



Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Energy efficiency rebates available for Norris Electric members

The Illinois electric co-ops are helping homeowner members to get efficient.

Through the HomeE program, cooperative members who own their homes, can apply for a residential energy assessment, which makes them eligible for a series of rebates for efficiency upgrades they make to their home. The home must be served with electricity by Norris Electric Cooperative and must be the member's primary residence.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives is distributing \$1.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or stimulus funds to cooperative members through this program. The funds are being allocated evenly to members of 25 electric distribution cooperatives in the state including Norris Electric Cooperative. The program begins May 17, 2010.

How does the program work? Start by contacting Norris Electric Cooperative to arrange for a home energy assessment. There is a \$25 charge for this service. Then a cooperative representative will meet with you at

your home and do an energy assessment. The cooperative will provide you with a written follow-up report that will make a series of recommendations on how you might improve your home's energy efficiency – saving money and valuable energy.

Then the next step is up to you. Based upon the recommendations made by the cooperative, you could be eligible for a rebate of up to \$1,500 per residence for improvements you make. Rebates are available for Energy Star-qualifying heating-cooling system upgrades, and for installation of heat pump water heaters. Rebates are also available for installation of insulation and weather stripping/sealing.

Rebate schedule:

Geothermal heat pump	\$1,500
Air-source heat pump	\$1,000
Central air conditioning	\$350*
Natural gas or LP furnace	\$350*
Heat pump water heater	\$250
Insulation	30 percent of project costs

The maximum total grant is \$1,500 per cooperative member/residence. Grants will be approved for a central air or gas furnace upgrade, but not both.

All heating-cooling system upgrades must meet federal Energy Star standards in order to be eligible. The standards are:

Geothermal, closed loop: 14.1EER, 3.3 COP
Geothermal, open loop: 16.2 EER, 3.6 COP

Air-source heat pump, split: 12.5 EER, 15 SEER
Air-source heat pump, package: 12 EER, 14 SEER

Central air conditioning, split: 13 EER, 16 SEER
Central air conditioning, package: 12 EER, 14 SEER

Gas furnace: 95 percent efficiency

Heat pump water heater: 2.0 energy factor

For more information about HomeE, contact Norris Electric Cooperative at 877-783-8765 or go to www.norriselectric.com.

Rebates will be available until funds are exhausted.

Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • www.norriselectric.com

2009 Capital Credit notices coming soon

Each year, usually in June, a Notice of Capital Credit is sent to every member receiving service in the previous year. This mailing is informational only and

cannot be used to pay your current electric bill. When the Board of Directors feels it is feasible for the cooperative to refund capital credits, you will be issued

a check. Until that time, the unpaid capital credits are your ownership in the cooperative.

Capital Credits — Patronage Capital — Allocation — Retirement

All of these terms deal with how our members finance their cooperative. In the early years of Norris Electric Cooperative our members paid a \$5 membership fee and that created enough “seed” money to gain the help of the REA to start construction of the cooperative lines. Our members were partners in construction and helped to foot part of the bill for that construction.

As time went on, membership fees were still collected and rates were designed to not only pay for the wholesale power costs but to also pay for maintenance and new construction. The revenue received from each member has always been reviewed and the amount over what it costs to operate is “allocated” to our members as capital credits. This is when the cooperative office tells each member in a letter how much over the operation of the cooperative that they paid. That value will be returned to the member at a later date.

This is where it starts to get confusing. Most of the margin that makes up the “allocated” capital credit goes back into the plant (the wires, poles, transformers and substations). We notify our members of the allocation but we usually do not have a lot of surplus money, it is tied up in the “plant”. Sometimes this is difficult for our members to understand because we tell them they have a “capital credit” but we cannot give it to them (because it is in the form of wire, poles, transformers, and substations).

Since the sale of electricity is dependent a lot upon the weather, our rates are not perfect. Sometimes we collect more than we need and sometimes less. If we accumulate “surplus” cash then we return that to our members as “retired capital credits”.

We still have to retain enough “cash” to operate the system on a day-to-day basis and for severe storm repair and replacement. We have retired our capital credits through the year of 1967 as well as those of estates. So, we have returned some of the capital credits. Norris Electric has prided itself over the years as having the most economical rates of all cooperatives and even more lately, the investor-owned utilities in Illinois.

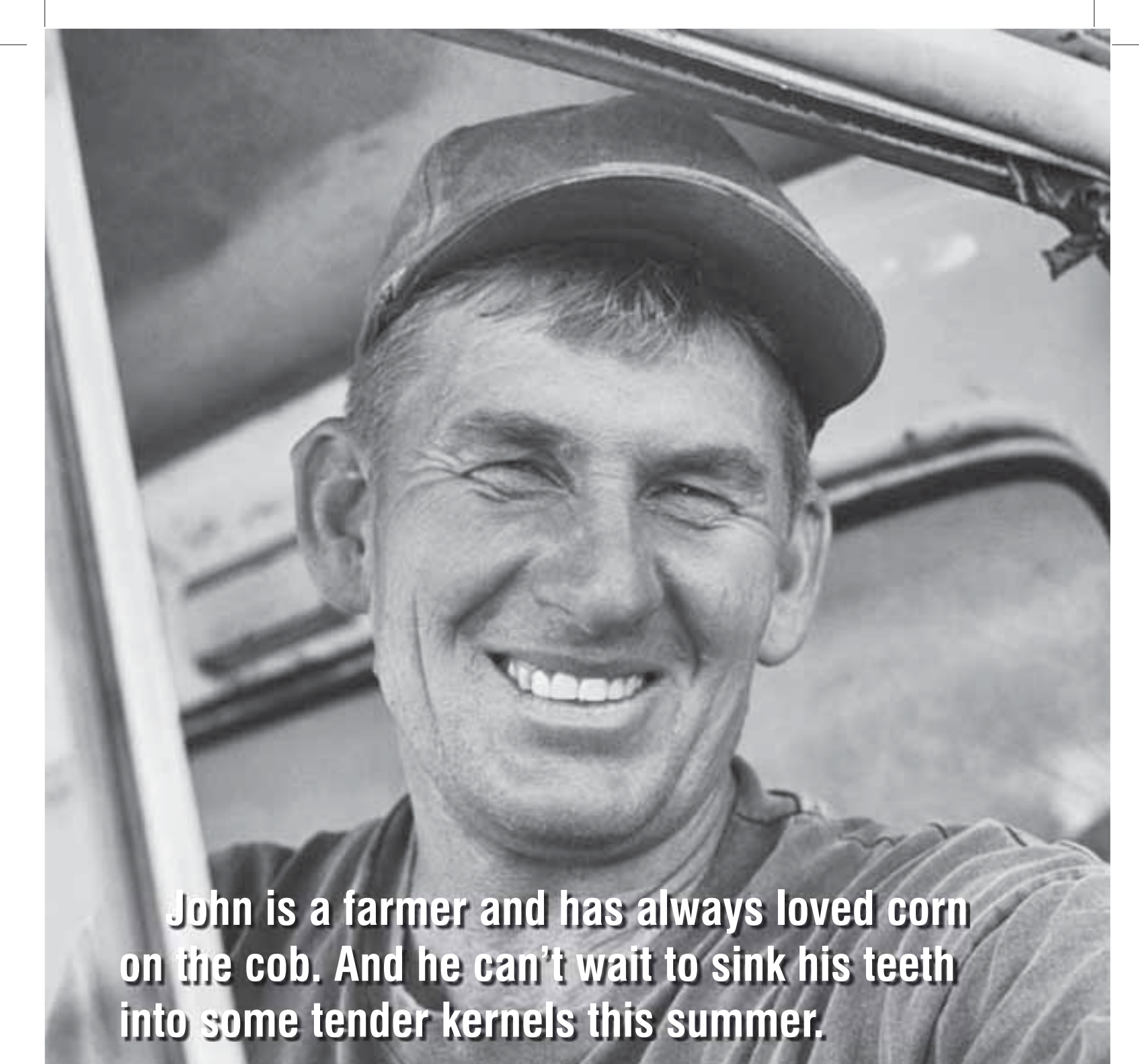
As such the cooperative tries to collect just enough in rates to operate and maintain the cooperative. The cooperative does not inflate the electric rates merely in order to pay or retire capital credits. If Norris Electric wished to bring the retirement of capital credits to a more current date then the cooperative would be distributing more money.

To distribute more money the cooperative would have to receive more money. That could be done either by borrowing money or by raising rates. If money is borrowed then interest would be paid and the electric rates would have to be



raised to pay that loan with interest. So, the Directors at Norris Electric have chosen the direction of operating as economically as possible and keeping the rates low. In essence our members are receiving their capital credits by way of a low electric rate.

The board is of the opinion that our members would rather have lower rates than have the cooperative collect more money from them so that we can pay that money right back to you the members! That is exactly what would happen in order for the cooperative to regularly retire capital credits. The rates would be redesigned to insure that we had a surplus of cash to retire capital credits. So, in essence the cooperative would charge you more so the cooperative could give you money back. That being said, our plant value is always increasing as we add more lines and change our old lines out to new lines. Our members continue to “own” a portion of the Norris Electric Cooperative system and from time to time when we see a surplus of money, capital credits will be retired.



John is a farmer and has always loved corn on the cob. And he can't wait to sink his teeth into some tender kernels this summer.

Each year, 62 farmers in the U.S. just like John lose their lives to electrocution as a result of power line contacts. That's why he is especially careful when he operates his farm machinery near power lines.

So, next summer John will still be here eating corn and grinning from ear to ear.

For more information about electric safety on the farm, contact your local electric cooperative.



Attention WildBlue subscribers

Sometimes it is necessary for Norris Electric to communicate with our WildBlue subscribers. We may want to send you suggestions on how to stay safe on-line or a reminder that your bill is not paid. Because so many of you are using a different e-mail address than the one provided for you with your WildBlue service, it is difficult for us to do that. We would appreciate your help.

You can log into your own personal Admintool and have your WildBlue e-mail forwarded to the current e-mail address you are using. Please follow the instructions below to set this up:

1. Log into your Admintool by accessing <http://admintool.wbnorriselectric.com>. Type in your WildBlue Username and Password.
2. Click on Manage User at the top of the page.
3. Click on E-mail at the top of the page.
4. In the first box where it says Forward all e-mails to: type the current email address you are using: ex: jdoe@yahoo.com.
5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on save.

That's all there is to it. Everything that comes into your WildBlue e-mail box will now forward to the one you are currently using.

If you have any difficulties with this process, please call us at 1-877-783-8765 and we will be happy to assist you.

You can be certain that we will not share your email address with any other party.

Thank you for your cooperation.
WildBlue Internet Team

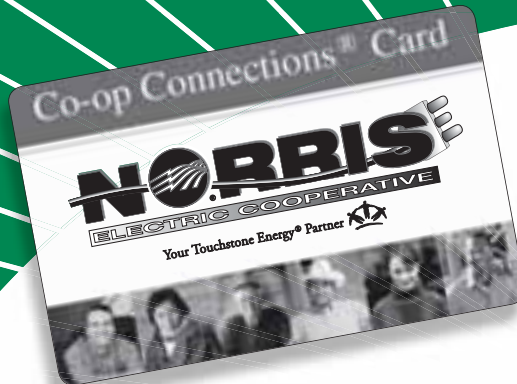
Vegetation Control Schedule

We will have crews performing routine tree trimming or spraying during **June** in the following areas:

Richland County
Cumberland County
Effingham County
Crawford County



These areas have been scheduled quite a bit in advance so our plans may change. You should call us if you have any questions relating to a specific area or our vegetation management policies and practices. You may also call us if you wish to make other arrangements for your specific property or to question our vegetation control practices. Our Forestry Department can be reached at 1-877-783-8765 or 618-783-8765 during working hours. Our website is www.norriselectric.com.



Co-op Connections Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Norris Electric Cooperative members saved 34.2 percent on prescriptions in March 2010 using their Co-Op Connections card. There were 322 prescriptions filled at 31 different pharmacies for a total savings of \$5,515.

Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m