

Norris Electric *News*

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Youth Day in Springfield

More than 200 students from downstate Illinois traveled to Springfield on Wednesday, April 17, for the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day.

With rural areas losing population, fewer legislators are serving downstate. The need for citizens to take active roles in making sure their legislators are aware of rural issues is of critical importance.

“Elected officials enjoy the opportunity to meet with students and learn first-hand their concerns. Many issues debated in the General Assembly personally affect their lives,” said Duane Noland, President and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

Sen. Kyle McCarter, Rep. David Reis and Rep. Brad Halbrook met with students representing Norris Electric Cooperative. The students had an opportunity to view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Illinois Supreme Court, Lincoln’s Tomb, the War Memorials, the Old State Capitol



and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Pictured front row l-r are: Alayna Lemer, Garrett Ziegler, Heather Duzan, Samantha Lloyd, Shelby Ferguson, Natalie Burrell, Michael Stephens, Nicholas Brandenburg, Drew Halter and Bridget Yockey. Back: Nate Schmidt, Jason Pike, Jordan Jackman, Rachel Pampe, Zackary Thomas, Jacob Lidy, Sen. Kyle McCarter, Rep. David

Reis, Rep. Brad Halbrook, Tiffany Trzupek, Lucas Huston, Jane Worthey, Reid Shoemaker, Carley Travis and Riley Pruemer.

The day was sponsored by the AIEC and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.

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Around-the-Clock Appliances

By Magen Howard

In 2013, new appliances don't just cook your food and keep it cold, wash your clothes and dishes, or offer a few hours of entertainment. These machines boast myriad functions that make our lives easier—but in doing so also consume more energy.

While appliances have become more energy efficient as technology has evolved and federal standards tightened, few ever truly shut down anymore. And as Americans add more and more electronic devices to their households—25 on average, according to the Consumer Electronics Association—much more energy is consumed.

Take a phone charger as an example. Leaving it plugged in without a phone attached doesn't mean it's not drawing power—in fact, it uses 0.26 watts of electricity even when a phone isn't connected, and 2.24 watts when the handset is charging.

Of course, that 0.26 watts by itself might not be a big issue. But if most of your electronic devices are doing that, it can add up to as much as 10 percent of your bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

“Take a look around your house—how many cords are plugged in? Of those, how many are actually attached to a device? You might be surprised at how much electricity your family consumes, even when you don't realize it,” says Tim Bohnhoff, Norris Electric's Member Services Coordinator.

Cable boxes are a big culprit of 24/7 energy use. Leaving your cable box plugged in for a year and never turning it off adds, on average, \$17.83 to your electric bill. Toss in a DVR function and that total jumps to \$43.46, DOE reports.

And electronics aren't the only problem. Basic “white goods” appliances like clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers are so savvy that you can set them to come on late at night, when the wholesale power your co-op must buy costs less—helping your co-op keep power affordable for you and your neighbors. Here again, the bigger you go with a new appliance, the more energy it will use.

Electric bills don't have to be held hostage by 24-hour-a-day energy use. For starters, use a power strip to turn

several electronics on or off at once. For a bigger investment, look into “smart” power strips. They allow you to cut power to certain appliances—say, your TV—while letting power flow to your cable box because it takes time to reboot after being unplugged.

If you're in the market for a new appliance, look for an ENERGY STAR model. It generally consumes less power all around and uses less standby energy.

“But remember that you actually have to use those energy-efficient settings on your appliances to see savings on your electric bill,” Bohnhoff explains.

For more information on energy-efficient living, visit www.norriselectric.com or call 877-783-8765.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Consumer Electronics Association

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

Shop Co-op!

Norris Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives in America. But we're just one type of cooperative—more than 29,200 operate in our country, including a large segment of the agriculture industry. From dairy to oranges, and almonds to cotton, our nation's farmers know the value of the cooperative business model.

The next time you're at the grocery store, see how many items you can purchase that were produced by a co-op.

Starting in the produce section, pick up some Ocean Spray cranberries or Sunkist oranges, tangerines, grapes, or grapefruit.

Cruise on over to the refrigerated cases and take a look at the eggs—95 percent of America's eggs are produced and marketed by co-ops. Then pick up some Florida Natural orange juice, Land O'Lakes butter, Cabot or Tillamook Cheese, and Organic Valley milk. Need a warm drink? Try Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

Finally, drop some Blue Diamond almonds in your cart—a perfect pick-me-up for that 3 p.m. slump.

Now that you've finished your grocery shopping, make your way to Ace Hardware or True Value to get supplies for your weekend

projects. Or go to a mall to replace your old, falling-apart blue jeans with a new pair from GAP, Banana Republic, or Guess—all three get their cotton from Plains Cotton Growers Cooperative's Denimatrix. But before you do that, head to your credit union—another cooperative® to make a deposit to cover all your purchases.

The cooperative business model promotes self-sustainment and local economic growth. Support our nation's cooperatives and local co-ops, as we work together to build a better world.

Find a co-op near you at www.go.coop.

Coming Soon – 2012 Capital Credits Allocations Statements

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Norris Electric is owned by the member-consumers we serve. When you pay your electric bill, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative.

One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is that any monies left over after expenses are paid are allocated back to the members in the

form of capital credits according to your usage.

If you received electric service from Norris Electric in 2012, you will receive a card in the mail which shows the amount being allocated to your capital credit account. This is not a charge you owe or cannot be used to pay your electric bill. It is a statement of your equity in Norris Electric

Cooperative for the year 2012.

Capital Credits will be returned to the members when Norris Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors decides that the co-op is strong enough financially to do so. This notice is for our members' information only and does not require any action of their part.



Co-op receives safety awards

Norris Electric Cooperative employees recently received two safety honors from the A.I.E.C. The awards were given to cooperatives with outstanding "no lost time" and "illness/injury" safety records for 2012. A.I.E.C. Safety Instructor, Jim Miles (right) presented the awards to Lineman Ben Bierman, representing Norris Electric employees.



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Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765

Office hours: Monday — Thursday

7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m

NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK to Norris Electric Cooperative, 8543 N. State Highway 130, Newton, Illinois 62448.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE# _____ DAYTIME PHONE# _____

YOUR NORRIS ELECTRIC ACCOUNT# _____

BANK NAME _____

NAME ON BANK ACCOUNT _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____ ROUTING# _____

I _____ authorize Norris Electric Cooperative to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying Norris Electric Cooperative in writing. Both Norris Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with ten (10) days written notice. I understand that Norris Electric Cooperative reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my Norris Electric Cooperative account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____