

FEC[®] POWER

Source

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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

Ag Safety Day Camps Held in Clovis and Santa Rosa

Farmers' Electric Cooperative recently had the privilege of participating in Progressive Agriculture Foundation's Ag Safety Day Camps in Curry County (Clovis) and Guadalupe County (Santa Rosa). The Clovis day camp was a two-day event with 3rd graders from the surrounding area attending. Santa Rosa hosted a one-day event for theirs and neighboring 3rd grade students.

Farmers' Electric personnel gave electrical safety demonstrations to the students with emphasis on overhead power line contact and the associated dangers. Also covered in the demonstrations was indoor electrical safety, electric generation, transmission, and distribution. The kids also learned about professional linemen's personal protective equipment (PPE) and its uses.



Along with the electrical safety demonstrations, the children were treated to other safety stations throughout the day such as, water safety, ATV safety, tractor safety, 911 and first aid, lawnmower safety, firearm safety, grain elevator safety, fire safety, and snake awareness. These were all-day events with the children receiving a hot dog, chips, milk, apple, and ice cream sandwiches for lunch. Combined, the two events drew approximately 1,800 participants.

Farmers' Electric will make itself available for any organization, civic group, or school to present these demonstrations, free of charge. Call the cooperative today, (800) 445-8541, and ask to speak to someone in the Member Services Department.



Energy Saving Stocking Stuffers

1. LED Light Bulb

Every time I turn around, it seems, I see another LED light bulb. Among the screw-in replacement lamps, there are many good products — but also some that aren't so good. Look for products from a reputable manufacturer (a company that's been around for a while), and select a product that carries an Energy Star label. Don't forget to look for the "nutritional label." This label states the lumens (brightness), the color, the Wattage, and the projected life of the bulb, just to name a few.

2. Kill-a-Watt Meter

This has been on my Christmas list before. It's a gadget that lets you measure the electrical consumption of plug-in appliances, equipment, and other devices. It can help us sleuth out hidden stand-by (phantom or vampire) losses — the power draw from a television that's turned off or a WiFi router that's on 24-7.



I have several Kill-a-Watt meters and regularly lend them to friends. The cost is about \$20. Note that it doesn't work for hard-wired appliances like most dishwashers or 220-volt products.

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The Manager's Message will Return Next Month

Kitchen Appliance Energy Savings

Refrigerator

Energy-efficiency experts tell us to focus our efforts on the biggest energy hogs in the house, and that definitely includes the fridge. Because it cycles on and off all day, every day, the refrigerator consumes more electricity than nearly every appliance in the home save for the HVAC systems. The average refrigerator costs about \$90 per year to operate, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The good news is that a few simple adjustments can trim roughly \$38-\$45 off those utility bills.

1. Adjust the thermostat. By setting the thermostat colder than it needs to be, you might increase your fridge's energy consumption by as much as 25% on average. Adjust the refrigerator so that it stays in the 37-40 degrees F range. For the freezer, shoot for between 0-5 degrees F. You could save up to \$22 per year. If your model doesn't display the current temps, invest in two appliance thermometers (one for the fridge, one for the freezer). They cost roughly \$3-\$20.

2. Clean the coils. As dust accumulates on the condenser coils on the rear or bottom of the fridge, it restricts cool-air flow and forces the unit to work harder and longer than necessary. Every six months, vacuum away the dust that accumulates on the mechanism. Also, check to see that there is at least a 3-inch clearance at the rear of the fridge for proper ventilation. This routine maintenance can trim up to 5% off the unit's operating cost.

3. Use an ice tray. Automatic ice makers are a nice convenience, to be sure, but it turns out the mechanisms are energy hogs. An automatic ice maker can increase a refrigerator's energy consumption by 14% to 20%, according to Energy Star. By switching off the ice maker and using trays, you can save about \$12 to \$18 off your annual electricity bill. Most units require little more than a lift of the sensor arm to switch them off. To reclaim the space, remove the entire unit, a simple DIY job on many models.

4. Unplug the "drink fridge." Many homes have an extra fridge that runs year-round even though it's used sparingly. Worse, these fridges tend to be older, more inefficient models that most consumers place in their garages. In the summertime heat, garage temperatures can become unbearable. This "hot air" is what your drink fridge uses as return which will, in turn, cause it to work extra hard. By consolidating the contents to the main fridge and unplugging the additional unit, you eliminate the entire operating cost of a fridge. The second-best solution is to make sure the extra fridge remains three-quarters full at all times. The mass helps maintain steady internal temps and lets the fridge recover more quickly after the door is opened and closed.

Ovens and ranges

Cooking efficiently all comes down to proper time and space management. By using gas and electric stoves more effectively, you can painlessly save a few dollars a year.

5. Cut the power early. As anybody who's ever bumped a burner on an electric stove can attest, those heating elements stay hot long after they've been switched off. Put that resid-



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ual heat to work by shutting off the burner several minutes before the end of the cook time. The same technique can be applied to the oven. The savings can add up to a couple bucks every month. In the winter, after you have turned off the oven, use the residual heat from an opened oven door to help heat the kitchen and surrounding areas.

6. Match the burner to pan. When a small pan is placed on a big burner you can practically see the money disappearing into thin air. By matching the burner to the pan, electricity won't be squandered heating the kitchen rather than the food. The reverse is true, too. A small burner will take considerably longer to heat a large pan than would an appropriately sized burner. For gas stoves, don't let the flames lick the sides of the pot. Follow these tips and watch the utility bills shrink by a few dollars a month.

7. Do away with preheating. You can save about \$2 a month by not preheating your oven (20 cents per hour to operate electric oven; eliminate 20 30-minute preheats a month). Many cooks agree that the practice is wholly unnecessary for all but a few recipes, namely baking breads and cakes. This approach may add a few minutes to the overall cooking time, but it eliminates all that wait time on the front end.

Dishwasher

As with washing machines, most of a dishwasher's energy needs go to heating the water. Still, says Lane Burt, an

energy policy analyst with The Natural Resources Defense Council, a 10-year-old dishwasher can be made nearly as efficient as a newer model simply by knowing when and how to run it. Follow a few simple tips, and you can reduce your annual utility costs by roughly \$35-\$54.

8. Manage the load. Most dishwashers use the same amount of water and energy whether they're run full or half-full. You can cut your operating costs by one-third or one-half by running the machine only when it's full. It costs about \$54 to run a pre-2000 model dishwasher per year, based on government data. Proper load management can save up to \$27 each year.

9. Activate energy-saving features. A dishwasher's heated dry cycle can add 15% to 50% to the appliance's operating cost. Most machines allow the feature to be switched off (or not turned on), which can save \$8-\$27 per year, assuming an operating cost of \$54 annually. If your dishwasher doesn't have that flexibility, simply turn the appliance off after the final rinse and open the door.

10. Use the machine. Many homeowners believe they can save water and energy by hand washing dishes. The truth is that a dishwasher requires less than one-third the water it would take to do those same dishes in the sink. By running the machine (when full), you can cut down the operating time of the hot water heater, one of your home's largest energy hogs. Not only will you save a buck or two per month, you won't have to do the dishes.

Attention: Irrigation Consumers
Subject: Irrigation Annual
Minimum Charges

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account(s), please contact the Cooperative's Billing Department at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541.

Scholarship Applications
Available Now!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counsellors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa.

Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



Don't Delay! Deadline For
Applications Is February, 1, 2018!

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3. Smart Power Strip

Along with measuring the phantom electric loads from televisions and stereo equipment, you can do something about it by installing a smart power strip that turns off selected circuits either when an occupancy sensor senses that no one is present or after a period of inactivity, as indicated by lower current draw (say from a DVD player). They can usually be found for around \$25 at most office supply stores, hardware stores, or the big box stores. Most will also include some level of surge protection.

4. Low-Flow Shower Head

I know, it sounds boring, but a pleasing shower that saves water means money in the pocket. Expect to spend about \$25 for a good 1.5 gallon-per-minute showerhead. I've used a Delta H2Okinetic model for about a year in our rural home with low (fluctuating) water pressure. It delivers just 1.5 gpm at 60 psi and we love it! Delta reengineered the showerhead to produce large drops (that retain heat) and deliver them at high pressure. It is little higher, running around \$50.

5. Programmable Thermostat

For people with standard gas or electric, forced-air heat, a properly operated programmable thermostat can save hundreds of dollars of energy per year. The key here is "properly operated." Studies have shown that most programmable thermostats don't save energy because the homeowners don't know how to use them. Take the time to figure it out, and program it properly. A few minutes of set-up could save you bundles each year. Typical costs are \$50 to \$100.



Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2017. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2017 through March 15, 2018, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

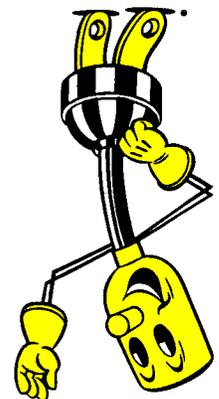
Proteccion contra la interrupcion de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2017. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion. Favor de ponerse en contact con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no sera desconectado de Noviembre 15 a Marzo 15, 2018 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

Youth Tour 2018



In 2018, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

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