

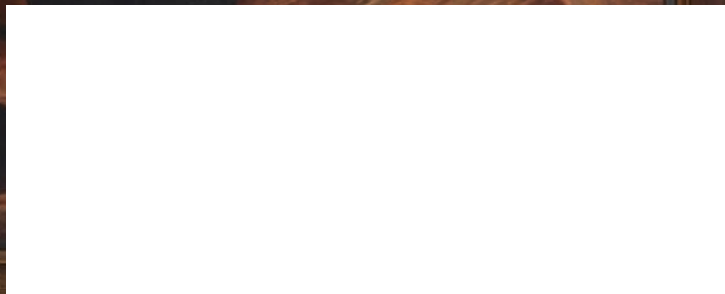
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# Illinois Country Living

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divided,  
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stand as reminders  
of Civil War



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# Illinois Country Living

## Published by

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives  
6460 South Sixth Frontage Road East,  
Springfield, IL 62712

www.icl.coop

800-593-2432 • aiecinfo@aiec.coop

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Illinois Country Living is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of more than 181,000, the magazine informs cooperative members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

Illinois Country Living (ISSN number 1086-8062) is published monthly and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 South Sixth Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. The cost is \$2.50 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$10 per year for all others. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and additional mailing offices.

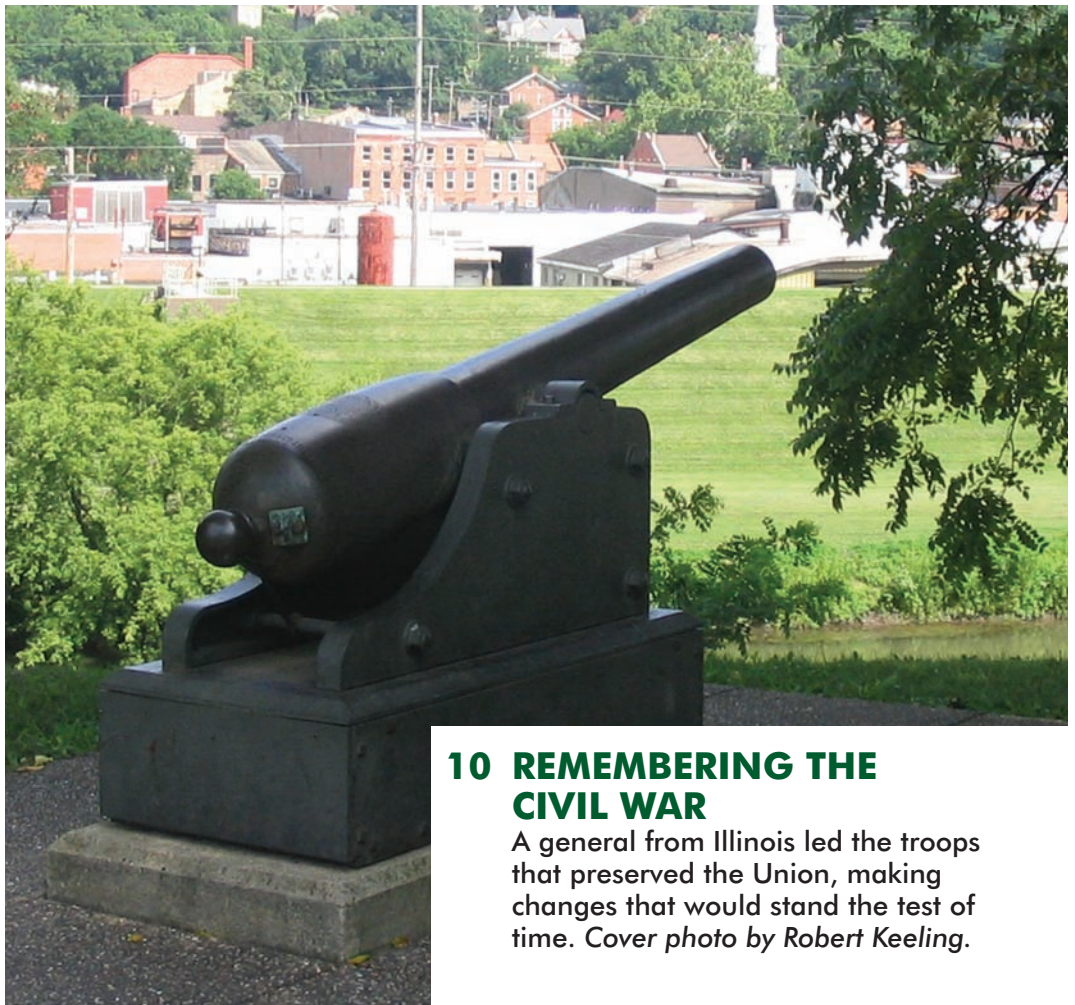
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708.

ADVERTISING: Contact Lisa Rigoni, Advertising Manager – 1-800-593-2432 or lrigoni@aiec.coop. Acceptance of advertising by the magazine does not imply endorsement by the publisher or the electric cooperatives of Illinois of the product or service advertised. Illinois Country Living is not responsible for the performance of the product or service advertised.

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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.



## 10 REMEMBERING THE CIVIL WAR

A general from Illinois led the troops that preserved the Union, making changes that would stand the test of time. Cover photo by Robert Keeling.

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# Still funding the future

## CFC lends strength to the cooperative structure

Although some have declared that the recent “Great Recession” – the worst our country has seen since the Great Depression – has come to an end, its impact still resonates across the country and here in Illinois. The unemployment rate in the state was 9.8 percent in October, similar to 9.6 percent for the nation as a whole. Though the rate has inched down from 10.9 percent a year ago, far too many have fallen on hard times.

Access to cash, for individuals and businesses alike, is more limited than it has been in many years. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which tracks bank failures, reports that more than 340 banks have failed over the past decade, almost 12 percent based here in Illinois. Yet electric cooperatives, which supply the reliable, affordable electricity that drives our economy, must continue to serve their members and keep the lights on.

Keeping electric generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure well-maintained takes quite a bit of funding but the electric cooperatives of Illinois and 46 other states across the country have a partner to turn to in good times and bad. The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, or CFC for short, is a trusted ally – a co-op for co-ops that serves 28 electric cooperative organizations in Illinois. CFC is a finance cooperative that was established more than 40 years ago to provide funding to electric cooperatives.

I have served on the CFC Board of Directors for over two years, and I continue to be proud of the job it does in serving its cooperative members. Throughout its history, CFC has been ready and able to provide the funds electric cooperatives

need to operate, grow and power rural America even when access to capital is tight. CFC has its roots in the late 1960s, when a group of visionary leaders realized that access to affordable financing could only be assured by a new kind of organization owned and controlled by electric cooperatives.

On April 10, 1969, CFC was incorporated, and J.K. Smith, then general manager of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, stepped into the role as CFC’s governor. He would guide the organization through its first 10 years of growth, from its first bond sale to 1979, when the organization’s total loans outstanding surpassed \$1 billion for the first time.

From there CFC grew at a fast clip. By 1980 membership had grown to 913 electric co-op systems, and the organization had made more than \$2 billion in loans. In 1981 CFC created the National Cooperative Services Corporation as an affiliate organization that could provide specialized financing services for electric co-ops and six years later a second affiliate was created – the Rural Telephone Finance Corporation – whose purpose was to provide financial services to rural telephone systems.

CFC has continued to evolve and adapt to the times we are in. At the end of its last fiscal year, on May 31, 2010, the organization had more than \$20 billion in loans and guarantees outstanding – that’s \$20 billion, which has financed everything from power plants that generate reliable electricity to the meters installed on your home.



Financial strength in a lender is of the utmost importance. Equally important is having access to low interest rates. Historically, those have been two crucial attributes of good lenders. However,

CFC recognizes changes impacting the electric industry and our nation today requires more than just that. For this reason, the organization continues to evolve, diversifying its assets and offering new tools to support and ensure the financial success of its member cooperatives.

CFC is not a government-backed entity nor is it an investment bank, commercial bank or credit union. It does not deal in mortgage-backed securities, credit default swaps or risky derivatives — unlike other financial lenders.

CFC is an independent, non-government finance company owned and governed by electric co-ops. It is a patient lender, with a long-term perspective that focuses on what is best for its members and the consumers they serve. In this sense CFC is very different from most banks and financial institutions. I am proud of the work we are doing at CFC. You, as a member of an electric cooperative, can rest assured that CFC will help keep the lights on for generations to come.

Randy D. Renth in addition to being a CPA farms near Mascoutah, is a CFO for Rehkemper & Son in St. Rose, and serves as a board director for Clinton County Electric Cooperative and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.



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## New energy efficiency grants available for qualifying co-op members

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) is pleased to provide a new energy efficiency incentive grant program for qualifying members of an Illinois electric cooperative. This new program is just one of many funding opportunities and new programs available through ICECF. For complete program details and eligibility standards, please visit [www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org](http://www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org).

The new program provides an incentive for lighting upgrade projects of ICECF qualifying entities served with electricity by a cooperative. Facilities such as schools, local government buildings and other 501c3 not-for-profit entities qualify for ICECF incentives. Through this program, up to \$20,000 is provided to applicants not covered by ICECF's current lighting programs or the investor-owned utilities' Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS) programs.

The program basically mimics the EEPS benefits of the investor-owned utility serving in the cooperative's service

area. There are, however, some minor differences between the EEPS programs and the new ICECF program.

For more information, visit the "EEPS Ineligible Lighting Upgrade Program" section found under the energy efficiency tab at [www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org](http://www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org).

In addition to the lighting incentive, funding opportunities are available for qualifying facilities for geothermal heat pump installations, design of new "green" Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings and renewable energy systems using solar photovoltaic arrays, solar thermal installations, and wind turbine projects. Applications for 2011 can be downloaded from the ICECF website. For more information contact Bob Romo at ICECF at (312) 372-5191 or by email at [bromo@illinoiscleanenergy.org](mailto:bromo@illinoiscleanenergy.org). You can also contact John Freitag at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives at (217) 241-7973 or [jfreitag@aiec.coop](mailto:jfreitag@aiec.coop) ■

## Power supply risks will be lower for Illinois co-ops

Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), an Illinois based wholesale power cooperative, has joined as the 18th member-owner of ACES Power Marketing (APM) effective January 1, 2011. APM is a 200-employee national energy risk management and trading services company headquartered in Carmel, Indiana.

APM will provide Prairie Power a broad suite of energy risk management services related to portfolio modeling and risk analytics, transmission congestion evaluations, mid-term trading and long-term origination.

"ACES Power Marketing demonstrated to us they deserved our business and that they have sound, cost-effective solutions to help us manage our wholesale energy needs and risk," said Jay Bartlett, Prairie Power President & CEO.

David Tudor, President & CEO of ACES Power Marketing added "Prairie Power gradually changed its power supply portfolio over the last couple of years and was seeking more sophisticated analytical tools and



market intelligence. We are excited about the opportunity to complement Prairie Power's fine staff with these services and look forward to a long term, growing relationship."

Prairie Power, Inc. is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative located in Jacksonville, Ill. PPI produces, purchases and delivers over 1.5 million megawatt-hours of electricity to its 10 member-owned electric distribution cooperatives.

ACES Power Marketing,

headquartered in Carmel, Ind., began its operations in February of 1999, and is owned by 18 power supply cooperatives. APM's business strategy is unique in the energy marketing and trading industry. It operates as an energy risk management and hedge manager, developing strategies, implementing trading controls, and managing transaction execution for multiple entities as their legal agent. APM does not transact for its own account, nor does it speculate in the market for its owners or customers. ■

## Do you need flood and water damage insurance?

The Illinois Department of Insurance is reminding Illinois consumers to prepare for the possibility of a flood by examining existing homeowner or renter policies and determining whether to add flood insurance.

“A common misunderstanding is that flood risk exists only near rivers, lakes and other bodies of water,” said

Michael T. McRaith, Director of the Illinois Department of Insurance. “Standard homeowner and renter policies do not cover flood damage, and new flood insurance policies are not usually effective for 30 days.”

Floods are the number one natural disaster in the U.S. and one of the most expensive. The National Flood

Insurance Program estimates that only two inches of water in a home could cause \$7,800 in damage.

For more information about flood insurance, please visit the Department’s website at [www.insurance.illinois.gov](http://www.insurance.illinois.gov) or call the Department toll-free at 866-445-5364. ■



## Rural microentrepreneurs assistance loans available

There is a new microloan program available for southern Illinois microentrepreneurs and microenterprises. The program can fund 75 percent of a project up to \$50,000 for up to 10 years at 5 percent interest. The Small Business Development Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is assisting the loan fund by helping packaging the application. Anyone who is interested can contact our Small Business Development Center at 618-536-2424 for more information.

The funding is through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. A dfmicroenterprise is a sole proprietor in a rural area; a business entity in a rural area with not more than 10 full-time equivalent employees. A microloan is a business loan of not more than \$50,000 with a fixed interest rate and a term not to exceed ten years.

Contact - Lisa Thurston, Executive Director Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission (618) 634-2284 [lthurston@southernfive.org](mailto:lthurston@southernfive.org) [www.southernfive.org](http://www.southernfive.org) or Rex Duncan, Director Community Development and Outreach Southern Illinois University, (618)453-1268 [rduncan@biz.siu.edu](mailto:rduncan@biz.siu.edu) [www.sicbcc.org](http://www.sicbcc.org) ■

## Energy tax credits extended through 2011

Included in the tax legislation that extends Bush-era tax cuts are the Section 25c tax credits, the official name for the energy tax credits for qualified energy efficient retrofits. The tax credits are extended through 2011, but at a significantly reduced value and include changes to some of the qualifying equipment standards.

From Jan. 1, 2011 through Dec.31, 2011, a homeowner can claim 10 percent of the costs, capped at \$500, for the installation of qualified energy efficient improvements, subject to certain limits.

For HVAC and hot water equipment, the maximum you could claim is \$300 for a qualified central air conditioner and heat pump, and \$150

for a qualified furnace or hot water boiler, and \$50 for any advanced main air circulating fan. The tax credit for qualified hot water heaters is limited to \$300.

Beyond the change to the tax credit values, the new law will increase the qualifying standards for natural gas hot water boilers, propane hot water boilers, oil furnaces, and oil hot water boilers to 95 percent AFUE. The qualifying standards for natural gas furnaces and propane furnace remain at 95 percent AFUE.

The qualifying standard for central air conditioners and heat pumps, which were modified by the Stimulus Bill in 2009, are not changed. A central air conditioner must meet or exceed 16

SEER and 13 EER. An air source heat pump must meet or exceed 15 SEER and 12.5 EER and 8.5 HSPF, in order to qualify for the tax credit.

Geothermal heat pumps, solar and wind tax credits remain at 30 percent and are extended through 2016.

Finally, the new law reinstates the lifetime credit caps, which disqualify any homeowner who has claimed more than \$500 in 25c tax credits since Jan. 1, 2005, from any further credits.

Consult your local tax professional for advice on taking advantage of the tax credit, For more information on the energy-efficiency tax credits, visit [www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm](http://www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm) or [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org). ■

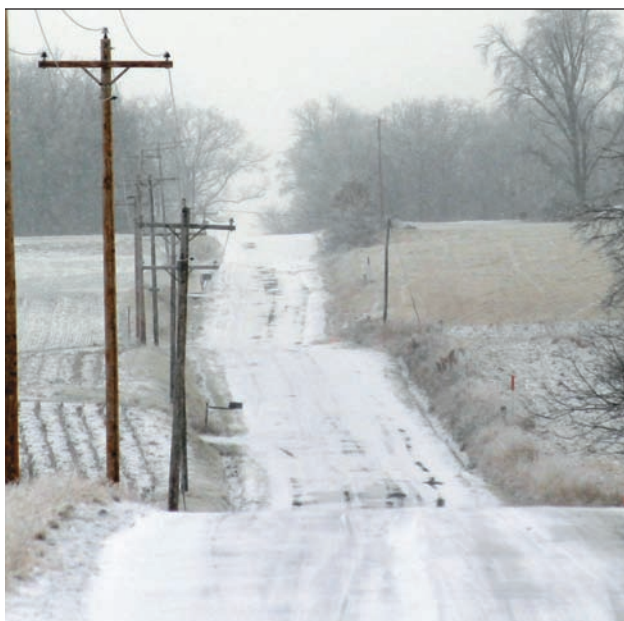
## Illinois Representatives chair important committees

Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), incoming Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, announced the members who will serve atop the six Energy and Commerce subcommittees in the 112th Congress. Upton is splitting the current Energy and Environment Subcommittee jurisdiction into two separate subcommittees – Energy and Power, which will have jurisdiction

over energy and Clean Air Act issues, and Environment and Economy, which will focus upon environmental regulations and their economic impact. U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) will serve as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and Economy.

U.S. Rep. Timothy V. Johnson (R-IL) was appointed to be Chairman of the House Agriculture

Committee's Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture beginning in the 112th Congress. "Coming from Central Illinois and having operated a small farm, I understand the agriculture industry in ways that perhaps other lawmakers and indeed many Americans do not," said Johnson. ■



## IDOT upgrades winter driving website

The latest on winter driving conditions, ongoing road construction, traffic volumes on state routes and the status of future projects is more accessible than ever on the new and improved [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com), unveiled by Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig.

"The Illinois Department of Transportation strives to provide the best in customer service," Hannig said. "The relaunched Getting Around Illinois site makes it easier than ever for the public to tap into a wealth of travel information compiled by IDOT staff."

The site, featuring an interactive, multilayered map of Illinois, pulls together information from a variety of IDOT bureaus. Since its inception five years ago, [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com) remains a mainstay with travelers and weather forecasters for its road conditions updated every 10 minutes. ■

## Illinois rural development success by the numbers

"As one year ends and another begins, it's common to reflect. The process is the same at Illinois' USDA Rural Development," says Illinois Director Colleen Callahan. Here is her top 10 list for 2010 accomplishments.

10. 53 community and non-profit projects funded, providing essential services to 606,000 residents.
9. 12,200 households assisted with affordable housing opportunities.
8. 5,256 home loans made.
7. 47 water projects financed to provide safe, dependable water to 40,800 users.
6. 247 business loans and grants approved to assist 197 business and job development projects.
5. 9 broadband projects awarded to create high speed internet access for 394,737 residents in parts of 35 counties.
4. 4,400 customers will benefit from enhanced telephone and electric services.

3. 143 renewable energy projects funded to assist in energy independence.
2. \$2,000,000, on average, invested every day.
1. 676,200 people stand to benefit through the financial empowerment provided by Rural Development.

During the 19-month period that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding was available, Illinois' Rural Development invested \$485 million to support 63 rural community, business, broadband and home projects.

"But of all the numbers, the most important one is incalculable. And that's the impact these investments will have on the future of rural Illinois ... the stabilization of our rural economy, and the improvement in the quality of life," says Callahan.

For more information go to [www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/). ■





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Photo by Robert Keeling

## A union divided, a union preserved

Grant home and state's museums stand as reminders of Civil War

*The smoke has long been cleared and the battlefields now lie empty, but the events that transpired on the battlefields of the American Civil War still haunt our nation's history. Throughout Illinois, organizations are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War to sustain the history of this event in which the Union was preserved.*

*By Kaleigh Friend*

Illinois played a large role in the war. President Abraham Lincoln, who had a law practice and a home in Springfield, was still in his infancy as the 16th president. Lincoln, as Commander in Chief, watched as the civil war unfolded.

The war began as a compilation of issues, including differing economies in the North and South, challenges between state and federal rights, the practice of slavery and Lincoln's election.

Lincoln faced opposition from all sides. Political cartoonists took jabs at everything from his appearance to his policies. Some abolitionists even felt his actions were not enough to put a true end to slavery. In the end, the president would only live five days after the war ended. His hopes of putting the country back together were demolished and he was never able to see what became of the nation.

Another Illinois resident, Ulysses S. Grant, who lived in Galena, rose to the top of the ranks, eventually becoming the Lieutenant General of the Union Army and the 18th president of the United States. Grant's military career began with his graduation from the United States Military Academy, after which he was a soldier for 11 years. During this time he was active in the Mexican American War.

According to Galena Public Library Historian Steve Repp, in 1854, Grant resigned from the military after he was unsuccessful at making a sufficient living in St. Louis, Mo., the area home to his wife, Julia. The Grant family then moved to Galena, so that Ulysses could work in his father's leather store. Here he did much of the traveling for the business in place of his brother Simpson, who had become ill with Tuberculosis. When the Civil War began, Grant again offered his services to the military.

Grant caught President Lincoln's attention after winning several battles, including those at Shiloh and Vicksburg, and his capture of Fort Donaldson in Tennessee. At Fort Donaldson, Grant demanded unconditional surrender; this later became one of the General's monikers as it coincided with his first and middle initials. His experience and grit made him a successful leader during the war.

After battling in the Western Theater, the area east of the Mississippi River and west of the Appalachian Mountains, General Grant was made Lieutenant General by President Lincoln and went to lead the Union Army in the East. Along with eight other generals from Galena, the state contributed over 200,000 men to the Union Army, along with foodstuffs and livestock.

Grant returned victorious to Galena in August of 1865, still somber from the sights of a grizzly war. He was received by his proud hometown with a generous celebration in his honor, and was presented with a fully outfitted post-war home on Bouthillier Street. The

## Civil War Museums in Illinois

### Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War

503 South Walnut  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 544-0616

This museum in Springfield, Ill. is home to genealogy records of Civil War veterans, as well as artifacts from the Civil War period including currency, uniforms and medals. This location serves as the national headquarters for this organization and is free to the public.

### Vermillion County Museum

307 N. Vermillion Street  
Danville, IL 61832  
(217)-431-0034

The Vermillion County War Museum has a history of military conflict from the Revolutionary War to present day, spanning over 200 years. The museum's Civil War collection includes photos, swords, a Union soldier's hat, artillery shells, and other items from this time period.

### Illinois State Military Museum

1301 N. MacArthur  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217)-761-3910

Housing military history over the decades, this museum has a considerable sized collection, including a wooden target on which President Lincoln test fired a Spencer rifle in 1863, when its inventor brought it to Washington for approval. The collection also includes Civil War flags and a tree from a Civil War battlefield scarred with bullet holes.

### Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

212 N Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 558-8858

This extensive museum details President Lincoln's life. In the "Journey Two: The White House Years" section of the museum, Lincoln's life as the President of the United States is on display during the time of slavery and later the Civil War. There are multiple galleries and exhibits on the war. In the Union Theater, one may feel immersed in a civil war battle through special effects that engage the senses and bring the battlefield to life.

*\*Other exhibits may also exist. This is only a partial listing.*

Grant children donated this home to Galena in 1904 to be kept in memory of General Grant, and the home was later deeded to the State of Illinois due to cost issues.

Today, both homes can be toured five days a week, and are home to reproductions of paintings showing scenes of Grant during the war as well as reproductions of pieces he owned during his lifetime. Each year, the home gets about 60,000-80,000 visitors.

During the time of the Civil War, Galena was at its peak with a lively population of about 14,000 people. Nancy Breed, Executive Director for the Galena – Jo Daviess County Historical Society & Museum, said Galena has some commemorative events planned for the 150th anniversary. It is home to some important pieces of history from this period, including “bookend” Civil War artifacts from both the beginning and end of the war.

The early war bookend artifact is the Blakely Rifle, a cannon from the Confederate artillery used in the first firing on Ft. Sumter on April 12, 1861, which was the first battle of the Civil War. Galena is also home to an artifact from the close of the war, a 9x12 foot oil painting by political cartoonist Thomas Nast called “Peace in Union” which is one of the few paintings depicting Robert E. Lee’s surrender to U.S. Grant in April of 1865. These pieces, along with Grant’s homes, make the town

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Civil War Events

### “Lincoln’s Farewell” Reading

February 11, 2011  
11 a.m.  
Great Western Depot, Springfield, IL  
Free

Lincoln’s Farewell speech will be read on the same day he gave this speech 150 years prior. This event coincides with the goal to set a world record to get over 235,000 people around the nation to read this at the same time.

### “Sacred Oaths and Shallow Graves: The Civil War in Illinois Part I.”

31st Annual Illinois History Symposium  
April 14-16, 2011  
Morris Library  
Southern Illinois University – Carbondale  
[www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org)

Held on the anniversary of the civil war’s commencement and will have papers, presentations, panels, vendors, students, and scholars from all over the state to speak on Illinois’ role in the Civil War.

### U.S. Grant Birthday Celebration

April 15 – 17, 2011  
Various times and locations  
Free  
[www.galenahistorymuseum.org](http://www.galenahistorymuseum.org)  
815-777-9129

Various events commemorating the birthday of Galena’s favorite son: living history, speakers, pie auction, period church service, free museum admission.

### U.S. Grant Home Lamplight Tour

April 15, 2011  
5-7 p.m.  
Grant Memorial Home, Bouthillier Street, Galena, IL  
Donation  
[www.galenahistorymuseum.org](http://www.galenahistorymuseum.org)  
815-777-9129

Lamplight lends a period glow as the Grants welcome you to their home. Adjacent log cabin open; refreshments.

### Dinner with the Grants and Their Collector

April 16, 2011  
6 p.m.  
DeSoto House Hotel  
230 S. Main Street, Galena, IL  
\$50

The Grants and Grant collector, journalist/personality Bill Margeson, celebrate the opening of a new Museum exhibit. Cash bar. Period dinner.

### U.S. Grant Association Annual Meeting

May 6-8, 2011  
Various times and locations  
DeSoto House Hotel  
230 S. Main Street, Galena, IL  
[www.galenahistorymuseum.org](http://www.galenahistorymuseum.org)  
815-777-9129  
\$200 members; \$300 non-members; individual event tickets may be purchased separately

U.S. Grant aficionados from around the country gather for tours, nationally-known speakers/authors, book signings, period concert. Meals included; cash bars.

Grant was presented this home in 1865 after returning from the war.

appealing to those who wish to experience pieces of the Civil War within Illinois.

The Illinois Historical Preservation Society has compiled a calendar of Civil War related events happening throughout 2011. At 11 a.m. on February 11, Lincoln's "Farewell Address" will be read at the Great Western Depot in Springfield, the same day Lincoln gave this speech 150 years prior. This will be a part of the goal to set a world record by getting over 235,000 nationwide people to read this speech at the same time on this day.

Another group has decided to commemorate the Civil War close to home. John Alexander, head of the McCoupin County Civil War Round Table, said this organization is fundraising over the next few years to restore the flag of the McCoupin County volunteer infantry. The McCoupin County Civil War Roundtable is a group of 30-40 members that meet once a month to discuss topics on the Civil War. The flag is currently in the Illinois National Guard Museum, but the group hopes to raise nearly \$40,000 to fully restore the flag and have it on display at the Carlinville courthouse.

Civil War roundtables are non-profit independent organizations that meet to discuss topics on the Civil War such as battles, President Lincoln, war strategies and life on the home front during the war. These groups have formed all over the nation, with more than five in the state of Illinois. Chicago's Civil War Roundtable is the oldest of these organizations, which was organized in December of 1940.

With all of the events taking place to commemorate the beginning of the Civil War, it's important to look at why we remember this time and how it changed the history of our country. Susan Hardin, retired Humanities teacher at Turner Jr. High in Jacksonville, said she feels it's important



Photo courtesy of Jo Daviess County Historical Society & Museum

to remember, "This was the only war fought within our country's borders, by our people, to preserve the Union." She went on to discuss how clashes on the issue of slavery along with tension between the power of state and federal governments brought compromise in the end.

While there were no battles fought in the state of Illinois, there were several places, including Camp Butler just outside of Springfield, and Camp Douglas outside Chicago, which served as places to train and organize troops into companies and regiments. These sites also served as prisoner-of-war camps for captured Confederate soldiers. Today, Camp Butler is a United States National Cemetery for over 1,600 Civil War soldiers.

On the home front, because men had left their farms and businesses to fight in the war, women were put in the position to fill these roles. David Kuhn, Illinois Civil War re-enactor, pointed out that this was a sort of "Rosie the Riveter" time for women, in which they assumed the roles of men who were gone over the four years of the war. This was also the time of nurse Clara Barton, who was present at some of the most devastating battles of the war, along with many other women who served as nurses during this time.

Over 400 women were reported to have served as soldiers in the Civil War. Kuhn shared the story of Jennie Rodgers, who disguised herself as a man and served as a cavalryman in the

Illinois 95th for three years under the name Albert Cashier. Her gender was only discovered after she was injured in a trolley car accident and sent to a doctor. Throughout this time period, women were empowered to take on new roles that were typically only for men.

At the end of the war, over 620,000 lives were lost. Countless towns were in shambles; homes were destroyed. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theater just five days after General Lee's surrender, marking the end of the Civil War. The nation was left wounded.

During this revolutionary time in the nation's history, many things were changing. Countless events will commemorate this time and will unfold over the next four years in Illinois and nationwide as the 150th anniversary of different battles and events arrive. This momentous war is one to be remembered as a time when our nation proved strong enough to stay unified during some of our darkest days.

#### About the photographer:

Robert Keeling is a professional photographer who was based in Chicago for many years. His current studio and home is now in Galena, Ill. He travels throughout the United States shooting for his corporate/advertising clients. Specializations: people/fashion, products/still life, locations/travel & tourism, architectural/interiors & scenics. You can contact Keeling at 815.777.0420 and see his portfolio at [www.koralikassoc.com](http://www.koralikassoc.com).

## Copper theft not worth the ultimate price

Impacts from illegal activity are far-reaching

Copper theft has reached an epidemic level that is not only affecting the United States, but is international and creating immense global havoc. According to the U.S. Department of Energy the theft of copper costs the national economy around \$1 billion per year. The increase in copper theft has disrupted the flow of electricity, created electrical hazards, slowed down construction projects and knocked out irrigation networks across the United States.

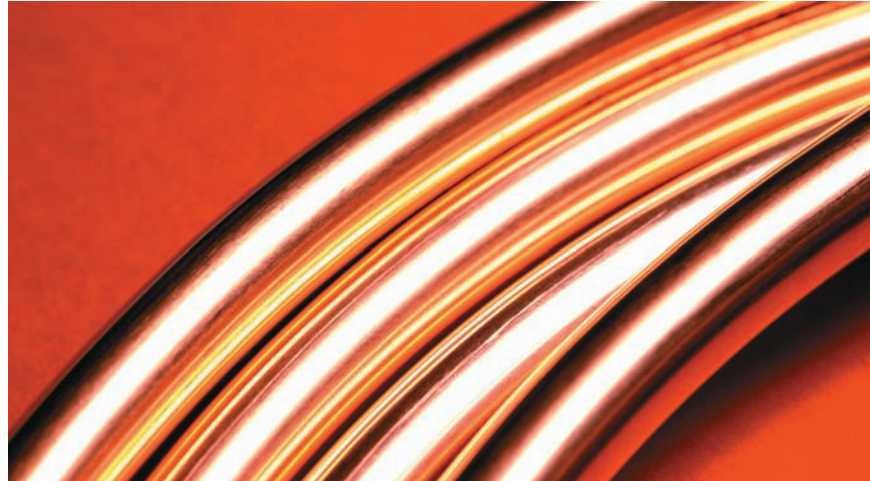
Additionally, when thieves cut locks or chain link fencing surrounding an electric substation they leave a highly dangerous area exposed for inquisitive children and animals.

Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can cause not only serious injuries and death, but extensive outages, fires and explosions — consequences that impact innocent people. The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect thousands of individuals. The ultimate cost of copper theft can be someone's life.

In October, Ameren employees sent to repair an outage found the cause — a dead man, who while attempting to steal copper wire, cut into an energized wire. His two accomplices fled the scene.

In August a 23-year-old man broke into a North Carolina electric co-op's substation to steal copper wire. He was perched atop a high-voltage regulator when he apparently cut a wire. The jolt of electricity knocked him 10 feet away from the regulator and he was dead at the scene.

The members of Oklahoma Electric Cooperative are facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of copper. The damage



caused an outage and destroyed regulators and a large transformer valued at \$600,000. Given the fire and destruction, co-op officials are amazed they didn't find a burned body in the substation, too.

People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Always alert your utility provider when you see or suspect suspicious activity.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to help safeguard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft:

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc. contact your electric utility immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.

- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location and never leave them out while away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight. Consider hiring a night security guard.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper.

Copper theft is not harmless. Dealing with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, especially when it is done without permission or training. Copper theft places the thief and others in danger.

People who think stealing electric wire is a quick way to earn some easy money should think again. The value of metal is not worth losing a life.

For more information, visit: [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

Molly Hall is the Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail: [molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org](mailto:molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org). Safe Electricity is a public awareness program of the Energy Education Council. [www.EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://www.EnergyEdCouncil.org).



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## It's bloomin' cold

### A few flowers take their cue in February

February is that middle month, half way between winter and spring. The odds are that there will be a warm spell as well as some bone-chilling temperatures. But the key aspect is that spring is around the corner.

When you think of February, you tend to think of Valentine's Day flowers, which have been touched on in this column more than enough times to fully paper the inside of any bird cage. We don't need to do that again.

(Okay, for those of you who are saying "Wait, I forgot to read those years ago" or are saying "Well, I didn't have anyone to give flowers to back then," just remember clean vase, no foliage in the water, change the water every two or three days, and flowers will eventually die. Longer than a twitter.)

February blesses us with some blooms, especially if the temperatures hit the 40s and 50s for some days but not the subzero.

Granted, where you live in Illinois also has an influence. Southern folks are bound to see more blooms than those bordering Wisconsin. Daffodils may be popping out in Cairo while the snow blankets Belvidere.

But unless an arctic cold front decides to hover over the state the entire month, we are bound to see some plants start to bloom, provided you have them in your yard.

Therein lies one of the problems. If you didn't plant daffodils, there are good chances there won't be any popping up. It's not one of those things that birds or animals transfer from place to place. Somebody has to plant them.

That's especially true with some of the minor bulbs.

Winter aconites, with their buttercup yellow flowers will peek through an inch of snow like little yellow spots,



which upon reflection, may make you look closer especially if you have dogs and cats in the area. However, the yellow is really vivid so you shouldn't confuse it with anything else.

The winter aconites (*Eranthis*) can naturalize and fill in an area. When the temperatures are warm, the leaves and flowers are like umbrellas with many of the yellow petals spreading out like spokes above the green.

However, if we get a cold snap, everything closes up tight, just like collapsing the umbrella.

To be honest, most people look at winter aconites and think "Oh, aren't they just cute and precious." It's hard not to. About the only way to avoid that effect is to plant them en masse. Lots and lots and lots of them.

Snowdrops are another early spring bulb. The white flowers hang upside down, almost as if they are ashamed to be blooming early. If you look close enough, you'll see a little bit of green on the inner parts. Unfortunately, if the flowers bloom when it's snowing, it takes a good pair of eyes to see the white against the white. If you remember to plant them next fall, place them close to an outside door.

Hellebores also are wonderful late winter plants that seem to keep blooming on and on, though in reality

the flowers have just dried and not fallen off.

Many times, the foliage dies during the summer and rejuvenates in the fall. Throughout the winter, you may see green leaves, just like on some of the unrelated arums.

The English have a love affair with the hellebores like we do with hostas. Both prefer the shade.

Finally, witchhazels will start producing swollen buds that may or may not open depending on the temperatures. The peppercorn-sized buds will start to swell to pea-size, and then navy bean. Soon, you'll see the thread-like yellow to orange to red petals unfurl.

Like the winter aconites, if the temperatures turn cold again, the petals will fold back into a tight cluster.

Relish February if you have these plants. If not, make a list now so you can plant the witchhazels and hellebores this spring, and the bulbs next fall.

David Robson is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. [drobson@illinois.edu](mailto:drobson@illinois.edu)





# Nominate a mother for Illinois Country Mother of the Year

**W**hile every mother is special, some are just extraordinary in their willingness to help their families and others. If your mom or another mom in your community is deserving of this honor, nominate her.

Tell us in 500 words about that special mom, what she does and why she deserves to win the title.

Plus complete the following form and send it along with your essay. If sending your essay by e-mail, just include this information, also.



Her Name			
Address	City	State	Zip
In which Illinois electric cooperative territory she resides			
Organizations to which she belongs			
Person nominating her			
Relationship to the nominee			
Your phone number with area code			
Nominee's phone number with area code (we would contact her only if she wins)			

*Rules: The contest is open to any mother served by an electric cooperative. No purchase is necessary. The winner will be selected by committee, and featured in the May edition of the Illinois Country Living magazine.*

*All nomination letters submitted will be published in May on Illinois Country Living's Website at [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop).*

**What will the Illinois Country  
Mother of the Year win?  
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#### DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:

**Entries must be postmarked by March 11, 2011**

Mail to: Jonie Larson, Illinois Country Living,  
P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787

\*E-mail entries can be sent to [jl Larson@aiec.coop](mailto:jl Larson@aiec.coop)

# Illinois Country Living

## Water heaters go smart

### Cooperatives begin to promote hybrid units

For years I have been touting the importance of having an efficient water heater. The reason is simple – water heaters use significant amounts of energy, second only to the energy



used to heat and cool a home.

Until now, the most efficient water heater on the market was the Marathon and I have sung this product's praises for many years. Many electric cooperatives have sold the Marathon water heater for years and continue to do so. It is a top-notch product.

Now, General Electric, A.O. Smith and Rheem are offering excellent hybrid electric water heaters.

These revolutionary new water heating products use much less electricity. For example the General Electric Hybrid Water Heater uses 62 percent less energy than standard electric units and exceeds Energy Star standards with an incredible Energy Factor of 2.35 or 235 percent efficiency. One of these new water heater units costs around \$1,500, but it will save around \$320 a year based upon a three-person household. Do the math and you will see there isn't a long payback.

The hybrid water heaters use advanced heat pump technology and onboard intelligence in conjunction with traditional electric elements. The heat pump is the main way the water is heated, but the traditional elements will activate if the water is used up faster than the heat pump mode can replace. Other features on the GE hybrid water heater include an eHeat mode to maximize savings. Then there is the High Demand mode for when you have guests and need lots of hot water. When you leave for vacation, you can set the heater to turn off while you are gone and turn back on before your return. This is one smart water heater.

Although these heat pump water heaters are very different from standard water heaters, they are easy to install. It fits into a similar footprint

---

*“These new water heaters unit costs around \$1,500, but it will save around \$320 a year based upon a three-person household.”*

---

as a 50-gallon water heater and uses existing water and electrical connections.

I realize this water heater is more costly up-front than the Marathon water heater and certainly more than a standard one. But, the good news is the federal energy efficiency tax credits have been extended, although the credit is now for no more than 10 percent of the costs up to a maximum of \$500. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more information. If you are ready to buy one or think you might be, contact your local electric cooperative.

See you next month.

Doug Rye is a licensed architect and the host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. To order Doug’s video or ask energy efficiency-related questions, call Doug at 1-501-653-7931, e-mail [info@philliprye.com](mailto:info@philliprye.com) or go to [www.dougrye.com](http://www.dougrye.com).

Doug Rye, the “Doctor of Energy Efficiency—the King of Caulk and Talk” can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations.



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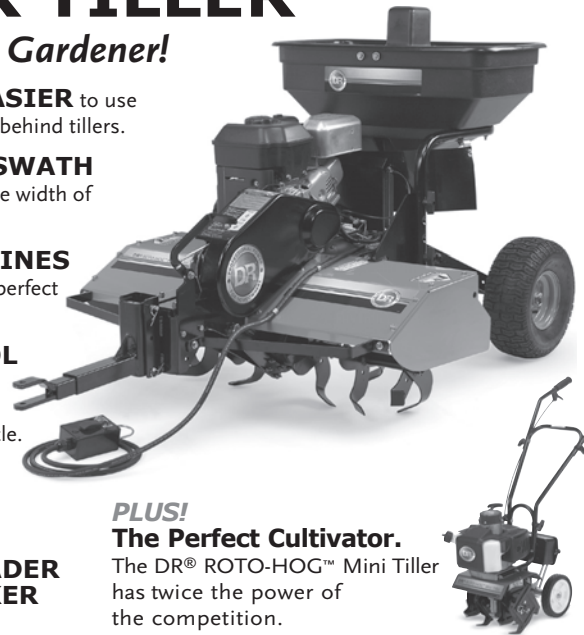
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# Simple sealing ideas

## Don't let winter drafts get you down

Are you shivering and bundling up inside your house? If your thermostat is set at the desired temperature, your furnace runs continuously, your utility bills are ridiculously high, but you are still cold, it is probably because energy is escaping your house.

As it gets colder outside, here are some clues that will indicate if your home has air leaks:

- You feel drafts or air moving even when all of your windows and doors are closed.
- The floor directly in front of the sink feels colder than the rest of the floor.
- There is a drastic temperature difference between levels in your house.
- You find bugs in the same room over and over again.

Outside air typically enters the home where building materials meet and where wires and pipes penetrate through the walls.

The EPA estimates that homeowners can typically save up to 20 percent of heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors over crawl spaces and accessible basement rim joists. Sealing and insulating these areas add up to an average of \$200 worth of savings a year on energy costs.

There are several easy and cost-effective ways to eliminate drafts.

- Replace weather-stripping around doors, including the garage door.
- Add extra insulation in your attic.
- Insulate perimeter walls in your basement.
- Insure that the chimney flue is closed.

Filling gaps and cracks with an insulating foam sealant is an easy, fast solution that anyone can undertake. Sealants such as Great Stuff form an airtight, water-resistant seal that cures rigid. The foam is sandable, paintable, and can be trimmed with a utility knife afterwards.

Some common and effective places to seal include the holes where the HVAC ductwork enters the living space from the basement and attic, the attic hatch frame, plumbing stacks and shafts, and pipe, wire and conduit penetrations.

For a full list of places to use foam sealant, visit <http://greatstuff.dow.com/pdfs/checklist.pdf>.



*One of the most common areas that needs sealing is where plumbing pipes come through walls.*



*While sealing out drafts around doors and windows, look for hidden holes in areas such as your attic.*

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 Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield, IL  
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 February 25, 26, 27

HBA of Greater Peoria Spring Home Show  
 Peoria Civic Center, Peoria, IL  
 February 25, 26, 27

St. Louis Builder Home & Garden Show  
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## Favorite Recipes of Illinois 4-8 Through the Years

**Who:** Illinois 4-H

**Cost:** \$15, plus \$7 shipping

**Details:** paper-backed, spiral-bound

**Pages of recipes:** 106

**Send checks to:** Marketing & Distribution Services, 1917 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820 or call 800-345-6087.

### Cornflake Macaroons

4 egg whites  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
3/4 C. sugar  
1 C. coarsely chopped nuts  
1 C. shredded coconut  
3 C. cornflakes

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Put egg whites, salt and vanilla into a mixing bowl. Beat until foamy. Add the sugar gradually and continue beating until glossy and stiff. Fold in remaining ingredients by cutting down through the mixture, lifting up, and folding over. Drop batter from a spoon, about 2 inches apart, onto a parchment paper-lined cooking sheet. Bake for about 15 minutes or until delicately browned. Remove from oven and peel macaroons from parchment paper. Cool on wire racks.

Cornflake Macaroons

### Peanut Butter Balls

1/2 C. peanut butter  
1/2 C. honey or corn syrup  
3/4 C. instant non-fat dry milk  
1/2 C. crisp, flake-type cereal  
Coconut, chopped nuts or crushed cereal

Mix peanut butter and honey in a bowl. Stir in dry milk and 1/2 C. cereal. Roll mixture into 3/4-inch balls. Roll balls in coconut, chopped nuts or crushed cereal. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator.

### Chicken-Fried Steak

2 lbs. round steak, 1/2-inch thick  
1/4 C. milk  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 C. fine cracker crumbs  
1/4 C. oil  
Salt and pepper, to taste

Cut steak into 6 servings. Pound steak thoroughly with a sharp-edged meat pounder. Add milk to beaten eggs. Dip steak into egg mixture, then coat with crumbs. Brown on both sides in hot oil. Season; then cover and cook over very low heat 45-60 minutes.

*Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner*

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

### Egg and Tuna Scallop

2 T. butter  
2 T. flour  
1 C. milk  
1/4 tsp. salt  
Dash of pepper  
2 C. crushed potato chips  
4 hard-cooked eggs, sliced  
1 (6-oz.) can tuna fish, flaked  
1 T. minced onion (opt.)  
Dash of paprika

Melt butter in a pan. Add flour, remove pan from burner and mix well. Gradually add in milk, mixing well. Put pan back on the burner. Cook, stirring constantly, until sauce is thick. Add salt, pepper and paprika (and onion, if desired). In a 1-1/2-quart casserole dish place 1 C. potato chips. Add the flaked tuna and eggs. Pour sauce over the tuna and eggs. Top with remaining chips. Bake at 375 degrees until sauce is bubbly and top is nicely browned, about 30 minutes.

## A Legacy

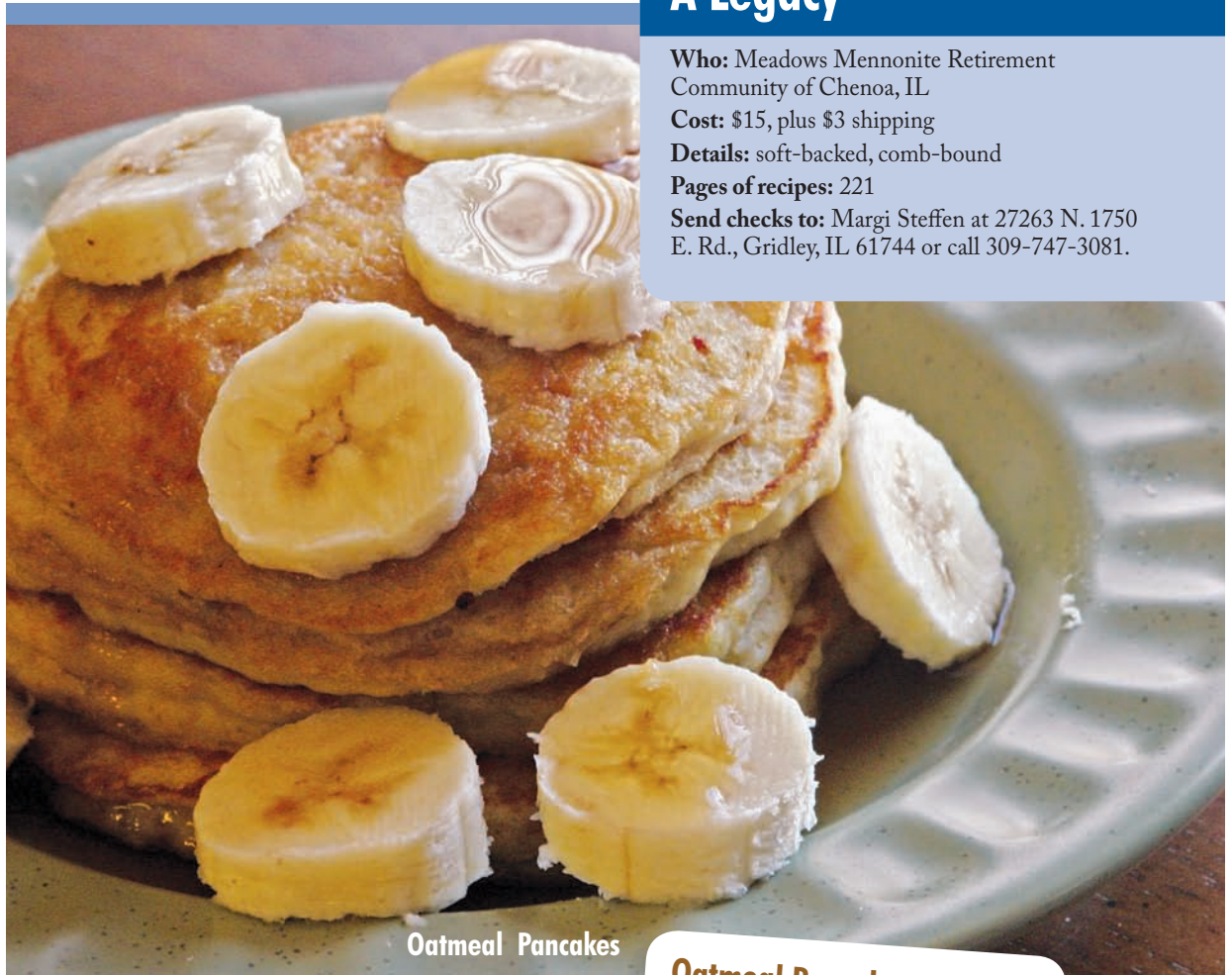
**Who:** Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community of Chenoa, IL

**Cost:** \$15, plus \$3 shipping

**Details:** soft-backed, comb-bound

**Pages of recipes:** 221

**Send checks to:** Margi Steffen at 27263 N. 1750 E. Rd., Gridley, IL 61744 or call 309-747-3081.



Oatmeal Pancakes

### Oatmeal Pancakes

1 C. old-fashioned oats  
1-1/2 C. buttermilk  
2 T. brown sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/4 C. oil  
1 C. flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. baking powder

Combine oatmeal and buttermilk; let stand for 10 minutes. Add brown sugar, eggs and oil to oatmeal mixture. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and baking powder; mix well, then add to oatmeal mixture. Stir only until combined, do not over mix. Fry in a skillet. Makes 12 (3-inch) pancakes.

### Cranberry Grape Salad

1 lb. cranberries  
1 lb. grapes  
1 C. sugar  
1/2 C. nuts  
1 (12-oz.) ctn. whipped cream

Grind cranberries and cut grapes into halves. Combine cranberries and grapes with nuts and sugar. Fold in whipped cream. Chill.

### Barbecue

1-1/2 lbs. hamburger  
1/2 C. chopped celery  
1/4 C. chopped onion  
1/2 green pepper, chopped  
1-1/2 C. ketchup  
1 T. mustard  
2 T. Worcestershire sauce or vinegar  
Salt and pepper, to taste

Brown hamburger, celery, onion and green pepper. Add remaining ingredients and simmer together in a crockpot on low for 8-10 hours. Serve on a bun or hoagie.

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## A Legacy

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Oatmeal Pancakes

### Banana Salad

4 T. sugar  
1 T. flour  
1 tsp. butter  
1 egg, well beaten  
2 T. vinegar  
1/4 tsp. dry mustard  
1 C. whipping cream  
6-10 bananas  
Peanuts, chopped

Combine sugar, flour, butter, egg, vinegar, dry mustard and whipping cream in a saucepan and cook. Stir the mixture continuously as it cooks. If it is too thick, add more cream. Refrigerate the dressing until ready to assemble the salad. Slice and layer bananas and peanuts and chilled dressing in a trifle bowl, making three to five layers. Finish with peanuts. Chill.

### Cranberry Grape Salad

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1 lb. grapes  
1 C. sugar  
1/2 C. nuts  
1 (12-oz.) ctn. whipped cream

Grind cranberries and cut grapes into halves. Combine cranberries and grapes with nuts and sugar. Fold in whipped cream. Chill.

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2 T. Worcestershire sauce or vinegar  
Salt and pepper, to taste

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### Oatmeal Pancakes

1 C. old-fashioned oats  
1-1/2 C. buttermilk  
2 T. brown sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/4 C. oil  
1 C. flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. baking powder

Combine oatmeal and buttermilk; let stand for 10 minutes. Add brown sugar, eggs and oil to oatmeal mixture. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and baking powder; mix well, then add to oatmeal mixture. Stir only until combined, do not over mix. Fry in a skillet. Makes 12 (3-inch) pancakes.





## The check's in the e-mail

With all the talk these days about identity theft, and the continual worry that transacting business online is unwise, many people are questioning whether or not they should be involved in online banking. This issue of Powered Up will examine some of the benefits in using online banking.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) electronic banking, also known as electronic fund transfer (EFT) uses computer and electronic technology as a substitute for checks and other paper transactions. EFTs are initiated through devices like cards or codes that let you, or those you authorize, access your account. Many financial institutions use ATM or debit cards and Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) for this purpose. Some use other forms of debit cards such as those that require, at the most, your signature or a scan.

Most people are already familiar with ATM cards and/or debit cards that act like credit cards, but there is



some confusion about the difference between direct deposit, automatic withdrawal and electronic bill pay.

Direct deposit lets you authorize specific deposits, such as paychecks and Social Security checks, to your account on a regular basis. Many employers now offer direct deposit. With it, you may find that you receive your wages a day or two early because of being enrolled in direct deposit.

Automatic withdrawal or direct debit is when you also may pre-authorize an automatic payment of recurring bills, such as insurance premiums,

mortgages and utility bills. Be cautious before you pre-authorize direct withdrawals to pay sellers or companies with whom you are unfamiliar; funds from your bank account could be withdrawn fraudulently. In fact, many consumers are moving entirely away from automatic withdrawals to an electronic bill pay system.

Electronic bill pay is a relatively new service now offered by most banking institutions. To use it, you will probably have to sign up for personal computer banking, otherwise known as online banking or electronic banking. Personal computer banking lets you use your computer to view your account balance, request transfers between accounts, and pay bills electronically.

If you decide to use an EFT of any kind, then make sure you follow these two basic financial safety rules:

1. Keep and compare receipts for all types of EFT transactions so you can find errors or unauthorized transfers and report them.
2. Make sure you know and trust a merchant or other company before you share any bank account information or pre-authorize debits to your account.

Last, be sure to know where to go if you have a problem. Much of the information contained in this article comes from the FTC. Their site ([www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)) will help you stay safe as you venture into the electronic financial world.

### FTC Facts For Consumers :

Before you contract for EFT services or make your first electronic transfer, the institution must tell you the following information in a form you can keep:

- A summary of your liability for unauthorized transfers.
- The telephone number and address of the person to be notified if you think an unauthorized transfer has been or may be made, a statement of the institution's "business days" (which is, generally, the days the institution is open to the public for normal business), and the number of days you have to report suspected unauthorized transfers.
- The type of transfers you can make, fees for transfers, and any limits on the frequency and dollar amount of transfers.
- A summary of your right to receive documentation of transfers, to stop payment on a pre-authorized transfer, and the procedures to follow to stop payment.
- A notice describing the procedures to follow to report an error on a receipt for an EFT or your periodic statement, to request more information about a transfer listed on your statement, and how long you have to make your report.
- A summary of the institution's liability to you if it fails to make or stop certain transactions.
- Circumstances under which the institution will disclose information to third parties concerning your account.

*Ed VanHoose is the Digital Communications Administrator / IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. He is a specialist in the IT field with over 12 years of experience working in leadership roles for technology based projects in Illinois and Missouri.*



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### Vacation cabins-Ohio River,

Shawnee National Forest, Elizabethtown, IL. Cedar Hill River Cabins, Ohio River National Scenic Byway, [www.cedarhillriverresort.com](http://www.cedarhillriverresort.com). 217-652-4257.

### Miniature Mediterranean donkeys.

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### First Street Restaurant Equipment

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### Filter Queen/Defender sales, service

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### Interested in historic cemeteries?

Illinois abandoned cemetery law explained and other stories in this must-own DVD video: [www.southernmostillinoishistory.com](http://www.southernmostillinoishistory.com).

**Wanted to buy:** Standing timber, most species. Pay top prices. Call 217-285-2760.

**Wanted: 5 gallon (20 QT.) crank ice cream freezer.** Any condition. Call 618-553-0107 or [gmfulk@yahoo.com](mailto:gmfulk@yahoo.com).



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**Lake of Egypt House** 2000' lake house gradual slope to water. 4-br, 3-bath, central heat/air \$150k. 618-996-3130, twob3@juno.com.

## How to place an ad:

- 1) Type or print ad neatly.
- 2) Count words. Cost is \$30 for up to the first 20 words. \$1.50 each additional word. Ads with insufficient funds will not be printed.
- 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: April issue – February 21;  
May issue – March 21.

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

# Advertising in Illinois Country Living Produces Results

**Illinois Country Living has the right recipe for getting your advertising message out!**

### Ingredients:

- 416,300 readers who spend an average of 40 minutes per issue
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# Illinois Country Living

Call Lisa Rigoni at 217-241-7953 or email her at [lrigoni@aiec.coop](mailto:lrigoni@aiec.coop) to get *Illinois Country Living* into your marketing mix!

**BEWARE** of dangers above. Your **LIFE** depends on it.



Jim Flach was more than a farmer, he was a father and grandfather, respected 4-H Club leader and champion in the livestock ring. He taught thousands of young people to prepare livestock for show.

All of them felt the loss when Jim was fatally injured in a tragic accident, when an extension from his farm equipment made contact with overhead power lines.

The Flach family urges all farmers and operators of large equipment to be aware of dangers above. Learn how to stay safe and share that information with others. For more, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

 **Safe  
Electricity.org**

**TLC**

**Teach** what you know.  
**Learn** what you need to.  
**Care** enough to share it.



that protects consumers and keeps electric bills affordable,” English stresses.

Even if Congress grants a reprieve on greenhouse gas regulations, red tape from other EPA and various government rulemaking efforts — the Clean Air Transport Rule, cooling water intake requirements, and a decision on treating coal ash as hazardous waste, for starters — will trigger higher electric bills.

### Clean Air Transport Rule

Released in 2010, EPA’s Clean Air Transport Rule aims to cap emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from power plants across 31 eastern states and the District of Columbia. The regulation enables “downwind” areas whose air quality is compromised by power plants to their west to meet federal standards. By 2014, EPA claims the Transport Rule, when combined with other state and federal measures, will reduce power plant sulfur dioxide emissions by 71 percent and nitrogen oxides emissions by 52 percent from 2005 levels — at a cost to utilities of \$2.8 billion per year.

The Transport Rule requires 180 coal-fired power plants to install new pollution-control technology, activate existing pollution controls, or shut down. A second-round version under consideration could impose even tighter standards.

“We’re expecting a number of existing power plants to simply be retired,” notes Kirk Johnson, NRECA vice president of energy & environmental policy. “The cost to comply with the regulation will simply be too much.”

### Cooling Water Intake Requirements

Power plants use water from lakes or rivers to cool generating equipment. The federal Clean Water Act Section 316(b) sets standards for cooling water intake structures, requiring plant operators to use “best available technology” to protect the environment.

EPA began reviewing the standards in 2010, launching a cost-benefit analysis

of imposing stricter regulations. The rule is expected to be unveiled in February.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation’s bulk power grid watchdog, estimates this EPA rule will have the greatest potential impact on American energy reserves. If strictly enforced, NERC contends one-third of U.S. electricity capacity may need to be retired.

### Coal Ash Debate

To ensure the safe disposal of fly ash and other residues produced by coal-fired power plants, the EPA is

**“Electric co-ops are urging Congress and the White House to approve a two-year moratorium on EPA regulation of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases\_a delay giving lawmakers the opportunity to fashion climate change legislation that protects consumers and keeps electric bills affordable.”**

**Glenn English, NRECA CEO**

considering designating the materials — for the first time — as hazardous waste.

Classifying these “coal combustion byproducts” (CCBs) as hazardous could cost billions and force increases in electricity rates. Each year, the U.S. electric utility industry produces about 130 million tons of CCBs.

“In previous analysis, EPA determined CCBs do not warrant regulation as hazardous waste under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; oversight was generally in place at the state level to ensure adequate management,” points out Johnson. “Nothing about CCBs has changed since then. Electric co-ops contend coal ash is appropriately regulated and oppose efforts to have it branded as hazardous waste.”

Carrying the hazardous label in any form (EPA could classify CCBs as “special wastes,” making them subject to all permitting, handling, and disposal requirements that apply to toxic items) will severely hamper beneficial uses of CCBs, Johnson warns.

Currently, one-third of fly ash (used as a cement replacement) and more than one-fourth of scrubber sludge (converted into synthetic gypsum for wallboard manufacturing) are recycled. For every ton of cement replaced by fly ash, a ton of greenhouse gas emissions is avoided.

More than 10,000 co-op consumers sent letters to the EPA in 2010 voicing their concern and asking EPA not to brand coal ash as hazardous. EPA had not reached a final decision as of press time.

### Parting Thoughts

“Rest assured, local electric co-ops are working together to keep your electric bills affordable,” relates Duane Noland, President & CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. “We’re controlling costs through innovation, and no matter what government mandates come our way, we’ll continue to put you, our members, first.”

Noland urges Illinois co-op members to learn more about the issues facing their co-op and energy costs by attending co-op annual meetings, reading co-op newsletters and joining other involved members by signing up on [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). “Our democracy works when citizens are informed and involved at the grassroots level,” says Noland.

*Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, ECT.coop*

*Perry Stambaugh writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Megan McKoy-Noe, CCC contributed to this article.*

**2, Broadway at the Coronado: "The Wizard of Oz"**

in Rockford. 815-968-2722 or [www.coronadopac.org](http://www.coronadopac.org).

**3-6, Northern IL Boat Show**

in Grayslake. 847-680-7200 or [www.lcfair.com](http://www.lcfair.com).

**4-6, Illinois Fishing & Outdoor Expo**

in Loves Park. 815-877-8043 or [www.showtimeproduction.net](http://www.showtimeproduction.net).

**4-6, 2011 Illinois Horse Fair,**

Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. 217-585-1600 or [www.horsemenscouncil.org](http://www.horsemenscouncil.org).



**4-6, The 40th Annual Rockford Boat Show**

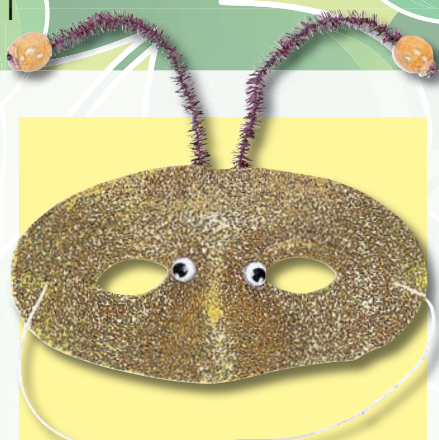
in Loves Park. 815-877-8043 or [www.showtimeproduction.net](http://www.showtimeproduction.net).

**5-6, Menopause the Musical**

in Waukegan, IL 847-782-2366 or [www.geneseetheatre.com](http://www.geneseetheatre.com).

**5-6, Festival of Arts and Crafts**

in St. Charles. 630-443-7158 or [www.dupageexpo.com](http://www.dupageexpo.com).



**6, Mardi Gras Brunch & Historic Mansion Tour**

at the Magnolia Manor in Cairo. \$18. 618-734-0201 or [www.magnoliamanorcairo.org](http://www.magnoliamanorcairo.org).

**11-12 Hearts at Home Mom Conference,**

ISU campus, Normal, 309-828-MOMS or [www.hearts-at-home.org](http://www.hearts-at-home.org),

**11-13, Country Treasures Craft Show**

in Quincy. 217-223-1000.

**11-20, Baggy Pants Burlesque**

in Sullivan. 217-728-7375 or [www.thelittletheatre.org](http://www.thelittletheatre.org).

**12, Moonlight Serenade in**

Freeport. 815-233-0113.

**12-13, Fall Fox Valley Antiques Show**

in St. Charles. 815-838-0606 [www.CSADA.com](http://www.CSADA.com).

**12-13, The 2011 Spring Home Improvement Show**

at the Hidden Cove Sportsplex in Bourbonnais. 815-482-4131 [www.hbakankakee.com](http://www.hbakankakee.com).

**18-20, "The Drowsy Chaperone"**

at the Quincy Community Theatre in Quincy. 217-222-3209 or [www.1qct.org](http://www.1qct.org).

**20, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**

in University Park. 708-235-2222 or [www.centertickets.net](http://www.centertickets.net).

**25, Get the Led Out**

in Grayslake. 847-543-2300 or [www.clcil-linois.edu/tickets](http://www.clcil-linois.edu/tickets).

**25-27, Galena Wine Lovers Weekend**

at various locations throughout Galena. 815-777-3938 or [www.wineloversweekend.com](http://www.wineloversweekend.com).

**25-27, The 40th Annual Rockford RV Camping & Travel Show**

in Loves Park. 815-877-8043 or [www.showtimeproduction.net](http://www.showtimeproduction.net).

**26, Rockford Symphony Orchestra - Baroque & Beyond**

in Rockford. 815-965-0049 or [www.rockfordsymphony.com](http://www.rockfordsymphony.com).

**26, The 39 Steps Hitchcock Festival**

in University Park. 708-235-2222 or [www.centertickets.net](http://www.centertickets.net).

**26, Live at Jacoby: Last Saturday Nights**

in Alton. 618-462-5222 or [www.jacobyartscenter.org](http://www.jacobyartscenter.org).

**26-27, St. Charles Home Show**

St. Charles. 630-584-6926.

**29, Broadway at the Coronado: "All Shook Up"**

in Rockford. 815-968-2722 or [www.coronadopac.org](http://www.coronadopac.org).

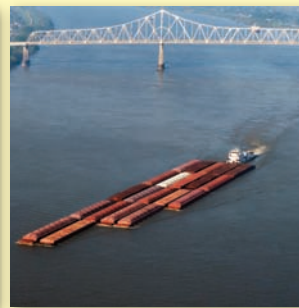
Visit our Web site, [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)



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

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*Provide daily protein requirements for 25,740 people...or 4,500 or more daily human servings of soybean oil*

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*Power a semi-truck for 500 miles on biodiesel*



## Imagine what the 9 million acres Illinois farmers harvested in 2010 will do!

Illinois soybean farmers, with a record high yield, raised a near record 470 million bushels of soybeans in 2010. U.S. soy exports hit a record high 1.9 billion bushels of soybean equivalent for the fourth consecutive year. More than half of U.S. soybean production was exported with a total value of more than \$21 billion.



Learn more about the value of international soybean markets at [www.ilsoy.org](http://www.ilsoy.org).

Photos courtesy of: Illinois Agrinews, National Soybean Research Laboratory, U.S. Soybean Export Council





# WATERFURNACE KNOWS THAT TRAINING MATTERS

Thanks to the 30% federal tax credit, a flood of inexperienced, questionably trained dealers are now offering geothermal. While some companies allow anyone to sell their products, WaterFurnace requires an ongoing commitment to the most extensive training and education programs in the industry. That's why WaterFurnace is the most recognized and respected name in residential geothermal. Or maybe it's because WaterFurnace units use the clean, renewable energy found in your backyard to provide savings up to 70% on heating, cooling and hot water. Or is it thanks to the industry's best warranty? Decide for yourself. Contact your local WaterFurnace dealer today... or be prepared to deal with a flood of your own.

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