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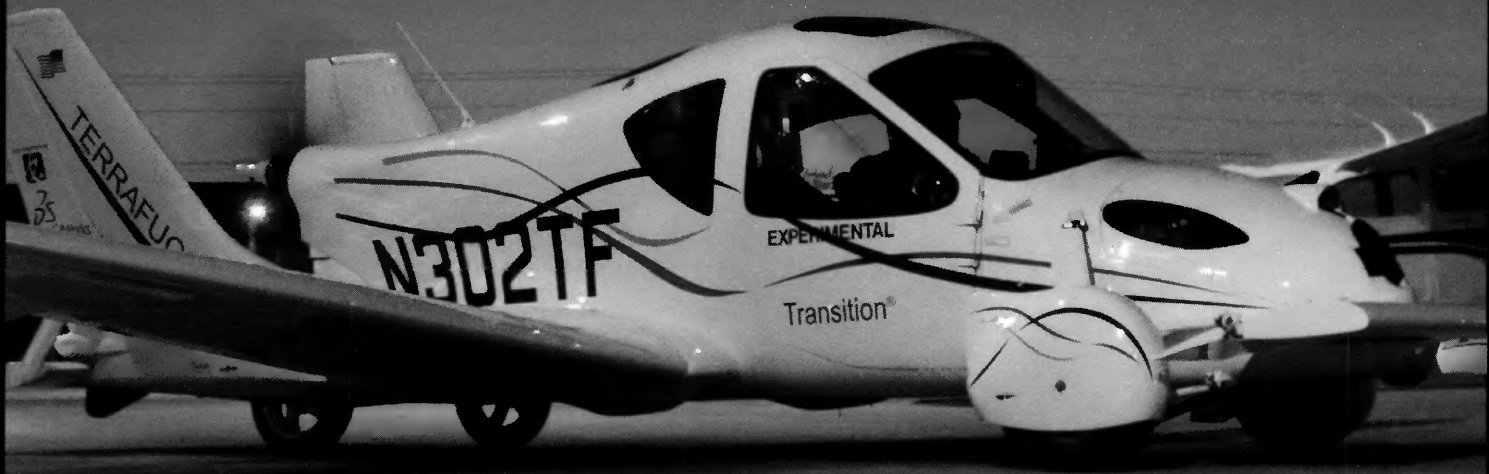
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## COUNTRY LIVING

July 2009

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Terrafugia Transition brings literal meaning to an old adage



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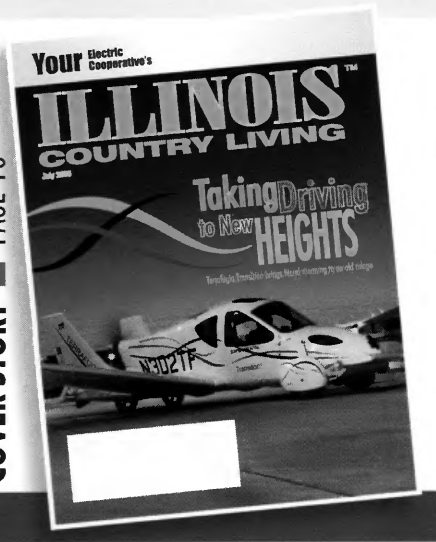
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**TAKING DRIVING TO NEW HEIGHTS**

It's a bird, it's a plane...it's a car? In 2005, five MIT graduates formed a company called Terrafugia. That team went on to invent the first ever flying car, which will be available in 2011.

**ILLINOIS<sup>TM</sup>  
COUNTRY LIVING**

Volume 67, No. 3, July 2009

**COMMENTARY . . . . . 4**

Rep. Jerry Costello says with research and development coal is the answer, not the problem.

**CURRENTS . . . . . 6**

Geothermal grants are available for co-op served schools. Find out how your school can apply.

**SAFETY & HEALTH . . . . . 14**

Shawn Miller came in contact with electricity and lost his arm while hanging Christmas lights. Read his story.

**YARD & GARDEN . . . . . 16**

Learn how to mix the right soil recipe for your garden.

**CELEBRATING MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF FARM  
PROGRESS SHOW SUCCESS . . . . . 17**

**ENERGY SOLUTIONS. . . . . 18**

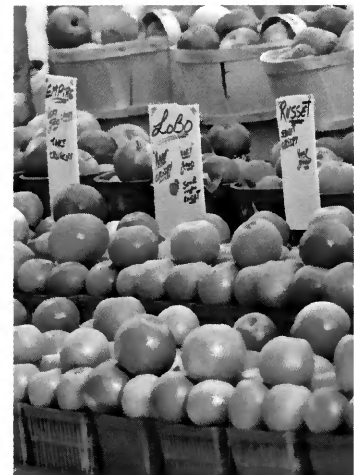
Who is Doug Rye and how did he become the expert on energy efficiency? Read more to find out.

**ALPACAS - LITTLE ANIMALS WITH BIG POTENTIAL . . 20**

**BLOCKING THE ELEMENTS . . . . . 24**

**MARKETPLACE. . . . . 26**

**FINEST COOKING . . . . 22      DATEBOOK . . . . . 30**



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# Coal is the Answer, Not the Problem

*House cap and trade proposal on track to repeat mistakes*

It's been said that those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it, and I believe that sentiment gets to the heart of the current debate over "cap and trade" energy legislation being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives. While this legislation has laudable goals and the best of intentions, it will have major ramifications for both the U.S. economy and our regional economy.

I am reminded of a similar debate. In 1990, the U.S. Congress began consideration of legislation to amend the Clean Air Act. The bill aimed to reduce three major categories of pollution: acid rain, urban air pollution and toxic air emissions. While supporting the goals of the bill, I and others from congressional districts with a large coal presence, worked to make the changes in the bill less dramatic for the coal industry.

Regrettably, our views did not carry the day, and the bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate. I was one of only 25 House members to vote against the final bill. As it turned out, our concerns were well-founded. Coal mines closed across Southwestern and Southern Illinois, more than 6,700 miners lost their jobs and the economy of our entire region took an enormous hit.

It's important to note that I do believe global warming is occurring and that manmade sources of emissions are contributing to the problem. The question is how are we going to address this problem? During my tenure in Congress, I have worked to fund the research and development (R&D) of clean coal technologies that have allowed us to burn coal more cleanly, helping to significantly

reduce air pollution over the last 30 years. In addition, I have supported increased funding for the R&D of renewable fuel sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and bio-mass.

However, renewable fuels account for less than 10 percent of current U.S. electricity production, while coal accounts for roughly 50 percent. It's an acknowledged fact that for the foreseeable future, we do not have a substitute energy source for coal. It's abundant and

inexpensive, providing the reliable, low-cost energy that sustains our economy. The key to any national energy plan is to allow the continued use of coal, burned as cleanly as possible, while further research allows for the greater use of renewable energy and other new technologies.

I am not convinced the current cap and trade bill would allow this to happen. For instance, a key element of the bill is the provision of emission allowances. To ensure the future viability of coal, allowances should be provided free or at a reduced cost to coal-dependent utilities while technology is being developed – particularly carbon capture and sequestration – to meet emissions limits. If this period of time is too short, utilities would be forced to fuel switch or pass along enormous cost increases to ratepayers. Both of these scenarios would have significant economic impacts. An analysis of the bill by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association shows that co-ops in Southern Illinois would fare worse than any district in the country in terms of emission allowances! For this and other reasons, I cannot support this bill.

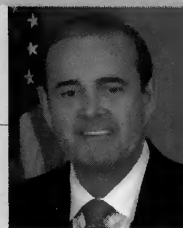
Just as in 1990, I believe we should be able to draft a bill that achieves important policy goals while attracting broad support. The legislation would have to be more realistic as to how soon we will be able to move away from coal for significant electricity production. Given the state of the economy, no one should be in a hurry to add further pain to consumers. At the same time, a recent court decision has made it clear that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the authority to regulate carbon emissions, and it's widely assumed that any EPA action on this front will be harsher than legislation.

As we move forward on redefining our national energy policy, I hope we take the opportunity to learn from our past and protect the livelihoods of American families as we protect the environment. Coal and clean coal technologies are the keys to getting us there. ■

**However, renewable fuels account for less than 10 percent of current U.S. electricity production, while coal accounts for roughly 50 percent.**

**U.S. Congressman Jerry F. Costello (D-IL) serves on several Congressional Committees including the Energy and Environment Subcommittee.**

*The opinions and views of guest commentators are their own and may not represent those of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or the electric co-ops of Illinois.*



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## Nuclear Energy's Answer Has Some Problems

Even many environmentalists have decided that we need more nuclear power plants to meet the growing demand for energy and lower carbon dioxide levels. The cost of the proposed carbon tax now before Congress will not impact nuclear power generation. Nuclear power, however, still has incredible challenges to overcome.

The Edison Electric Institute says energy demand in this country will increase by 30 percent by 2030. To meet that challenge and avoid brownouts and blackouts we need to build 100 new nuclear power plants over the next 20 years. The cost? At least \$700 billion, probably more.

Unfortunately, many nuclear projects become black

holes where cost overruns and delays are normal. In Finland, for example, a nuclear project rose from an estimated \$4.2 billion to \$8 billion and it is still not online.

Unfortunately, the time it takes to build a nuclear plant has doubled from five years to 10 years and half of the 45 nuclear plants under construction worldwide have been delayed.

Investors are concerned that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission could mire the licensing process in red tape. And the not-in-my-backyard problem could bog down the process in the courts for years



making the nuclear option cost prohibitive.

"Climate change may be the inconvenient problem, but nuclear power is the inconvenient answer," said Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) in a speech before the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. "Right now there are 17 proposals for 26 new reactors in licensing hearings before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That's a start. But I think we need to go well beyond that." ■

## Federal Assistance Requested for Storm Damaged Southern Illinois Counties

Governor Pat Quinn in June requested federal assistance to help people, businesses, local governments and electrical cooperatives recover from a devastating storm that hit parts of southern Illinois on May 8. The storm uprooted thousands of trees, causing widespread power outages and blocking countless roads and highways. At least 260 homes in a five-county area were destroyed or suffered major damage, and storm-related costs to state and local governments and electrical cooperatives are expected to top \$26 million.

"After seeing the devastation myself and reviewing the documentation compiled by our assessment teams, it's obvious that federal assistance is needed to help these communities recover," Gov. Quinn said. "I'm urging President Obama to act quickly on this request to speed the recovery process."

In a letter to President Obama, Gov. Quinn requested federal assistance for local governments

in Franklin, Gallatin, Jackson, Randolph, Saline and Williamson counties. If approved, local

government bodies in those counties could receive reimbursement for 75 percent of their extraordinary storm-related expenses, including overtime costs and repair or replacement of storm-damaged public property.

The assessments showed that at least 69 residences were destroyed

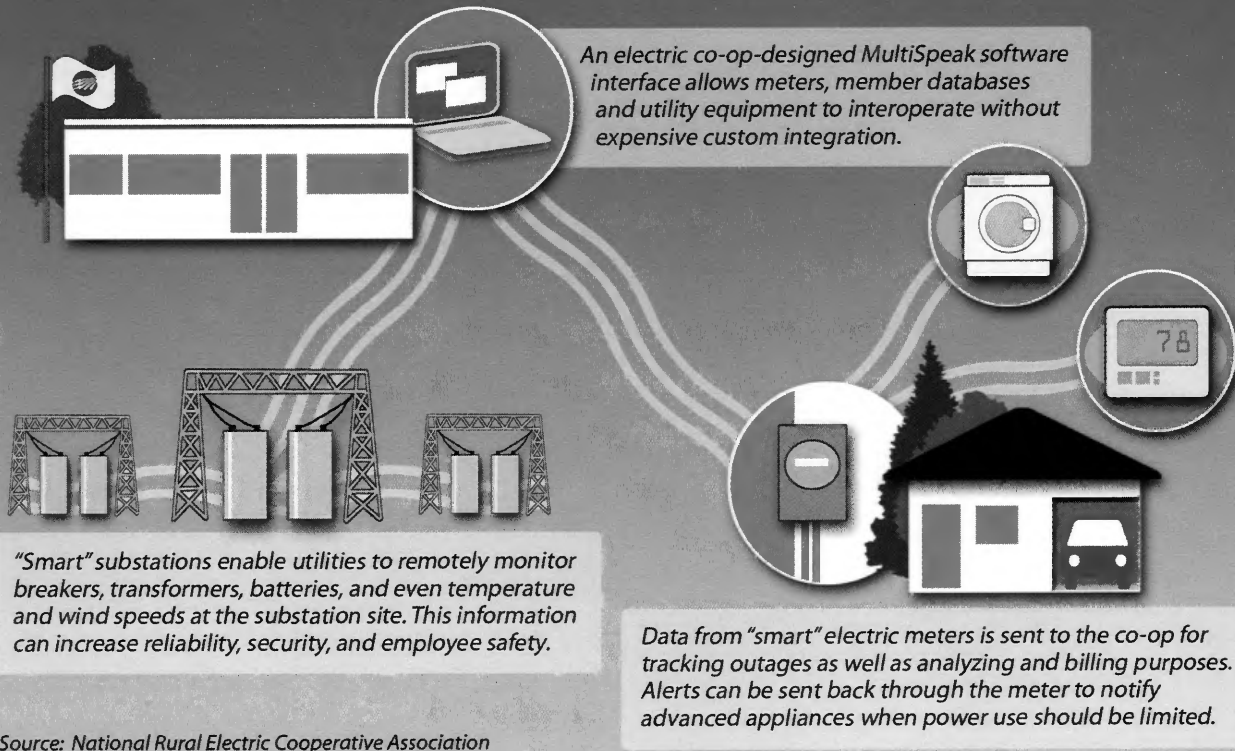
and another 191 were uninhabitable without major repairs. In addition, the cost to local governments, the electric cooperatives and state agencies for emergency response, debris removal and the repair or replacement of property is estimated to exceed \$26 million.

"The number of trees and power lines brought down by this storm was unbelievable," said IEMA Director Andrew Velasquez III. "The State of Illinois is continuing to help with the massive cleanup effort so that life in these communities can return to normal as quickly as possible." ■



## The Smart Grid

By enabling both new and existing electric grid components to communicate with each other, electric cooperatives can better monitor conditions, collect information, and remotely control devices over a distribution network. Often called the *Smart Grid*, this system can use various technologies, as shown here.



## Beware of Counterfeit Electrical Products

A "fake" purse or watch may make you angry, but they don't carry the risk of injury or death. On the other hand, counterfeit electrical products can be dangerous. Counterfeit circuit breakers, power strips, extension cords, batteries and holiday lights can cause fires, explosions, shocks and electrocutions.

In recent years, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled more than 1 million counterfeit electrical products, including circuit breakers that did not trip when overloaded, cell phone batteries without a safety device in the circuitry to prevent overcharging and extension cords with mislabeled, undersized wiring that overheated.

Counterfeits can be extremely difficult to spot. They could be a knock-off of a name-brand product, or bear an unauthorized certification marking. Here are some tips to protect you from the dangers of counterfeit electrical products:

- Scrutinize the product, packaging and labeling. Look for certification marks from the manufacturer and an independent testing laboratory — such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or the Canadian Standards

Association (CSA). Trademarked logos that look different than usual may signal a counterfeit.

- If the price is "too good to be true," it could be because the product is inferior and unsafe.
- Be careful when buying from an unknown source, such as a street vendor. Use established stores who purchase their goods from legitimate distributors and genuine manufacturers.
- Check the warning label. It should be free of grammatical errors and not conflict with information elsewhere on the package.
- Avoid no-name products.
- Look for the name and contact information of the manufacturer. If you find the information missing, consider purchasing electrical products elsewhere.

Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) ■



## Flooding Disaster Creates Home Improvement Opportunity

A recently completed remodeling project in Munster, Ind. is the first home remodel to earn certification under the National Green Building Standard, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) announced in May.

The 1,100-square-foot ranch home built in 1974 was renovated by Lyng Builders, a Franklin, Ill., custom home building and remodeling company, after floodwaters filled the basement as well as two feet of the first floor.

Working within a tight budget to repair substantial structural damage, Lyng Builders also persuaded the homeowner to make improvements that can help save on utility bills by decreasing energy and water consumption and to obtain national green certification through the NAHB Research Center, which trains and accredits third-party inspectors.

Lyng Builders upgraded the heating and cooling



system, installed a high-efficiency water heater, selected Energy Star®-rated appliances, added wall and pipe insulation and thoroughly sealed the home against air and energy leaks to produce an estimated 49 percent decrease in energy consumption from the pre-remodeled home.

Homeowner Steve Holcomb can also take advantage of additional savings with the federal energy-efficiency tax credit for products used in the renovation.

Approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

in January, the ICC-700-2008 National Green Building Standard sets benchmarks and a verification protocol for single-family homes, apartments and condominiums, remodeling, lot and site development and all kinds of residential construction.

Learn more about green remodeling from NAHB Remodelers at [www.nahb.org/remodel](http://www.nahb.org/remodel). ■

## Geothermal Grants Available for Co-op Served Schools

Grant funding totaling \$250,000 is now available for schools served by Illinois co-ops for geothermal heat pump installations. The grants are available through the GeoAlliance, a partnership between the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield and

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) in Chicago.

The GeoAlliance grant program was developed in 2003 to encourage the use of clean and efficient geothermal systems to heat and cool facilities that are served by the Illinois electric cooperatives. Since its inception,

GeoAlliance has provided \$1 million in grant funding.

Nancy Nixon, Marketing Administrator for the AIEC, says, "Geothermal heat pumps are the ideal green heating and cooling systems. They use the earth's natural energy and that's why they are so efficient and so inexpensive to operate. Geothermal systems are considered the most energy efficient available today, reducing heating and cooling bills by as much as 70 percent."

Grant criteria and applications can now be downloaded from the AIEC Web site at [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop). Eligible projects must be a minimum of 10 tons and served by an electric cooperative. Grants are capped at \$50,000 each, and are awarded for one-third of the incremental difference between the cost of a geothermal system and a traditional heating and air conditioning system.

Please contact Nancy Nixon, Marketing Administrator at the AIEC, for more information by phone at 217-241-7954, or by e-mail at [nnixon@aiec.coop](mailto:nnixon@aiec.coop). ■



One of the 38 geothermal projects funded by GeoAlliance was a 47-ton system installed in Lake Land College's fitness center. From left, Mike Kasdorf, Director of Facilities Planning, Lake Land College, discusses the college's geothermal system with Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Christman, front right, and Coles-Moultrie Marketing Services Specialist Dennis Ray.





*O say, does that star spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

Yes, our flag does continue to wave thanks to the men and women of the armed forces serving here and abroad to ensure the freedom of all Americans every day. Freedom is a privilege, not a right, so remember the sacrifices these brave men and women have made to keep our country safe for the next generation of patriots.

*Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives wish you a safe and happy Independence Day*



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*The power of human connections*

# Taking Driving to New HEIGHTS

Terrafugia Transition brings literal meaning to an old adage

by: Niki Shutt



Look up in the sky! It's a car! It's a plane! It's ... Dave coming home from a board meeting in Tulsa?

That's right, Jetsons fans, there is such a thing as a flying car. Well, it's more of a driving airplane according to the Terrafugia team. The Transition is a two-seater light aircraft you can drive home from the airport. It has a steering wheel and gas and brake pedals for driving, and it has a control stick, rudder pedals, and a throttle for flying. The wings fold up automatically in about 30 seconds going from a 27-foot wing span to just over 6-feet wide to be street legal, making it look like a grasshopper version of a Volkswagen Beetle.

You won't be able to escape traffic by spreading your wings on the highway, but you will be able to take off from your nearest airport, fly 10,000 feet above the ground and land 400 miles away.

The Transition requires at least a sport pilot license to operate. A sport pilot license is easier to get because it requires only 20 hours of flying time. There will be Transition-specific courses offered as soon as it is released. Once you get to the airport you must also follow protocol by checking in with air traffic control, and you must also do a standard pre-flight check of all equipment.

So it's a plane, right? Yes, but

it's also a car. It's small enough to park in an average garage or parking space. You can fill up the fuel tank with premium gasoline at any gas station. If you're flying and the weather turns bad, you can simply land and continue your journey on the road. It's not meant to replace your car, though. The Transition is best for trips over 100 miles. It's meant for pilots or wannabe pilots who do not want to rent hangar space or pay for taxi service to their destinations. The Transition is also quite energy efficient. On the ground it gets 30-35 mpg, and in the air it gets about 27 mpg at 115 mph.

It has many double features to follow both automobile and avia-

tion laws. In case of an emergency in flight, there is a full vehicle parachute available. There are also standard automobile crash safety features. It has an N-number printed on the tail which is required of every aircraft. An N-number is similar to a license plate for a car. It also has the first actual airplane license plate for street use. It has an A where you would usually find the classification for any other vehicle.

It's a very small vehicle, but don't think it only has room for you, a friend and a briefcase. The cargo area is big enough to hold skis, golf clubs or fishing poles. Instead of fishing in the little lake in your town, you could hop over to the next state for the day where there is prime fishing.

The estimated cost of a Transition is \$194,000, so it's safe to assume that the sky won't be crowded with Joe Schmoes who are texting and trying to eat a cheeseburger while attempting to drive with their feet. A Transition can be reserved online for a fully refundable deposit of \$10,000. The first customer delivery is expected to be in 2011.

The minds behind the design are five Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduates who call their

company Terrafugia from the latin "to escape from land." One of the engineers is Dr. Samuel Schweighart originally of Paxton, Ill. He also attended the University of Illinois. His father is Alan Schweighart, manager of operations and engineering at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

"He was always interested in doing things with adults more than playing with other kids," Alan says of his son. "His grandmothers would play advanced board games and card games in which he would have to win without them going easy on him."

When Sam told his father that he was thinking of building a flying car, his first reaction was "What are you thinking?" He knew what his son had accomplished and worried that he was leaving all of it behind.

"He had received his PhD from MIT and was working at a Engineering firm in Boston, making really good money, and I could not believe he was going to give that up. But, he

was young and really wanted to make his mark in the world with something new and bold."

The original idea for the flying car belonged to Terrafugia CEO and spokesman, Carl Deitrich. "I've got to give him credit," Sam says. "He approached me about it in 2004 or 2005. Initially, I thought what anyone would have thought, that he was crazy, but after he explained the idea, and the business case, I saw he had a great idea."

First reactions to the Transition have been varied. Terrafugia gets many e-mails from excited potential customers and even from nay-sayers who believe the Transition will not fly. The nay-sayers were proven wrong on March 5, 2009 when the Transition finally lifted its wheels from the runway into the skyway.

"It was amazing," Sam says. "After a few years of working toward a single goal, it was so rewarding to succeed. Of course, that was only

*The 2009 Terrafugia Team including (bottom left to right) Carl Dietrich, CEO/CTO; Anna Dietrich, COO; Samuel Schweighart, VP Engineering; Col. (ret) Phil Meteer, Test Pilot. Schweighart is the son of Alan Schweighart, manager of operations and engineering at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative*



one step of many. Right now we are continuing flight testing, but at the same time, we are already making the design modifications for the next prototype. Nothing stands still here.”

They are a very busy team of 10 people working 50 or 60 hours a week according to Sam. “Being a small, focused team, we are able to accomplish some amazing things in such a short period of time.”

Terrafugia’s timeline is filled with accomplishments from the first test drive to test flight and even some of the beginning stages were exciting. “When we pulled the first piece of the fuselage out of the mold, it was the first time we were able to sit in the vehicle, and at that point I realized it was real,” Sam says.

Sam had originally wanted to be an astronaut on the first mission to Mars. He would still love the chance to go to space but wouldn’t trade his engineering job for anything else. “If you like/love to design and build things, engineering is the

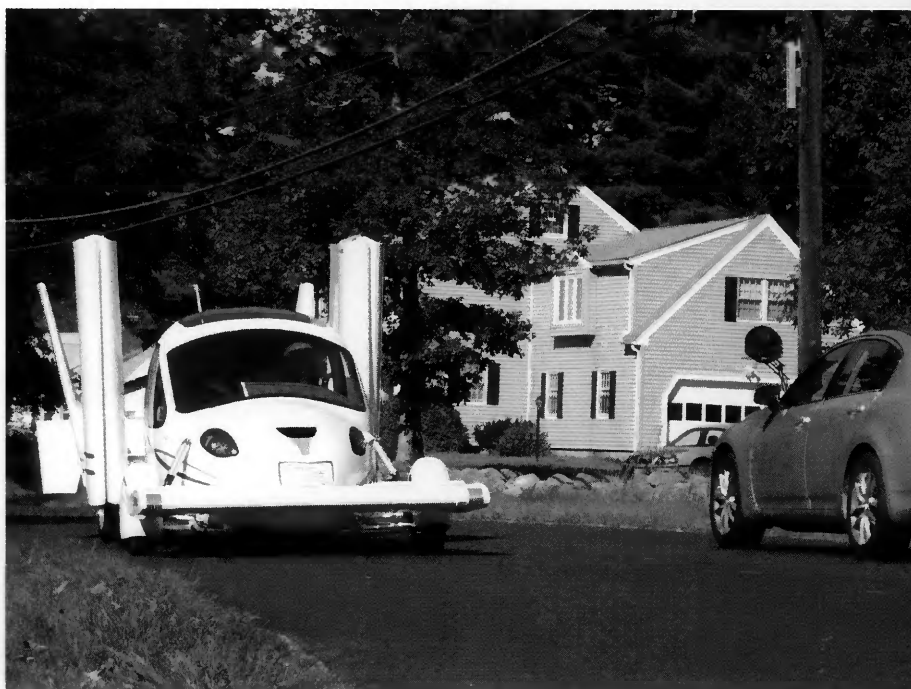
place; whether it is mechanical, aerospace, bio, chemical, nuclear or civil engineering,” Sam says. “I highly recommend it. If you’re interested in becoming an engineer, study up on your math and science, and get out there and start designing and building things right now.”

Dr. Samuel Schweighart may be the Co-Founder and Vice President of Engineering at Terrafugia, Inc., but he will always be a country boy from Illinois who loves to fly recreationally and hang glide.

“Hi to all my friends and family back in Paxton.” ■

Want to see the Transition for yourself? Take a day trip up to Oshkosh, Wis. for the Airventure aviation celebration July 27 through Aug. 2. The Terrafugia team and their roadable airplane will be one of the attractions for the fourth year in a row. Tickets for non-EAA members are \$36 a day for adults, \$19 for students ages 6 to 18, and kids 5 and younger are free. Check out [Airventure.org](http://Airventure.org) for more details.

Until they become more popular, Transitions may cause neck pain from jerking double-takes.



**The Chevy Volt**

The 2011 Chevrolet Volt is a new plug in hybrid that has a 40 mile range on electric alone. That’s right, not a drop of gas is used if it’s driven less than 40 miles a day. The average person only drives 30 miles in a day. After it runs out of electrical power, it switches to gasoline. It can run on regular gasoline or E85. It still gets 150 mpg after 60 miles according to the Web site. At 80 miles it dips to 100 mpg which is definitely better than the stock Prius.

The Volt will probably cost \$40,000 with about \$10,000 of that going toward the lithium-ion battery.



**The Apera**

## Update

Six months after the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) joined with Prairie Power to add a lithium-ion battery to a 2007 Toyota Prius, the results they have found so far aren't as amazing as first thought, but it's still a big step in the right direction. A plug-in hybrid (PHEV) has been said to get 100 mpg. This is true, but only under certain driving conditions.

"Eighty mpg is easily attainable. It's automatic just driving around town," John Freitag, Vice President of Operations at AIEC, says. "To get 100 mpg you really have to watch your foot on the peddle."

The plug-in hybrid works the best at city speeds where the gas engine doesn't need to turn on. A stock Prius turns on the engine at 33 mph, while the PHEV starts the engine at about 40 mph. The engine will also turn on to produce more horsepower when the car is quickly accelerated. To maximize the benefits of a hybrid, the driver's driving style needs to be altered. The PHEV will give you a live update of your efficiency as you are driving on a screen. This can serve as a training tool of what to do and what not to do to achieve that 100 mpg goal. Research is being conducted on driving styles; however it is more anecdotal than scientific so far.

AIEC mainly uses the Prius to



drive out of town to some of the cooperatives' headquarters for annual meetings. On the highway the PHEV gets about 48 mpg which is about the same as a normal Prius. The PHEV is more efficient when it's driven in the city. That is where you can really see big numbers on your console screen.

Another factor that limits the efficiency of the PHEV is the weather. In the winter or anytime the battery is too cold, the gas engine will turn on to heat up the catalytic converter in the battery regardless of the charge. Using the air conditioner or heater in excess during the hot summer or freezing winter will use up valuable battery power. The driver may feel comfortable, but he or she may not be able to go as far on battery power.

The driver must also remember to fully charge the vehicle for the best results. The PHEV plugs directly into a wall socket and can be charged overnight. Some households do

not have accessible outlets such as people that live in apartments who park in a parking lot. One future plan may include a battery exchange station instead of a charging station. Drivers could exchange their drained batteries for fully-charged batteries.

If widely adopted, PHEVs can reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. An average person can reduce his or her carbon footprint by 15 percent by driving a PHEV according to the American Council for Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE).

The conversion to a PHEV is part of a project conducted by The Cooperative Research Network (CRN), an arm of Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory and other electric co-ops across the country joined the effort in the experiment to improve energy efficiency.

The Aptera is a two seater electric car that is technically a motorcycle. It only has three wheels and looks a bit like a sleeker version of the Transition. This car cannot fly, however. It looks like it could, and many people have asked Aptera Motors if it could. A couple people asked in all seriousness if it could drive underwater.

This thing may look like a futuristic egg on a tricycle with doors that swing up like a Lamborghini, but it gets 300 mpg according to its Web site. The Aptera 2e, due out later this year, is all electric while the Aptera 2h, available in 2010, is a plug in hybrid.

The 2e can be recharged with a standard 110 volt outlet in less than eight hours and will give you 100 miles per charge.



## The Fisker Karma

The 2010 Karma looks like it's going to be the first PHEV to be sold in the United States. It's similar to the Chevy Volt although it has a 50 mile range on its lithium ion battery. The Karma is a bit different because it uses Q-Drive which Quantum Technology created exclusively for Fisker. Its small gasoline engine turns the generator. The generator is what charges the lithium ion battery pack, and the battery powers the motor. It's definitely more of a sports car than any other hybrid. This beauty is starting at \$80,000.

# Electrical Accident Survivor Shares Experience

*Urges caution around power lines*

**S**hawn Miller is urging people to use extreme caution around overhead power lines. And he speaks from personal experience. Five years ago, a routine outdoor activity took a tragic turn.

He was working on the trees in his mother's yard when somehow his equipment made contact with the overhead power lines, sending 7,200 volts of electricity through his body. He has no memory of the accident and was unconscious, smoke rising from his chest, when his mother found him.

Miller had to be revived three times and ultimately, survived the tremendous shock. But the road to recovery was long and hard for him as well as his family.

He lost his left hand and a finger on his right hand, suffering 27 exit wounds throughout his body. Dozens of surgeries and skin grafts later, he is a walking miracle and wants to offer others lessons learned to get the word out about the importance of electrical safety.

He says "Power lines were the last thing on my mind that day. I'm lucky to be alive. I want everyone to be careful, be aware of power lines. Know what your surroundings are. Educate yourself."

Miller's story is the centerpiece of Safe Electricity's Teach Learn Care (TLC) campaign this year. I urge everyone to watch the video of Miller's compelling story which can be seen on [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

Miller says it's vital for people to take time making themselves aware of their surroundings before working with or around items that use electricity, indoors and out. It's a timely reminder during a season when millions of people are tackling projects around their homes.

Miller and Safe Electricity encourage everyone to follow these guidelines as they prepare to work outdoors:

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower your long equipment when you are moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof, installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes,

doing roof repair work or cleaning gutters. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.

- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.
- Never trim trees near power lines - leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- If your projects include digging call your local underground utility locator before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.

Miller says "After something life-changing happens, you become more interested and learn much more. Had I known more before this happened, I might still have two hands and the job I loved.

"I have to find ways to move on with my life and help people learn from what has happened to me. Safe Electricity is helping me help others."

In the video, he and his family talk about the ordeal and what they want the public to know. His mother, Maria, urges, "Teach the people you love, teach your children to stay away from overhead power lines and the trees that are near them." Miller adds that everyone should see a live power line demonstration, like the one available for viewing on [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

Shawn Miller has a lot to teach us about electrical safety, and we are grateful he is sharing his story through our Teach Learn Care TLC campaign. I'm convinced that people who view the video will take the precautions necessary to avoid accidents involving contact with power lines. And I encourage everyone who does, to share this life-saving information with those they love.

**Molly Hall is the Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail: [molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org](mailto:molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org) and for more information on these and other kinds of situations involving electricity visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).**



**"Had I known more before this happened, I might still have two hands and the job I loved."**

# TLC

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Learn what you need to.  
Care enough to share it.

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# NEVER

touch an electric  
device when WET!

Whether swimming, boating or fishing...enjoy your water recreation *safely*. ALWAYS keep electric devices and cords far away from water. Make sure all outlets near pools, docks and other water recreation areas are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. Take note of overhead power lines when using pool skimmers

and other tall items, as well as when boating and fishing. Remember Caitlyn MacKenzie, who tragically lost her life last year in a water related electrical accident. Heed her family's plea to Teach Learn and Care about electrical safety. Visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) to see her story and learn more.



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# Sweet and Sour Soils?

*Mix up the right recipe for your garden*

Just say the words “soil chemistry” and some people will quickly look away. Many are probably already turning the page, looking for the recipes or some ad.

The word “chemistry” can conjure up these horrible images associated with high school or college. Some gleefully dream of combining Compound A with Compound B, and then blowing up the lab. Fortunately, it doesn’t work that way in our gardens.

Soil chemistry refers to all the big-three nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It also involves the 10 others: calcium, magnesium, sulfur, molybdenum, manganese, iron, copper, boron, zinc and chlorine.

Aluminum isn’t one of the top 10, but it’s important for hydrangeas if you want blue flowers. On the other hand, aluminum is quite toxic to many other plants including blueberries.

Sometimes cobalt is added to the group, but it’s not in the top 13.

But the biggie involving soil chemistry is soil pH.

Most gardeners know a little bit about pH, probably enough to scare themselves. You’ll hear them throw words around like “sweet” and “sour” soil, or acidic, basic, neutral or alkaline. Old timers will say “sweet soils” are what’s needed for plant growth, and then talk about yearly applications of lime to the soil to make plants grow better.

The technical definition of pH is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion content. Whew! A mouthful. Essentially, it’s a mathematical relationship based on multiples of 10.

That last part is important.

A pH of 7 is neutral. Less than 7, and we say the soil is acidic or “sour.” Higher than 7, and the soil is alkaline, basic or “sweet.”

Using “sour” and “sweet” can get you in trouble. When we think of things being acidic, we think of vinegars, which definitely are “sour.” However, honey has a pH of 3.0 to 4.0, which can be more acidic than vinegar. And most of us would probably think of honey as “sweet.”

The pH scale runs from 0 to 14. If you find something with a pH on either end, and pour it over your body, you’ll probably dissolve quickly. Fortunately, most soil is hovering between a pH of 5.0 and 8.0, depending on where you live.

That’s just a difference of 3 pH points. But in reality, since it’s based on a multiple of 10. There is a 1,000 times difference between the two. So, a pH of 5 is 1,000 more acidic than a pH of 8. Even a one-point difference, say pH 5.0 to 6.0, is a difference of 10 times.

There are some Illinois soils with a more acidic pH than 5.0. Those are usually strip-mined lands. Some Chicago area soils are higher than 8.0. Soil with a strong limestone base or near limestone concentrations, such as gravel driveways or concrete, may have a higher pH.

The vast majority of Illinois plants like a pH of 5.5 to 7.0. There are exceptions such as oaks, rhododendrons, azaleas, blueberries, dogwoods, and sweet gums. If the soil is too alkaline, you’ll usually find yellowing, or chlorosis of the leaf usually between the veins. Iron is one of the elements that is more available at lower pHs, which is why some folks in northern areas have problems with oak trees.

The only way to tell the soil pH is with a soil test. You can buy kits that will give you a general idea, provided the kit is fresh. Soil test labs give a more accurate reading.

Limestone is used to raise the soil pH if the readings are too acidic. But indiscriminately adding limestone year after year may raise the soil pH where nutrients aren’t available.

Or it may be a waste of time and money. Some soils are buffered, meaning they resist any significant pH change. You might get by with changing the pH one point, but not two or three.

Garden sulfur (don’t use dusting sulfur which is a fungicide) can lower the soil pH if it’s too acidic. Ammonium sulfate, iron sulfate and aluminum sulfate can be used, though watch out for the latter. Remember that aluminum can be toxic. ■

**“Indiscriminately adding limestone year after year may raise the soil pH where nutrients aren’t available.”**

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.





# Celebrating More Than 50 Years of Farm Progress Show Success

The Farm Progress Show is the nation's leading outdoor farm show and features the most extensive state-of-the-art information and technology available for today's agricultural producers. The country's top agribusinesses, plus many regional and local manufacturers and suppliers, are regular exhibitors at the Farm Progress Show. The 2009 event will be held in Decatur, Ill. at the permanent biannual show site Sept. 1, 2 and 3.

Prairie Farmer magazine was instrumental in the development of the Farm Progress Show. From 1924 through 1941, Prairie Farmer sponsored corn-husking contests. Early in 1953, Prairie Farmer joined forces with WLS-Radio in Chicago with the idea to host a farm event even better than the mechanical corn-picking contests taking place around the Midwest at that time. It is this group who is credited with creating the idea of hosting a field day where farmers could see first-hand the progress being made in farming equipment, along with seed varieties and ag chemicals.

The first Farm Progress Show took place on Oct. 2, 1953 on the Earl Bass Farm in Armstrong, Ill. and hosted more than 75,000 folks. This show offered visitors an opportunity to see equipment, seed and chemicals as well as fire-fighting demonstrations, sheep dog trials, stage entertainment, a fiddlers' contest and even the WLS Barn Dance. In subsequent years, the show evolved to include seed test plots and field demonstrations. While some of the programs changed from the original program, the show





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The 2005 show marked the first show at its permanent biennial Decatur, Ill. site and hosted more than 500 exhibitors. The Decatur site was expanded for the 2007 show to host more than 600 exhibitors and record numbers of show visitors.

In 2008 the show established a second feature-filled permanent biennial site near Boone, Iowa.

The show now rotates between the Decatur and Boone sites and offers two long-term, weather-resistant facilities for the nation's largest outdoor farm show. Both show locations have been designed with highly developed infrastructures and conveniences for exhibitors and show visitors.

Today, the Farm Progress show enjoys a long and rich history and gives visitors the opportunity to see the latest equipment, seed, crop chemicals, field demonstrations, livestock handling and equine events, Ride 'n Drive, rural life programs and entertainment, arts and crafts and more.

Farmers and ranchers from across North America and around the world visit the Farm Progress Show to see agriculture's latest product introductions, meet face-to-face with agribusiness professionals and gain hands-on knowledge.

**For more information go to [www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com).**

# Doug Rye Spreads the Energy Efficiency Gospel

*His passion for helping members save energy started in the 1970s*

**“**You can’t make him drink it.” That’s an old saying that well fits my occupation. And speaking of occupations, I’m often asked how I make a living. My response is that I teach folks how to have lower utility bills and a more comfortable house. If my wife is with me, she often says to the person asking the question, “It’s not only his occupation but it’s his passion.”

I spent 23 years as a licensed architect working for the federal government helping provide affordable housing to low and moderate income families. During that period, I came to realize that the monthly electricity bill was a big part of the cost of a home. The electric bill came every month, just like the mortgage payment, and if we were to make homes affordable, we would have to do something about energy usage.

The need to do a better job of building energy efficient homes became evident during the oil embargo of the 1970s. I guess you could say it was then that my energy passion was born. Even our national office in Washington, D.C., began promoting energy efficiency. I was privileged to help write regulations for the entire U.S. to assure that the housing units being financed used less energy than before.

We got deeply involved in the financing of solar water heating systems. That experience taught me that reliable systems were not as easy to obtain as the marketing material indicated. One such building’s roof contained 220 solar panels. It was a total failure in less than 10 years. Live and learn.

As I had the opportunity to teach in more places around the country, I became better known and in more demand. And it became quite clear to me that I couldn’t help the world if I had to stay behind a desk in a federal building. I had a great career in the government, but it was time to move on.

As I prepared my resignation papers, I had to answer the question, “reason for leaving.” I wrote, “To teach the world how to build a truly energy-efficient house.” I thought to myself as I wrote those words, “World, watch out, here I come.”

I would spend many hours teaching a family about energy efficiency. I would show them that energy efficiency would actually make them money every month. They would shake their heads “yes” and smile and I was so happy. Later, I would ask if they implemented those things. More often than not, they shook their heads “no.”

I would actually lie awake at night worrying about that family. You cannot imagine how many times I was told the builders said, “You don’t really need to do all these things.” Well, time has proven that they did need to do all these things, exactly as I said.

Thankfully, many did heed the advice and they are still bragging about their houses (and saving money every month). If you listen to my radio show, you have likely heard these folks call in and share their remarkable stories.

I think all of you would agree that the subject of energy efficiency is at an all-time high.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois and across the country have long promoted energy efficiency efforts. Energy efficiency education is a long-term commitment of the co-ops. In Arkansas, my home state, the electric co-ops started a great new energy education last year with their Energy Efficiency Makeover project. They are doing it again.

As much as \$50,000 could be spent on the home (primarily from donations by vendors) to install such items as high energy-efficient windows, cellulose insulation, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and an energy-efficient water heater and other appliances, among other things.

During the next few months, I will show you in detail in this column how we took an average house and transformed it into a super energy-efficient house. The purpose is to teach all of you how you can improve the energy efficiency of your house. ■

**“I would ask if they implemented those things in their new house. More often than not, they shook their heads no.”**

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.dougrye.com](http://www.dougrye.com), e-mail him at [info@philliprye.com](mailto:info@philliprye.com), or call 501-653-7931. You can also sign up for a free newsletter and order his “how to” videotapes.





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# Alpacas

## — Little Animals With Big Potential

by Michelle McNeal



*Bart and Rhonda Leinberger began Alpacas of Indian Point Hills in Petersburg about three years ago. Even in a down economy they have found this specialty livestock is maintaining its value with an average price of \$16,000.*

As more and more small acreage owners seek to find ways to make use of their land, Illinois continues to grow in its diversity of crops and livestock. Just one example of this is the Alpaca. A cousin to the Llama, an Alpaca is raised for its fiber; and if you haven't seen one in person, you probably will soon. The Alpaca is growing in popularity all over the United States since they were first imported in 1984. Illinois is no exception.

"When we began looking into this five or six years ago, there were about 19 farms in Illinois. Now, there are more than 100," says Bart Leinberger. Bart and his wife, Rhonda, began Alpacas of Indian Point Hills in Petersburg about three years ago. The couple saw the animal in Northern Illinois, where they are more popular, and found them to be the perfect solution for utilizing the land on their farm once used to raise cattle.

"It's not a get rich quick scheme," says Rhonda. "You start out slow. We have a store now and are breeding to get

the herd size we want. We looked at this for our retirement later on." The Leinbergers began with three animals and now have 11, with five babies expected this summer.

Rhonda says the economy doesn't seem to have slowed the industry. "Even in this down economy, prices have held pretty steady and Alpacas have held their value. The average price we see is about \$16,000."

That's a pretty hefty investment, but considering the life expectancy is about 20 years, and females can produce young a good portion of that time, plus you get a great deal of fiber each year for minimal upkeep, it could be a good business venture for the right situation.

Rhonda says there are tax advantages to running the farm as a business and says that Alpacas are now considered livestock instead of exotic animals so they are covered under the farm bill.

"You can write off a large amount of the expense of getting started, as well as depreciating some out," adds Bart.

But where is the market for Alpacas? Their allure comes from their unique coats. The fiber is naturally hypoallergenic, contains a natural water repellency, has a silk-like luster and clothing made with it has some natural stretch and is wrinkle resistant. Many compare it to wool but it weighs less, isn't itchy and scratchy, contains no lanolin (which is what many people are allergic to in wool) and is much softer. In fact, Alpaca fiber is compared to cashmere for its softness. Because the fiber comes in 22 natural colors, it's great for organic products, though it can be dyed any color as well.

Rhonda says the fiber can be made into a large variety of items such as teddy bears, socks, rugs, gloves, scarves, sweaters, jewelry and even swimwear and underwear!

The Leinbergers have a store in their home where they sell some pieces handmade and commercially made, along with different skeins of yarn.

"There is an appeal for the yarn locally. There is the draw that people can come out and see the animal and buy the yarn and then create something and know where it came from," Rhonda adds.

"We have barely scratched the surface with our fiber," says Bart. "Right now we send most of it to Kansas City to be spun."

Since the industry is young, Bart says there is lots of room for growth.

"We still import fiber from South America because we can't produce enough to keep the mills going," he says.

The Leinbergers' Alpacas are shorn each May and produce from five to 10 pounds of fiber each. The heat

of Central Illinois is too much for Alpacas if they aren't sheered. Native to South America, they are used to cooler temperatures and Bart says they don't seem bothered by Illinois winters at all.

Besides the sheering, the animals are relatively easy to care for. They need their nails trimmed every eight weeks and a worming shot every month for a parasite carried by local white tail deer. Their coats should not be groomed and they prefer to be outside so very little shelter or daily maintenance is required. Also, since they are so gentle on the land you can raise six or eight on just one acre. And at about 160 pounds, they are relatively easy to manage. The big thing is they need protection from predators since they don't have a lot of defense themselves.

"Coyotes and wild dogs are the main predators here," says Bart. "We got two Great Pyrenees dogs to protect them, as well as putting up the high fencing."

What advice do the Leinbergers share with those who ask?

"Do your research first. And buy the best breeder you can afford if you're going to breed," says Rhonda.

Bart also suggests attending a livestock show and visiting with Alpaca breeders. "People want to share information to grow the industry because we have to be able to supply more fiber," he says.

Find out more by visiting the Leinbergers' Web site at [www.alpacasofindianpointhills.com](http://www.alpacasofindianpointhills.com) or calling them at 217-632-2690. You can also visit the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association at [www.alpacainfo.com](http://www.alpacainfo.com) and the Illinois chapter at [www.iaoba.com](http://www.iaoba.com).



**Recipes And Recollections**

Who: White County Historical Society

Cost: \$15, plus \$5 shipping

Details: soft-backed, spiral-bound

Pages of recipes: 219

Send checks to: White County Historical Society,  
PO Box 121, Carmi, IL 62821  
or call 618-382-8425.



**Angel Food Puffs (Left)**

- 1 box angel food cake mix
- 1 pint. whipping cream, whipped,  
not too stiff
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/3 C. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Prepare cake batter as directed. Fill extra-large muffin tins 2/3 full with batter. Bake at temperature on package for about 15 minutes or until brown on top. Combine whipping cream, gelatin, sugar and vanilla together until fluffy. Add a few drops of red food coloring to make filling pink. After puffs are baked and cooled, remove from the tins and put a plug out of the top of each one. Pinch off some of the bottom of the plug to make a cap. Put a teaspoon or more of the filling down into each puff and put the plug back on top. Store in refrigerator.

**Chicken Marsala**

- 4 chicken breasts
- Flour
- Salt
- Ground pepper
- 4 T. butter, divided
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1/2 lb. mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 C. Marsala wine

Trim chicken breasts, removing visible fat. Mix together flour, salt and pepper, to your taste. Coat each piece of chicken with flour mixture. Melt 3 T. butter in a skillet and sauté garlic until golden brown. Add chicken and brown well on both sides. Transfer to a heavy, shallow baking pad. Add remaining T. of butter to the skillet. Add mushrooms. Cook, stirring for 2-3 minutes. Add Marsala wine and simmer for 2 minutes. Pour over chicken in the baking pan. Bake, covered, at 350° for 20 minutes or until chicken is done, but still moist.

*Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner*

**Angel Food Puffs**

**Strawberry Cool Whip Cake**

- 1 box strawberry cake mix, dry
- 1 can diet Sprite
- 1 sm. pkg. strawberry sugar free Jell-O
- 1 C. boiling water
- 1 ctn. strawberry flavored Cool Whip,  
lite
- Strawberries, sliced

Spray the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray. Mix dry cake ingredients and Sprite. Spread in the pan. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Cake will not be tall. Cool for 15 minutes. Dissolve Jell-O in the boiling water and pour over cake. When cool, top with strawberry Cool Whip. Garnish with sliced strawberries.

**Hamburger Goulash**

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1/2 C. green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 C. onions, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 lg. can tomatoes
- 1/2 lb. elbow macaroni, cooked  
and drained

Brown hamburger in a large skillet, drain. Add onions and peppers and cook until onions are transparent. Add tomatoes and cooked macaroni. Heat thoroughly.

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

## Baby Food Bars (Right)

2 C. sugar  
1-1/4 C. vegetable oil  
3 eggs  
2 C. flour  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
2 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 sm. baby food jar of apricots,  
applesauce and carrots  
Nuts, optional

### Frosting:

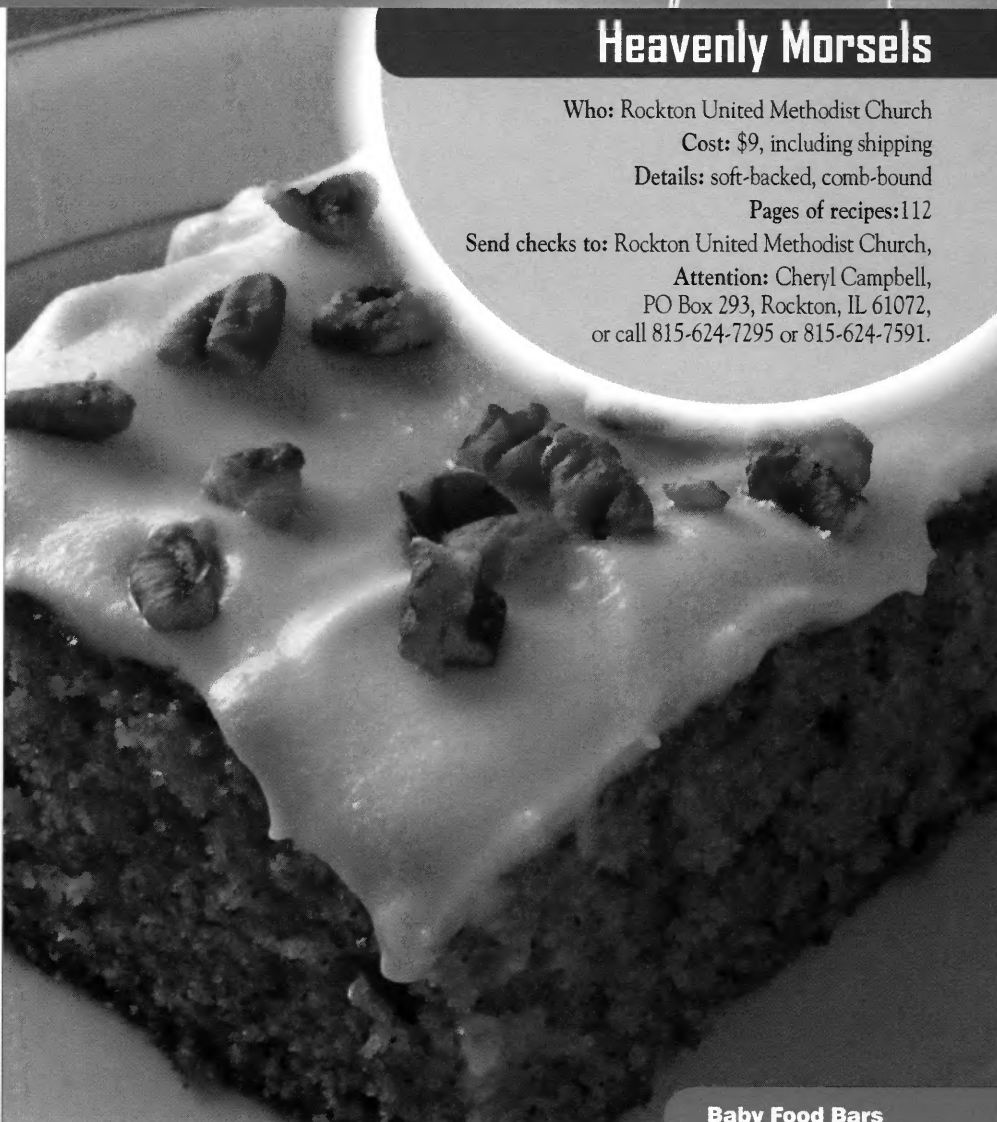
1/3 C. soft butter or margarine  
3 oz. cream cheese  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 lb. powdered sugar

Mix sugar and oil together. Add eggs and mix. Add flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt and mix. Mix in baby food. Grease a jellyroll pan and pour batter into pan. Bake at 375° for 20 minute, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Frosting: Mix together butter, cream cheese, vanilla and powdered sugar. Thin out with a little water or milk if necessary. Spread over cooled bars. Sprinkle with nuts if desired.

## Raspberry Cream Cheese Coffee Cake

2-1/2 C. flour  
3/4 C. sugar or Splenda  
3/4 C. butter  
1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/4 tsp. salt  
3/4 C. sour cream  
1 egg  
1 tsp. almond extract  
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened  
1/4 C. sugar  
1 egg  
1/2 C. raspberry jelly  
1/2 C. sliced almonds

Combine flour, sugar and butter using a pastry blender until crumbly. Reserve 1 C. for topping. Add baking powder, baking soda, salt, sour cream, egg and almond extract to the remainder. Mix well. Spread batter on the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Combine cream cheese, sugar and egg for filling; mix well. Pour over batter in pan. Spoon jelly evenly over filling. Add almonds to reserved topping and sprinkle evenly over top. Bake at 350° for 55-60 minutes or until golden. Cool 15 minutes. Remove from pan. Serve immediately and refrigerate leftovers.



Baby Food Bars

## Heavenly Morsels

Who: Rockton United Methodist Church

Cost: \$9, including shipping

Details: soft-backed, comb-bound

Pages of recipes: 112

Send checks to: Rockton United Methodist Church,

Attention: Cheryl Campbell,  
PO Box 293, Rockton, IL 61072,  
or call 815-624-7295 or 815-624-7591.

## Carrot, Apple, Raisin Bake

3/4 C. raisins  
1/4 C. honey  
3/4 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 lemon  
1 lg. baking apple, sliced thin  
3 carrots, peeled and sliced thin

Combine raisins, honey, cinnamon, salt and juice from half the lemon. Mix in carrots and apple. Layer remaining lemon slices on top. Bake, covered, at 400° for 1 hour or until tender.

## Bread and Butter Pickles

3 qt. sliced cucumbers  
1/2 C. salt  
3 C. vinegar  
3 C. sugar  
1/4 C. mustard seeds  
1 T. celery seeds

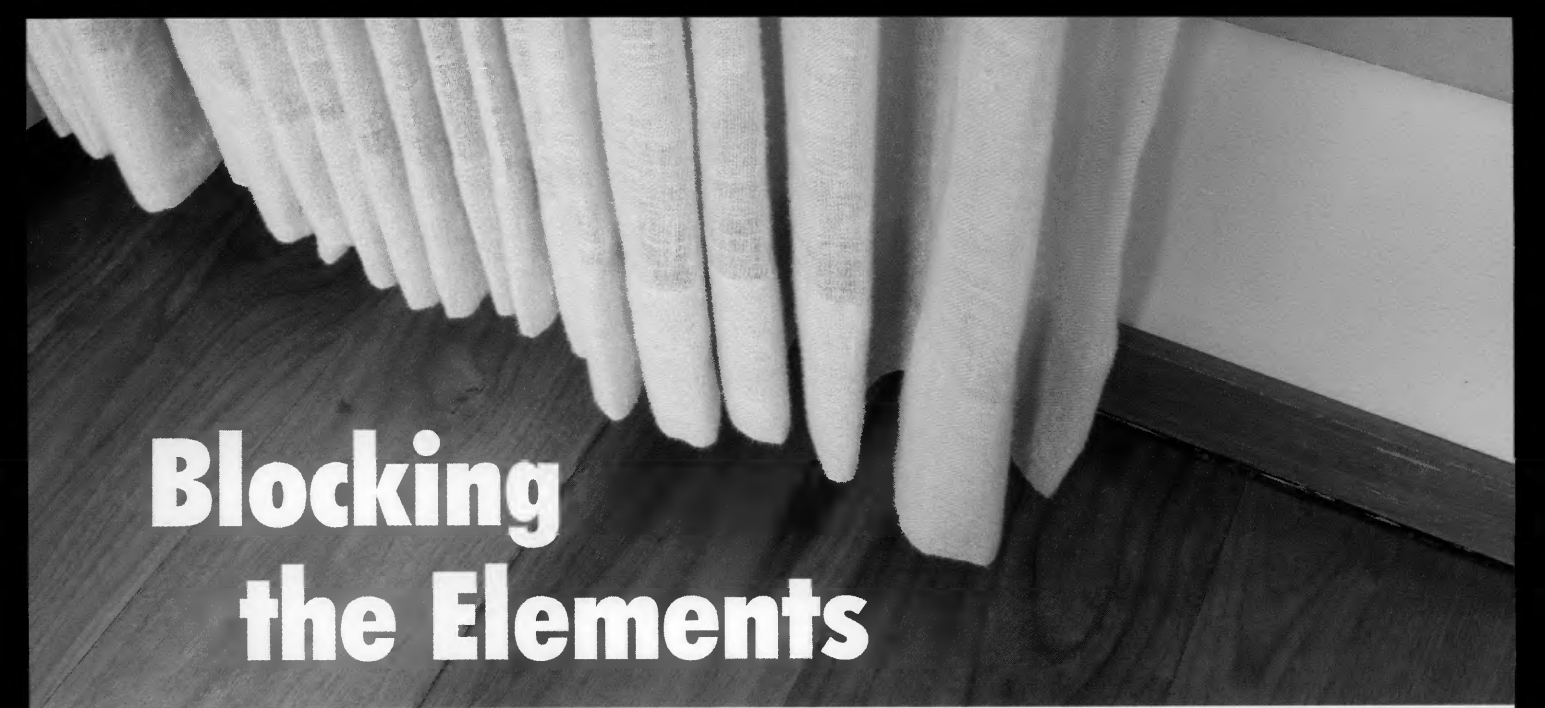
Mix cucumbers and salt together. Let stand for 3 hours, then squeeze cucumber slices dry. In a pan, bring vinegar, sugar and spices to a boil. Add the cucumbers and heat through. Place in jars and seal.

## Pepsi Pork Roast

4-6-lb. roast  
1 pkg. dry onion soup mix

1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1 can regular Pepsi

Place roast in a covered pan. Add dry soup mix, soup and Pepsi. Add potatoes and carrots, if desired. Bake at 250° for 3-4 hours. If cooking in a crock pot, cook on low for 8 hours.



# Blocking the Elements

## What was old is new again

Remember those foam-backed drapes that grandma had hanging in her living room? The ones that were heavy and you could slide in behind them during a good game of hide-and-seek?

Well, they haven't entirely disappeared and for good reason. Wisdom has superseded modern design. Massive poufs and extravagant window treatments of the '90s that were intended for decoration, are disappearing. Today's look is once again a clean, streamlined look. Though it's simple, manufacturers have found a way to incorporate some of the time-tested principles that made grandma's drapes so popular.

Budd Goldman, CEO of Ellery Homestyles in New York, says his 10-year-old company launched an eco-friendly line of curtains in 2006. There are two types of energy-efficient, noise-reducing, black-out curtains in his company's line of "Eclipse" curtains.

The company, which sells to Bed, Bath and Beyond and seven other major retailers including Wal-mart, K-Mart, JC Penney's, Sears and Lowes, has developed two styles in the Eclipse line – Amanda, a Thermaweave and Ashby, a Thermaback.

## What's the difference?

Unlike ordinary curtains that typically are double woven, says Goldman, Thermaweave is a triple woven fabric. The third yarn woven into the product is a black yarn sandwiched between two ordinary layers, creating an insulating effect, "a better barrier to energy transference," Goldman says, noting that they should help keep heat in and cold out in winter. The opposite is true in summer. The upside to Thermaweave is that being all fabric, they hang more shapely than perhaps grandma's curtains. But then using her's as hiding places couldn't have helped.

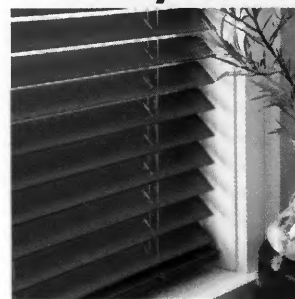
Thermaback curtains are available, too. Traditionally

they were called "foamback" – yes, it is these that graced grandma's décor. They've simply changed the name, but they're worth revisiting for their insulating qualities. Today they sport new colors and patterns.

## Do they really work?

Goldman spoke candidly saying that any curtain is better than no curtain, and that the greater the barrier, the better. He believes, however, that tests his company devised to measure energy efficiency have led to quality products. He said to date there is no standard for measuring or marking energy efficiency in the drapery line, so his company partnered with a lab to "objectively measure energy-saving qualities." He said they built a test room with a window and used various variables to test quality. Those results are proprietary.

## Other stylish window choices



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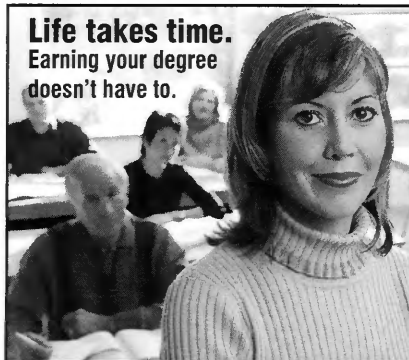
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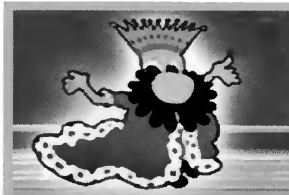
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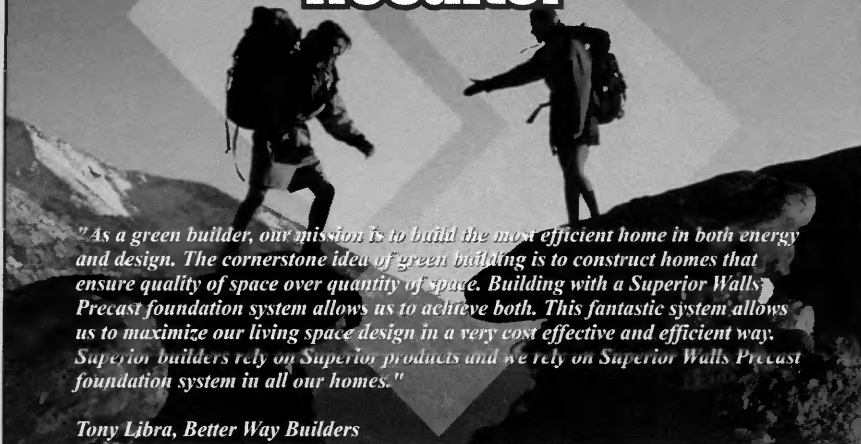
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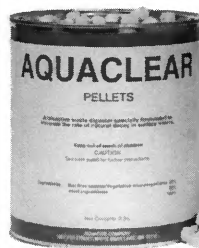


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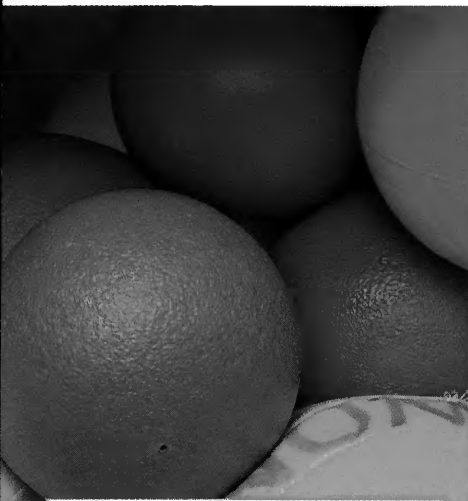
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**1, Park-N-Cruise** on the downtown square in Macomb. 6 – 9 p.m. Enjoy vintage, antique and classic cars driven in from miles around. Take pleasure in live entertainment, shopping and dining on the square. 217-837-4855.



**1, Dodge Ball Tournament** at Gifford Grade School, 6 miles east of Rantoul. The boys' basketball team will host a dodge ball tournament. The tournament runs all day starting at 8 a.m. Entry forms can be found at [www.gifford.k12.il.us](http://www.gifford.k12.il.us). 217-840-8200.

**1, Antique Auto Exhibition** at David Davis Mansion in Bloomington. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Come see the 75-80 antique cars that will be on display, and tour the Mansion. Enjoy concessions and entertainment. 309-827-0175.

**1-2, The 149th Annual Jo Daviess County Fair** at the fairgrounds in Warren. Livestock shows, exhibits, tractor pull, draft horse pull, motocross and ATV races, entertainment and carnival rides. 815-275-2540.

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Concerts in the Vineyard-Summer Music Series** at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard in Mackinaw. Live music concerts performed Saturdays from 7 – 10:45 p.m. featuring local classic rock music groups. Bring your own folding chair or blanket for lawn seating or call to reserve a spot on the deck for a small fee. Pizza and cheese and crackers available or bring your own picnic. Admission is \$5 per person. [www.mackinawvalleyvineyard.com](http://www.mackinawvalleyvineyard.com) or 309-359-WINE.



**5, 12, 19 and 26, 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).

**7-8, Hardin County's 10th Annual Heritage Festival** in Elizabethtown. Enjoy a huge Quilt Show, an 1860s style Ladies Tea, a Duck Race on the Ohio river, 1860s era Street Play, Miss Heritage Fest Pageant, gospel singing, food vendor and more. 618-287-4333, 618-287-7090, or [www.hardincountyil.org](http://www.hardincountyil.org).

**7-9, Oblong Antique Tractor and Engine Show** at the Crawford County Fairgrounds in Oblong. Admission: \$3. Children 12 and younger are free. 618-546-5615.



**7-9, Gateway Dulcimer Music Festival** at the Lady of the Snows in Belleville. Participate or just share in the music and the fun. Activities for the whole family. Beginner to advance classes 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. for mountain and hammer dulcimer, fiddle, guitar, banjo, autoharp; music jams, resale table, raffle, vendors and evening concerts. [www.snows.org](http://www.snows.org), [www.gatewaydulcimer.org](http://www.gatewaydulcimer.org) or 618-651-8271.

**8-9, The 42nd Annual Willow Folk Festival**, located three miles east of Stockton, then six miles on Willow Rd. at the Willow United Methodist Church. More than 100 amateur and professional bluegrass, country and spiritual singers with acoustic musicians perform from a hay wagon on a country church lawn. Home-cooked food available. No dogs or alcohol allowed on church grounds. 815-947-3789.



**13-23, Illinois State Fair** at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Enjoy rides, a butter cow, grandstand shows, Ethnic Village, Conservation World, great food and more. 217-782-6661.

**14-15, Woodstock Tribute** at Galt Airport in Woodstock. Celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Woodstock Festival, the world-famous and now historic music and peace festival that drew more than 500,000 to Max Yasgur's farm, near Woodstock, New York in 1969. Eight bands are scheduled to appear. They include tributes to Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Joe Cocker, The Who, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Grateful Dead and Santana. [www.tribute2woodstock.com](http://www.tribute2woodstock.com).



**16, Hummingbird Festival** at Hummingbird Haven, four miles south of Smithfield on Fulton County Highway 2. Come and learn how to attract beautiful hummingbirds to your yard. Free. 2 – 5 p.m. 309-783-4375.

**15, The 15<sup>th</sup> Mopar Reunion Car Show and Swap Meet** in Birkbeck. 9 a.m. Awards given out at 3 p.m. Bring your Mopar and have a day of relaxation with friends. Food will be provided by the Fish Wagon. 217-935-3999.

**22, The 15th Annual Weldon Lions Club Car Show** in Weldon. Registration: 3 – 5 p.m. Voting: 5 – 6 p.m. Awards: 7 p.m. Free. 217-736-2559, 217-736-2309 or [showngo86@yahoo.com](mailto:showngo86@yahoo.com).

**27-30, Half Century of Progress Show** at the Rantoul National Aviation Center Airport in Rantoul. John Deere Clubs will gather for "Legends of Time" to celebrate the 50 year John Deere 8010 and the "30" series, plus enjoy field demonstrations on 400 acres with antiques, the Big Bud, and tractor and horse pulls. [www.halfcenturyofprogress.org](http://www.halfcenturyofprogress.org) or 217-595-5000.

**28-30, Cowden Pioneer Days and Central State Sanctioned Rodeo** at the Cowden Park in Cowden. Other entertainment will include arm wrestling, a parade, Bingo, flea market, crafts and live bands. There are also historic cabins with periodic and Native American camps set up between cabins. 217-783-6386 or 217-783-2439.

**28-30, Apple River Park Days** in Apple River. Antique tractor pull, DJ, Daisy Bell the Clown, bingo, kids games, slow pitch tournaments free and half-chicken dinners. 815-745-2194.

**29, Riverview Center, Inc.'s Sixth Annual High Flute'n Fashion Show and Silent Auction** at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The theme this year is "Fall into Fashion." Tickets are \$30 and all proceeds will assist Riverview Center in the fight to end sexual violence in the tri-state community. 888-707-8155 or [development@riverviewcenter.org](mailto:development@riverviewcenter.org).



**22 - 23, The 26th Annual River Valley Antique Association Show** in Mapleton. A show featuring John Deere. 309-389-5196, 309-389-4686 or [www.rvaattractors.com](http://www.rvaattractors.com).

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

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:** July 15 for October 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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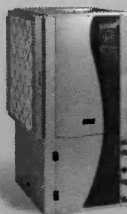
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