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## ILLINOIS COUNTRY MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Doyne Miller was chosen Illinois Country Mother of the Year after her daughter nominated her in a letter. Read the letter online at [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop).

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John Lowrey..... Editor  
 Annie Larson..... Assistant Editor  
 Katrina McCulley Wagner..... Associate Editor  
 Lisa Rigoni..... Advertising Manager  
 Nancy R. Nixon..... Marketing Administrator  
 Sandy Wolske..... Advertising Coordinator/Graphic Designer  
 Jennifer Danzinger, Kathy Feraris  
 & Chris Reynolds..... Graphic Designers  
 Bonnie Newenham..... Circulation Coordinator

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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 660 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values — integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

# Join the Debate on the Energy Tax

*Members concerned about energy costs contact Congress*

Things are heating up in Congress as debate begins in earnest over energy policy and climate change legislation. We've been doing our best to keep you informed about this debate through this magazine, at your annual meetings and through the national program "Our Energy, Our Future" at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). Many of you have responded and gotten involved. Thank you.

The position of electric co-op leaders really comes down to this: We support a balanced approach to meeting environmental goals and the increased demand for electricity, but we are concerned that the solutions remain affordable for our members and our economy.

Co-ops serve rural areas with a higher percentage of retired citizens and those that fall near or below the poverty line. We still serve areas with less than five meters per mile. That lower density creates higher costs for co-ops that serve rural citizens.

The reality is energy in all its forms is going to become more expensive. We don't believe our members can afford a large tax on top of that. We think they deserve to know what is being proposed and how much it could cost them. With our economy in a tailspin it's good to see more leaders and consumer groups starting to join us in addressing the cost this energy tax will impose.

Co-ops are all for innovation, research and development of new energy sources. That's not just talk. We walk the walk. The only utility-owned wind generators in Illinois are owned by two electric co-ops. One near Winchester has been in operation for several years. Another just became operational last month. A third is in development,

along with a larger co-op owned wind turbine project. Another co-op is developing the only biomass generating project in Illinois.

Electric co-ops in Illinois are miles ahead of the other utilities in installing smart grid technology. Sixteen Illinois co-ops have already installed automated meter reading technology. This technology will enable new and innovative energy management options.

Illinois electric cooperatives have been

nationally recognized for energy efficiency programs. Recently we helped start the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois. We also became part of a national research project on plug-in hybrid cars. Many of our co-op member service employees perform energy audits every day. Several are very involved in energy rate certification programs.

Co-ops are very involved in their communities including local schools. They've put on hundreds of safety demonstrations, helped with energy efficiency projects, provided energy education classroom materials through a Discovery Channel program and been involved in a successful youth leadership program for nearly 50 years.

The president's budget proposal predicts that we will be adding a \$78.7 billion carbon tax by 2012. If you divide that by the 105 million households in the U.S. it's an "average" of \$750 a year. Averages are deceptive. That tax will also be unevenly spread across the country and create a much larger burden for some citizens just because of where they live and where their energy comes from. Yes, those of us who get our energy from coal will be taxed much more.

A new tax concerns me, but what really bothers me is only \$15 billion of that \$78.7 billion energy tax will go to clean energy technology. The rest will go toward tax credits. The only problem with that is we are going to fund those tax credits with an energy tax. Why not reduce the tax to an affordable level and spend it all on clean energy research, development and installations? If this is really about cutting greenhouse gasses then we should get serious and spend it all on solving that. This is just a new tax proposal. They will call it a cap and trade system instead of a tax and utilities will be the tax collectors.

We are for innovation and research. We are for developing new sources of energy. We are for affordable energy. We trust you are, too! Without it our economy is going to suffer even more.

Please, do your part go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) and send your message to Congress. ■

**"We need more involved co-op members willing to speak up, ask questions and join the discussion."**

**Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.**



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## Feds Ramp Up Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

Maybe you've been thinking about making some energy efficiency improvements on your primary residence but you're holding off because of the shaky economy. The government is providing incentives to make those improvements less painful to your pocketbook.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (also known as the Economic Stimulus Bill) that President Obama signed in February is ramping up energy efficiency tax credits that were already in place. The tax credits that were previously effective for 2009 have been extended to 2010.

For existing homes, a tax credit will cover 30 percent of the cost of energy-efficient doors and windows, insulation, non-solar water heaters, air conditioners, furnaces, heat pumps and boilers. There is a cap of \$1,500. You can include material and labor costs in the tax credit calculation if the

improvement is for an HVAC system such as a heat pump.

Although the increased tax credit for windows will be a more attractive incentive, fewer Energy Star-rated windows will qualify for it. Be sure to check with your window vendor to ensure the brand/style you select will qualify.

For renewable energy systems such as geothermal heat pumps, small wind energy systems, solar water heaters and solar panels a 30 percent tax credit is available through 2016 and there isn't a cap.

Take a close look at your home and see what you can do now to reduce your energy usage and improve your comfort. You'll reap the benefit for many years to come.

If you're interested in more information about energy efficiency, log on at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or contact your local electric cooperative. ■

## U.S. Wind Power Capacity Vaults to Top Spot due to Rapid Growth

The U.S. wind energy industry shattered all previous records in 2008, installing 8,358 megawatts (MW) of new generating capacity and placing the United States above all other nations in terms of installed wind power capacity. U.S. wind capacity

increased by 50 percent, bringing it to a total of 25,170 MW. Pictured here is Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative's wind turbine located near Winchester. Recently, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Auburn, completed installation of its wind turbine. Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, is working on a similar project. Prairie Power, Inc., an Illinois generation and transmission co-op, is currently developing a 30 megawatt wind energy project. And both Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and Jo-Carroll Energy are members of the National Renewables Cooperative Organization, a national organization representing 24 electric co-ops that will help develop renewable energy. ■



## Organic Grower Certification Help

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has obtained an additional \$45,000 to reimburse growers and handlers of organic agricultural products for the cost of their USDA certification.

This program covers 75 percent of certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750, for eligible recipients. However, the funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The assistance comes from the USDA's National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program. Funds that have not been dispersed by Sept. 30 must be returned to the federal government. Application forms can be obtained either online by visiting the department's Web site: [http://www.agr.state.il.us/marketing/Mkt\\_Organic\\_Cost\\_Share\\_Program.html](http://www.agr.state.il.us/marketing/Mkt_Organic_Cost_Share_Program.html) or by calling the department's Bureau of Marketing and Promotion at 217-524-9129. ■

## The Senior Health Insurance Program – SHIP

The Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) is a free insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. The program was initiated in the fall of 1988, and now has 180 offices throughout the state staffed by more than 700 volunteer counselors.

All offices are volunteer-based and supported by local sponsoring organizations that offer services to seniors. SHIP is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, and is offered statewide to Medicare beneficiaries of all ages. SHIP is not affiliated with any insurance company and volunteer counselors do not sell or

solicit any type of insurance.

SHIP staff also maintains a toll-free line to provide beneficiaries easy access to information and assistance each business day. The phone line is staffed from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, by staff trained in all of the above mentioned areas, as well as other more complex insurance issues.

Since SHIP's founding in 1988, the program has saved Illinois' Medicare beneficiaries more than \$7 million in nearly 125,000 counseling sessions.

To reach the SHIP program, or to find an insurance counselor in your area, call SHIP toll-free at 800-548-9034, or go to [www.idfpr.com](http://www.idfpr.com). ■



## Census Shows Increase in Number of Illinois Farms

New census figures released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) show the number of Illinois farms grew 5 percent, from 73,027 in 2002 to 76,860 in 2007. However, Illinois lost more than half a million acres in farmland over the past five years.

2007 statistics also show that Illinois remains the national leader in sales of grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas, and in pumpkin acreage. Illinois also has the most horseradish acres. It ranks second in the nation in corn for grain acres and soybeans for beans acres. Illinois is fourth in the nation in hog and pig sales and inventory. And Mason County is the number one county in the nation in popcorn acres.

There also were increases in the number of female principal farm operators, from 237,819 in 2002 to 306,209 last year. For more information go to [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). ■

## Credit Unions are Consumer Focused

Credit unions are cooperative businesses guided by democratic principals that govern all co-ops.

Cooperatives exist to serve their members, who also act as owners of the business. They provide services and goods that meet specific member needs, such as financial services for a community. And because credit unions tend to be smaller and cater to a select group of people, consumers experience a more personal relationship with the staff than at a traditional bank. Credit unions are routinely rated higher than banks in customer satisfaction surveys.

"The credit crisis and subsequent bank bailouts reinforced consumer perceptions that large, for-profit financial institutions are indifferent or even hostile to the interests of their customers," says Paul Hazen, CEO of National Cooperative Business Association. "Credit unions have stood apart during this crisis. While many banks have faltered due to high-risk, high-reward investment practices, credit unions stuck to their tried and true practice of making responsible loans to their members."

Credit unions represent an important consumer-focused part of the financial system. Though credit unions have not been immune to the challenges of the foreclosure crisis, overall they have fared better than banks. Because their mission is serving the needs of members, depositors and borrowers, credit unions continue to attract new members. And while many banks have curtailed lending and increased fees even to the most creditworthy consumers and small businesses, credit unions continue to lend responsibly. Almost everyone is eligible to join one of the roughly 9,000 credit unions operating in the United States.

For more information go to the Illinois Credit Union League's Web site: [www.iculeague.org](http://www.iculeague.org) ■

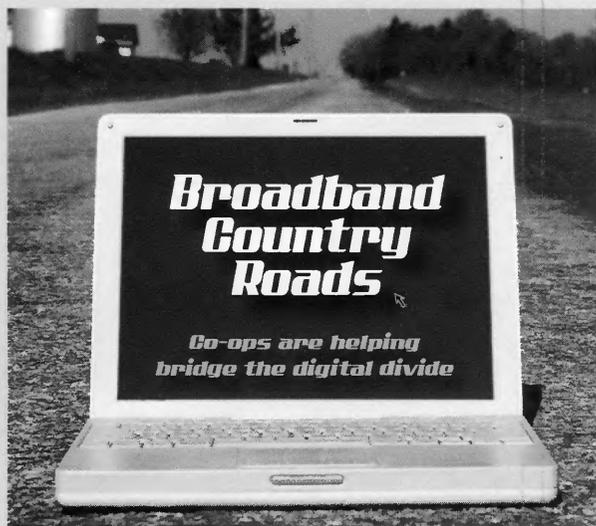
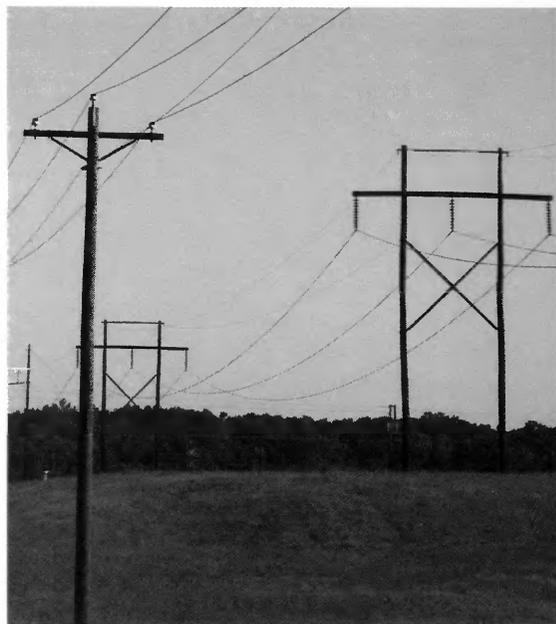
## Transmission Infrastructure Holding Back Energy Development

In February, a group of political, energy, business, labor and environmental leaders met for the National Clean Energy Product Summit roundtable in Washington, D.C. They came to share ideas for the development of a plan and to develop key guiding principles to lead the transformation of U.S. energy policy.

Glenn English, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, reminded participants that most of the electricity used in the U.S. is produced in rural America.

"We serve 70 percent of the land mass of the United States – 42 million people in 47 states," he said. "Rural electric co-ops were established with that partnership between government and people. We believe rural co-ops are well-positioned to help meet the renewable energy initiative."

What's holding them back, he said, is transmission. "Without that transmission, with all due respect, Congress can assign all the timetables they want – they're not going to be met." ■



## \$7 Billion for Rural Broadband

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes more than \$7 billion in funding to improve broadband access across the country. The \$7.2 billion in broadband funding will be put to use in two different ways.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will receive \$4.7 billion to distribute as grants designed to improve broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas, increase broadband adoption, improve access to broadband by public safety agencies, and stimulate the economy and create jobs. The remaining \$2.5 billion will go to the Rural Utilities Service, which works to connect rural Americans to broadband, allowing them to reach all the services and opportunities the digital age has to offer.

Source: [www.speedmatters.org](http://www.speedmatters.org) ■

## Supercar Manufacturer Unveils All-Electric Powertrain

The manufacturer of the world's fastest production car, the 1,287-horsepower Ultimate Aero, has developed an all-electric powertrain for the vehicle. The company is building the Ultimate Aero EV to prove the electric vehicles provide more linear power and overall performance than internal combustion cars. The Ultimate Aero EV drivetrain will feature twin motors capable of producing

1,000 horsepower and 800 pound-feet of torque, enabling it to rocket to 60 miles per hour in 2.5 seconds, reaching a top speed of 208 miles per hour. The system will have a range of 150-200 miles. SSC plans to roll out its first full-scale, pre-production Ultimate Aero EV by mid-2009 and deliveries to customers may start before the end of the year. ■



# Renewable Energy is Closer Than You May Think

You've probably been hearing a lot about renewable energy these days. As our nation looks for solutions to the challenges posed by climate change and our ever-growing energy use, many people view renewables as a key component in a sensible energy future.

But what you may not know is that your local electric co-op is already playing a significant role in the development and practical use of renewable energy.

Like most co-ops nationwide, we don't actually generate our own power. Instead, we're part of a larger association that exists to provide power to its member cooperatives. That association is essentially a wholesaler – working on our behalf to strategically and economically generate and purchase electricity, which then travels across transmission lines to substations that we manage locally. From those substations, we deliver the power to your home or business.

Several years ago, we realized that it was important to begin developing and using alternative energy sources. As a result of that proactive stance, we're proud to be viewed as one of the Midwest's leaders in the practical use of renewable energy. In addition to traditional sources of fuel, like coal



and natural gas, some of our electricity in Illinois comes from wind. That's a growing renewable industry.

Wind power is generated through huge turbines – much larger and taller than the windmills that used to dot the countryside – located in rural areas where wind conditions are optimal. As the turbines rotate, they

spin generators that produce electricity with no emissions. An important detail, though, is that the generators only spin when the wind is blowing!

Experiments are underway throughout the state to save on conventional fuel use. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, in cooperation with Prairie Power, Inc., rolled out a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, which uses a lithium ion battery pack as part of its clean energy power. The car, which can get upward to 100 mpg, is part of a nationwide study by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

In Illinois and surrounding states, biomass power – electricity generated from naturally-occurring gases – is gaining in popularity. Biomass fuels are or soon will be produced from landfills, dairy farms and the burning of waste wood, corn stover and switchgrass.

Of course, using renewable sources of energy is just one way to reduce our nation's appetite for fossil fuels. Making your home as energy-efficient as possible helps, too. If you'd like to know more about steps you can take to use less electricity, contact our Energy Advisor. It's another way we're ready to provide free advice when you want it, and help when you need it.



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## *Illinois Country Mother of the Year* **Doyne Miller embraces life and her family**

by Jonie Larson

**T**he back door swings open and in runs 4 year-old Andrew with three blooming dandelions. Without hesitation, the blonde-headed youngster rounds the kitchen table, bypassing his mom and aunt. These particular “flowers” are for Grandma Doyne.

Grandma Doyne, as she is known by all children – relatives and otherwise – is Doyne Miller of rural Denison, Ill. While her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday is May 1, she’s just a couple years beyond

adolescence, admittedly saying she’s just a kid at heart. She also is often accused of being a “yes” grandma. She does her best to provide whatever the little ones desire. On this particular day, it was chocolate chip cookies for Andrew – his favorite – and blueberry muffins for Carter, another grandchild.

It’s not only the little tykes in this family that are fond of Doyne. Her grown children and in-laws speak of her with profound adoration.

“Everything she does for everybody else,” is what makes her special, says her daughter, Janet Ramey. “A lot of people pursue their own interests and careers – but she will wait to see what the family needs and who she needs to babysit for,” before making any other plans.

“That’s what moms are for and grandmas, too,” Doyne says, proclaiming more than once that family is simply the “joy” of her life.



*Doyne Miller, at right, is up for a good ► game of Scrabble almost any day. But she and her daughter, Janet Ramey had more competition than they expected when Rylan got his hands on the letters.*

It's that devotion to family that led Janet to submit a letter to Illinois Country Living magazine, nominating her mother for the first-ever "Illinois Country Mother of the Year" honor. Among the applicants, Doyne was a stand-out for many reasons – her commitment to family, her willingness to be involved in the community, and her ability to persevere through some of life's toughest challenges.

Though Doyne's husband Don – known as "Bud" – has been gone since June of 1991, her voice still breaks when she speaks of him. He died of lymphatic leukemia after fighting it for five or six years. Just last year, her son, Don, would die of the same affliction.

She chokes back tears, her heart still hurting from the losses, but then she redirects her pain to recall happier times, when she and her husband first started dating.

It's a storybook tale of course, something in short supply in 2009. As one might guess, they were high school sweethearts.

But not at first.

"I thought he was a smartie-pants. Bud would drive his dad's new car" on occasion, she says. Doyne wasn't

impressed, or at least she didn't let him know it.

Eventually, she would give way to courting him. It was around Christmas time when the two teen-agers, who went to the old Valley High School in the west Terre Haute area, would start dating. Doyne gave a reading at the school and afterward she let Bud drive her home. The 1947 graduates were married in 1951, a love that carried them through 40 more years.

Doyne proudly points out their wedding photo on the wall of family fame in her neat and tidy dining room. She recounts all the memories: There are her four children's graduation photos, the grandchildren and great grandchildren, Doyne's parents... the list goes on and on, pictures covering the major portion of a wall. Among them is a photo of a lost grandson, Janet's boy. She, too, knows a mother's worst pain.

Adam Ramey was 22 when he died. Janet and Doyne tell how he struggled, first with school and a nagging depression.

"I was so happy when Adam graduated. I wouldn't leave him alone until he got up (in the mornings) and

to school," Doyne said.

"He said he would never have done it (graduated) without his grandma," Janet says, crediting her mother.

Although Adam successfully completed high school, he continued to struggle with depression. He was on a new medication to help him recover when he suddenly passed away from an allergic reaction.

Both mother and daughter credit their belief in God as their means to surviving these heart-wrenching losses.

"I don't know how people get through the bad without God. He's always there," Doyne says. Her daughter agrees, saying, "The Lord has given me a lot of blessings between then and now," the grandchildren being some of the best. In addition, Janet has been able to reach out to others at the healing room, a place to pray at New Life, New Beginnings Church in Marshall.

It seems most, if not all, of Doyne's family share common threads of faith in God. Doyne is another stabilizing factor – a matriarch of sorts, with a loving touch.

In short, she is mom to all who enter her doorway.

"For me, as an in-law, she has

always made me feel welcome and a part of the family," says Carrie, who is married to Doyne's youngest son, Scott. When asked why Doyne is so deserving to be mother of the year, the same theme resonated time and again.

"She puts everybody else ahead of her, no matter what it is," says Scott.

"She's very caring with family and with those who aren't," says another son, Andy. Is there a time when mom really came through for him? Yes.

"All 43 years," he says,

Granddaughter-in-law, Sherri Ramey, and daughter-in-law Dee Miller share similar anecdotes.

"She's really a big help whenever we need anything. She always puts everybody else first, says Sherri, who has three children and a newborn infant.

Dee also needed Doyne's help when she had a child. Not only was she going to school, but she had just started a master's program when she learned she was pregnant. When the baby came, "grandma almost moved in," Dee says.

Doyne, a woman strikingly young for her years, who doesn't wear make-up or color her hair, only smiles about all the compliments. As she talks, she fidgets with some Play Doh, left out on the table by one of the grandkids.

Good days ahead for Doyne will mirror the good days of the past, if she has her way. She likes to cook for her family and church friends, she goes to Bible study and out with friends to eat.

"Just simple things," Doyne says. But she won't do anything at the expense of sharing in family times.

Speaking with a mother's firm voice, she declared her priority once again.

"Love your children and your grandchildren. You never know when they'll be gone." ■



## Getting to know

### Doyne Miller, 2009 Illinois Country Mother of the Year

- Born Doyne Creasey in 1929 in West Terre Haute, Ind.
- She was one of 11 children. She continues to help with her older sister, Ethel Ruark, 90, who is suffering from Alzheimer's.
- She was a cheerleader in her senior year at the old Valley High School.
- Married Donald "Bud" Wayne Miller in 1951. He died in June 1991.
- Mother to four: Don Miller (deceased), Janet Ramey, Charles Andrew (Andy) Miller and Scott Allen Miller.
- Grandma to six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
- First love: Family. Second love: Family.
- Cooks and bakes. She is known for her apple dumplings, chili and ham and beans.
- One of her role models: "My mom was the most amazing woman that ever lived."
- Did she ever leave the rural area where she was born and now resides? Yes. She and her husband lived downtown Chicago in the loop when they first married. They returned to the area in the fall of 1954.
- Did she have electricity as a child? No. "When I was a child we didn't have electricity until I was 10 or 11. We had big kerosene lamps. It was so funny (after electricity was installed)... you could reach up and pull a chain and the light came on."
- Electric Co-op to which she belongs? EnerStar, with its office in Paris, Ill. She credits it for getting better through the years and says most recently the EnerStar linemen came to work on her electricity on the coldest day of the year.
- Has lived in rural Dennison by her daughter Janet for almost 18 years. Before that she lived in Marshall.
- Favorite pastimes include: Reading Christian books and is particularly fond of Guideposts; works crossword puzzles and word has it she's a pretty competitive Scrabble player.
- Member of the Sugar Creek Baptist Church in West Terre Haute. She also attends a Bible study at the First Congregation Church in Marshall, where Norris Keirn pastors.
- Volunteer efforts: School buddy program for children with needs, Bible School Kitchen Committee, Intercessory prayer team, grievance committee, Food and Clothing Bank in Marshall and Helping Hands.
- Favorite places she's traveled: Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Alaska.
- Family tradition: Cookie Day for grandma, daughter, daughters-in-law and the children – termed a "hectic, messy day, but a lot of fun." Yummy results: cookies, fudge and divinity.
- Ailments: A little arthritis, a little stiffness in the knee and a heart problem 20 years ago, to which she brushes off, saying, "And I'm still here."
- What has helped her persevere? "I've overcome. I don't dwell on anything. I keep moving. You can always find someone else worse off."
- Confident in saying: "I don't have a computer and I really don't want one."
- Worked at Hillman Jewelers as the assistant manager of the Honeycreek store in Terre Haute until 1992. Favorite part was working with the new brides. She says she didn't start work until her youngest was in school. "I would not leave a baby with somebody else."
- Advice in life: "Don't sweat the small stuff."



## Other deserving nominees for the title include:

- Jennie Lou Ayers of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Jo Ann Yeaman)
- Cleo Braeuninger of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Karen Brockelsby)
- Trish Wright of Egyptian Electric (Nominated by her daughters, Rose and Emma Wright, ages 11 and 8)
- Cindy Kelsey of Woodford County (Not on cooperative lines. Nominated by her daughter, Karrie Gerber)
- Sandra Peper of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Kay Peper)
- Susan Marie Skaggs of Menard Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Ashley)
- Mary Ann Woerner of Pekin (Not on cooperative lines. Nominated by her daughter, Leanne Waremburg)
- Jessica Favier of Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her husband, Jeffery Clerk)
- Thala Jean Stewart of Menard Country Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter-in-law, Mary Stewart)
- Erma D. Walker-Price of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Tiffany Price-Saunders)
- Sheri Pitts of Norris Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Brittany Pitts)
- Dorothy Farris of EnerStar Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her Daughter, Vonnie Davis)
- Sandra Shamp of Jo-Carroll Energy (Nominated by her daughter Katie Shamp)
- Henrietta Ladage of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter-in-law, Cindy Ladage)
- Jonie Fesler of Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her son-in-law, Robert J. Legate)
- Karon Inboden of Norris Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Kaiwa Riley)
- Debra Sterchi of Norris Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her son, Sam Sterchi)
- LaVerne Krebel of Egyptian Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Cathy Krebel-Nevois)
- Carol Raines of Egyptian Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Stephanie Myers)
- Cathy Kiper of Corn Belt Energy Corporation (Nominated by her daughter, Kimberly Kiper)
- Beth Woltering of Madison County (Not on cooperative lines. Nominated by her great aunt, Margaret Kruep)
- Dorothy Dawes of Egyptian Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Tami Wollard)
- Valerie Demry of Corn Belt Energy Corporation (Nominated by her daughter, Jennifer Stroyan)
- Darcey Spenny of Spoon River Electric Cooperative (Nominated by her daughter, Danielle Prohaska)

Read their letters online at  
[www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)

# Warm weather hazards

*Don't Turn Summer into a Bummer*

I'm ready for spring and summer! It seems like this winter has stretched on for a long time! As I drive all over this great state of Illinois presenting safety meetings at our electric cooperatives, I am reminded every trip that winter is giving way to spring and then summer.

With warmer summer weather comes great summer fun outdoors. Spring and summer can be such a great time of outdoor fun with friends and family, but it also creates situations that can lead to unseen dangers.

As I was preparing to write this, my mind flooded with people and stories from the past that had a summer turned into a bummer because of unsafe acts and accidents.

When I was younger, I remember a young man who was not aware of a low-hanging power line that storm damage took down. He was out hunting and carried his gun over his shoulder. Unaware of the power lines just over his head, the tip of his gun came into contact with those energized power lines. We've all heard that electricity will always look for a way to the ground and that's exactly what happened to this young man. That electricity traveled through that gun and electrocuted him on its way to the ground.

In this article I want to list a few reminders to keep your summer from turning into a bummer.

Always be aware of electrical lines around you. In the story above, this young man had no idea that he was walking into a trap. After a storm, be aware that energized lines may be down, and though they may

not be doing anything, they may still be energized. Don't go around them, and call your electric provider immediately.

Trees provide another great opportunity for fun as children, including my son, have a hard time passing up a great climbing tree. However, we all need to be very careful in and around trees as power lines may be running right through the tops of our

favorite tree. We have probably all heard stories of people who have gotten into energized lines by simply raising up and making contact with that line. Remember: Power lines don't have to be doing anything to be energized and they will use the human body to find a path to the ground.



Last summer my family and I put in an above-ground swimming pool, and is it ever fun! Pools are a great source of fun, but can also be a source of danger. I was traveling one time and noticed an above ground pool and there was a power line right above the pool. Can you imagine if the owner was using his long skimmer pole and accidentally made contact with that power line?

Wow! That would definitely be a summer bummer! If your plans this summer include putting in a pool, take the time to completely and safely plan out your install to prevent you and others from being in harms way with the electricity.

The last thing I would like to mention is a safety warning again to all the farmers out there. With spring and summer comes planting and working in, and around, those fields. With equipment getting taller and larger, the danger to put an auger or truck bed right up into those lines is ever present. Always be aware of overhead lines when preparing to dump grain around those storage bins. I will not soon forget that last year we had a gentleman in Illinois that lifted his grain truck up, made contact with energized power lines, then leaned up against his truck and was electrocuted! What happened? The electricity was making its way to ground and this worker became the path it followed. This is a fact about electricity we should never forget!

So from this writer to each of you, have a wonderful summer! ■

**"After a storm, be aware that energized lines may be down, and though they may not be doing anything, they may still be energized."**

Ken Macken is Manager of Safety and Loss Control for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. [kmacken@aiec.coop](mailto:kmacken@aiec.coop), 217-241-7933.



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# Picking the landscape

*Vines with fruit provide double duty*

It seems like 2009 will find folks turning to growing their own produce as a means of cutting costs. Part of me wants to scream, "Hooray," while the other part says, "What took you so long?"

Many of us grew up with large vegetable and fruit gardens tucked somewhere in the back yard, mostly out of sight of the landscape simply because the gardens were, to be blunt, ugly for eight months of the year.

Is it necessary to have an actual plot though? Absolutely not.

Several of the small fruits lend themselves nicely to landscape use tucked here and there. Sure, large patches may produce the most, but there's no law that says you have to raise huge quantities.

Of all the small fruits, strawberries are the best landscape subjects. They have shining green leaves throughout the growing season, attractive white flowers, red berries, and they add a little fall color, making them a three-season plant. If only they had something during the winter.

Strawberries are easily tucked into a corner of the flowerbed or shrub border, used as ground cover, or as edging for flower border or walk. They may also be grown in pyramids or barrels, or even grown individually in strawberry pots to be placed in selected garden spots.

You won't get huge quantities, but if you're not worried about freezing some or making jams, you will get enough for your cereal or shortcakes.

Of all the small fruits, blueberries are the best landscape plants. Readers of this column know that I rank blueberries as one of the top five ornamental plants to put in your yard, whether you like the fruit or not.

The plants have shiny dark green leaves. White bell-shaped or hoop-shaped flowers are produced in the spring. While not perfumed, they

are attractive in their little clusters. These are followed by the blue berries.



Come fall, the leaves turn colors ranging from yellow to orange to red, surpassing the intensity of burning bush euonymus. The stems in the winter carry the same color range, standing out against the snow like beacons.

Blueberry plants grow quickly to maximum size and if properly maintained, remain about the same size and shape for more than 20 years. They rarely out-grow their original location and function. Just make sure the soil is acidic. You can do this by feeding the plant ammonium sulfate every year according to directions.

Just remember to give them room to grow. A blueberry plant needs about 6 feet by 6 feet, and full sun.

Grapes make excellent vines to cover a trellis or arbor, possibly shading the house during summer's heat. Grapes grow fast, and need strong support. Even a metal hurricane fence will support the plants. As long as you keep the herbicides away, and prune the plants regularly each spring, there's little other problem.

While not great shakes in the ornamental department, older vines do have interesting trunks with shredding bark and gnarly twists.

Forget the brambles, such as raspberries and blackberries. They do best behind the garage or barn and not really in with other landscape plantings.

However, don't forget the gooseberries and currants. Most people don't plant them anymore, but they make great landscape plants. Like blueberries, if you're not fond of the fruit, don't worry. The birds will pick the plants clean. ■

**"I rank blueberries as one of the top five ornamental plants to put in your yard, whether you like the fruit or not."**

David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension, P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62791. Telephone: 217-782-6515. E-mail: drobson@uiuc.edu.



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# Money that grows in the attic

*A tax return that just keeps on giving*

This is perhaps the most important column that I have ever written. It's written for every one of you and I hope it isn't too late.

We're through with April and tax season. Now we are on to May and the start of warmer weather, and yes, air-conditioning season and higher electric bills. Some of you may have received your tax refund from the United States government, while others are waiting for it to arrive. Our president and Congress probably are hoping that each family will spend the money to help strengthen the economy. Some "experts" on television want you to take the money and pay off existing debts. Others say save the money. I AM SAYING, DO ALL OF THIS!

I want you to totally open your mind for a few minutes. I am going to show you how to make the tax refund check worth more than the dollar amount printed on it. I am going to show you how it can actually make you money every month for the rest of your life. And this investment will pay off monthly and a lot better than the stock market. Oh, and by the way, there's no capital gains tax to pay on the returns you'll see on this investment.

Let's say you get between \$150 and \$1,200 for your tax refund. Heck, let's keep it simple and say it's somewhere in the middle, say \$600. Actually, the amount is not as important as what you do with it. First of all, we are going to spend the \$600 so that the president and Congress will be happy because we will be helping to stimulate the economy.

Now, how will we spend it? I bet you've guessed that already. Yes, we will use the money to make energy improvements on your house. Let's suppose we spend \$30 for 10 tubes of caulk, \$30 for 10 compact fluorescent lights and \$25 for gaskets for electrical outlets. That adds up to about \$85.

Well, let's spend about \$15 for an insulating blanket for the water heater. Now we've spent about \$100.

Next, let's spend about \$450 for additional



attic insulation. With \$450, we can buy about 45 bags of cellulose insulation at the local home improvement store.

Get a helper and install these items that you have purchased. And while you're up in the attic, go ahead and check your ductwork for leakage. You'll be amazed at what these improvements can do to lower your monthly utility bill.

Consider this. If you save \$30 a month on your utility bill, your payback will be in 15 months. If you save \$50 a month, your payback will be in nine months.

Now, use some discipline and take the \$30 to \$50 a month in savings and make additional energy efficiency improvements to your home, pay off existing debt, save it or spend it.

Regardless of what you choose to do, you'll have about \$30 to \$50 or more per month forever because you chose to spend your tax refund wisely. Remember, if you don't do this, your money will be gone and you won't have the savings on your energy bills.

I hope I haven't waited too late to tell you this. See you next month.

P.S. Oh, I forgot to mention that you still have \$50 left. Pat yourself on your back, go to dinner and take your helper. ■

**"I am going to show you how to make the tax refund check worth more than dollar amount printed on it."**

Doug Rye, the "Doctor of Energy Efficiency-the King of Caulk and Talk" can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. Or you can go to his Web site at [www.dougye.com](http://www.dougye.com), e-mail him at [info@philliprye.com](mailto:info@philliprye.com), or call 888-Doug-Rye or 501-653-7931. You can also sign up for a free newsletter and order his "how to" videotapes.





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**\*According to CMS website enrollment data by state (Feb. 2009).**

# Climate Change Policy Hits Your Pocketbook

*Policy will decide increases in electric bills*

Congress and the federal government are focused on prioritizing climate change policy. Given the long list of environmental impacts and expensive solutions, any action taken to address the issue will certainly increase the cost of electricity we use everyday.

Climate change proposals seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide in particular. In the United States, power plants that burn fossil fuels produce about 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year. That works out to about 39 percent of the nation's man-made output of the gas—the largest single source.

Electric cooperatives are involved in cutting edge work to develop new technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, but those options

aren't yet ready for prime time. They're limited, largely untested and expensive. Yet potential legislation would rely on them to make significant carbon dioxide cuts nationwide.

A key committee in the U.S. House of Representatives has announced plans to consider a climate change bill by this summer, one that may, for the first time, classify carbon dioxide as a pollutant and impose a cap-and-trade tax to limit carbon emissions. Cap-and-trade systems work by setting a specific limit on airborne pollutants from sources like power plants, factories and refineries, and require those sources to account for all emissions with issued allowances.

Cap-and-trade has worked well during the past 15

## Putting a Price on Carbon

All climate change policy proposals seek to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. While the greenhouse gas can be removed from the air (plants and trees are nature's best example), slashing man-made emissions tops the list of climate change remedies. A carbon tax or cap-and-trade tax are the current options for doing so.

### CARBON TAX

**Q: What is it?**

**A:** A levy on energy sources emitting carbon dioxide meant to cut consumption of fossil fuels like coal, natural gas, and oil. The tax would most likely be based on the actual carbon content, in tons, found in each fuel type. The effectiveness of such a system depends on the actual price established per ton of carbon.

#### PROS

- ⊕ Economic certainty: costs are easily tallied up-front
- ⊕ Resulting revenue could be used for research on new energy technologies, create incentives for non-emitting sources such as nuclear power and renewables, or returned to taxpayers via rebates and other assistance

#### CONS

- ⊖ No specific goal for carbon dioxide reductions set
- ⊖ Sources of emissions could essentially pay to maintain "business as usual"
- ⊖ If the tax is set too high, prices could skyrocket across the board; electricity bills, as well as the price of goods and services dependant on fossil fuels, would increase

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

### CAP & TRADE TAX

**Q: What is it?**

**A:** In its most basic form, a cap-and-trade tax uses market forces to curb emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. Each source (like a power plant) has a limit, or set number of allowances, placed on the amount of gases it can release—the cap. Those who make investments to curb emissions under the cap can sell any extra allowances to those who can't make reductions as easily—the trade. The cap-and-trade tax being considered by Congress would sell allowances through an auction, essentially making all sources pay for any amount of carbon dioxide emitted.

#### PROS

- ⊕ If implemented well, provides an opportunity to find the most efficient ways to reduce emissions
- ⊕ Guaranteed environmental benefits

#### CONS

- ⊖ Financial speculators could ultimately determine the price of carbon, directly impacting electricity bills
- ⊖ Success of reducing emissions relies on technology that is currently limited, largely untested, and expensive
- ⊖ If used to generate additional federal revenue, essentially turns electric co-ops into government tax collectors

years to reduce emissions of acid rain-causing sulfur dioxide nationwide and over the last decade to curb smog-creating nitrogen oxides in the eastern half of the country. However, some cap-and-trade tax proposals for carbon dioxide contain a new twist: pricey allowances.

Allowances would be auctioned off at undetermined prices, leading to huge cost burdens for any source of carbon dioxide emissions. In the case of power plants, those costs would ultimately be passed on to consumers using the power, in some cases adding \$50 or more to electric bills each month. In late February, the Obama Administration pointed to such a system as a new, substantial source of revenue for the federal government—effectively muddying the initial environmental argument for regulating carbon dioxide.

Such a backdoor tax increase would force electric cooperatives to essentially become tax collectors for the federal government, and allow Wall Street investors to set allowance prices and determine how much you pay for electricity.

We need to help Congress draft an energy solution that accomplishes environmental goals while taking

affordability into account. But time may be tight: if Congress fails to act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stands ready to step in, leaving decisions that affect consumers' pocketbooks up to unelected bureaucrats.

Electric cooperatives want to work with Congress to address climate change in an affordable and environmentally responsible fashion. We're ready to provide insight into how various policy proposals will impact consumers, and urge lawmakers to reach the right answers.

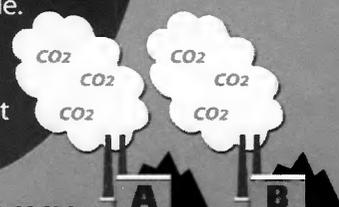
National energy and climate change policy must focus on reducing emissions, not on "revenue enhancement" for federal government. Money generated, through a cap-and-trade tax or otherwise, must be used wisely: devoted to developing related technology or returned to those who foot the bill. And Congress should take the lead on climate change, not regulators or Wall Street speculators.

In unity with 42 million other electric co-ops consumers around the country, urge your U.S. representative and senators to work with electric cooperatives to keep electric bills affordable. Get involved in this effort by participating in the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots campaign at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop).

## The Cap-and-Trade Tax

Cap-and-trade systems have been used to successfully control certain power plant emissions in the past; one may soon be applied to carbon dioxide. In its most basic form, the process begins when a limit is set on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> a source can emit over a given time. Allowances for emissions can be given for free or auctioned off; if auction prices aren't carefully regulated, high costs will be passed to consumers.

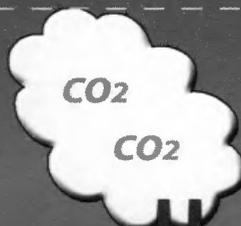
Plants A and B emit the same amount of carbon dioxide gas before the cap



After a cap is set, Plant A invests in technology to reduce its emissions; Plant B continues with business as usual...

### THE CAP

unused carbon dioxide allowance



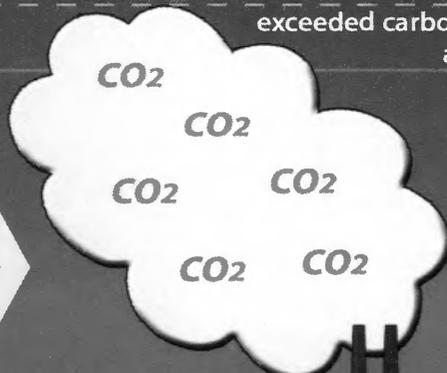
### THE TRADE

Plant A reduced emissions to below the capped level, and now has extra allowances that can be sold, or "traded" ...



...to Plant B, which was unable to reduce emissions. Technology options for doing so are limited and expensive, and perhaps decades away from prime time.

exceeded carbon dioxide allowance



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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Pages of recipes: 134

Send checks to: Donna Clausen,  
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or call 309-828-9954.

**Mexican Salsa (Above)**

- 2 cans black beans, drained
- 2 cans Southwestern corn with peppers, drained
- 1 sm. can diced tomatoes with cilantro and lime
- 1 sm. can diced tomatoes with onion
- 1 can sliced black olives, drained
- 1 sm. bottle zesty Italian salad dressing
- 1 can butter beans, opt.
- 1 C. cilantro, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate for one day before serving. Serve with tortilla chips or crusty bread.

**Mexican Salsa**

*Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner*

**7-Up Chili**

- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- 1-1/2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1-1/2 C. 7-Up
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 (10-1/2-oz.) cans chili beans
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 2 C. stewed tomatoes
- 1 can tomato soup

Brown onion and meat until meat is no longer pink. Add 7-Up and simmer for 10 minutes. Add all remaining ingredients except beans and simmer for 45 minutes. Add beans and juice and simmer 10 more minutes.

**Crockpot Chunky-Style Applesauce (Right)**

- 8-10 baking apples, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 C. water
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2-1 C. sugar or sugar substitute
- Cream

Place apples, water, cinnamon and sugar into a crockpot. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. Serve warm with cream.

**Honey Bun Cake**

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 yellow cake mix         | 1-1/4 C. water        |
| 3/4 C. oil                | 3/4 C. brown sugar    |
| 4 eggs                    | 3 tsp. cinnamon       |
| 1 (8-oz.) ctn. sour cream | 3/4 C. chopped pecans |

In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and cinnamon. Set aside. Combine cake mix, oil, eggs, sour cream and water in a large mixing bowl. Mix on medium speed until blended; beat on high for 2 minutes. Grease and flour a 9x13-inch pan. Pour 1/2 of the batter in the pan. Sprinkle cinnamon/brown sugar mixture on top. Pour rest of the batter on top. Sprinkle chopped pecans over top. Bake at 275° for about 50 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Serve warm.



## Baked Potato Salad

8 medium potatoes, diced  
1 C. Miracle Whip  
1/2 lb. Cheddar cheese, grated  
1 med. onion, diced  
Bacon bits

Preheat oven to 350°. Cook diced potatoes until barely tender. Stir in Miracle Whip, cheese and onion. Spoon into an 8x12-inch baking dish. Top with bacon bits. Bake for 1 hour.

## Fruit Slush - Freezer Salad

2 pkgs. frozen strawberries  
1 (16-oz.) ctn. orange juice concentrate, frozen  
4 cans water  
1 lg. can pineapple chunks, 30 seconds in lemon juice, drained  
6 bananas sliced, soaked 30 seconds in lemon juice, drained

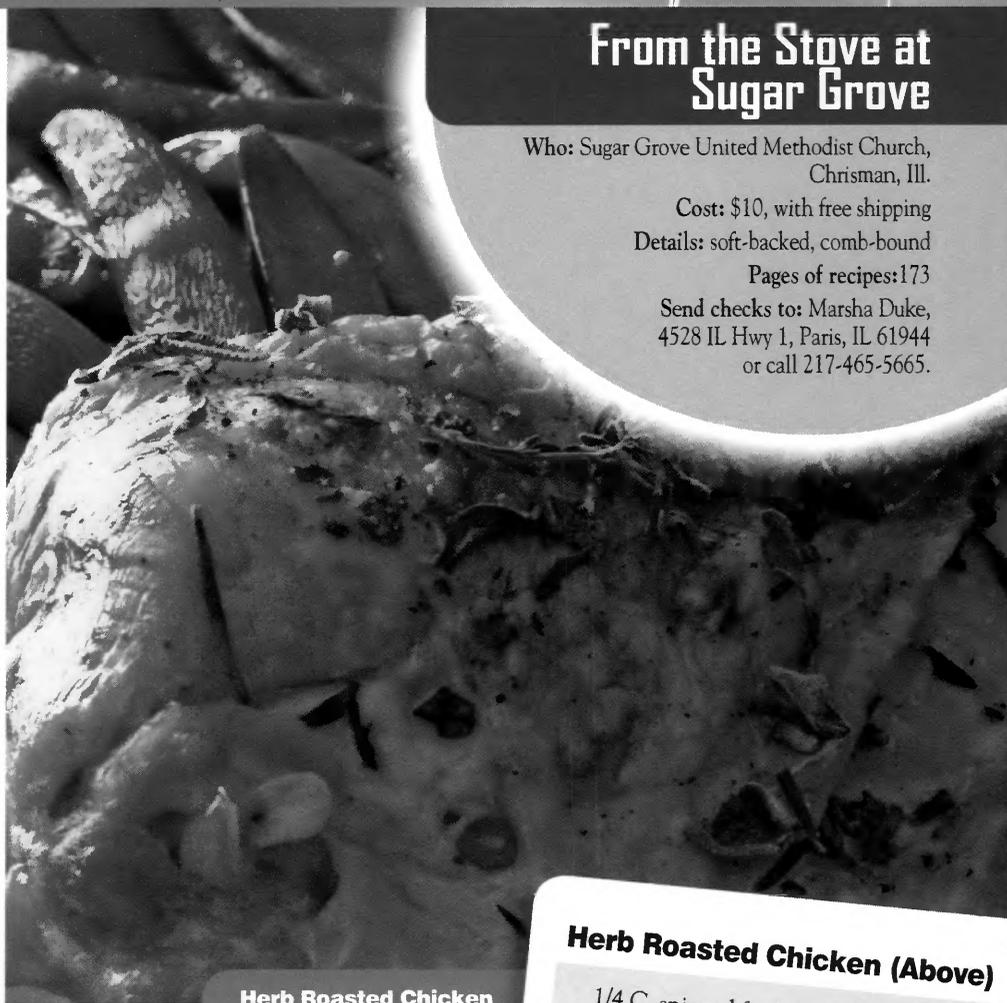
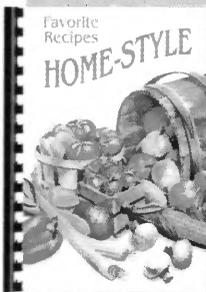
Mix all ingredients together and freeze. To serve, thaw to a slush state and serve. Will keep in the freezer for 2-3 months. Variation: May also add frozen peaches, melons or any other fruit you desire.

## Calling all cookbooks!

Is your church or community organization selling its own unique cookbook filled with favorite recipes of cooks in

your area? If so, send your cookbook to Catrina Wagner, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Please include the price

of your cookbook plus postage costs and the name, address and telephone numbers (both day and evening) of the cooperative member we should contact for more information.



Herb Roasted Chicken

## Herb Roasted Chicken (Above)

1/4 C. snipped fresh herbs or 4 tsp. dried (rosemary, sage and basil)  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1 (3 lb.) whole fryer chicken or 4 bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine herbs, salt and pepper. Rinse chicken and pat dry with paper towels. Loosen skin on chicken. Using your fingers carefully spread half the herb rub under the skin. Spread remaining herb rub on the outside of the chicken. Place chicken, breast side up, on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Roast uncovered for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink and juices run clear.

## Bean Dip

1-1/2 lbs. ground beef  
1 pkg. taco seasoning  
1 (10.5-oz.) can cream of mushroom soup  
1 (15-oz.) can refried beans  
3-4 jalapeno pepper slices  
1 (12-oz.) bag shredded Cheddar cheese  
Corn chips

In a skillet, brown ground beef and drain. Add taco seasoning to ground beef and mix well. Add mushroom soup and stir until heated thoroughly. Add refried beans and jalapeno slices. Heat well, stirring occasionally. Cover with Cheddar cheese. Turn off heat and cover until melted. Place in a serving dish. Serve with corn chips.

Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) to see an archive of past Illinois Country Living recipes.

# The Hidden Costs of TVs

by Niki Shutt

**H**ave you ever felt like something you purchased was priced too good to be true? Well, keep in mind that the 52-inch flat-panel plasma television you just bought on sale will actually cost you quite a bit more on your electricity bill than a standard tube TV. Some TVs use more electricity than others. Is yours energy efficient?

There are two types of popular TVs: liquid crystal display (LCD) and plasma. Most people have at least one cathode-ray tube (CRT) TV, which has been the standard for years. LCD and plasma screens are typically for living rooms or home theaters and can be up to 103 inches.

Americans are paying more for these new models, at the time of purchase and on electric bills. American televisions consume 47 billion kWh per year. That's 1 percent of the nation's entire energy production according to [EfficientProducts.org](http://EfficientProducts.org). Standard CRT TVs use about 300 kWh a year. That costs about \$25 annually per TV. Larger LCD TVs can cost about \$60, while plasma TVs could cost up to \$180 a year.

The main reason that plasmas cost the most is because they have bigger screens to power. CRT-based TVs are made of glass and can only support 36-inch or smaller screens.

The smallest plasma screens are 37 inches. Plasmas also need to light each and every pixel whereas LCDs do not project light into dark parts of images.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Director of Member Services, Bruce Barkau, says, "It's a personal preference more than anything," after speaking with a Panasonic representative at a local Best Buy. The representative told him plasmas are better for darker places without windows such as basements, while LCDs are more suited for brighter places due to reflection on the glass. When he asked about energy consumption, the representative said plasmas use more electricity while in use than LCDs but use less in off mode than LCD TVs.

So, what is the most energy efficient television? It varies, but a good indicator that a TV is more energy efficient is the ENERGY STAR label. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began labeling qualified TVs in 1998 by measuring the energy they used in off-mode. Recently, they outlined requirements in the active mode as well. TVs that qualify for Energy Star are at least 30 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Since energy consumption is measured while the TV is on, a

smaller screen (less than 40 inches) LCD TV is the way to go. Small LCDs are actually more efficient than a CRT-based TV. LCDs are also expected to drop in price in the near future according to market researcher DisplaySearch.

Want a BIG screen TV (50 inches or more)? In terms of energy consumption, the only real winner is a light emitting diode (LED) TV. It's relatively new technology and can consume half the electricity of an LCD or plasma TV of the same size. LED TVs can also be about \$2,000 cheaper than LCDs or plasmas of the same size depending on the features.

Plasmas seem to be the biggest energy waster, but even if you want to buy, or already have a huge plasma screen, there are a few ways to reduce your bill and conserve energy according to the United States Department of Energy:

TVs straight out of the box are usually set at the brightest picture for better quality. Turning the brightness down on your TV will save electricity.

Plug your TV and other electronics into a power strip that can be turned off easily. Did you know that TVs also use electricity even in standby mode? They need the extra energy so they can turn on instantly. CRT TVs use only a small fraction of energy in off mode compared to LCD and plasma TVs.

Limit the amount of TVs in your house or unplug the TVs you aren't using. Extra TVs waste more energy. You really don't need a TV in the bathroom, do you?

When you upgrade your TV, buy an ENERGY STAR labeled TV and sell your old one. Don't keep it in another room to waste electricity.

Reduce the amount of TV you watch and video games you play. According to the National Resources Defense Council, video gamers waste \$100 a year by leaving video game systems on while not in use. Your kids can go without 12 hours of Spongebob and Mario Kart a day. Send them outside to play. It saves energy and promotes better health.

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- 1) Type or print ad neatly.
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- 3) Prepayment is required. Include check or money order with ad for amount due. Also include address label from Illinois Country Living or other proof of Illinois electric cooperative membership. Only members of Illinois electric cooperatives may place Marketplace ads.
- 4) Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708, by deadline.

Deadlines: July issue – May 20;  
August issue – June 22.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement. Ads postmarked after the deadline will be placed in the next available issue.

# Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Graphic Services

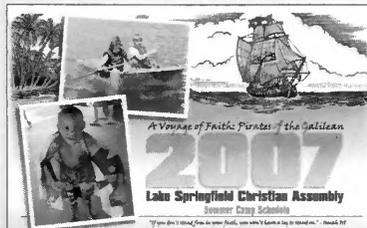
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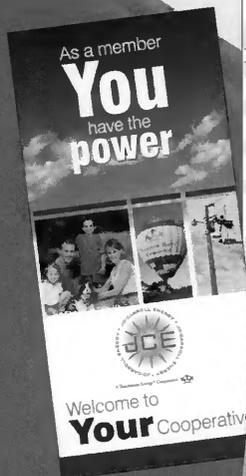
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First Chance 2	Aug 3-4	2nd & 3rd Grades	Jakobite	\$ 90.00
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Traitlazer 1	June 15-13	3rd & 4th Grades	Miller	\$142.00
Traitlazer 2	Aug 5-8	3rd & 4th Grades	Ferguson	\$142.00
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Junior 1	July 15-19	5th & 6th Grades	Patna/Pattie	\$182.00
Junior 2	July 29 - Aug 2	5th & 6th Grades	Schroeder	\$182.00
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	June 24-26	5th & 6th Grades	Reynolds/Wright	\$ 90.00
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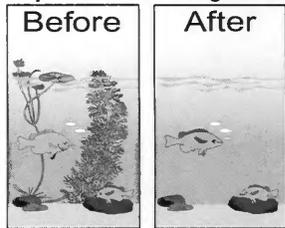


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**3, 10, 17, and 24, Village Market** in Downs. 4 – 6 p.m. Purchase locally grown produce, fresh baked goods, honey, plants and flowers. Shop crafts and handmade items. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions. 309-378-4294 or [marketmaster610@gmail.com](mailto:marketmaster610@gmail.com).

**5-7, The 43rd Annual Virginia Bar-B-Que** on the square in Virginia. Enjoy a carnival, games, food, entertainment, a flea market, crafts, antiques and raffles. Booth spaces available. [www.virginiabbq.net](http://www.virginiabbq.net) or 217/473-1725.

**6, The Fourth Annual CAMA Teen Bike Rally** in Paris. Riders of all skill levels are welcomed. Rest areas, sag support, maps, t-shirts and lunch are included in the registration. [www.cama-coalition.org](http://www.cama-coalition.org) or 217-465-4118 ext 253.

**6-7, International Horseradish Festival** at Woodland Park, Collinsville, Ill. The Horseradish Festival features free entertainment, food booths, craft fair, horseradish cooking contest, Little Miss Horseradish pageant, children's games and the annual root derby. 618-344-2884 or [www.horseradishfestival.com](http://www.horseradishfestival.com)

**6-7, Intertribal Pow Wow** at the Grand Village of the Kickapoo Park in LeRoy. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Enjoy dancing, handmade jewelry, children's activities, food and more. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 6 years and older and elders, free for kids younger than 6 years old. 309376-3400 or 309-275-6105.

**13, Garden Walk** in Effingham. Tour five beautiful gardens. 217-868-5159 or 217-342-3382.

**13, Community garage sales** at Apple Canyon Lake near Galena. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. [www.applecanyonlake.org](http://www.applecanyonlake.org) or 815-492-2238.

**13, Collector's Caravan** on the Pinckneyville Square around the historic courthouse. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Enjoy antiques, collectibles, a flea market, crafts and food vendors. Free. 618-357-3243.



**11-14, Superman Celebration** in Metropolis. Come see a 15-foot Superman statue and the Super Museum. Meet Josh Boultinghouse, our Superman, and celebrities from TV's Smallville and from movies. At Artist Alley you can meet comic book artists and writers, enter a superhero art show, a fan film contest and participate in a movie night. Enjoy an adult costume contest, children's contests, a car show, a bike ride, a road race, free music every night, a carnival and much more. 1-800-949-5740 or [supermancelebration.net](http://supermancelebration.net).

**For more datebook visit our Web site, [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)**

**13, Secret Gardens** of Menard County throughout Menard County. Enjoy a garden tour from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$15 and \$20 on the day of the event. Ticket price includes lunch at the Plaid Rooster. 217-632-7928.

**13, Donnybrook** in the Park at White Park in Hanover. An Irish music festival featuring live entertainment throughout the night, Irish dancers, BBQ, shopping, boat rides and fun. 815-591-3446, 815-591-9963 or [www.irishparty.net](http://www.irishparty.net).

**13, The 41st Annual Old Market Day – Skills From the Hills** in Galena. Ladies in period costume will offer produce, homemade baked goods and Rada Cutlery for sale. You can also see heritage skills demonstrations and buy some handmade craft items. 815-858-3392.

**13-14, Happy Birthday Miller Park Zoo** in Bloomington. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Help the zoo celebrate its 118th birthday! Visitors will enjoy Papa Murphy's pizza slices, birthday cake, carousel rides, games, face painting, up close animal encounters and more, all free with a regularly paid zoo admission [www.millerparkzoo.org](http://www.millerparkzoo.org) or 309-434-2250.

**5-7, The 22nd Annual Brocton Springfest and Draft Horse Show** in Brocton. Enjoy a parade, a kid's tractor pull, a draft horse show, a fish fry, games, entertainment and more. 217-385-2450 or [www.broctonil.org](http://www.broctonil.org).



**19-20, The 13th Annual Glorious Garden Festival Garden Walk** in Bloomington-Normal. Friday: 1 – 8 p.m. and Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Enjoy a community garden walk through eight private gardens. This year's event offers a variety of unique and unusual gardens, including those with waterfalls and spectacular hardscapes. Special features include complimentary tea and refreshments on the David Davis Mansion grounds and tours through the Davis family's 1870s heirloom garden — still in its original location. \$12 for adults; \$7 for children in advance or \$15 for adults; \$7 for children on the event weekend. 309/828-1084.



**20, The Illinois Symphony Guild's "Outdoor Living Space"** in Springfield. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. A garden event with an emphasis on family and fun games for children. Refreshments provided. Tickets are \$12. 217-546-5563.

**19-21, The Seventh Annual Great Galena Balloon Race** at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa in Galena. More than 20 hot air balloons, three races, a night glow extravaganza, a car show, live music, activities for the whole family, and a Friday night Alefest. 800-892-2269 or [www.greatgalenaballoonrace.com](http://www.greatgalenaballoonrace.com).

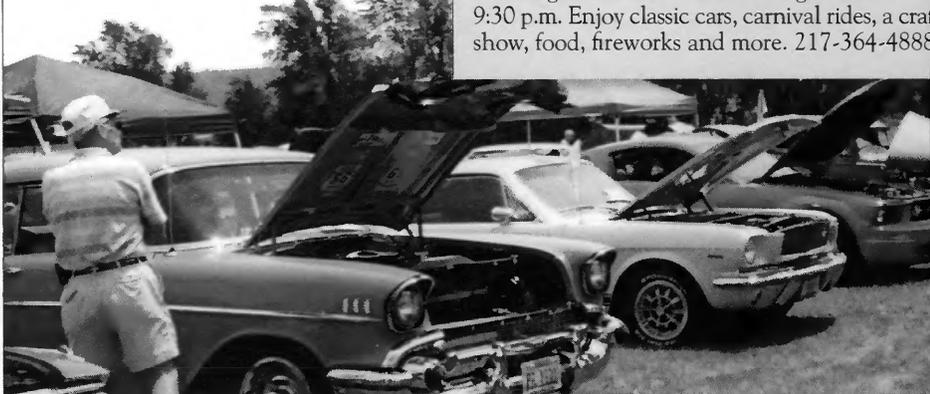
**20, Parisienne Garden Walk and Arts Faire** in the Park at Methodist Park in Paris. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$5. 217-466-4215.

**20 - 21, The 1900 America Chautauqua** at Midway Village Museum in Rockford. Experience non-stop live entertainment from the year 1900 at this national award-winning event. Thrill to demonstrations of sharp shooting and trick riding at Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows featuring Annie Oakley, meet Teddy Roosevelt, take in a melodrama, rediscover toys and games from 100 years ago and enjoy music, history and famous people from the turn-of-the-20th Century. 815-397-9112 or [www.midwayvillage.com](http://www.midwayvillage.com).

**20, Casey's Circus on the Road Costume and Pet Parade** in Casey. 10 a.m. Based on the train wreck in September 1941 when several circus animals escaped in Casey, this will feature a Pet Costume contest, Corn Hole tournament, Circus games, Big Top Market, Pancake Breakfast and much more. [dramsey@mchsi.com](mailto:dramsey@mchsi.com), [caseyantiques@joink.com](mailto:caseyantiques@joink.com) or 217-932-9229.

**26-27, Village of Woodson's 150th Anniversary** in Woodson. Enjoy music, a queen, princess and prince pageant, a quilt show, an antique car show, a semi-truck show and fireworks on Friday night. Saturday will begin with a parade, followed by various games for children through adults. Food will be available throughout. 217-673-5551.

**27, Garden Walk and Festival** at Redbud Creek Farm in Sheridan. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit nine gardens, shop for art, crafts and antiques, and enjoy live music. Lunch is available. Designated gardens have children's activities. Advance tickets: \$5; Day of Walk: \$6; Children free. 815-496-2169 or [www.redbudcreekfarm.com](http://www.redbudcreekfarm.com).



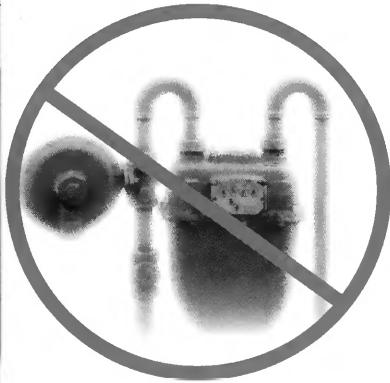
**26-28, The Sixth Annual Midsummer Arts Faire** at Washington Park in Quincy. A fine art sale featuring 50 artists, local entertainment, the "Taste of Quincy" food court and free children's activities. Friday 5 – 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free. 217-257-0721 or [www.artsfaire.org](http://www.artsfaire.org).

**28, Old Fashioned Independence Day Celebration** at Midtown Marina in East Dubuque. Enjoy a parade on Sinsinawa Avenue at 1 p.m., followed by an antique car show, live music all day, rides, games for all ages and more. Dinner begins at 4 p.m. and is \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids. Make sure to stay for a huge fireworks show at dusk. Free. 815-747-6860.

**27, The Fourth Annual Car Show** at Village Park in Mechanicsburg. 9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Enjoy classic cars, carnival rides, a craft show, food, fireworks and more. 217-364-4888.

To be considered for inclusion, please submit events in the format used above. Preference is given to events sponsored by non-profit entities. Submitting an event is not a guarantee of publication. Photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless a self-addressed and stamped envelope is provided. Events are subject to change, so please contact the event sponsor for confirmation.

**Deadline:** May 15 for August Events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. **E-mail to:** [cwagner@aiec.coop](mailto:cwagner@aiec.coop)



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