



**Harrison County
Rural Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Survey Crews at Work -

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative is beginning the long process of approximately 330 miles of line rebuilding. Please note that you may be seeing crews from Colorado and Utah with our REC magnetic signs on their vehicles. They are working with us in the staking process for these rebuilding jobs. This information is being given to you because the process for the staking alone could take up to the next three month period to complete.



Please call the Operations Department at Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative, 800-822-5591 or 647-2727 with any questions or concerns.

Annual Meeting Date Set!

Mark your calendar for Monday April 4, 2011 and plan to attend the Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative annual meeting. You'll receive more information and voting ballots in the mail at a later date.



Harrison County Rural Electric Co-op puts Safety First!

Look Up, Look Down, And Look Out!

- ❖ For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- ❖ Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- ❖ Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.



Holiday Office Closings

The Cooperative's office will be closed Thursday, November 11 for Veterans' Day and Thursday, November 25 for Thanksgiving.

METERS WILL BE READ!

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative will be reading meters November 27, 29 & 30



**Energy
Efficiency**

Tip of the Month

If your home is more than ten years old, it likely needs more insulation. How much depends on a variety of factors, most importantly where you live. For example, insulation for a home in the Northeast will have a higher R-value rating than a home in Southern California. Check out www.simplyinsulate.com to find out more.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy

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Challenges Ahead

By Joe Farley, Manager/EVP

As I sit at my desk I think of the many issues and challenges we are facing these days. Not only have we had the challenge of increasing power supply rates during a time of economic downturn, but we had the catastrophic storms last winter and we are engaged in both a very hectic regulatory and political environment. So many times in newsletter articles we try to cover a "hot topic" or inform you, the member, about what is going on in the big picture of our industry. This month, I believe I will just shoot from the hip, and touch on what is on my mind.

I also want to remind you that this is your cooperative. Your needs and your quality of life are important to us. We want to be "connected" to you and I want you to realize that you are an owner and we do listen to you. We cannot always provide low electric rates or meet your every demand, but we do what we can to provide quality and affordable power while sustaining the integrity of service and reliability you expect. Further, we stay focused on local and national issues regarding economic development and political activity. We may come to you, the membership, for assistance in numbers when battling a political agenda that we deem unfair to electric consumers or the rural electrification industry. Connect with us, contact us, and please ask questions.

Now, you should be aware that we are not yet certain if more rate challenges may be forthcoming. Power supply budgets are being developed and will soon be presented to provide more details on wholesale rate projections.

We are currently in the early stages of a Cost of Service study. We have engaged C.H. Guernsey & Co., a nationally recognized consulting firm, to study our electric

rates and determine if our rates are both sufficient to support the financial targets we need to maintain AND if the rates are equitable across rate classes. Your board is very focused on doing things right and fair.

We received word that the reservoirs along the Missouri River are full and that the Corps of Engineers is allowing more water to be released. It is unusual that now we have nearly too much water. What this means for you is that the hydro-electric rates for power will likely not increase next year.

We are still experiencing problems resulting from the ice storms last winter. Loose jumpers, weakened poles and conductors, etc. are occasionally failing completely, causing outage situations. We are also still engaged in the process of obtaining assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to strengthen our lines. The Cooperative has applied for nearly \$20 million dollars of Federal aid to strengthen and re-conduct approximately 320 miles of overhead distribution line. This will not be an easy accomplishment for your Cooperative.

The overall project will involve several phases and will include various sections of line throughout our service territory. The majority of this construction will be performed by contracted line workers requiring approximately 4 years to complete. Financially, the Cooperative must pay for all the construction and then submit funding requests for FEMA reimbursement. When construction is complete and approved, FEMA will pay approximately 75% of the total cost and the State of Iowa will pay for 10%. The Cooperative will be required to contribute about 15% of the total cost. However, due to some areas where we intend to do some extensive tree trimming, right of way work, etc., we anticipate our total contribution might be about 20%. Overall, this will be good for our

system. Nearly 40% of our overhead lines will have new conductor and strengthened infrastructure! This should greatly improve system reliability and the ability to withstand natural storms and other calamity.

The cost to the Cooperative will also include the cost associated with borrowing during the interim periods when FEMA funds are requested but not yet received. We recently requested that our auditor review this situation and provide information on the long term effect. This project will affect our depreciation and interest costs. We want to ascertain the impact to our long term costs so that we may project what this could mean to the electric rates you pay.

Harvest season is upon us and we remain very busy meeting member needs for electrical repairs to bin motors, fans, etc. and we've had numerous work requests for new bin facility installations. The activity we are seeing is incredible. If you are considering installing a new grain handling facility or upgrading your present equipment, please contact us, in case a service upgrade is required due to load increase.

We are also nearing completion of a new Construction Work plan. This is a four-year plan we prepare periodically to identify specific areas within our service territory where improvements are needed or new construction is anticipated. These are capital related projects that involve engineering consultation and financial consideration. It is a necessary tool for our projection of borrowing and financial forecasting.

We continue to forge ahead in complying with regulatory requirements for energy efficiency reporting and providing you as an electric consumer more information to be efficient and conservative with your electric energy.

I'd appreciate your comments on the included commentary survey. Feedback from the membership is important to our staff and Board of Directors. Our goal is to serve you in the best way possible with Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community as a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Thank you for your membership, and please continue to follow your newsletter in the upcoming months for FEMA activity updates, political issues of importance, and other topics of importance involving the cooperative way of business. Have a safe Fall!



What do you (the member) have to say?

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative is member owned. As a member-owned cooperative, it is important that we know and understand what our members expect. In the space below, please provide your comments regarding strengths or weaknesses of our services. Cut out and return your completed form to our office at your convenience. Thank you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Energy Efficiency Programs

By Randy Coyle, Director of Member Services

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative may be one of the smaller cooperatives in the NIPCO system, but our members are stepping up to the plate to cut electric consumption and become energy efficient. Here are some programs your cooperative offers to aid you, the member, in reducing consumption:

1. Trade in your old bulbs for efficient compact fluorescents. While supply lasts or before December 31, 2010, bring Randy Coyle at Harrison County REC working incandescent bulbs and they will be exchanged for either a 19w CFL (75 watt) or a 23w CFL (100 watt), limit of five bulbs per member. Compared to standard incandescent light bulbs, Energy Star-qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer. Trading 1000 CFLs will generate a lifetime kWh savings of 478,000 kWh, or an annual savings of 65,490 kWh.
2. Get a cash rebate from Harrison County REC when you purchase an Energy Star appliance. Rebates are \$25 for refrigerators, freezers and dishwashers, and \$50 for new clothes washers. There is a total lifetime appliance rebate of \$250 per member/consumer. This year, to date, our members have purchased 30 Energy Star appliances generating a lifetime savings of 53,613 kWh or an annual savings of 4,382 kWh.
3. Get rid of old, working appliances and earn a reward. If you have an old, inefficient refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner still plugged in, pull that plug and get a \$25 reward plus free removal. Just call Randy Coyle at Harrison County REC to make arrangements. With its power supplier NIPCO, HCREC has contracted with a certified recycling company to remove and deconstruct these energy-wasting appliances. The appliances must be clean, empty, and in working condition to qualify. There is a maximum of \$75 in rebates per member. By allowing these inefficient appliances to be recycled properly you are helping save the environment and save energy. This year so far our membership has recycled seven appliances generating a lifetime savings of 54,383 kWh and an annual savings of 6,110 kWh.

These numbers may seem small but over time they really add up, plus it's the right thing to do for our membership and the environment. As we approach our 75th year as a rural electric cooperative it is, once more, time for our members to step forward with us to do all we can to create a safe, clean, more energy efficient environment for our families and communities.

Please contact Randy Coyle, Director of Member Services at rcoyles@hcrec.coop, 800-822-5591, or 647-2727.

Alfredo Green Bean Crockpot Casserole

2 bags (1 lb. each) Green Giant frozen cut green beans
 1 can (8 oz.) sliced water chestnuts, drained
 ½ c. roasted red bell peppers – cut into small strips

¼ tsp. salt
 1 container (1 ¼ cups) refrigerated Alfredo pasta sauce or dry mix sauce
 1 can (2.8 oz.) French-fried onions

Spray inside of 3-4 qt. crock-pot with cooking spray; In large bowl, mix all ingredients together – except onions. Stir in ½ of the onions. Spoon mixture into crock-pot; Cover; Cook on LOW for 3-4 hours, stirring after 1-1 ½ hrs. About five minutes before serving, in a 6-inch skillet, heat remaining half of onions over medium heat for 2-3 mins, stirring frequently until hot. Stir bean mixture; Sprinkle with onions.



How Directors are elected

Article II. Section 3. Nominations (from the bylaws)

The Board of Directors shall appoint a committee on nominations. Such committee on nominations shall be appointed 90 days or more before the date of a meeting of members at which directors are to be elected. A committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty-five (25) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. A ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names of all the nominees so posted, alphabetically arranged and stating the residence of each, shall be mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee or nominations made by petition. Such statement of the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section. Any member who is absent from any such meeting may vote by mail for directors by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name addressed to the Secretary. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any absent member it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such absent member at such meeting. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and are absent from any such meeting they may vote by mail for directors by jointly marking and enclosing the ballot hereinabove provided for. Notwithstanding anything in the section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

Outside Electrical Safety

Call Iowa One Call (811) before you dig!

Before digging or moving any earth; call 811 to request underground lines be located. Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative will locate their underground electric utility service, including underground utilities to the transformer and/or the electric meter FREE. The Cooperative offers the service of locating the member's secondary electric service, including anything from the meter to your project, at a charge. Examples of member's responsibility would be from the meter to the home, shop, bin, etc. Your cooperative also has no mapping records of the location of your secondary electric service.

Just remember – If you hit an underground power line, you could be fatally injured!



Pay by Bank Draft

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative offers a program to have your electric bill automatically deducted from your bank account on the 26th day of each month. Complete the following authorization and return it with your **VOIDED** check. This will start the process in approximately one month. When you receive your monthly bill the words **BANK DRAFT** will appear beside the total amount due.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS

I (we) hereby authorize Harrison County REC, hereinafter called Company, to initiate debit entries to my (our) account indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereinafter called Depository, and to debit the same to such account.

Bank Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Bank Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Check one please: Checking Account _____
Savings Account _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until the Company has received written notification from me of its termination in such manner as to afford Company and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Please Print:

Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Return completed form with your current bill or mail to:

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Call 712-647-2727
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Harrison County REC

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