


Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

News

Norris Electric Cooperative returns \$856,108.25 in Capital Credits!!

It's time for you to get the credit which you deserve for helping sustain your local electric cooperative. In November, many Norris Electric members received capital credit checks when the cooperative returned capital credits for the years 1971 and 1972. If you received electric service in your name for this time period, you should have received your check, based on

how much you paid the co-op for electricity. The cooperative mailed 12,227 checks totaling \$856,108.25. You may not realize it, but when you live on cooperative lines, you become a member. In a local electric cooperative, like Norris Electric, every member owns the business.



USDA helps Norris Electric Cooperative with rural economic development

Norris Electric Cooperative received a \$102,845 Rural Economic Development loan from USDA Rural Development to help finance the construction of an office and warehouse for a local seed and chemical sales business.

The Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations. Under the REDL program, USDA provides zero interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain

employment in rural areas.

Ag Underground is constructing a 9,600-square-foot facility that will enable the business to begin hiring now and plan for future job creation over the next five years.

"Ag Underground is a locally-based and independently-owned source of agricultural inputs including seed, chemicals, and fertilizer," says Tim Bohnhoff, Member Services Coordinator for Norris Electric Cooperative. The facility will be located along Route 40 west of Greenup in Cumberland County.

SAVE THE DATE

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting which will be held on February 13 at Newton Community High School. Come for food, fun and entertainment and to learn more about the progress of your Cooperative.

Outage Information Center:

We work hard year-round to deliver reliable service, but when big storms strike and damage equipment, outages can result. When they do, our entire focus is to safely and quickly restore your service. There are three ways our members can report their outage:

1. **Call 877-783-3221**
2. **Text your outage.** (If you prefer to text rather than call your outage in, members will need to have their cell phone number on file at Norris Electric. Then they will need to complete a short registration process on our website, www.norriselectric.com. Once that is complete, Members will be able to text their outage in. You will also receive a text when your electric is restored!!)
3. **Use our App.** If members have a smart phone, you can download our app and report your outage.

View Outages

Members are able to view Norris Electric's outage map by logging on to our website at www.norriselectric.com. By viewing the map it will give members an idea of where the outages are and how many members are affected.

Outage Updates

Facebook/Twitter – Be sure to like us on Facebook and Twitter to receive current outage information and updates.

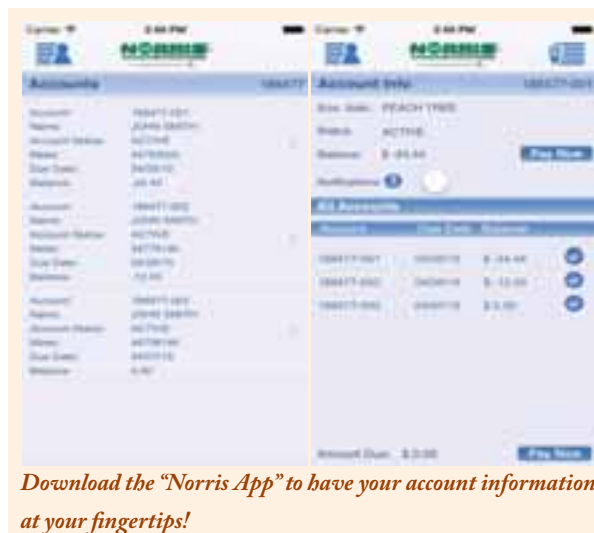
Mobile App is here!

Members can now download the “Norris App” to have your account information at your fingertips.

It is easy. Go to your app store and search for “Norris Electric.” Install.

Our Mobile App is designed to give you fast, secure account access so you can easily manage

your account details, view your bill and your account balance, make payments and find payment locations, schedule alerts and reminders, receive push notifications and more.



Nearly everything you can do from our web portal can now be handled instantly whether you're at home, at work, or on the go.

Attention Seniors

There is still time to apply for a Norris Electric Scholarship.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of a Norris Electric Cooperative member who is currently receiving services from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. The following rules apply:

- The applicant must be a high school senior.
 - Scholarship winners must begin undergraduate studies within a year of being notified they are the recipient of the scholarship.
 - Scholarship winners will be expected to be “full time” students (at least 12 hours).
- *Scholarships are for one year and are not renewable.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities,

biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

■ Deadline for receipt of completed applications and submissions is February 1, 2016.

Please go on line at www.norriselectric.com to print off an application.



Norris Electric Cooperative is looking for the next generation of leaders

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without

a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

In April, Norris Electric Cooperative will begin the interview process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact us for more information.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them. Information will also be sent to all local high schools in our service area.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this

experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about Norris Electric's Youth Tour program, call 877-783-8765 or visit www.norriselectric.com.

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Six New Year's energy resolutions

Have you made any New Year's resolutions this year? If you did it may have involved stopping a bad habit. You may have some other bad habits you're not even aware of that are costing you money! Take a look at these six resolutions that can help you save money all year long.



1. I will pull the plug. I will unplug electronics like my television, DVR, computer and video game console when not in use. I'll save even more

by unplugging battery chargers and items with digital clocks. I could save more than \$175 a year.

2. I will dress warmly. I won't keep my home warm like summer. I'll throw on a sweater and maybe a blanket and lower the thermostat. Just turning it from 70 to 68 degrees could save me more than \$184 a year. I'll lower the temperature even more at night or when I'm gone and save even more.

3. I will use my ceiling fans. I used the ceiling fans this summer to stay cool. Now I'll wipe off the dust and run them on reverse to bring the warm air down from the ceiling.

4. I won't waste money on laundry. I will only wash full loads of laundry

and use cold water whenever I can. I'll use the drying sensor setting on my dryer and clean the lint trap before each load.

5. I will wash dishes for less. I will review my dishwasher settings before pressing start, and only wash full loads. I won't use pot scrubbing or high heat unless I really need it. I'll shut off heat dry and crack open the door to finish drying the dishes.

6. I will choose energy-saving lighting. About 10 percent of the energy my home uses goes to lighting costs. By just replacing five of my home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficient bulbs, I could save \$75 a year in energy costs.

Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 877-783-8765

Office hours: Monday — Thursday 7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m

Dusk to dawn lights available

Since the time change has made our nights even longer, this may be a good time to think about installing a dusk to dawn light.

Norris Electric Cooperative offers security lights for a small monthly fee starting at \$7 for a 73 watt LED dusk to dawn light. This cost covers

installation, operation and maintenance of the light. The electricity the light uses is not metered and is included in the monthly fee. The only requirement is the light must be installed on a Norris Electric pole. It's a great deal for our members!

Contact our office at 877-783-8765 to sign up or visit our website at www.norriselectric.com to print a copy of the lighting agreement.



Norris Electric Cooperative Employees once again graciously donated to the Jasper County Ministerial Association Christmas Food Basket Program and the Giving Tree Project. Donations of food, money and gifts helped many families in the Jasper County area.