

Now's the time to remove excess thatch, page 16

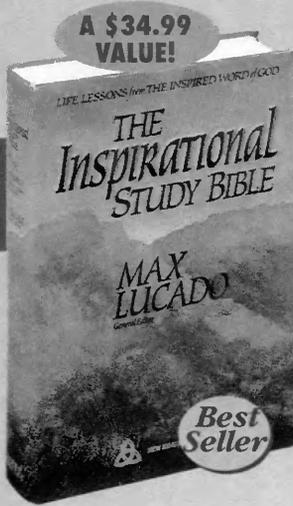
# ILLINOIS<sup>TM</sup>

## COUNTRY LIVING

September 1998



*Illinois pilots having just plane fun*



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 Touchstone Energy<sup>TM</sup>

## COVER STORY

### 10 Flying High

The 1939 Luscombe 8-A on our cover is piloted by Denny Elimon, who flew it down from Mahomet to Wings Weekend, an annual gathering of pilots, at the Coles County Airport near Mattoon to sharpen his flying skills.



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Carl Dufner, director of engineering for Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, says the prospect of rolling blackouts during summertime peak electricity usage may continue to vex us until we grapple with the underlying problem.

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# Illinois

# COMMENTARY

## Utilities avoid a grid meltdown despite scorching heat

On June 24 and 25 consumers required more generating capacity than was available in Illinois. Utilities scrambled to purchase power from out of state, implement load management systems and prepare for possible rotating blackouts.



**Carl D. Dufner, P.E.**

The heat wave that was widespread from the Rockies to the East Coast contributed to the large air-conditioning demand served by our neighboring utilities to the east and west of Illinois. These utilities were using all their capacity resources to serve their own consumers. The electric utility industry peak demands are usually established after three or more days of very high temperatures, with little nighttime relief, and during weekdays when commercial and industrial users are operating. If only a single region experiences high demand for electricity, utilities in other parts of the country can supply generation capacity, if transmission lines have the capacity to carry the power into the region with a shortage.

In addition to the heat, several power plants in the state and region were not operating. Illinois Power Company's Clinton Power Station and Havana Station Units 1-5 were out of service. Commonwealth Edison's LaSalle Generating Station Units 1 and 2 were also out of service. During the same two-day period, storms damaged transmission lines in Minnesota and Iowa, and a large Ohio power plant was also taken out of service on the evening of June 24.

All of these factors made it necessary for Illinois utilities to ask consumers to conserve energy. Utilities also asked consumers with interruptible rates to curtail operations. Some utilities began voltage reductions to reduce system loads. These measures kept the

utilities from calling for rotating blackouts. These small, short and controlled outages might have been necessary to prevent an uncontrolled regional blackout.

During this period Illinois electric cooperatives also participated by reducing their demand through voluntary conservation measures as well as curtailing service to consumers receiving service on an interruptible basis. Electric co-ops in Illinois operate their own power plants and have secured additional electrical generation to meet their members' needs. Of course, under conditions such as experienced this summer none of us are immune to electricity shortages.

Why can't we just buy more power? There are really two parts to the answer. If generating capacity is available, it can be purchased. The question becomes one of price. During the recent shortages, a single kilowatt-hour purchased on the open market was priced between \$5 and \$7 per kilowatt-hour. This is more than 100 times the usual contract price for energy bought on an hourly basis.

Utilities work together to keep the lights on during a power crisis like this summer's. For example, electric cooperatives and other utilities in Illinois are members of the Mid-America Interconnected Network, Inc. (MAIN). MAIN is a regional power pool under the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC). NERC reviews the past for lessons learned, monitors the present for compliance, and assesses the future reliability of bulk electric systems. The Illinois Commerce Commission is also evaluating the conditions that brought about the shortages we saw this summer and may suggest changes in the operating methods of each of these Illinois systems.

Will deregulation bring an end to power supply capacity shortages? Deregulation is bringing increased competition to our industry, which means market based prices. New generating plants will not be built unless the price for electricity covers the debt and risk of investing in new power plants. Instead of regulators requiring utilities to build new generation and then setting the prices for the energy, the marketplace will establish the price. I just hope that the price is not beyond reach of the residential and small business consumer.

---

*Carl D. Dufner is director of the Engineering Department for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. He began his professional career as a staff engineer with the Illinois Commerce Commission. He has a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla and is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and Missouri.*

An Important Announcement to Illinois Homeowners with Equity . . .

# What Would You Do With An Extra \$3,600 to \$12,000 per year?

## How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills\*\* (Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

Rockingham, N.C. - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

### No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

### "I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was \$358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping \$4,296 per year, TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch. AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

### Home Equity is the Key



Carole Eskew, Sr., V.P.

"If you have a minimum of 20% equity or more, there's a good chance we can help you save a lot of money every month by combining old bills and your old mortgage into one

new and much lower payment. Or, we can help you get cash out of your home to buy a vacation home, start a business, whatever."

Compare your budget to this:

Amt.	Owed	Payment
\$12,000	2nd Mortgage	\$200 <sup>00</sup>
8,500	Auto Loan	375 <sup>00</sup>
2,000	VISA	100 <sup>00</sup>
2,000	MasterCard	100 <sup>00</sup>

**\$25,000 Current Payment \$775<sup>00</sup>**

**-After Harvest Mortgage -**

New Payment: \$187<sup>82</sup>/mo.

APR 9.077% / 30 yr. term

**You Save: \$587<sup>18</sup>/mo., \$7,046.16/yr.**

*\* Rates subject to change*

"I couldn't believe it. We closed our loan 9 days after the first day I talked to them on the phone."

*Debbie C., Dallas*

"We ended up paying off all our bills and rolling them all into one single payment. After we did, our total monthly payments dropped by almost \$400 per month."

*Billy and Judy., Columbus*

"Thanks to you and your great company, we feel reborn. Words can not express the relief we feel. We are so glad this battle with the bills is almost over."

*James and Laurie C.*

### Recent Loans Include:

- A \$45,000 loan to a borrower in bankruptcy.
- A \$100,000 loan to a borrower who couldn't verify income through tax returns.
- A \$95,000 bill-consolidation loan that saved the borrower over \$8,100 per year and a whopping \$124,000 over the loan period.

*(No singlewides, please)*

### No Ivory Towers

"When you apply for a loan at Harvest Mortgage, your loan request is reviewed and decided upon by the people right in our office," says a Harvest executive. He added, "Since we are direct lenders, we don't send the information to some guys off somewhere in New York or California. We review and approve loans right here in town locally."

### Fast Approval and Closing

That means we can get your loan closed in a matter of days, and you never have to go out of your living room until you're ready to close."

### Loan For Purchase or Refinance

Harvest Mortgage officials report that whether you are buying, refinancing a house, just looking to consolidate some bills, get cash for your property, they have created programs to give you the money you're looking for.

Different loan programs include:

- Loans to Borrowers with good credit, with the most competitive rates in the country. These are available for purchasing a new home or refinancing.
- Loans to borrowers with a lot of equity homeowners who have slow credit or have even been bankrupt.
- Cash out loans for investment property with a lot of equity.
- Loans for borrowers who want to do additions or remodel their homes.

### Check This Out For Free

To see how much money you may be able to get and exactly how much your payments would be, you can check it out by just picking up the phone and calling us. Be sure to ask for Carolyn Reid at 1-800-554-1314. All of this doesn't cost you a dime, so you owe it to yourself. Don't put this off any longer. Do it now while you're thinking about it! You have got nothing to lose and everything to gain. Call Now!

**Harvest Mortgage Company Inc.**  
**Mortgage Bankers**

Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee

\*\*Subject to Qualification

**1-800-554-1314**

## Small Soldiers sends wrong message about utility lines

A disturbing scene in the film *Small Soldiers* prompts a warning to parents about the dangers of electric utility poles and lines.

In the film, the main characters kill mutant toy soldiers by producing an electromagnetic pulse that destroys computer chips in the toy soldiers' heads. The pulse is created by shorting out two distribution transformers mounted on a utility pole in the main character's neighborhood.

In one scene, a teenage boy climbs a utility pole, crawls over the cross arms and stands on the service-wire insulators. When he puts the toy soldier between the two transformers, a huge explosion throws the boy off the pole. Miraculously, he falls uninjured some 30 feet to the ground. Apparently intended to provide some protection during the incident, the boy in

the scene is wearing yellow rubber gloves — the type found under many household kitchen sinks, not the properly insulated type used by linemen.

In reality, such actions would be tragic, as illustrated in separate incidents both occurring on Long Island recently. In one incident, a teen suffered burns over about 75 percent of his body, while climbing up a pole and onto a transformer. In the other, a 10-year-old boy was killed when he tied a doorknob to a piece of wire and threw the weighted object over a power line.

Illinois electric cooperatives urge parents and teachers to discuss with children the actual — and potentially deadly — consequences of playing around utility poles and lines. For more safety information, or to arrange for a safety talk by a qualified safety instructor, contact your local cooperative.

## Shortage of housing for elderly persists in Illinois

In rural Illinois, there is a growing shortage of affordable housing which can be reversed by private entrepreneurs and the development of a trained work force.

The shortage is especially acute for the elderly, notes Sheldon Keyser, coordinator for Rural Development, an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Rural Development funded 11,000 new homes in the last year, 60 percent of them for senior citizens.

"New construction, when it does occur, is far more elaborate housing which exceeds the needs and pocketbook for retirees and young families," said Keyser.

"There appear to be opportunities for

new entrepreneurs who want to get in to the home building business and for development of training programs for building trades," said Keyser. "Rural Illinois still has higher unemployment than our urban counterparts. This also offers opportunity for finding employment for those able-bodied persons on welfare."

Rural Development can support the effort, Keyser said, but local partnerships must be the primary movers in resolving the problem. For more information, contact Keyser at (618) 327-8822, e-mail him at [skeyser@rurdev.usda.gov](mailto:skeyser@rurdev.usda.gov) or visit the Rural Development web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/index/html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/index/html).

## Dates of note

9/17-20, Illinois Historic Preservation Conference, Elgin. The theme for this, the 19th annual conference, is "Preservation & Progress at the Urban/Rural Edge." Sponsored by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois & the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. (312) 922-1742.

9/28-30, Business Retention and Expansion Master Consultant Training Program, Carbondale. Sponsored by the Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) Office of Economic and Regional Development. (618) 536-4451.

10/10, Getting Started in Aquaculture, Carbondale. Sponsored by the Southern Illinois University (Carbondale). Registration is limited and required by Oct. 2. (618) 536-4451 or e-mail [skohler@siu.edu](mailto:skohler@siu.edu).

### The Best of Illinois

## The best things come in small packages

"Being the oldest and smallest co-op in Illinois, I would have to say the best thing about our cooperative is the professional and dedicated people who operate Farmers Mutual Electric Company (Geneseo, Robert L Delp, manager) — people who really know the meaning of cooperation and respect. What America needs more of, real people."

— John C. Dalin of Geneseo

*Editor's note: We're still interested in what you care about. Write and tell us what's best about your electric cooperative. If we use your remarks, we'll send you a small token of our appreciation. Send your prose to: Illinois Currents, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708 or e-mail them to [aieinfo@fgi.net](mailto:aieinfo@fgi.net).*

## Currents

continued on page 8...

Introduces

# TRADITIONAL Long Term Care Insurance

PROTECT YOUR NEST EGG AND YOUR INDEPENDENCE

## LIFETIME BENEFIT

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### MONTHLY RATES

Monthly Benefit	1,800	2,400	3,000	3,600
Maximum Payable	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
42	8.16	10.88	13.60	16.32
43	8.16	10.88	13.60	16.32
44	8.67	11.56	14.45	17.34
45	8.67	11.56	14.45	17.34
46	9.18	12.24	15.30	18.36
47	9.18	12.24	15.30	18.36
48	9.69	12.92	16.15	19.38
49	9.69	12.92	16.15	19.38
50	9.69	12.92	16.15	19.38
51	10.71	14.28	17.85	21.42
52	11.22	14.96	18.70	22.44
53	12.24	16.32	20.40	24.48
54	12.75	17.00	21.25	25.50
55	13.26	17.68	22.10	26.52
56	14.79	19.72	24.65	29.58
57	15.81	21.08	26.35	31.62
58	16.83	22.44	28.05	33.66
59	18.36	24.48	30.60	36.72
60	20.40	27.20	34.00	40.80

### MONTHLY RATES

Monthly Benefit	1,800	2,400	3,000	3,600
Maximum Payable	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
61	21.93	29.24	36.55	43.86
62	24.48	32.64	40.80	48.96
63	27.03	36.04	45.05	54.06
64	29.58	39.44	49.30	59.16
65	32.13	42.84	53.55	64.26
66	35.70	47.60	59.50	71.40
67	39.27	52.36	65.45	78.54
68	43.35	57.80	72.25	86.70
69	47.94	63.92	79.90	95.88
70	52.53	70.04	87.55	105.06
71	58.14	77.52	96.90	116.28
72	64.26	85.68	107.10	128.52
73	71.40	95.20	119.00	142.80
74	78.54	104.72	130.90	157.08
75	87.21	116.28	145.35	174.42
76	96.90	129.20	161.50	193.80
77	108.63	144.84	181.05	217.26
78	123.42	164.56	205.70	246.84
79	140.25	187.00	233.75	280.50

**Illustrated plan pays for skilled, intermediate, and custodial care.** Other amounts available upon request. Premiums are preferred rates with a 90 day elimination period, based on applicant's age at issuance of policy. 0, 20, and 60 day elimination periods are also available. **Policies are guaranteed renewable for life as long as premiums are paid.** Premiums may be paid annually, semi-annually, and monthly bank draft. **No waiting periods for pre-existing conditions.** Premiums can change only if change applies to all policies in same state and class. However, premiums are guaranteed not to increase for 5 yrs. from effective date of policy.

**GoldenCare Protector II** will not pay benefits for: 1) Treatment resulting from alcoholism, drug addiction or chemical dependency, unless as a result of medication prescribed by a physician; 2) treatment arising out of suicide (while sane or insane); attempted suicide or intentionally self-inflicted injury; 3) treatment provided in a government facility (unless otherwise required by law); services for which benefits are payable, unless otherwise mandated by Federal law, under Medicare or other governmental programs (except Medicaid); services for which no charge is normally made in the absence of insurance; 4) confinement, treatment or services received outside the United States; 5) services rendered by a member of your Immediate Family; or 6) treatment resulting from mental, nervous, psychotic or psychoneurotic deficiencies or disorders without demonstrable organic disease. **IMPORTANT: GoldenCare Protector II will cover qualifying stays or care resulting from Alzheimer's disease or similar forms of senility, senile dementia, or other types of Cognitive Impairment.** Policy form no. GCPRO II (IL)1197 is underwritten by Bankers United Life Assurance Company, Bedford, TX 76021. Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best® for financial strength. Established in 1936.

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### Application Request Form

The Information you provide will be kept in strict confidence.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MONTHLY BENEFIT DESIRED \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

If a phone conversation is needed, the best time to call me is:

Morning  Afternoon  Evening (  Home  Work )

**ADDITIONAL APPLICATION(S) REQUESTED FOR:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MONTHLY BENEFIT DESIRED \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

A licensed LTC agent may call

**Bankers United Life  
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I am also  
 interested in:



0 DAY ELIMINATION PERIOD

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HOME HEALTH CARE OPTION

BENEFIT INCREASE OPTION

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PAID UP LONG TERM CARE INS.

I presently have a LTC policy

## Phone service for low-income homes

Two new programs, called Link Up and Lifeline, are making telephone service more affordable for low-income households.

Beginning in January under a provision of the Federal Telecommunication Act of 1996, eligible low-income households will be able to receive financial assistance to help cover the cost of basic local telephone service.

Link Up helps pay the installation charge for telephone service. This federally funded program will pay half (up to \$30) of the cost to install local telephone service. Under the Universal Telephone Service Access Program, supported by voluntary contributions from throughout Illinois, Link Up participants may also be eligible for an additional \$10 toward installation.

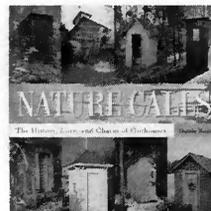
Lifeline provides up to \$5.25 to help pay the monthly charge for local telephone service. This also is a federally funded program available to qualified low-income consumers.

For more information, contact your local telephone service provider, or the consumer services division of the Illinois Commerce Commission, (217) 782-7663.

## When Nature Calls

The crunch of leaves under your feet, the sounds of nature all around you, the smell of . . .

well, never mind. Just when you thought you'd seen it all in photography collections, along comes *Nature Calls: The History, Lore, and Charm of Outhouses*.



The book was written by Dottie Booth who photographed rustic architectural wonders of bygone days. Touted as a "bucolic reminder of less technological times," the book explores interesting, if useless, facts. Among the trivia is nomenclature (chapel of ease, comfort station, and reading room, just to list a few of the, er, nicer ones), presidential and celebrity outhouses, and tales of bears in outhouses.

Get your privy primer for \$12.95 from Ten Speed Press, P.O. Box 7123, Berkeley, CA, 94707, or call (510) 559-1600.

## Illinois co-op takes lead in Y2K dilemma

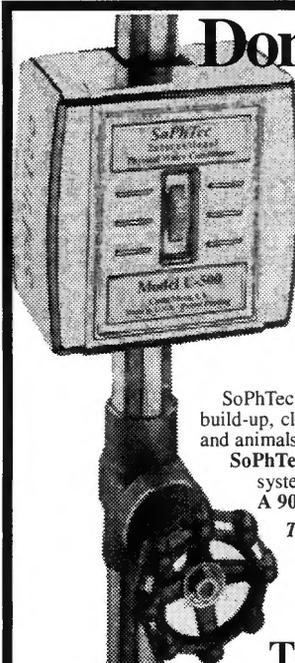
Adams Telephone Co-Operative was one of only two cooperatives participating in a Y2K roundtable discussion sponsored by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C., recently.

Y2K is shorthand referring to the problem expected to surface in 2000 for computer systems and software using a two-digit abbreviation for the century. Many computer systems, when developed,

used only the last two digits of a year. For example, "1998" is shortened to "98." So, what happens when computers read only "00" for the year 2000? The assumption will be that it is 1900. This could literally shut down computers that operate everything from elevators to bank accounts to your own personal VCR. (Y2K should not affect word processing and desk-top publishing software that does not use date abbreviation.)

Jim Broemmer, Adam's Y2K coordinator, represented the co-op at the meeting, "Wireline Telecommunications Networks and the Year 2000 Problem," conducted in June. Other participants in the discussion included major telecommunication users, carriers, and manufacturers.

Adams has formed an internal Y2K task force to investigate all hardware and software for Y2K compliance. This applies to all hardware and software currently in use as well as all future purchases. The task force is contacting all of its vendors to obtain Y2K assurances and performance of testing procedures.



### Don't take it so hard . . .

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# Aviation flying high in rural Illinois

Photos and story  
by Jack Halstead

It was early Saturday morning, and the Joneses, who worked a small farm 20 miles outside of town, were getting ready to head into town to do the weekly grocery shopping and visiting. Bob and his wife, Mary, were decked out in their next-best finery. Their son Bobby was about as presentable as could be expected, and daughter Elizabeth was neat as a pin, scrubbed and beribboned. The scene was almost out of a Norman Rockwell painting.

But instead of piling into the family car, as they might in a Rockwell rendering, the Joneses climb into an airplane. Bob fires up, glances at the windsock, and heads out. "Mr. and Mrs. Rural America 1947" are off to town.

As they approach the airpark, nestled snugly at the edge of town, they see kids on swings, slides and teeter-totters. With no further ado, Bob lands, missing the local gas station and garage by 50 feet or so as he goes over. As the Joneses start to climb out of the plane for the stroll into town, Mary peeks at the mirror on her sun visor and touches up her lipstick.

During World War II, aviation boosters, already looking toward the future, predicted that such scenes would be commonplace



Mike Vaughan of Charleston was one of many who had their planes out at the event. Mike, who flies in aerobatic competitions, rebuilt his 1945 Piper Cub in 1994, adding a 100-horsepower engine in the process.

after the war ended.

The skies, they said, would soon be full of small, inexpensive airplanes, which would enable farmer Jones to fly into town for his supplies. Fred, the clerk at the hardware store, could hop to his job from his home airstrip 30 miles out in the country.

Under the airpark concept, airports would be sited at the very edge of town, so a commuter could walk from where he parked his plane to his job or the place he needed to do business. Parks and observation decks would be provided, giving the airparks a form of multipurpose usefulness. There'd be picnic tables and play equipment for kids. Airplane watching would be a form of recreation.

But the widely expected post-war aviation boom busted before it ever got off the ground, and the aircraft industry, plagued by slow sales and a series of massive prod-

uct liability suits, all but quit producing small airplanes in America. The ones that continued built planes that were so expensive only corporations could afford them.

Even so, there's still a fairly lively aviation presence in Illinois, and there are many downstate airports. Several are served by electric co-ops. And some have busy industrial parks on the field. Not surprisingly, such airports receive at least some economic development help from the local co-op.

After years of static or declining pilot numbers, aviation is starting to grow again, with the number of new pilots growing by about eight percent annually for the last couple of years. Those whose job it is to look into the future tell us that there may soon be a pilot shortage, as airlines beef up their staffs and add flights to their schedules.

Companies that haven't built

planes in decades are updating old designs and getting ready to start work again. There seems to be some relief from product liability, and the industry is poised for at least moderate growth.

While it's pretty safe to assume that the wartime idea of "an airplane in every garage" is not going to happen in the near future, there is very real hope for at least an aviation boomlet.

The old idea of an airpark nestled snugly at the edge of town is not likely to be revived any time soon either. What looks more likely is that mid-sized towns, such as Mattoon and Charleston, will build an airport halfway between them and share the costs and benefits such facilities bring.

And the electric cooperatives of Illinois hope to be there too, providing both electricity and economic development help.

Coles County Airport, between Mattoon and Charleston, is served by Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative. Manager Shannon Youakim notes that the airport authority saves big bucks by being on the co-op's interruptible rate. By running its generators during peak days, the airport gets a price break that helps a lot in budgeting.

But more importantly to aviation buffs, she says, the airport is home to Wings Weekend, an annual event designed to help keep aviation viable in Illinois. "Each year in early July, the Coles County Airport Authority, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics all get together to co-host the event," she says, "and volunteers from the Illinois Flying Farmers handle the registration. Members of the local airport community help out a lot, too."

Here's how the program works: When a pilot gets his or her pilot's license, the license is good for a lifetime, with reservations. One reservation is that a casual pilot must pass

a physical examination every two years (Commercial pilots have to take them more often).

Also, all pilots must have a "refresher" every two years. During that refresher, commonly known as a biennial flight review (or BFR or biennial), the pilot goes up with an instructor and performs a series of maneuvers to demonstrate he or she is still proficient.

Biennials are often expensive, since instructors command \$20 an hour or more and it's often necessary to rent a plane. And there's always the problem of finding the time.

That's where the Mattoon event comes in. Each year some 40-50 flight instructors donate their skills so pilots can take their biennial without having to pay an instructor. They still need to provide a plane.

The event is popular with people of all ages and from all walks of life. In fact, a young man there to renew his proficiency met the doctor who delivered him.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative member Ted Johnson was there, along with his wife, Lila. "I had to leave the family farm and fly for American Airlines for 40 years so I could afford to come back and work the old home place," he says, only half in jest. Ted is past president of Illinois

Flying Farmers, and was "IFF Man of the Year" in 1994. Lila was queen of the organization in 1989. Ted is still an active pilot and flight instructor. While IFF staffs the registration table, the main reason Ted shows up at the event is to donate instructing time.

Robert H. "Bob" Primmer, chairman of Shelby Electric Cooperative's board and a long-time farmer, is a lapsed pilot. Since his Findlay home is fairly close to Mattoon, he made it a point to go with a farmer friend, John Durbin, who was brushing up on his flying skills.

Wings Weekend is open to anyone who is licensed and who has a current medical. Pilots whose ink has barely dried on their licenses rub shoulders with long-time pros who fly multi-engine planes of all kinds. Although he didn't make it this year, Jim Lovell, the astronaut, is a regular at the event. And he doesn't show up just to be seen. He still works on his proficiency, just as any other conscientious pilot would.

Others who take part include those who fly regularly as passengers and fear that they may have to land a plane in an emergency. All are welcome, and all can receive free instruction.

Since flying understandably involves a lot of rules and regula-



Mark Nelson, director of the Mattoon Area Adult Education Center, showed up at Wings Weekend to renew his biennial, and brought his family for breakfast. From left are Miranda, Gail, Mark and Dakota.

tions, there are seminars dealing with changes and updates, and they are a popular part of Wings Weekend.

Even so, it's questionable whether the event is so popular because it helps keep costs down, or because it provides such a wonderful opportunity for pilots, wannabe pilots and lapsed pilots to get together and bond on the way up.

Whatever the case, more than 300 people turned out July 10-12 for the eighth annual event, and Coles County Airport had more planes tied down on its aprons than it's had in many a moon. "I know there were at least 150 planes there," Shannon says, "because our entire apron was full and people were tying down out in the grass. There has to be an awful lot of planes here to make that necessary. And Dale Rust, the Division of Aeronautics' flight safety coordinator, reported that 250 pilots had received their Pilot Proficiency Award certificates and the set of wings that goes with them."

Those numbers are a boon to the area economy. Local motels fill up quickly, and Central Illinois Air Corp., the firm that serves the field, sells more aviation gas in a weekend than it may otherwise sell

in weeks of waiting for planes to come in. And while the Charleston Lions Club serves food in the hangar that serves as headquarters for the event, the airport's restaurant does a good business, too.

"Wings Weekend is our biggest attraction," Shannon says, "but we also have other events here. Earlier this year we had a Luscombe fly-in, for owners of those popular little airplanes, and we have another group who brings in their Thorp T-18s for a weekend of flying and socializing. Thorps are a kind of homebuilt airplane, and we're glad to have them and their owners-builders.

"We also have a 'Wannabe Pilots' Weekend.' That's when the local airport community puts together a program to show interested people about aviation in general and flying in particular. A couple of parachute organizations also hold clinics here occasionally."

Of course, the airport is still home to the Civil Air Patrol's Flight Encampment, in which kids from several states come to practice their aviating skills in gliders, balloons and powered aircraft. It has hosted that event for 33 years now.

Mark Nelson, director of the

Mattoon Area Adult Education Center, was at Wings Weekend to brush up his flying skills, and brought his wife Gail, their daughter Miranda, and son Dakota, for the Lions Club breakfast. While they were there, the kids got to watch aviation enthusiasts kick tires, slam doors, and generally express interest in a herd of airplanes ranging from the beautiful Mooneys to skydivers' workhorse Cessnas. And in the process, they may have gotten a feel for what makes aviation enthusiasts look skyward every time they hear an engine overhead.

Those interested in learning more about Wings Weekend can call Shannon at the Coles County Airport Authority, or contact her by mail. The address is 432 Airport Rd. Mattoon, IL 61938, and the phone number there is (217) 234-7120. Dale Rust, at IDOT's Division of Aeronautics, plays an important part in Wings Weekend's planning. His mailing address is IDOT, Div. of Aero., One Langhorne Bond Dr./Capital Airport, Springfield, IL 62707-8415. His phone number is (217) 524-5269. Jerry Cox is the man to talk to about Luscombe Weekend. His phone number is (217) 234-8720.

## Illinois Flying Farmers membership open to all

The Illinois chapter of the Flying Farmers organization is alive and well, notes president Ernest Thorp, who lives near Clinton. A B-17 pilot in World War II, Thorp received his pilot's license before joining the military, and has been flying ever since.

As its name implies, the IFF is made up of pilots who own and/or fly airplanes, and membership is open to those who support that concept. "Not all our members are active pilots," Ernest says, "and they're not all farmers, either. But for the most part, they are." He adds that many members of the organization are retired farmers, who have small airstrips on their property.

The organization's literature spells out who its members are — "Flying Farmers are men, women,

teens and tots, individuals and entire families. They are farmers, livestock specialists, commercial pilots. They are bank officers, secretaries, doctors, teachers, lawyers, construction managers and corporate executives. They are all unique, but there is one common thread that binds them tightly ... Flying Farmers simply love to fly."

The idea of an organization for Flying Farmers came about in 1944, as officials at Oklahoma A. and M. College, now Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, recognized the growing interest in airplanes among farmers.

It followed that an organization might be in order, and one was set up in August of that year, with 38 charter members. The first national convention was held at Stillwater in

1946, and farmers from 16 states turned out for the event. In all, 262 planes arrived for the festivities.

Farmers in other states decided to set up organizations of their own. Now, there are chapters in several states, Australia, Canada, and other countries.

IFF holds many events and continues to work at improving aviation in all parts of the world, especially in farming areas.

To learn more about IFF, contact Thorp at: Rte. 3, Box 252, Clinton, IL 61727. His phone number is (217) 935-5461. The address of IFF's national headquarters is P.O. Box 9124, Wichita, KS 67277. The phone number there is (316) 943-4234.

E-mail: <http://cid.unomaha.edu/~unoai/iff/iffmain.html>

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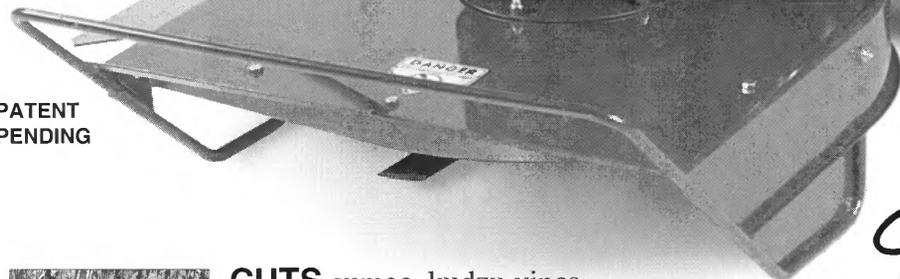


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# AROUND YOUR HOME

## Pack summer picnic feast safely

Summer is a great time to enjoy a picnic, but picnic food can cause illness if the food is mishandled. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), all food should be prepared and stored properly to avoid foodborne illness. Then it must be packed safely for traveling.



Jananne Finck

During picnic season, more people become ill from foodborne bacteria. Listed are some tips for packing a safe picnic basket for farmers in the field or a family picnic in the park:

- Try to plan just the right amount of foods to take. This avoids worrying about the storage and safety of leftovers.
- Clean preparation is a must. Wash hands and work areas and be sure all utensils are clean before preparing food.
- Keep perishable food – ham, potato salad, ground meat, hot dogs, deviled eggs, custard or cream pies, in a cooler. The cooler should be well-insulated and packed with ice, or you can use a freeze-pack/gel insert.
- Foods to be cooked ahead should be cooked in plenty of time to thoroughly chill them in the refrigerator. Use an insulated cooler with sufficient ice or ice packs to keep the food at 40°. Pack food from the refrigerator right into the cooler.
- If planning on take-out foods such as fried chicken or barbecued meat, eat them within two hours of pick-up or buy ahead of time and chill before packing the food into the cooler.
- Don't put the cooler in the trunk; give it a cool ride in the passenger area, if possible.
- Use a separate cooler for drinks so the one containing perishable food won't be constantly opened and closed.
- Except when it's being served, the food should be stored in a cooler. When possible, place the cooler in the shade and keep the lid on.
- Remember the danger zone: Perishable foods should not be in the 40-140° range for more than two hours. When the temperature is 90° or

above, perishable foods should not be in the danger zone for more than one hour.

- Place leftover foods in the cooler promptly after grilling or serving. Replenish ice, if needed to maintain the cold temperature. Remember, if in doubt, throw it out.
- Bacteria can be present in most any food as well as on people's hands. Safe food handling is essential for safe picnics.

### Egg safety and homemade ice cream

Eggs are a tasty ingredient in many homemade ice cream recipes – but the eggs should be handled safely. Egg mixtures for ice cream can be made safely from a cooked base. To be safe, the cooked custard mixture should reach 160°.

Heat the egg-milk mixture gently. Use a thermometer to check the temperature or be sure the mixture coats a metal spoon.

This cooking step should destroy salmonella bacteria that might be present in raw eggs. The USDA and Illinois Extension recommend cooking your favorite homemade ice cream recipe if it uses raw eggs.

USDA also recommends cooking the custard mixture if whole liquid pasteurized eggs are used. This is especially important if serving high-risk people. This includes the very young, the very old, and anyone with a weakened immunity system.

#### Lowfat Homemade Ice Cream

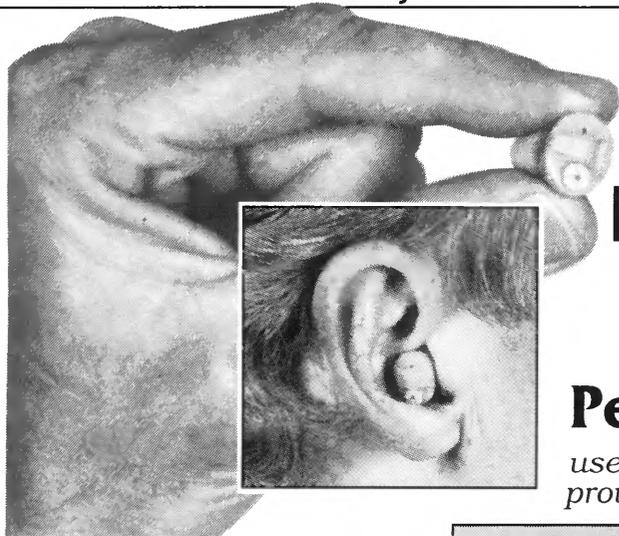
2 cups sugar	4 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup cornstarch	2 tablespoons
1/4 teaspoon salt	vanilla
4 cups reduced fat (2 percent) milk	4 cups Half & Half

Mix sugar, cornstarch, and salt in the top of a double boiler. Gradually blend in 4 cups milk. Cook over hot water, stirring occasionally until thickened, 12 to 15 minutes. Stir a small amount of the hot cornstarch mixture into the beaten eggs, then stir the eggs into remaining cornstarch mixture. Continue cooking, stirring constantly four to five minutes longer, or until the mixture is about the consistency of pudding. Chill thoroughly. This step is essential for a smooth ice cream. Stir in vanilla and remaining milk or cream. Pour into a one gallon ice cream freezer and freeze according to manufacturer's directions. Remove dasher and cover tightly. Add mixture of ice and salt to freezer, if needed. Cover with heavy blanket and allow ice cream to harden about two hours.



Jananne Fink is a nutrition and wellness educator, Springfield Extension Center

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by Martin Howard

For the last couple of years, I've constantly had to ask people to repeat what they just said to me... I've turned up the volume on the TV so loud that everyone in the house complains... and my wife and children tell me that I'm speaking too loud.

Naturally, I've denied everything. I didn't want to admit I knew that I was having a slight hearing problem. I was hoping it would go away, all by itself, without doing anything about it! But, deep down inside, I knew I needed a little extra help in the hearing department, and lately, I needed this extra help more and more.

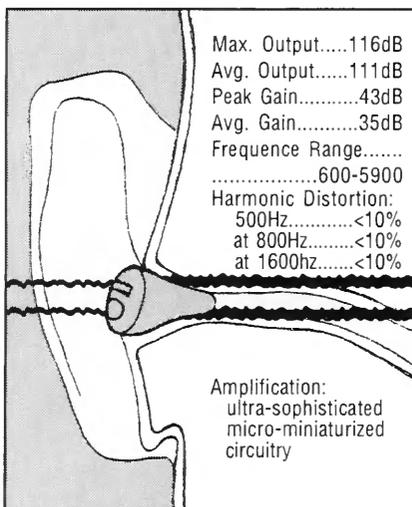
My wife was so tired of me asking her to either speak louder or repeat everything she said. We were having arguments over my hearing. Finally, she insisted that I get some help. She told me to buy a hearing aid.

Sure, just what I need. A bulky, ugly, ill-fitting and heavy hearing aid sitting behind my ear. And, the darn thing will probably rub the skin off my ear too!

She laughed at me. No, it's nothing like that - science and technology have revolutionized the audio industry. The product I'm talking about is called **MaxiSound**. It's a personal amplifier and is very different from the hearing aids you are describing.

**MaxiSound** is so small and compact that it fits inside the ear canal (it's almost invisible). There are no wires, no behind the ear devices and it doesn't cost a fortune. Not only that, but its super sensitive circuitry is designed to maximize your natural ability to hear sounds\*. **MaxiSound** can make speech louder, and the sound is crystal clear, pure and natural.

**MaxiSound** worked so well for me that I am now marketing them direct to the consumer. And, I know that they'll work for you too! *It's great to be able to hear the TV clearly again.*



Let me tell you a little more about them. They are ideal for amplification of faint sounds like distant lectures or outdoor wildlife. Each amplifier features an individual on/off and volume control. Its one-size-fits-all is comfortable and comes with a replaceable soft rubber tip, 300 hour battery, cleaning tool, storage pouch and instructions. **MaxiSound** is made in the USA, and is comparable to other sound enhancement systems that retail for up to \$1000.00. Separate maintenance kit includes: 4 replace-

\*Not sold for use as a medical device. Consult a hearing specialist if you have a serious hearing problem. Individual experiences may vary depending on severity of hearing loss.

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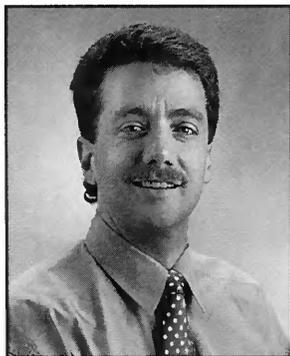
## September — an ideal time to remove thatch

Contrary to what you've been told most of your life, thatch isn't bad. However, too much thatch is bad, and that's what we need to look at.

First, the definition of thatch isn't black and white. There are as many definitions as there are types of lawns. Generally, thatch is the accumulation of dead roots and stems between the soil and

turfgrass plants. It definitely is organic matter, and at times can contain some living plant material. Roots and stems contain a material called lignin that breaks down slowly.

Notice that the definition does not include the word "leaves." Grass blades are composed mainly of water; during rapid growth, the leaf may contain 90-95 percent



*Dave Robson*

moisture. Place a leaf on the sidewalk during the summer and watch how fast it shrivels to nothing.

Thatch acts like the pad under your carpet. It cushions the turfgrass, preventing the grass crowns, where the growing point is located, from being compressed beneath your feet and the ground. Thatch acts as a thin layer of mulch, keeping the soil and moisture in. As thatch decomposes, it provides organic matter that earthworms and other beneficial soil organisms can feed on.

Problems start occurring when too much thatch is present.

When the thatch layer is greater than one inch, roots tend to migrate and stay in the loose thatch zone. It's an ideal environment for quick, easy growth. As long as the thatch stays moist, there's no problem. But when the thatch starts drying, and it dries first when the summer temperatures are hot, the grass starts wilting. Ultimately, the plants will die. Summer's temperatures, even with sufficient water in the thatch zone, can "bake" roots.

There's a greater chance of temperature extremes

creating a problem, as thatch isn't the best insulator for plants growing in it. Winter injury is common.

Excess thatch can limit pesticide movement. Weed and insect control is limited. Diazinon, a common homeowner turfgrass insecticide, is an example.

Many diseases and insect problems are associated with excess thatch, including summer patch and leaf spot/melting out. Sod webworms prefer to live in the loose thatch zones; black cutworms also like a thatch layer, though they are seldom a serious problem. Grub damage, however, may be less, as female beetles prefer to lay their eggs in actual soil.

The only way to tell if too much thatch is present is to cut a core sample. Get down on your hands and knees and cut a sample roughly two inches in diameter and four to six inches deep. Measure the thatch layer.

There are many factors that can cause thatch accumulation, but the majority of the problems can be traced back to one factor — humans.

Most thatch develops because of poor cultural practices. Overfertilizing is key. So is excess irrigation. Both lead to heavy grass growth, and can result in heavy roots, rhizome, stolon and stem production. Since this material doesn't break down fast, thatch can build up.

Another key factor is poor mowing practices. Allowing the grass to get too tall and mowing more than one-third of the plant means cutting stems instead of just leaves. In the long run, the stems will collect and increase the thatch layer.

A compacted soil, the overuse of pesticides that could destroy soil organisms, and overwatering can also lead to thatch buildup. Some of the newer cultivars of bluegrass are more thatch producing than others. Tall fescues, zoysia grass and buffalograss can also produce excessive thatch.

Hand raking is one way to get rid of thatch. Dethatchers, usually called vertical mowers or power rakes, can also be used. The soil should be moist before using the machines.

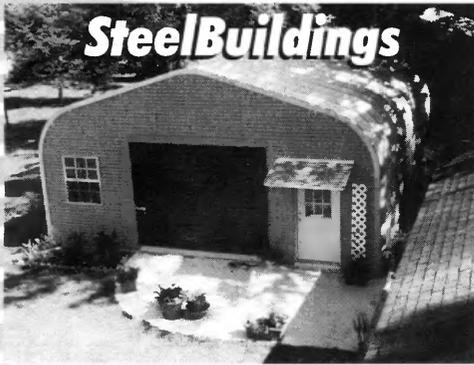
Early September and early April are ideal times to remove thatch. Never remove more than one-half inch in the fall and spring or you may be destroying your entire lawn. Water and fertilize the grass after fall dethatching to stimulate recovery.

Remember, you can easily remove thatch, but you must remember to change your mowing, fertilizing, watering, or other cultural practices in order to avoid a perpetual problem.

---

*David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois. You can write to Robson in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: [robsond@idea.ag.uiuc.edu](mailto:robsond@idea.ag.uiuc.edu)*

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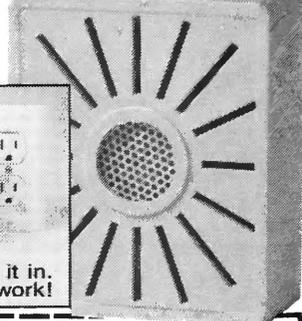
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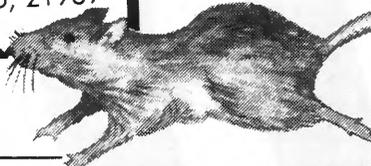
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# TECHNOLOGY AND YOU

## Never wait for hot water again

**Q.** *It seems like I have to wait forever to get hot water at the bathroom faucet in the morning and it never gets really hot. Are there any low-cost, do-it-yourself gadgets or methods to get hot water quicker? - Mike H.*

**A.** I know how annoying this can be. Until I installed a simple demand-type rapid hot water kit in my master bathroom, it took over a minute to get hot water to the faucet. Now it takes only a few seconds to get steamy hot water in the morning. By installing it at the faucet further from the water heater, I get hot water quickly now at all the faucets.

Waiting for hot water not only wastes your time, it pushes up both your electric and water bills. Running the water while waiting to get hot water at the bathroom faucet wastes up to 15,000 gallons of water annually for a family of four. What's worse, the water is only lukewarm when it finally gets there.

There is also a hidden energy loss when letting the water run while waiting for it to get hot. In the winter, all that room-temperature water wasted down the drain is replaced by very cold water from the water main, which must be heated. In the summer, the hot water, making its way slowly to a distant bathroom through long copper pipes, giving off heat that the air conditioner must run longer to remove.

There are two basic designs of do-it-yourself rapid hot water kits — demand-actuated and timer-actuated models. The basic design concept is similar. Both include a small simple solenoid valve under the sink and a small electric pump. Most kits use screw-on (no soldering) flexible pipes and all the materials and parts needed are included.

The solenoid valve, with easy-to-install fittings, connects the hot and cold water supply lines under the bathroom sink. With a demand-actuated kit, when you want hot water, you just press a demand button on the wall or vanity front. This starts a tiny quiet high-volume water pump that draws hot water quickly from the water heater through the hot water line.

When the pump starts, the cool water from the hot water line is diverted through the solenoid valve back into

the cold water line under the sink. This creates a loop and the cool water goes back to the water heater. Not a single drop is wasted down the drain.

In several seconds of pump operation, hot water reaches a temperature sensor in the solenoid valve under the sink. This stops the pump and switches the solenoid valve back to normal sink operation. Now you turn on the faucet as always and you have hot water.

With a demand-actuated system, you can also install additional wireless remote demand buttons in other bathrooms or a kitchen to start the tiny pump. In this way, you can have hot water quickly at any faucet in that hot water plumbing branch. Most houses have just one or two branches.

This type of kit also provides much hotter water. Since the high-volume pump brings the hot water

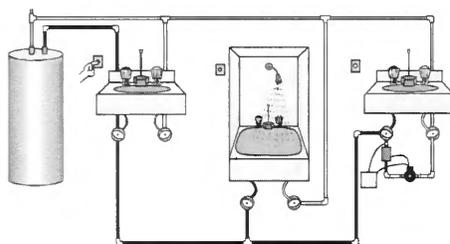
to the faucet so fast, it does not lose its warmth in the copper pipes as before. This may allow you to set the water heater temperature lower for even greater energy savings. The small pump, running for just a few seconds, uses a negligible amount of electricity.

On a timer-actuated kit (no demand button), you set the hours when you need instant hot water at the faucet (usually in the morning and at night). These models provide literally instant hot water. During the timer-on period for hot water, the pump and solenoid valve switch on only when the hot water temperature at the faucet drops below a certain level.

Another very low-cost option for some homes is a valve-only kit that relies on gravity for the hot water circulation. These models can be used where the water heater is lower than the faucet. Since hot water is less dense than cold water, it naturally circulates up to the faucet. This keeps warm water in the pipes, so insulate the pipes to minimize the energy loss.

Still another instant hot water option is to install a mini-tank (two to four-gallon) electric water heater under the sink. This allows you to have steamy hot water at that faucet only without setting up your main water heater thermostat.

Write for Utility Bills Update No. 807 — listing of demand/timer instant hot water kits and mini-tank water heaters, features, prices and installation instructions. Please include \$2 (with check payable to Jim Dulley) and a business-size SASE. Mail to: Jim Dulley, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. For instant download, go to <http://www.dulley.com>.



*James Dulley is a mechanical engineer who writes on a wide variety of energy and utility topics. His column appears in a large number of daily newspapers.*

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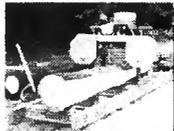
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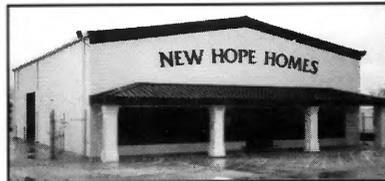


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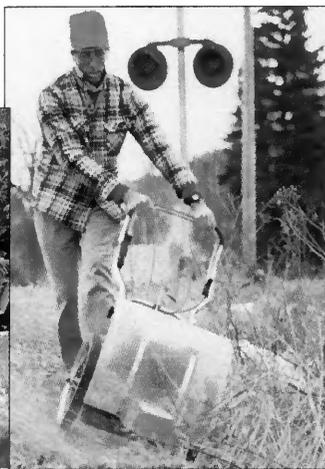
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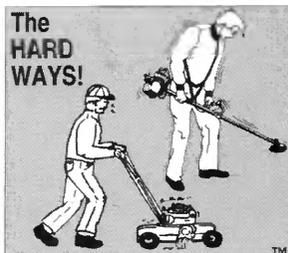


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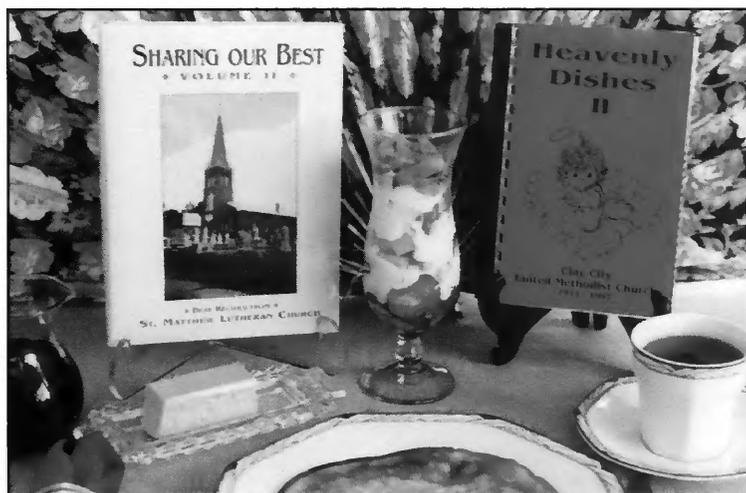
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# FINEST COOKING



A collection of almost 400 recipes was collected by the St. Matthew Lutheran Church's Dorcas/LWML of Brussels, IL, to create their 1997 cookbook. It is a three-ring hardback binder and sells for \$10 plus \$3 postage. Order from Carol Sue Carnes, HC82 Box 145, Brussels, IL 62013 or telephone her at (618) 883-2333.

The Clay City United Methodist Church of Clay City, IL, prepared the 1997 cookbook to raise funds for a building addition and remodeling project. The cookbook is spiral-bound, soft-backed and has 174 pages of recipes. To purchase, write to Cathy Croy, RR 1 Box 380, Clay City, IL 62824 or call her at (618) 676-1967. The cost of the cookbook is \$8 plus \$2.50 for postage.

## St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Brussels

### ALFREDO SAUCE

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese  
1/2 C. milk  
1/4 C. Parmesan cheese

Put cream cheese, milk and butter into saucepan on medium heat until melted. Add Parmesan cheese; stir with wire whisk. Add garlic powder to taste.

### TACO SEASONING MIX

- 1/4 C. dried minced onion flakes  
4 tsp. cornstarch  
4 T. chili powder  
3 tsp. cumin (may use less)
- Garlic powder  
1/4 C. butter
- 3 tsp. dried minced garlic  
3 tsp. hot crushed red peppers (may use less)  
2 tsp. beef bouillon, crushed  
1 1/2 tsp. oregano

Mix together and store in a covered jar; two tablespoons equals one package of commercial taco seasoning mix.

### BOSTON LITE CLAM CHOWDER

- 4 slices bacon  
1 med. onion, chopped  
2 (8-oz.) bottles clam juice  
4-5 med. potatoes, diced  
3 (6 1/2-oz.) cans minced clams, undrained
- 2 T. oleo  
1 tsp. pepper  
2 C. 2% milk  
1/2 C. light cream or nondairy creamer  
2 T. cornstarch

Sauté bacon; add onion and cook until tender (about 5 minutes). Add clam juice; increase heat and add potatoes and undrained clams. Cook slowly until potatoes are done (10 to 15 minutes). Add oleo, pepper, milk and cream. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 to 3 T. milk; add slowly to hot mixture to thicken.

Mary Murphy

Brenda Scarbeary

Cyndi Axford

### LOW FAT BEEF PASTA SOUP

- 3/4 lb. (lean) ground round  
1 C. chopped onion  
3 C. cooked elbow macaroni  
2 cans beef broth
- 1 (15-oz.) can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
1 (26-oz.) can or jar low-fat pasta sauce

Coat Dutch oven with cooking spray; place over medium heat until hot. Add meat and onion. Cook until browned, stirring until meat crumbles. Drain in colander; rinse with warm water. Return to Dutch oven; add cooked pasta, beef broth, pasta sauce and drained kidney beans. Cook until thoroughly heated.

### SAUTEÉD MUSHROOMS

- 1 (8-oz.) white button mushrooms  
1 stick butter or margarine  
Salt

Wash mushrooms and put in saucepan with 1 stick butter (use margarine for lower cholesterol). Add about one inch of water. Place over medium to high heat. Add a dash of salt. Let cook down for about an hour. Mushrooms will be dark gray and a hole will appear in bottom of stem when they are done. Add salt along the way as they are cooking; add to taste **only**. (Better than *steakhouse mushrooms*).

### PARTY PUNCH

- 1 (46-oz.) can orange juice  
1 (46-oz.) can pineapple juice
- 1/2 C. sugar

Pour juices in gallon ice cream bucket. Stir in sugar and place in freezer. When ready to use, thaw to slush stage. Add ginger ale just before serving.



**JEWISH COFFEECAKE**

Mildred Seiferman

1 pkg. yellow cake mix  
 1 sm. pkg. instant vanilla  
 or coconut cream  
 pudding

4 eggs  
 1/2 C. oil  
 1 C. sour cream  
 Dash of salt

**Sugar Mixture:**

2/3 C. sugar  
 2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 C. chopped nuts

Mix cake mix, pudding, eggs, sour cream, oil and salt. Beat for 2 to 3 minutes. Grease and flour tube pan. Pour half of batter in pan. Sprinkle with half of sugar mixture. Then balance of batter on top and sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

**CREAM PUFF CAKE**

Sarah Kinder

1 C. water  
 1 stick oleo  
 1 C. flour  
 4 eggs  
 3 (4-serving size) fat-free  
 instant vanilla pudding

1 (8-oz.) fat-free cream cheese,  
 softened  
 1 (8-oz.) Lite Cool Whip,  
 thawed  
 4 C. 2% milk  
 Chocolate syrup

Pour water into saucepan. Add oleo. Bring to a boil. Add flour; stir until well mixed. Remove from heat; let cool 2 minutes. Beat in eggs 1 at a time; mix well after each addition. Spread mixture in greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Bake at 400° for 30 to 35 minutes (watch carefully, do not overbake). Let cool. Combine pudding mix, milk and cream cheese; mix thoroughly. Pour mixture into cooled crust. Cover with whipped topping. Keep refrigerated. Just before serving, drizzle with chocolate syrup.

**Clay City United Methodist Church****AUTUMN'S APPLE SALAD**

Leone Taylor

1 can (20-oz.) crushed  
 pineapple (undrained)  
 2/3 C. sugar  
 1 pkg. lemon Jell-O  
 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese  
 1 C. whipped topping

1 C. chopped unpeeled apples  
 (red ones make prettiest  
 salad)  
 1/2 C. chopped nuts  
 1 C. chopped celery

Boil pineapple and sugar for 3 minutes. Add jello and stir until mixed, add cream cheese. Let cool. Add apples, nuts, celery, and topping. Chill until firm in medium size glass baking dish.

**HOT BUTTER DIPS**

Verna Murbarger

Melt 1/3 C. butter in 9x13-inch pan. As soon as butter is melted, sift following ingredients.

2 1/4 C. sifted Gold Medal  
 flour  
 1 T. sugar

3 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
 1 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1 C. milk

Stir slowly with fork until dough just clings together (about 30 strokes). Turn on well-floured board. Roll over to coat with flour. Knead lightly about 10 times. Roll out 1/2-inch thick into a rectangle. With a floured knife cut dough in half lengthwise then crosswise into 16 strips. Dip each strip in butter (in pan) on both sides, lay close together in two rows in pan. Bake in 450° oven for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown.

**DIET LASAGNA**

Lucy Owen

1 lb. ground round beef  
 1/4 C. chopped onion  
 1 (8-oz.) can tomato puree  
 1/2 tsp. basil  
 1 tsp. parsley  
 1 tsp. oregano  
 1 tsp. garlic salt

dash pepper  
 1 (4-oz.) can mushrooms,  
 drained  
 4 oz. mozzarella cheese, cut in  
 strips  
 1 (10-oz.) pkg. frozen chopped  
 spinach  
 6 oz. cottage cheese

Sauté beef and onions. Drain off fat. Add puree, basil, parsley, oregano, salt, pepper and mushrooms. Thaw spinach and squeeze out water. Combine spinach and cottage cheese. In 9-inch square or 7x11-inch dish, arrange in layers: spinach mixture, meat mixture and cheese. Repeat, ending with cheese on top. Bake at 375° for 15-20 minutes.

*To keep hot oil from splattering, sprinkle a little salt or flour in the pan before frying.*

**LA PETITE PORK ROAST**

Mary Rosborough

**Roast:**

1 1/2 to 2 lb. pork loin  
 sirloin roast  
 2 T. soy sauce  
 1/4 tsp. dry mustard

2 T. fennel seed  
 2 T. caraway seed  
 1 recipe of Mustard Sauce

Trim excess fat from roast. Stir soy sauce and mustard together. Using fingers, rub the mixture over all the roast. Combine seeds, spread out on waxed paper. Roll roast in seeds to coat. Wrap and chill two hours or overnight. Next, unwrap roast, place fat side up on a rack in shallow roasting pan. Roast uncovered in 325° oven for 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours. Let stand 15 minutes before cutting. Serve with sweet potatoes and Mustard Sauce.

**Mustard Sauce:**

1/4 C. water  
 2 T. dry mustard  
 1 tsp. cornstarch

3 T. corn syrup  
 1 T. vinegar

Combine all these ingredients in small saucepan and cook until thick. Serve over pork roast.

**ICED BARS**

Brad Weidner

1 box yellow cake mix  
 2 eggs, beaten  
 1 stick margarine  
 1/2 C. chopped pecans  
 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese

2 eggs, beaten  
 1 lb. powdered sugar  
 1/2 C. chopped pecans  
 1 (6-oz.) pkg. chocolate chips

Mix together cake mix, 2 eggs and margarine, pat in 9x13-2-inch pan sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Sprinkle 1/2 C. pecans and chocolate chips on top of crust in pan. Beat cream cheese, 2 eggs, powdered sugar, and 1/2 C. chopped nuts together and pour over top of all. Bake 45 to 50 minutes at 350°. (Recipe comes from a famous department store).

**CARAMEL FROSTING**

June Padgett

1 stick oleo, melted  
 1 C. light brown sugar  
 1/4 C. milk

1 tsp. vanilla  
 2 1/2 C. sifted confectioner's  
 sugar

Combine melted oleo and brown sugar. Bring to boil for one minute. Add milk, and let cool slightly. Add vanilla and sifted confectioner's sugar.

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31	10.62	9.81	17.10	15.08	27.90	23.85	11.25	10.53	18.68	16.88	31.05	27.45
32	10.62	9.90	17.10	15.30	27.90	24.30	11.34	10.62	18.90	17.10	31.50	27.90
33	10.71	9.90	17.33	15.30	28.35	24.30	11.43	10.62	19.13	17.10	31.95	27.90
34	10.71	9.90	17.33	15.30	28.35	24.30	11.43	10.71	19.13	17.33	31.95	28.35
35	10.80	9.90	17.55	15.30	28.80	24.30	11.52	10.71	19.35	17.33	32.40	28.35
36	10.98	9.99	18.00	15.53	29.70	24.75	11.79	10.80	20.03	17.55	33.75	28.80
37	11.25	10.17	18.68	15.98	31.05	25.65	12.15	11.07	20.93	18.23	35.55	30.15
38	11.61	10.44	19.58	16.65	32.85	27.00	12.60	11.43	22.05	19.13	37.80	31.95
39	11.97	10.71	20.48	17.33	34.65	28.35	13.14	11.79	23.40	20.03	40.50	33.75
40	12.42	11.07	21.60	18.23	36.90	30.15	13.77	12.24	24.98	21.15	43.65	36.00
41	12.96	11.43	22.95	19.13	39.60	31.95	14.49	12.78	26.78	22.50	47.25	38.70
42	13.59	11.88	24.53	20.25	42.75	34.20	15.30	13.41	28.80	24.08	51.30	41.85
43	14.22	12.33	26.10	21.38	45.90	36.45	16.11	13.95	30.83	25.43	55.35	44.55
44	14.85	12.87	27.68	22.73	49.05	39.15	17.01	14.58	33.08	27.00	59.85	47.70
45	15.57	13.41	29.48	24.08	52.65	41.85	18.09	15.30	35.78	28.80	65.25	51.30
46	16.38	13.95	31.50	25.43	56.70	44.55	19.26	16.02	38.70	30.60	71.10	54.90
47	17.28	14.58	33.75	27.00	61.20	47.70	20.52	16.74	41.85	32.40	77.40	58.50
48	18.27	15.21	36.23	28.58	66.15	50.85	21.87	17.55	45.23	34.43	84.15	62.55
49	19.35	15.84	38.93	30.15	71.55	54.00	23.31	18.36	48.83	36.45	91.35	66.60
50	20.52	16.56	41.85	31.95	77.40	57.60	24.84	19.26	52.65	38.70	99.00	71.10
51	21.69	17.28	44.78	33.75	83.25	61.20	26.46	20.25	56.70	41.18	107.10	76.05
52	23.04	18.09	48.15	35.78	90.00	65.25	28.17	21.33	60.98	43.88	115.65	81.45
53	24.57	19.08	51.98	38.25	97.65	70.20	30.15	22.50	65.93	46.80	125.55	87.30
54	26.28	20.16	56.25	40.95	106.20	75.20	32.40	23.85	71.55	50.18	136.80	94.05
55	28.17	21.33	60.98	43.88	115.65	81.45	34.92	25.38	77.85	54.00	149.40	101.70
56	30.42	22.50	66.60	46.80	126.90	87.30	37.71	27.00	84.83	58.05	163.35	109.80
57	33.03	23.76	73.13	49.95	139.95	93.60	40.77	28.62	92.48	62.10	178.65	117.90
58	35.91	25.11	80.33	53.33	154.35	100.35	44.28	30.33	101.25	66.38	196.20	126.45
59	39.15	26.64	88.43	57.15	170.55	108.00	48.24	32.22	111.15	71.10	216.00	135.90
60	42.84	28.35	97.65	61.43	189.00	116.55	52.65	34.29	122.18	76.28	238.05	146.25
61	46.89	30.24	107.78	66.15	209.25	126.00	57.60	36.63	134.55	82.13	262.80	157.95
62	51.48	32.31	119.25	71.33	232.20	136.35	63.18	39.33	148.50	88.88	290.70	171.45
63	56.61	34.65	132.08	77.18	257.85	148.05	69.39	42.39	164.03	96.53	321.75	186.75
64	62.37	37.35	146.48	83.93	286.65	161.55	76.32	45.81	181.35	105.08	356.40	203.85
65	68.67	40.32	162.23	91.35	318.15	176.40	83.97	49.50	200.48	114.30	394.65	222.30
66	75.60	43.65	179.55	99.68	352.80	193.05	92.43	53.55	221.63	124.43	436.95	242.55
67	83.25	47.43	198.68	109.13	391.05	211.95	101.70	57.96	244.80	135.45	483.30	264.60
68	91.71	51.75	219.83	119.93	433.35	233.55	111.87	62.82	270.23	147.60	534.15	288.90
69	101.07	56.70	243.23	132.30	480.15	258.30	122.94	68.13	297.90	160.88	589.50	315.45
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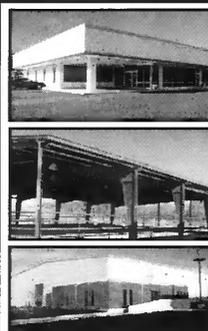


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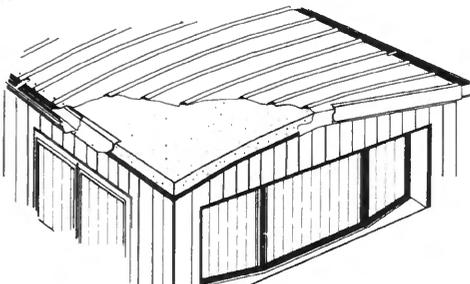
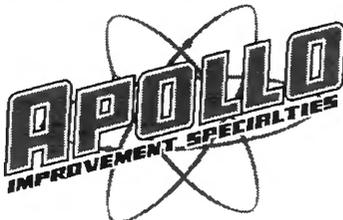
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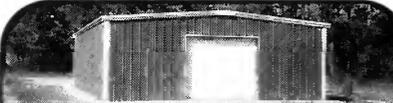


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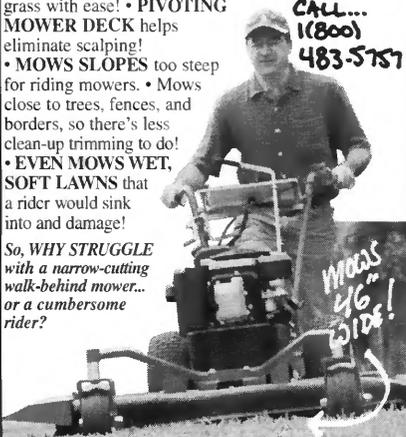
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CANTON (special) - If you seriously want to lose weight and keep it off, take a look at vinegar.

It's true! Vinegar expert, Emily Thacker says in her new book that vinegar safely helps speed up metabolism to burn unwanted calories, pounds and ultimately inches from your problem areas.

If you struggle to keep your weight down, the new and only "Emily's Vinegar Diet" weight loss system is now available to help you melt pounds and excess inches.

This is not a traditional diet plan. Overweight people can now break away from constant "yo-yo" dieting.

And you'll be amazed how well this program is designed to work.

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► LOST 97 POUNDS! "I went down to 183 from 280... I wouldn't trade... for all the money in this entire country." -- V.S. of MS

► THINNER WAIST IN TWO WEEKS! "Already lost 1 1/2 inches in my waist in only one and a half weeks." -- Z.L. of FL

Best of all you don't need to count calories, no strenuous exercises (just simple muscle toning exercises), no dieting or ingesting harmful diet pills.

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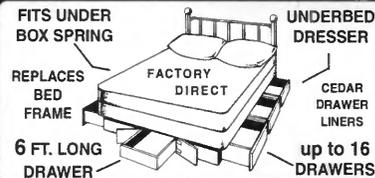
\*These are actual testimonials from vinegar users around the country. They wrote in freely and did not profit from their endorsement. Testimonials are atypical, your weight loss may be more or less.

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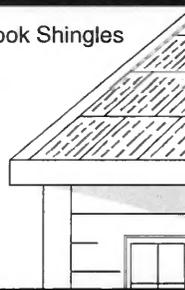
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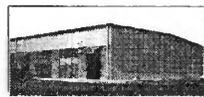
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8/29 - 9/ 7 DuQuoin State Fair, DuQuoin. (618) 542-9373.

3-7, Threshermen's Reunion, Pontiac. It's the 50th annual central states reunion at Thresherman's Reunion Park. Talk to the engineers and operators who remember and still practice the way our grandparents farmed. There will be a parade, more than 100 flea market vendors, a quilt show, craft show, daily entertainment, rides on the Iron Pony Steam train, home made ice cream and hot, crisp sugar-cooked kettle popcorn. (800) 835-2055, (815) 844-5131 or (815) 844-3474.

3-7, National Sweetcorn Festival, Hoopeston. It's the 55th year for this festival, boasting 29 tons of corn on the cob, a parade, carnival, demo-derbies, an art show, a flea market and the National Sweetheart Pageant. (217) 283-7873.

4-6, Fall Festival, Orion. Arts, crafts, pancake breakfast, pork chop lunch, and entertainment in City Park. (309) 526-8139.

4-6, On the Waterfront, Rockford. A street festival covering 30-city blocks with 10 music stages, 50 food vendors, street performers, fireworks and more in and around Davis Park at Founders Landing downtown. (815) 968-5222.

4-7, 45th Hog Capital of the World Festival, Kewanee. Planners promise the world's largest pork chop barbecue, plus a parade, bike tour, golf tourney, mud drags, car show, crafts, carnival, entertainment, rolle bolle, fly-in breakfast, bingo, mud volleyball, and the Hog Day Stampede Run. (309) 852-2175.

4-7, Ethnic Festival, Springfield. Celebrate your ethnic heritage at the state fair grounds with great food and entertainment ranging from traditional folk dances to rock & roll. (217) 529-8189.



5-7, Jersey County Victorian Festival, Jerseyville. Tour Hazel Dell, the 1866 Col. William Houston Fulkerson mansion. Also, Civil War re-enactments, steam plowing, saw milling, threshing, bluegrass music, antique/arts/crafts show, and food. (618) 498-5590.

## The Best of Illinois

### The best reason to live here?

"I believe the best reason for living in Illinois is for its beauty. Being an agricultural state, our farmers raise many crops, and, as those well-tended crops grow and mature, they are beautiful to see and admire. Also, we surely find beauty in the livestock raised.

"What of the many trees? The lakes and rivers? We have some fine parks in our state and wooded areas, too. There are many beautiful birds and wildlife. Yes, all states have beauty, but I believe God was especially generous to we Illinoisans!"

— *Marguerite Thompson of Ottawa,*  
member of *Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative Inc., Princeton*

"Why do I love Illinois? Oh, that's an easy question to answer! Illinois is my home! Illinois is where I grew up, married, raised my family. Illinois is memories and dreams and contentment!

"It is culture, from the Shubert in Chicago to Lincoln's New Salem. It is a myriad of occupations and the best in education, from its rural schools to its universities. It is sports, from the local team to the Cubs! It is state parks and the "busyness" of Chicago. If I were given a second life, it is where I would choose to be, "by the rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois!"

— *Julie Regenetter of Roseville, member of McDonough Power*

**Editor's note:** We're still interested in what you care about. Why do you love living in Illinois? Write and tell us in 100 typewritten words or less. If we use your remarks, we'll send you a small token of our appreciation. Send your prose to: Illinois Datebook, *Illinois Country Living*, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708 or e-mail them to [aieinfo@fgi.net](mailto:aieinfo@fgi.net).

5-7, Labor Day Festivities, Geneseo. Elvis contest and dance, native American encampment at Spirits in the Oaks Campground. (309) 944-3891 or 944-3889.

6, Street Rod Reunion Car Show, Jacksonville. It's an annual event at Community Park with food, games and crafts. (800) 593-5678.

9, The Motel in America, Early American Museum, Mahomet. John Jakle, professor of geography and landscape architecture at the University of Illinois, looks at a familiar roadside icon. (217) 586-2612.

10-13, Ladies Getaway, Galena. It's the fifth year for this event, designed for women and their sisters and friends. Activities include tours, talks, teas, tastings, demonstrations, classes, style shows, makeovers, drawings, parties, music and entertainment. (815) 777-0203.

12-13, Quilts on Parade, Geneseo. J.D. Darnall High School is the quilt scene. There will be a silent auction, vendors, a quilt raffle, demonstrations, door prizes and a lunch stand. (309) 944-5545.

12-13, Annual BBQ, Bald Knob Cross, Alto Pass. Arts & crafts fair and flea market, and, of course, barbecue. (618) 893-2344.

12-13, Old Settler's Day & Colony School Reunion. Bishop Hill. Saturday is the observation of the 152nd anniversary of the founding of the Bishop Hill Colony. There will be speeches by descendents and a chicken dinner. On Sunday, teachers and students from the Bishop Hill Colony School and area country schools will reunite. (309) 927-3345.

12-13, Artesian Fall Festival, Potomac. Garden tractor pull, flea market, bingo, food and entertainment. (217) 987-6950.

12-13, Illinois Trappers Convention, Altamont. Trapper education courses and a "white elephant" auction. (618) 284-7346 or (217) 536-6158.

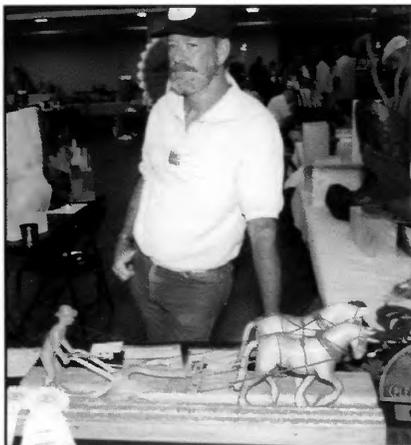
12, Music to Your Ears, East Dubuque. Continuous gospel and folk music along with arts & crafts, homemade baked goods, folk artisan demonstrations, and kids' activities. Sponsored by the Wesley United Methodist Church. (815) 747-2294.

18-19, Schuetzenfest, Effingham. Classic car show, trap shoot, Saturday breakfast, polka and rock bands, German food, horseshoe & volleyball tournaments. (618) 483-3333.

18-20, Heritage Days & Antique Engine & Tractor Show, Atkinson. See the engines and tractors a quarter-mile north of town. Also, a kids parade, races, story teller, rolle bolle, wagon & pony rides, line dancing, bingo, street dance, run/walk, flea market and craft shows, mostly at Village Park. (309) 853-5589.

19, Mallardfest, Hanover. Come see why they call it the Mallard Duck Capital of the World. Along the banks of the Apple River, you can watch the duck race, join the duck calling contest, buy something at the Ducks Unlimited Auction and tour Whistling Wings, a family owned business exporting more than 200,000 Mallards each year. (815) 591-3512.

19, River to River Trail Society Hike, Southernmost Illinois. A guided and interpreted hike. Pack a lunch and bring water. (618) 658-8409 or e-mail bridges@accessus.net for details.



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5-6, Artistry in Wood, Springfield. Sangamon Valley Woodcarvers sponsor their 8th annual woodcarvers show at the state fairgrounds, featuring carvings from woodcarvers nationwide. Carvings, wood and tools for sale, along with how-to seminars.

11-13, Transportation Celebration & Funfest, Effingham. Balloons, Corvettes, Studebakers, Harley Davidsons, antique tractors, airplane & helicopter rides, a NASCAR simulator and more. Funfest is sponsored by Mid-America Designs, the world's largest supplier of parts and accessories for Corvettes and will feature all four original Indianapolis 500 Corvette pace cars. Transportation Celebration info at (800) 772-0750 or www.effinghamil.com. Funfest info at (800) 500-1500 or www.madvet.com.



19-20, Herbal Bazaar, San Jose. It's the 7th annual bazaar, including educational seminars on the care and use of herbs, hosted by Clark's Greenhouse and Herbal Country and sponsored by the Illinois Herb Association. (217) 762-8249 or (217) 247-3679.

19-21, Cache River Days, Ullin. Guided canoe tours, van tours and hikes of the Cache River Wetlands and the Cypress Creek National Wildlife refuge. Pancake breakfast, fried turkey, barbecue, arts & crafts, flea market, music and lots of exhibits. (800) 248-4373.

19-21, Tour de Shawnee, Johnson & Massac counties. Several mapped road rides of various lengths for bicyclists. (800) 248-4373.

26, River to River Trail Workday, southernmost Illinois. Trail maintenance. Tools provided. Bring work gloves and water. (618) 658-8409 or e-mail bridges@accessus.net for details.

26, Appleknocker Arts & Science Fair, Flora. Hands-on displays for kids, ethnic food & music. (618) 662-5646.

26-27, Traditional Music Festival, Fort Kaskaskia. Featuring everything from Cajun to Celtic, fiddle to banjo, and all that on either side. And don't miss the Harmonica Extravaganza or the Fiddler's Frolic. Sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency at the state historic site 6 miles north of Chester. (618) 859-3741.

26-27, Jordbruksdagarna, Bishop Hill. Agricultural Days featuring 19th century crop processing demonstrations, traditional music, children's games, farm produce and colony stew. (309) 927-3345.

26-27, Old Market Days, Galena. Living history example of turn-of-the-century open-air market with farmers' hacks and stands offering produce, flowers, jams & jellies, breads & pastries, baskets, cutlery and arts & crafts. Sponsored by the Jo Daviess County Association for Home and Community Education. (815) 858-3392.

26-27, Living History Weekend, Metropolis. A historical visit with the Massiac Marines at Fort Massac State Park.

26-27, Dairy Days, Norris. Sponsored by the Lions Club. (618) 378-3678.

28, Cruise Night, Jacksonville. One of the largest classic car cruises in the Midwest, all along Morton Avenue. (800) 593-5678.



26-27, Apple & Pork Festival, Clinton. It's the 30th year for this festival, held on the spacious grounds of the C.H. Moore homestead, a Lincoln protege. The smell of smoked ham and spicy apple butter permeates the air here, where you will find a huge flea market (more than 300 dealers), art, crafts, entertainers and still more good food. Be sure to tour the Victorian home of the prominent attorney, see the collections of WWI weapons and Native American artifacts and the antique farm machinery. (217) 935-6066.

*Illinois Country Living publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest. Event listings are provided by the event sponsors and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling ahead to confirm dates and times. To be considered for inclusion, send listings and photographs to Illinois Datebook, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787.*

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