in technology; some manufacturers have been able to reduce mercury content to 1.4–2.5 milligrams per light bulb. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and intact (not broken).

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has prepared a fact sheet to answer concerns about mercury content in CFLs and proper disposal. You can download the fact sheet at <http://deq.mt.gov/Recycle/epafactsheet-cfl.pdf>. You also can log on to <http://www.energystar.gov> and <http://www.gelighting.com> for a wealth of information on the bulbs, mercury content and proper disposal.

Adams Rural Electric has CFLs available at the office for our members. Call or come in to find out how to receive your bulbs.

Annual meeting coming up

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Members of Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be here before you know it. The meeting will be at the Peebles Elementary School again this year. Make plans

to attend on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Summer

As I am writing this (late June) it is very hot and humid. About 20 minutes ago we had a powerful rain storm with hail. It poured and blew and water was running everywhere. Just as suddenly the sun came back out shining brightly. Summer is surely upon us, but it will be over before you know it, and we'll be looking toward fall and winter. Right now I just want to enjoy the sounds, smells and tastes of summer. The sound of the crickets, frogs etc. remind me of the summer evenings that I spent as a child playing hide-and-seek, catching lightning bugs and not wanting to go in when Mom said it's bedtime. I love the smell of honeysuckle and all the outdoor grilling. Oh, and yes, the taste of juicy red tomatoes right off the vine, blackberries freshly picked and yummy sweet corn.

I keep asking if anyone makes tomato preserves anymore, but most people don't know what I'm talking about. Maybe it was just my Mamaw that made it; it sure was good on a hot homemade biscuit. If you remember tomato preserves or have a recipe, feel free to contact me and let me know. Maybe we can get it in a *Country Living* issue so everybody can enjoy.

If you need information concerning the youth programs, Calendar of Events, capital credits or have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at the office. Just ask for Alice.

WE MADE PAYING YOUR BILL EASIER

3 ways to pay with:

NO ENVELOPES!

NO STAMPS!

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.

Capital credits

Capital credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for June 2009 totaled \$8203.13. Estates paid in 2009 total \$56,654.61.

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

Adams County area calendar of events

AUGUST

- 8 **Travis Ralston 3rd Annual Memorial Scholarship Motorcycle Ride** — 10:30 a.m., Wrightsville. Contact: Eugenia Grooms or Beth Bilyeu 937-549-4078.
- 15 **1st Cowboy Copas Outdoor Concert** at the Red Barn Convention Center in Winchester. Concert starts at 6 p.m. Tickets \$10. Contact Lynne Newman at 937-587-3358.
- 15 **13th Annual Marine Corps League 5-K Race and Walk** — 8:30 a.m., West Union Elementary. Contact: Dan Blanton 937-544-6031.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 **Adams County Junior Fair Beef Barbeque** — 5-7:30 p.m., (Always the 1st Thursday of Sept.) Adams County Fairgrounds. Contact: Corbett Phipps 937-544-2336.
- 3-5, & 7 **Miller's Labor Day Sale** — Unity. Contact: Miller's 937-544-8524.
- 5-12 **Annual Amish School Benefit Cookout** — Unity. Contact: Miller's 937-544-8524.
- 5 **Archaeology 101 & Artifact Identifying** — 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Serpent Mound, Peebles. Contact: Keith Bengtson 937-587-2796.
- 5-7 **Caramel Festival** — Winchester. Contact: Leona Inskeep 937-695-0950.
- 11-13 **Bentonville Harvest Festival** — Friday evening; Saturday all day; and Sunday, 10:45 a.m. for Church services, Bentonville. Contact: Sue Naylor 937-549-3360.
- 12-20 **National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assoc. National Championship Shoot** — Friendship, Ind. Black powder shooting competitions, Early American classes, demonstrations, displays and much more. Admission is charged. Contact: 1-800-745-1493, nmlra@nmlra.org, www.nmlra.org.
- 17-20 **41st Peebles Old Timers Days** — Contact: Mary Dunlap 937-587-2493 or 937-779-6908.
- 19 **Annual Hilltop Designs Charity Auction-Fest, Flea Market & Tractor Show** — 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Winchester. Rosie Young will be there. Proceeds to benefit the Alzheimer's Association and Tri-State Parkinson's Chapter. Contact: Jo Hall 937-695-5545.
- 23-26 **Seaman Fall Festival** — Seaman. Contact: Doris Bailey 937-386-2083.
- 26 **Tall Grass Prairie Tour at Plum Run Preserve** — Arc of Appalachia Preserve System, call 937-365-0101 or visit www.highlandssanctuary.org.
- 25 **Wheat Ridge Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper** — Supper at 4 p.m. and auction
- 26 **6th Annual Chili Fest** — Rain date: Oct. 3rd, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., On the Square in West Union, West Union Beautification Committee. Contact: Judy Kirker 937-544-4338.
- TBA **Appreciation Dinner - Baked Goods Auction and Hog Roast** — 5-7 p.m., Located at the Bratton Township Hall at 2535 Loudon Rd., Peebles, Bratton Township Trustees. Contact: Angie McCoy 937-587-1898.