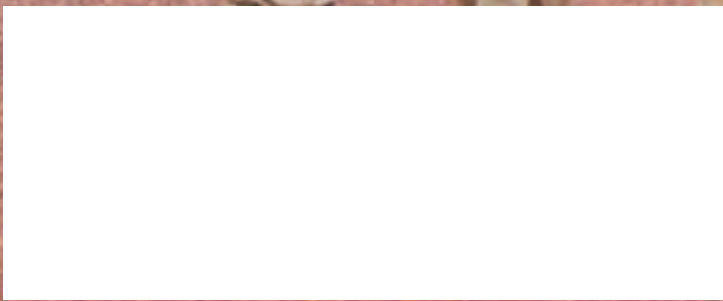
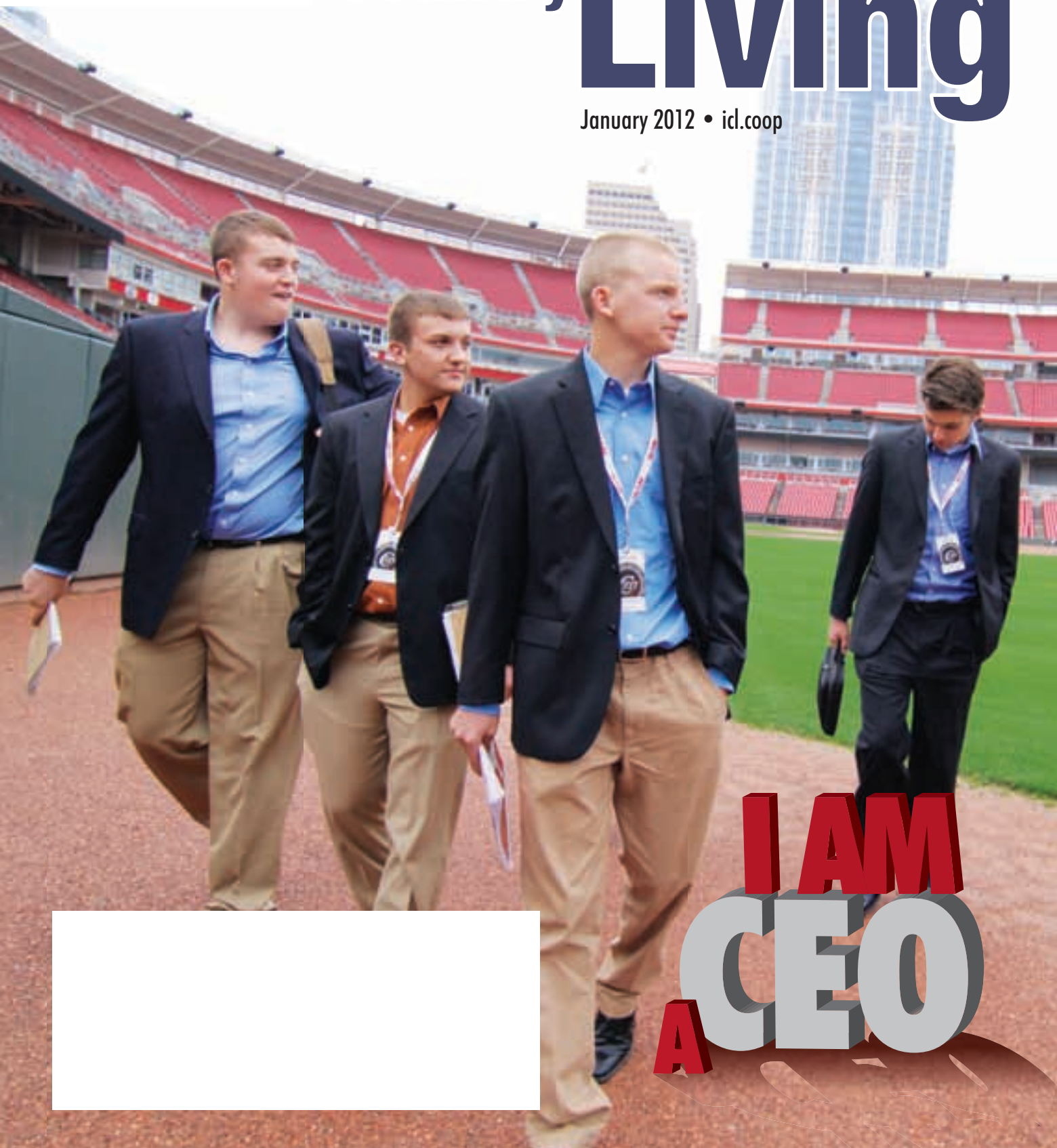


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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 660 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values — integrity,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



10 I AM A CEO

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Two new energy programs offered

Co-ops understand E – fficiency and putting members first

Readers of these pages in recent months perhaps have read about (maybe even participated in) one of the E programs ... HomE, FarmE and RenewE. These programs demonstrate first hand how we put co-op members first.

More than 3,400 electric co-op members across Illinois know all about HomE. Through this program, they received energy assessments of their homes, followed by energy efficiency upgrade recommendations from experts at cooperatives across Illinois. In the end, well over 3,000 of these members received a HomE rebate in support of the efficiency upgrades they made to their homes.

HomE was coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, which managed a \$2.5 million State Energy Program grant that was part of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. The program was managed by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Division of Energy and Recycling.

By any measure, HomE is the most successful statewide energy efficiency program in the history of Illinois electric cooperatives. The program will save incredible amounts of electricity, natural gas and propane - and money for co-op members - now and forever. HomE helped to put hundreds of Americans to work by incenting members to make efficiency upgrades. These projects totaled about \$25 million, all across rural areas of Illinois.

HomE is history. But it isn't the end of co-op efficiency programs.

If you need some energy efficiency advice about your home ... call the experts at your cooperative. If you need energy efficiency advice for your farm or rural small business, call the



co-op and ask about the FarmE program. Through this program, qualifying Illinois electric cooperative members can get a thorough and professional energy audit of their farm or small business - for a very nominal cost, usually \$250 or less. The FarmE audit is available through the support of a \$100,000 US Department of Agriculture grant through the Rural Energy for America program (www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Reap.html).

Ag producers and rural businesses seeking a REAP grant for a farm efficiency project will need this audit to support their grant applications. If you think your operation might qualify and you're interested in the program, please feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone (see below).

Lastly, electric cooperatives have a program we call RenewE. Through this program, we have funding for the promotion of rural renewable energy. The first step begins in late January and early February with a series of educational seminars designed to educate ag producers about the possibilities for anaerobic digester projects - the use of animal waste. These sessions are planned at

several locations across rural Illinois during the week of January 30. For the latest in information, visit www.aiec.coop or

feel free to contact me. These education sessions are just the first step in our RenewE efforts. This

program also received a USDA Rural Energy for America grant and we have funds available for feasibility studies or engineering reports for qualifying renewable energy projects in rural Illinois.

We think these E programs show the commitment of electric cooperatives to energy efficiency and putting members first. For additional information about the programs, contact your local electric cooperative, or feel free to contact me at jfreitag@aiec.coop, or call 217-241-7973. Let's make energy efficiency and clean renewable energy a reality in rural Illinois. ■

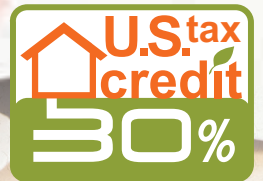
John Freitag serves as Vice President of Operations at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Executive Director of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois.



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Students tour co-op wind turbine in Brown County

Some Western Illinois University students recently had the opportunity to tour a new wind turbine in Brown County, thanks to the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) Wind Energy Program. According to the IIRA, which is housed at WIU, 12 students — whose areas of major study include renewable energy and wind technology in WIU's interdisciplinary studies program, manufacturing engineering systems, and recreation, park and tourism administration — were invited to experience the first utility-scale 1.5 megawatt turbine at a Nov. 1 Adams Electric Cooperative open house event.

The new co-op wind turbine, which stands 279 feet to the hub and 403 feet to the blade tip, will generate enough power for 300-400 homes each year. The cooperative's newest wind turbine, located east of Mt. Sterling, has been in operation since the beginning of September.

"We were excited to provide our students with an opportunity that would allow them to have a hands-on educational experience," said IIRA Wind Energy Program Coordinator Jolene Willis.

For more information about how the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs works to promote alternative energy in Illinois, visit www.iira.org. More information is also available at www.illinoiswind.org. ■

Donald White (top), Peoria, Ill., and Yi Xiong, Chengdu, China, both graduate students in Western Illinois University's manufacturing engineering systems program, were among the 12 WIU students who toured the Adams Electric Cooperative's wind turbine near Mt. Sterling, Ill., Nov. 1.



USDA and Illinois co-ops work on job development

In October Jo-Carroll Energy and Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative were selected to receive funds from USDA Rural Development to help the rural communities in their service areas create jobs and build regional economies.

"This funding requires recipients to use collaborative efforts and regional approaches to address local needs," said Colleen Callahan, state direct for USDA Rural Development. "By working together at the local and regional level, business leaders and communities identify the best ways to support economic growth in their region."

Jo-Carroll Energy was selected to receive a \$50,000 grant through the Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) program, which supports regional planning activities to improve economic conditions in rural areas. Jo-Carroll Energy, an electric and

natural gas provider, will use the grant funds to establish a sustainable small business support center in Mt. Carroll, Ill.

The center will provide training, consulting, tools and resources to help small businesses in northwestern Illinois improve their management potential. The new center will be located at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies on the former Shimer College campus in Mt. Carroll. The RBOG grant will provide less than 20 percent of the estimated two-year cost of operating the center, with other funding coming from Jo-Carroll Energy and the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance.

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was selected to receive a \$740,000 loan through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, which supports job creation efforts, business development and

strengthens economic growth in rural communities. The co-op will re-lend its 0 percent interest loan to the Mattoon Hotel and Convention Center to build a 35,000 square-foot Hilton Garden Inn facility in Mattoon. Approximately 150 people are expected to be employed at the 104 room, full-service hotel and conference center.

Coles-Moultrie was awarded another loan and grant earlier this year through the same program to support the renovation and modernization of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon.

Rural Development has more than 40 programs that foster growth and economic stability in rural areas. Support is available for regional food systems, broadband and biofuel infrastructure, homeownership, business development and community needs. For more information go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/il. ■

Peoria conference will focus on geothermal energy

Downtown Peoria will be home for the second annual Illinois Geothermal Conference on February 28-29, 2012. The conference is sponsored by the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois. The best in the geothermal industry in Illinois and nationally will converge upon the Peoria Civic Center for two days of training and networking. Training tracks will

be held for geothermal contractors and their employees, looping contractors and their employees, utility representatives and engineers and architects.

For additional information, visit www.gaoi.org and click on the conference information tab. ■

Include animals in your disaster preparedness plan

Do you have a severe weather response plan that covers not only your family but also your animals?

For example, microchipping your pet now can be a lifesaver if your pet is separated from you during a natural disaster.

If your animal is sometimes boarded or stabled away from your home, make sure the business has an emergency response plan that covers natural disasters, fire, and other threatening

situations. Ask to see the plan.

If you must evacuate your home, preparations will be different for small vs. large animals. In the event you don't have a place to shelter your animals, have a plan worked out with family or friends who might not be in the path of danger.

Large animals pose a much greater challenge because they are not accepted in shelters. In some instances the state may provide assistance

in sheltering large animals; health papers or a health examination at a state inspection station will likely be required before the animal is allowed in the shelter destination. Large animal owners should be prepared with access to trailers, feed, health papers, and an alternative place to house the animals in the event of a natural disaster. ■

Source: www.aces.uiuc.edu/news

Consumer habit and trends

- A vast majority (87 percent) of respondents still use incandescent bulbs in their homes, but 53 percent plan to switch to a new technology, such as CFLs, LEDs or halogen, after the 100-watt is eliminated this January 2012.
- Within the past year, the majority of consumers have evaluated the types of lighting options they use and 62 percent of respondents reported they have changed or switched out a light bulb within the last year for energy efficiency reasons.
- 9 out of 10 consumers consider brightness, bulb longevity and price when choosing a light bulb. ■



Majority of Americans aware of light bulb phase out

With the federal phase out set to commence on Jan. 1, 2012, the fourth annual SYLVANIA Socket Survey found that for the first time since the study's inception in 2008, a majority of Americans (55 percent) said they are aware of 2007 congressional legislation that will phase-out most standard incandescent light bulbs.

"We're encouraged by the dramatic increase in awareness of the national phase out in the last year and are committed to supporting further lighting education," said Rick Leaman, President and CEO, of OSRAM SYLVANIA.

While this year's results indicate the amount of people optimistic about new technologies is up — with 56 percent of respondents reporting that they are eager to use more energy efficient lighting solutions — one third of respondents said they are worried about the phase out. For a third year in a row, 13 percent of respondents said they plan to save up or "hoard" 100-watt incandescent bulbs.

OSRAM SYLVANIA has developed the only American-made 72-watt halogen incandescent bulb designed to replace the 100-watt standard incandescent bulb phasing out in January. The mercury-free SYLVANIA Halogen bulbs use 28 percent less energy, are fully dimmable and have a color-rendering index of 100. ■

Hoosier Energy tapping into coal bed methane source

Hoosier Energy, an Indiana generation and transmission cooperative that serves 18 distribution co-ops in Indiana and Illinois will soon be one of the first to generate power using coal bed methane. No mining or scrubbing is needed and the release of carbon dioxide is cut in half.

Methane is produced by bacteria in coal beds. It has been tapped before and added to natural gas pipelines, but Hoosier Energy will be using it to generate 28 MW of electricity.

If released, methane is a potent greenhouse gas. Using it for electricity generation on site is considered by some to be one potential energy solution for the U.S., which has 23 percent of the world's coal reserves. Unfortunately not all coal beds are suitable for coal bed methane extraction. For those that would work it could provide a clean use of our coal resources. ■

Resolve to get involved

The Serve Illinois Commission is seeking applicants for a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout Illinois. By entering a zip code, county, and area(s) of interest, applicants can view local volunteer opportunities in their area. Currently, the Serve Illinois Commission has over 100,000 volunteer opportunities statewide, and is always looking for bright, motivated, volunteers to fill positions. Interested applicants may visit www.serve.illinois.gov or call (800) 592-9896. ■

Governor Quinn honors volunteers for improving their communities throughout the state

In October, Governor Quinn recognized 28 outstanding volunteer groups from throughout Illinois with Governor's Home Town Awards (GHTA). The GHTA recognizes volunteers for their work to improve their communities.

The 28 projects recognized represent the work of more than 4,300 volunteers who devoted nearly 78,000 hours of their time, which equates to more than \$1.7 million in value. Nearly \$1.3 million in private funds and materials were raised for these projects.

One of the winners was the Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest City of Shelbyville. A slow economy often has a trickle-down effect. In Shelbyville, it led to the closure of a tourism resort which also left a modest Balloon Event without a location. If the event could be revitalized and moved to a more visible location it could in turn increase traffic and encourage economic impact.

A committee was formed from five different community outreach organizations with a goal of creating a sustainable event that would impact the community and the lake economically.

Volunteers began work in earnest, securing donations, contacting pilots and scheduling activities. By May, the group had secured the sponsorship of Shelby Electric Cooperative, which partnered with nine other co-ops to underwrite the general event and bring in the Touchstone Energy balloon. Additional balloon sponsors were found to cover the expenses of the individual pilots and balloons.

All the work was worth it. Increased retail sales at local businesses resulted in one of their best Octobers in years. Visitation to campgrounds and other accommodations were up, too. ■



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I AM A CEO

Entrepreneurial green light unleashes creativity among high school students

By Jonie Larson Gates

Two young men decked out in dark suits step up with confidence to discuss their entrepreneurial ideas. Chad Goldstein wants to make and market a more ergonomic computer keyboard, something to enhance the comforts of the desk job. The other, Daniel Palkovic, is convinced he can develop an App for categorizing CDs, DVDs, and other personal items for a “home library” of sorts. Both are wearing enthusiasm on their faces - the by-product of an Effingham, Ill. county-wide, high school program poised to go nationwide.

Initiated by Jack Schultz, author of BoomTown USA, along with education and community leaders, this new program known in short as CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities), is an educational endeavor that seeks to change the way America’s youths are thinking, making them more adept at controlling their futures. The mission of the CEO

class is to prepare youths to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to the economic development and sustainability of their community. Now in its fourth year, student and community interest is high, and becoming one of the 20-25 selected for the elective course is coveted.

Instructor Craig Lindvahl is empowering students daily. His ideas are practical, but not universal when it comes to the educational community. Institutions are very good at the concept of “teaching what you have to know,” he says.

“I want students growing up to say, ‘this is what I want to know.’”

The current system of teaching dates back to the 1600s and the world spends billions of dollars trying to make a rather mind-numbing approach work, Lindvahl says. It starts out in kindergarten or first grade.

“We have a machine that produces kids,” he says, explaining that their knowledge base is tempered or confined. Very young children find out that if they make mistakes there are penalties.

“By second grade, we develop a fear of asking questions. We say we want kids who are creative, but we have a system that doesn’t encourage discovery,” he says.

In addition, while information they’re taught is valid, Lindvahl believes society has progressed beyond the basics and that students can excel in creativity because of the tools available to them. He points to the Internet, a “vessel” of nearly the entire knowledge that man has attained. Then he relates that to conventional testing in schools.

“Should we be testing for what students can find out (look up) in three seconds?” Lindvahl thinks there are better ways to challenge students that removes the limits on learning.

Enter the CEO program. A rigorous application process, involving personal statements, interviews, and



CEO students tour Stevens Industries in Teutopolis, one of more than 40 businesses the class visits each year. (Photos courtesy of Craig Lindvahl)

recommendations, eventually narrows the many junior and senior candidates to a fortunate 20-25. Class starts promptly at 7:30 a.m., but not in a classroom. Instead, the students meet in area businesses and visit more than 40 other community businesses during the school year. In addition, 50 to 60 guest speakers share management insight and leadership perspectives with the students and each student is matched with a mentor from the business community and a CEO class alumni.

Early in the year, as student Lauren Horn explained, they identify their personal strengths and are given a color badge to wear to help them pair up in appropriate teams that contribute to success. For instance, orange identifies an enthusiast, yellow is for the organizer, blue is the caring, keep everyone happy kind-of-person, and those identified as green are the problem solvers.

As the year progresses, students in CEO work together as a group on a business venture, earning and investing “real dollars” to make it happen. The class business will culminate this month as students produce a one-night-only “murder mystery” on Jan. 15 at the Firefly Grill, an Effingham “hot spot” restaurant. The students hire the actors, promote the show, sell the tickets and do all the event planning. The instructors are in place only to observe

while the students make it happen.

Lindvahl says the project and the concept are in keeping with his educational goals for students. “Their self-confidence comes from their work. For some, this is their first opportunity to own their own work and behavior,” he says.

The class expectations are measured in large by two questions: Is it your best work? Is it on time? – two things that make a CEO effective.

As the school year progresses, each student will create and execute his or her own business, effectively acting as the CEO, utilizing all the knowledge attained from learning from actual CEOs of local, regional, national, and international companies. Ideally, among measurable results of the program, Effingham County CEO students will attend college and then return home to grow and contribute to Effingham’s business community.

An incentive awaits them. An anonymous donor has established a \$100,000 angel investment fund where CEO alumni can seek startup funds for their own businesses.

Schultz believes this educational program is a huge endeavor in helping smaller towns become those Boom Town communities of which he writes.

“I think it can be transformative for the communities, to create the



jobs and opportunities for the 21st century,” Schultz says. When Schultz authored his book, *BoomTown USA* in 2004, he ranked measures by which a town could develop itself, placing the encouragement of an entrepreneurial approach as number five on the list. He has changed his opinion, and would now rank that effort much higher, to number one or two on the list.

Soon the concept will be tested. The earliest students are beginning to finish college. Will they work for someone else as entrepreneurial thinkers or start their own businesses in their hometown? That’s yet to be seen, but either way their lives are changed for the better, evidenced by their exuberance and confidence.

Faith Wendte shares the changes she has undergone – a mental metamorphosis of sorts. Once terribly shy, she can now volunteer to speak to an audience. “I’ve definitely become more confident. My self-esteem is higher,” she says. And she feels like she belongs to a very unique group.

“We were told we would eventually become a family ... we have truly become a family and I think we always will be.”

Lindvahl says Wendte’s changes are not unique and that she will be well-served by them.

“Business is 90 percent people skills and 10 percent technical business skills.”

Lindvahl says this one program can help youths throughout the nation; that it will work in nearly any community.

“CEO is about creating a learning environment where kids can learn, explore and discover, both by themselves and with the guidance of business leaders,” Lindvahl says, “When you do that, amazing things happen, people are transformed and communities change.”

In his partnering role as the executive director of the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, Lindvahl mentors fellow outstanding educators and is assisting LaSalle-Peru with its new CEO program. Significant interest in CEO is building as communities from around the region begin to understand this unique educational and economic development opportunity.

Interested in bringing CEO to your town? For more information about the program contact Lindvahl at clindvahl@effinghamceo.com ■

Business Interaction

Students in the CEO class visit many businesses, including:

Patterson Technology

Agracel

Hitachi Metals

Siemer Milling

Hodgson Mill

Stevens Industries

EJ Water

Mid America Motorworks

Nova Solutions

Rural King

Sherwin Williams

Vantage Outsourcing

BOOMING IN ILLINOIS

Renowned speaker Jack Schultz, who authored *Boomtown USA* in 2004, says a number of small Illinois towns have revitalized their economies and made themselves more appealing in recent years.

The book, which pinpoints what Schultz coins 7 ½ keys to big success in small towns, has enjoyed a high profile status among community leaders looking to develop local economies and positive reputations. In addition to speaking and writing, Schultz is CEO of Agracel, Inc., an Effingham-based development firm. Its aim is to bring manufacturing and high-tech jobs to rural America.

To date he has helped with 100 projects in 15 states, which has in turn secured 5,000 jobs. While he travels as a speaker, Agracel specializes in helping communities determine what steps to take to turn a prospective business into a successful venture. His company makes money from the development of the property, either in construction or in leasing for industrial purposes.

In a recent meeting of your cooperative leaders, Schultz

recounted the seven ingredients for creating successful communities. They include:

- Adopt a “can do” attitude
- Shape your vision
- Leverage your resources
- Raise up strong leaders
- Encourage an Entrepreneurial approach
- Maintain local control
- Build your brand
- Embrace the teeter-totter factor (to understand this concept, you’ll need to read his book.)

He encouraged your electric leaders to get involved in creating unique communities, playing off of existing strengths such as history, architecture or other tourism elements. Some of the simple items a community can embrace, says Schultz, are good signage for downtown sites, using inexpensive tourism tools, emphasizing art assets and providing an investor network to help entrepreneurs get started.

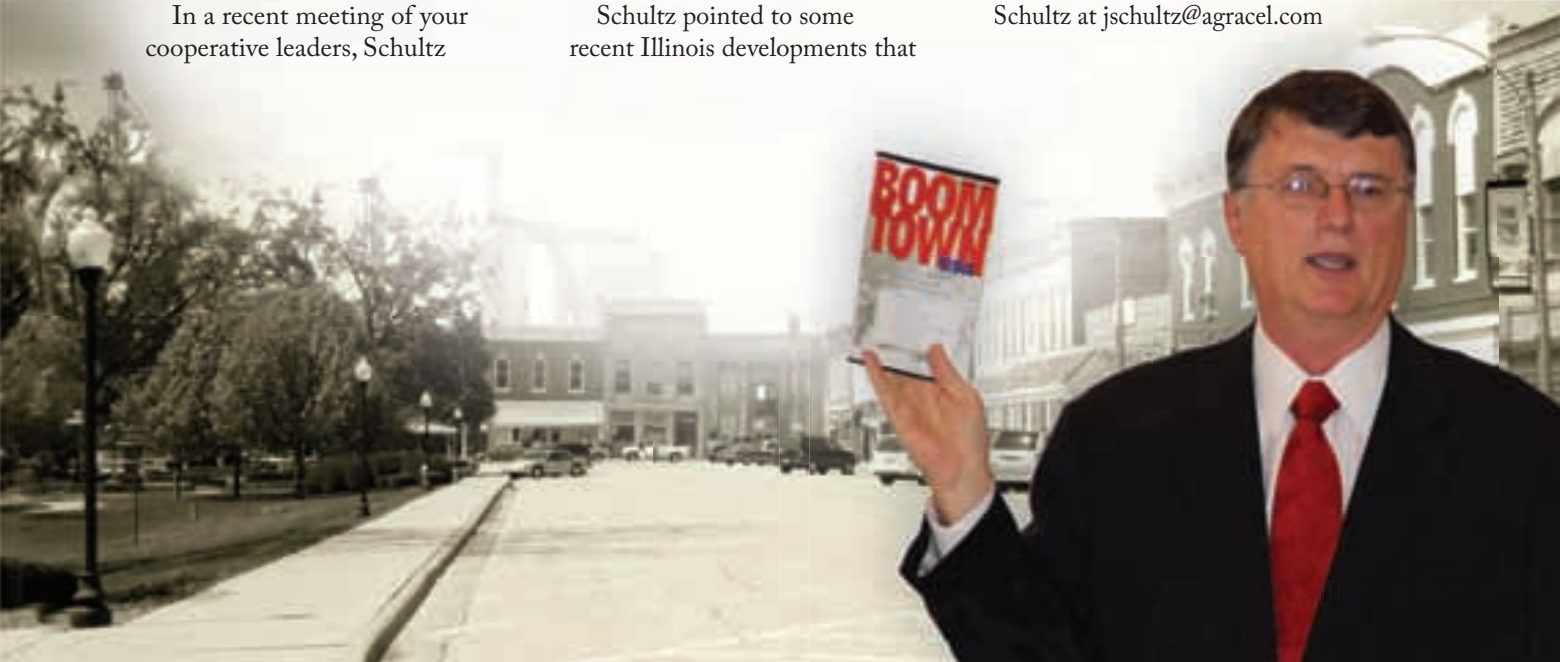
Schultz pointed to some recent Illinois developments that

demonstrate effective collaboration. For example, while some towns are trying to maintain old drive-in theaters, the city of Galva decided to put up a new one. Likewise, Marion, Ill. has become a destination by establishing a minor league baseball team in town. And of course, Effingham, which is the first to embrace the CEO program, expects to reap rewards as college students return to start new businesses.

There is a method to the success, says Schultz, but not necessarily high-end science. Any town can embrace the vision.

“It just takes a handful of people to make a big difference in a small town,” Schultz says. If you’re one of those people, Schultz suggests: “Try to find other like-minded people in the community and make a small change that makes a difference.” Others in the community will recognize the improvement and more positive change is likely to occur.

Interested in the Schultz approach? Check out Agracel.com, then contact Schultz at jschultz@agracel.com



Resolve to be safe

Give your electrical system an annual checkup

Snap, crackle, and pop belong in your cereal bowl, not in the electrical outlets and fixtures in your home. When your home's electrical circuitry is unhealthy, it may tell you - with the loss of power to a circuit, electrical shocks to you and your family, or sparks and flames. Needless to say, none is acceptable, so use this checklist to avoid future problems.

1) **Electrical outlets** - Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.

2) **Plugs** - Never force them into outlets. Don't remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

3) **Cords** - Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

4) **Extension cords** - Use them only on a temporary basis - they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock and mouth burn injuries.

5) **Light bulbs** - Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

6) **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** - Make sure GFCI outlets are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as



well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.

7) **Circuit breakers/Fuses** - Fuses should be properly sized for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.

8) **Appliances/Electronics** - If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

9) **Electrical wiring** - Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then

professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.

10) **Service capacity** - As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, have a professional electrician determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

Keep your safety checklist, make notes, and refer back to it every time you give your home an electrical review. It will help you ensure you don't miss anything and will serve as a good resource in the future. For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. ■

Molly Hall is the Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a public awareness program of the Energy Education Council www.EnergyEdCouncil.org.





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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A load of manure

A natural slow-release fertilizer feeds bit by bit

The start of a new year can be pretty exciting for gardeners. We can make all sorts of resolutions and dream of all the things we are going to do in four or five months.

When reality creeps in like English Ivy in spring, we can feign a memory lapse or a reality distortion. Whatever, we can argue that time and weather changes everything we might have planned and not feel guilty one way or another.

A true gardener might argue that is a load of manure. Which brings us to that topic.

Manure, the term Harry Truman preferred in public much to his wife's joy, has long been associated with gardening and farming especially out in the country. In fact, you can tell a true born-and-raised farm boy or girl by their reaction to and knowledge of the phrase "honey wagon."

On the farm, manure was just a natural part. You could tell at 40 paces whether the pile was fresh or dry, meaning you knew whether it was OK to step on it or not. Sure, sometimes you got fooled, especially on a hot day when the top dries out fast and gives you an illusion of age.

You also knew that manure was something valuable, no matter how crappy (sorry) others thought it was.

It's tempting to say that manures are liquid gold, or semi-liquid-to-dry gold for the gardener, since their benefits are two-fold. However, some folks have difficulty getting past what manures are and from where they come.

First, manures will provide some nutrient benefit, though not as much as you might expect. Somewhere in the dark recesses, I seem to remember that it would take 8 feet of cattle manure over an acre to provide something equivalent to what farmers apply with commercial fertilizer to

achieve the 150 to 200 bushels per acre corn.

Still, for the gardener, every little bit helps. And manures are slow-release fertilizers, meaning they feed the plant bit by bit, which means the plant is continuing to grow and less likely to suffer any burning effect. For vegetables and flowers, this is probably acceptable. For lawns where more nitrogen is needed to achieve a thick, lush, green effect, manures probably aren't practical.

Manures also loosen the soil. Since animal manures often contain a large amount of plant matter, they essentially are nothing more than organic matter that separates soil particles allowing roots to spread while helping to retain moisture - the best of all possible gardening worlds.

Not all manures are created equally. The larger the animal, the better it is for the garden. Seriously, if a circus comes to town, ask for the elephant manures. Horse, cattle, hog and sheep manures, especially when aged, are great for any aspect of the garden.

Ideally, you shouldn't be standing behind the animal with a bucket when it lifts its tail. Dried manures or those piles with a dry exterior are better for the garden.

Smaller animal manures, such as chickens and rabbits, have the potential to burn, but if you let them age for half a year behind the garage or in the compost pile, you shouldn't have a problem.

Also, with any animal manure you should remember to apply it only once a year, either in the fall (the best) or early in the spring to avoid damaging any roots with the burn potential.

Finally, remember that animals eat plants including weeds and their seeds. The seeds don't always get digested and some of them may

germinate in the garden, thriving on the manures as well. Just keep the hoe handy. ■



David Robson is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. drobson@illinois.edu



Vinegar, Better than Prescription Drugs?

Thousands of years ago ancient healers trusted apple cider vinegar, and modern research shows - *vinegar truly is a wonder cure!*

In fact, apple cider vinegar's biggest fans believe this golden liquid can help solve the most troublesome of human afflictions.

Since even the earliest of times a daily vinegar cocktail was used to help control appetite to lose weight and continue good health.

And now after years of continued research all across the globe, over 1000 new vinegar super-remedies and tonics are available in the brand new 208-page *Vinegar Anniversary Book* by famed natural health author, Emily Thacker.

Author of the very first book of its kind since the 1950's, Ms. Thacker brings her unique wisdom, experience and down-home flavor to this complete collection.

From the Bible to Cleopatra to the fierce Samurai warriors of Japan, vinegar has been documented as a powerful tonic to ensure strength, power and long life.

In China, the health system that has been in place for thousands of years recognizes the value of vinegar. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) oversees the health of millions of Chinese – not with modern drugs – but with proven remedies that include vinegar.

Today's research studies and scientific reports continue to praise the healing powers of vinegar to maintain good health and well being.

Even grandma knew that her old remedies worked even if she wasn't able to explain why. And scientific research confirms this.

For instance, grandma said putting diluted vinegar in the ears would ward off infections. The American Academy of Otolaryngology's doctors – who specialize in treating infections like swimmer's ear - now recommend using a vinegar mixture as a preventative.

The Yale-New Haven hospital uses vinegar as a hospital disinfectant. When after-surgery eye infections became a problem, their Department of Bacteriology solved it with vinegar.

Food poisoning? Some doctors suggest that regular vinegar use can prevent it!

The 208-page *Vinegar Anniversary Book* will amaze you with its over 1000 natural remedies, secrets, tonics and cure-alls for a healthier, happier life. You'll get easy recipes that mix vinegar with other common household items to help:

- Calm an upset stomach
- Ease leg cramps
- Soothe sprained muscles
- Control appetite to lose weight
- Relieve coughs
- Banish nausea
- Arthritis pain
- Make hiccups disappear
- Cool a sunburn
- Boost memory
- Reduce sore throat pain
- Relieve itchy skin
- Lower blood pressure & cholesterol
- Eliminate bladder infections
- Chase away a cold
- Treat burns
- Reduce infection
- Aid digestion
- Improve memory
- Soothe sore feet
- Treat blemishes & age spots
- Remove corns & calluses
- Replace many household cleaners

And that's just the beginning of the over 1000 new and improved hints and tips that you'll get.

50 years ago a daily dose of an apple cider vinegar and honey tonic was used to ease arthritis. During the last 30 years or so, many wonder drugs have replaced this time-tested home remedy. Now vinegar, along with countless other old-time tonics, have new supporters including many medical professionals. *The reason?* Almost everybody has experienced the negative side of some of the powerful new drugs.

Strep and Staph infections? Vinegar is a powerful antiseptic and kills even these dangerous bacteria on contact.

Headaches will fade away with this simple vinegar concoction.

Feel good and look good with these hair and skin-friendly vinegar remedies.

You'll learn when you should *and should not* use vinegar.

Can apple cider vinegar really do all this? The answer is yes because it is such a marvelous combination of tart good taste, germ-killing acid and an assortment

of important vitamins and nutrients.

Join readers like L.S. of Monroe, N.C. who says "*Thanks, this book is wonderful. A real life saver for me!*"

Find different ways to combine vinegar with common foods like lemon juice, blueberries, onion, strawberries, garlic, honey, ginger and more to create recipes to help improve health and quality of life.

All new ideas to put vinegar to work around the home to clean, disinfect and eliminate mold and mildew. Great for those with allergies or asthma!

Save money as you put Emily's latest discoveries to the test!

There's even 365 additional tidbits to take you through the year beginning with January's winter snows through the dog-days of summer and into the golden leaves of autumn.

Yes that's over 1000 tried-and-true remedies and recipes in this handsome collector's edition and it's yours to enjoy for 90-risk free days. That's right, you can read and benefit from all 208-pages without obligation to keep it.

To get your copy of the *Vinegar Anniversary Book* direct from the publisher at the special introductory price of \$19.95 plus 3.98 shipping and handling (total of \$23.93, OH residents please add 6% sales tax) simply do this:

Write "Vinegar Anniversary" on a piece of paper and mail it along with your check or money order payable to: James Direct Inc., Dept. VA1060, 500 S. Prospect Ave., Box 980, Hartville, Ohio 44632.

You can charge to your VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express by mail. Be sure to include your card number, expiration date and signature.

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A comforting thought

There's no excuse not to have affordable comfort

No, it can't be. It can't possibly be time to write a column for a new year. It seems like I just wrote one for 2011 a few weeks ago. Unless you are a teenager, you know exactly what I am talking about. Well, time really flies when you are having fun. Of course, the frog says that time is really fun when you are having flies. Please smile.

As I think of a new year, I also think of the past. I just love it when you tell me that you were helped by something that you read in this column. For example, I just got a call a while ago from a fellow who told me that he had just finished reading the December column and wanted to order the attic radiant barrier so that he could install it before his attic gets hot. He is a smart fellow. I hope to continue helping you for a long time, so write my phone number down — 501-653-7931 — and just file it under energy nut and continue reading these columns.

I have received a lot of calls lately from folks with comfort problems in their homes. Some have older houses, and others have fairly new ones. It really doesn't matter, because if you are not comfortable, you are not happy.

I can tell you that the subject of comfort has changed over the years. My first bedroom as a youngster was 6 feet by 9 feet. I had my own bunk bed, a place for my electric train, and I didn't have to share it with three older sisters. The problem was that I had to go through their room to get to my room. And my room had no source of heat whatsoever, except what seeped into my room through the curtain [door] from the big non-vented gas heater in the girls' room, and they didn't have to share the heat with me.



On many cold mornings, I would draw pictures in the frost on the window before I would jump out of bed and run through their bedroom to get to the non-vented gas heater in the living room. Think of it. My room was freezing. Their room was smothering hot. The temperatures of the other rooms were anybody's guess, and basically we were all thankful and happy just to have a house with heat.

What a difference a few years can make. Now we expect every room in our house to be the same comfortable temperature.

I know of a case this past year where the homeowner threatened to file suit against the builder of his new house because the upstairs was always a few degrees hotter than downstairs in the summer. We have proven many thousands of times that there is no excuse for a new house not to have affordable comfort. It is not always possible that every room will have the exact same temperature 24/7, but it can be very close. All you have to do is build it like the electric cooperatives and I have been teaching you to do for the last 20 years. It is easy and affordable, and IT WORKS EVERY SINGLE TIME. Just ask us for help.

I recently received a call from a lady in Illinois who said that she and her

family had been in their new house for seven months and the house was cold.

I said, "I assume that you meant cold in the winter." She said, "Yes, it was just great in the summer." I said, "You should have built the house to my standards." She replied, "We did." My heart skipped a beat and I asked her every question I could think of. Did you caulk? Did you use cellulose insulation?

Did you use good windows, etc.? And yes, they even installed geothermal.

I couldn't imagine what the problem might be, so I asked the age-old question. "What is the thermostat setting on right now?" Her answer was 60 degrees. I told her to turn it up to 75 degrees. She said that if she did, her husband would come through and turn it back down to 60 degrees.

I told her to go whack her husband upside the head and tell him who was boss, and if that didn't work, stop cooking his meals. She laughed and said that might work.

This is a true story, and it has what appears to be an easy solution. Some problems don't have such easy solutions, but I am confident I can help all of you. See you next month when I will give you more ways to make your house more comfortable.

In the meantime, Happy New Year! ■

Doug Rye can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. You can go to Doug Rye's Web site at www.dougrye.com, e-mail him at info@philliprye.com, or call 501-653-7931.



Nominate a father for Illinois Country Father of the Year

While every father is special, some are just extraordinary in their willingness to help their families and others. If your dad or another man in your community is deserving of this honor, nominate him. Tell us in 500 words about that special dad, what he does and why he 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.



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

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

All nomination letters submitted will be published on Illinois Country Living's Web site at www.icl.coop.

**What will the Illinois Country
Father of the Year win?**

**\$100 gift certificate
and other prizes**

ILLINOISTM
COUNTRY LIVING

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:

Entries must be postmarked by March 16, 2012

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

*E-mail entries can be sent to jlaron@aiec.coop

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives ... Tipping its hat to others

He was just a little boy in a cowboy hat leaning on the wooden rails of a sale barn, watching farm animals being sold to the highest bidder. Little did he know he was watching a cooperative in action, a group of farmers, which for the good of individual businesses, had come together to do business as one.

That same little boy has grown up doing business with cooperatives of all types as he farms his land in central Illinois. But today he dons a hard hat on occasion, and leads a cooperative association serving one of the largest groups of cooperatives in the state of Illinois.

That man is Duane Noland, CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the organization that serves your co-op and produces this magazine.

His understanding of the cooperative structure is at the root of what we believe in and what you can count on.

"The key ingredient of electric cooperatives, as well as most cooperatives in the United States, is that they are member-focused organizations," Noland says. They have boards elected by those members and are accountable to them.

"In a day when many folks feel disconnected from the corporate structure, our business model is very different," he adds. Another key component is that cooperatives operate as non-profit with any remaining operating funds or margins allocated as credits for use in developing the cooperative. The funds are returned later on a retirement schedule.

While long-standing principles guide most international cooperatives, as the economy of the day experiences a roller coaster ride, the cooperative structure is a steadfast model in which to operate.

"By nature, cooperatives are based in the communities they serve. The management and staff live on the same streets as the members they serve. Being in touch, gives them focus as to what services are really needed and what products their members desire the most. That closeness allows cooperatives to have longevity, a sustainability, I believe, that far exceeds other businesses," Noland says.

The AIEC is in place to offer cooperative services. Likewise, it belongs to other cooperatives which help support its cause such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Mid-America Cooperative Council (MACC). MACC Director Rod Kelsay, who is in touch with all types of co-ops, says you will see a cooperative form when there is a fundamental need, "when there are no services" in an area that supply that need.

"It's the idea that we can take control of our own lives ... link arms," Kelsay says.

In celebrating the International Year of the Cooperative, we want to show our support for the cooperative model. Throughout the year, we intend to feature a different statewide cooperative, which many of you will recognize or might also be a member. Join with us as we celebrate.

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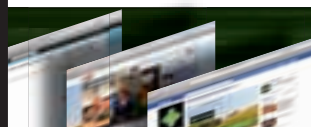
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Snickers Cookies

Snickers Cookies (above)

1 C. sugar
1 C. brown sugar
1 C. butter
1 C. peanut butter
1-1/2 tsp. vanilla
2 eggs

3 C. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
40 Snicker bite sized candy bars

Beat sugar, brown sugar, butter, peanut butter and vanilla together. Add eggs and continue beating. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add to wet ingredients and mix well. Make 1-inch dough balls, sticking a Snicker candy in the middle of each ball. Bake at 375-degrees for 13-16 minutes, until golden brown. Cool before removing from cookie sheet.

Quick And Tasty Bean Soup

3/4 lb. bulk Italian sausage
1/2 C. chopped onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 T. chopped fresh basil or 1 tsp. dried
1 (14-1/2 or 14-oz.) can whole tomatoes, undrained, cut up
1 (14-1/2-oz.) can black beans
1 (15-1/2-oz.) can butter beans, drained
2 T. grated Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan, or Dutch oven, combine sausage, onion, garlic and basil. Cook over medium-high heat until sausage is browned and onion is tender, stirring occasionally. Drain. Add tomatoes and beans. Cover and cook over medium heat 10-15 minutes or until thoroughly heated and flavors are blended, stirring occasionally. To serve, ladle into bowls and top each serving with Parmesan cheese.

Cheesy Chicken Subs

12-oz. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into strips
1 envelope Parmesan, Italian or Caesar salad dressing mix
1 C. sliced fresh mushrooms
1/2 C. sliced red onion
1/4 C. olive or vegetable oil
4 submarine sandwich rolls, split and toasted
4 slices Swiss cheese

Sprinkle chicken with salad dressing mix. In a skillet, sauté mushrooms and onion in oil for 3 minutes. Add chicken; sauté for about 6 minutes, or until chicken juices run clear. Spoon mixture onto toasted roll bottoms. Top with cheese. Broil 4 inches from heat until cheese is melted. Replace tops and serve.

Brownie Drop Cookies

Brownies

1 C. butter
1-3/4 C. sugar
1 C. cottage cheese
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1-1/2 C sifted flour
1/2 C. cocoa
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 C. chopped pecans

Frosting

2-1/2 C. confectioners sugar
1/4 C. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
4 T. light cream

Brownies: Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add cottage cheese and beat thoroughly. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in vanilla. Sift together flour, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Gradually add to creamed mixture. Add pecans. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto baking sheet. Bake 12-14 minutes in a 350-degree oven. Remove to wire rack to cool.

Frosting: In a small mixing bowl combine sugar, butter, vanilla and cream. Beat until smooth. When cookies are completely cooled, frost.

Visit www.icl.coop to see an archive of past Illinois Country Living recipes.

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

Feeding Our Families

Slow Cooker Green Beans (right)

4-6 cans cut green beans, drained
1/3 C. diced onion
3/4-1 C. diced ham
1 can chicken broth
6 med. red potatoes, washed and cut into chunks

Layer potatoes, green beans, onions and ham into a crockpot. Add chicken broth. Cook on high for 4-6 hours.

Cheese Ball

2 pkgs. cream cheese
2-3 bunches green onions, chopped
2 pkgs. Buddig beef or ham, chopped
Worcestershire sauce, to taste
Assortment of crackers

Combine onions and beef/ham into a large bowl. Add Worcestershire sauce to taste. Add 1 package cream cheese and mix. Once everything is starting to mix together, add the second package of cream cheese and continue to mix. Once everything is mixed together, roll into a ball and refrigerate for several hours. Serve with crackers.

Warm Winter Lemon Cake

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
2 C. cold milk
1-1/4 C. water
2 pkgs. Jello-O Lemon Flavor Instant Pudding & Pie Filling
1/3 C. granulated sugar
2 T. powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350-degrees. Prepare cake batter as directed on package. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch baking dish; set aside. Pour milk and water into a large bowl. Add dry pudding mixes and granulated sugar. Beat with a wire whisk for 2 minutes or until well blended. Pour over cake batter. Place baking dish on baking sheet to catch any sauce that might bubble over sides of dish as dessert bakes. Bake for 55 minutes to 1 hour or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool 20 minutes. Sauce will thicken slightly as it cools. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Spoon into serving dishes and serve warm. Store leftovers in the refrigerator.



Slow Cooker Green Beans

Who: Two Rivers Regional Council, Quincy, IL

Cost: \$13, including shipping

Details: soft-backed, spiral-bound

Pages of recipes: 100

Send checks to: Lynn Orr, PO Box 827, Quincy, IL 62306 or call 217-224-8171, ext. 103

Buffalo Blue Burgers

4 T. butter, cut into small pieces
1/3 C. hot sauce
1/2 C. finely crumbled blue cheese
1 T. minced garlic

2 lbs. Ground Beef or Bison
1/2 tsp. celery seeds
1/3 C. finely chopped onions
6 hamburger buns

Melt butter in a pan over low heat, whisk in hot sauce. Mix blue cheese and garlic in a small bowl. Using your hands, gently mix beef or bison, celery seed, onion and 1/4 C. hot sauce mixture in a medium bowl until blended. Form meat into 12 patties about 4-1/2 inches in diameter and no more than 1/2-inch thick. Spoon about 2 tsp. of cheese/garlic mixture into the center of 6 patties. Top with remaining patties and press together, sealing edges. (It's very important to make sure the edges are sealed well.) Cover and refrigerate for a few hours. Heat grill to medium and oil grate. Grill burgers about 4-5 minutes on each side, or until cooked to taste. Brush with remaining hot sauce mixture during the last 2 minutes of cooking. Serve on buns.

Calling all cookbooks!

Is your church or community organization selling its own unique cookbook filled with favorite recipes of cooks in your area? If so, send your cookbook to Catrina Wagner, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Please include the price of your cookbook plus postage costs and the name, address and telephone numbers (both day and evening) of the cooperative member we should contact for more information.

Recycle now or forever hold your junk

(Well, at least until next year)

You might recall an article in this column some time back that discussed how to properly dispose of electronics so that you would not fall prey to identity theft scams. Well, now there's even more reason to be careful how you dispose of electronics. By the time you read this article, it is likely that a new law will already be in place regarding the recycling of electronic waste.

Illinois will ban electronics from landfills beginning Jan. 1, 2012. Illinois' electronic waste standard is one of the strongest in the nation, and requires manufacturers of electronics to provide free recycling options to Illinois consumers. As of Jan. 1, consumers will be encouraged to take advantage of free recycling options.

Public Act 97-0287 bans 17 electronic products from landfills. The landfill ban includes: TVs, computers (including desktop, notebook, tablet), monitors, printers, computer peripherals, VCRs/DVD players, gaming systems, MP3 players, scanners, fax machines and small scale servers. These products contain toxic materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium and beryllium that must be properly managed to prevent soil and groundwater contamination.

Illinois Senator Susan Garrett and Representative Daniel Biss sponsored the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act that requires manufacturers to take responsibility for recycling obsolete residential electronic products. Obsolete electronic products also contain valuable materials that can be recycled for reuse such as copper, gold and circuit chips. The law requires electronics manufacturers to set up a take-back program for used electronics or partner with local recyclers to offer residents a free

electronics recycling program at venues close to home.

"The residential electronic recycling program keeps toxic chemicals out of our soil and water, creates new jobs



for the state's recycling industry and makes recycling easy for consumers without any additional costs," said Melville Nickerson, Staff Attorney at the Environmental Law & Policy Center, which advised on policy and built support for the legislation. "Illinois is one of 25 states that has passed legislation to solve the problem of discarded electronics, the fastest growing element of our country's municipal waste stream."

The Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act culminates years of work by Senator Garrett, Representative Biss, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and other business and environmental organizations to address the growing problem of obsolete electronics. According to the U.S. EPA, Americans throw away 400 million electronic products each year.

So where do you need to take your old electronics for recycling? Well, the Illinois EPA has compiled a complete list of e-waste collection locations at [\[il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/consumer-education.html\]\(http://il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/consumer-education.html\). Just scroll toward the middle of the page until you see the link that says, "collection site locations." Click that link and an Excel sheet will open with all of the locations.](http://www.epa.state.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Keep in mind that for most of the locations you cannot simply show up with your old electronics. Most have specific hours during which they accept e-waste, so it's best to call first. Be sure to also ask what types of materials they will accept. Not all sites will accept everything.

One final bit of information that may add to your decision on when to recycle. According to the EPA's website, "The Illinois EPA assigns an annual recycling goal to each electronics manufacturer. Once that goal is achieved, a manufacturer and its collection sites may decide to no longer offer free electronics recycling for the remainder of the year. Your local collector can tell you if free e-waste recycling is available, or if you can avoid any charges by holding your equipment until next year."

Of course, most sites will still accept electronic materials after their quota has been met, but they may charge you a fee. So, if you have some recycling to do, remember that it's best to get it done early!

Ed VanHoose is the Digital Communications Administrator/IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.



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By using electricity wisely, we can continue to build on a dream that started decades ago. And we can ensure that the spirit on which it was built continues for generations to come. Reliable, affordable electricity, for all.

Calling all youth turkey hunters

Turn off the television and video games and grab your turkey call; there are more places for young turkey hunters to go hunting this coming spring! The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has a new program, Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) which leases property from private landowners to provide for more places for youth turkey hunting. With a three-year grant from the USDA-FSA, the IDNR will provide additional hunting areas available to young turkey hunters (under age 16).

Three spring turkey seasons will be available for youth hunters through IRAP:

- **Spring Youth Season**, which gives the kids a head start on turkey season, will run March 31-April 1 (southern zone) and April 7-8 (northern zone)
- **Season 3**, April 21-April 25 (southern zone) and April 27-May 2 (northern zone)
- **Season 4**, April 26-May 2 (southern zone) and May 3-May 9 (northern zone)

Interested youth turkey hunters will need to apply for an IRAP Youth Turkey Hunting permit through the IDNR's website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP>. In addition, many county Soil and Water Conservation Districts will have information and forms available at their offices.

Hunters will need to choose the county they wish to hunt in and then a random drawing will be held for each county/site. Youth hunters can request up to two turkey permits. For example, they can request to hunt the Spring Youth Turkey Season and Season 4.

Not all counties will have youth turkey hunting available. One will need to check the IDNR's website, to see which counties have IRAP youth turkey hunting available as well



You can get involved with the program

Landowners

- Landowners who enroll in the program for three years become eligible for a wildlife management plan to be established or have an existing plan updated for their property, focusing on forest management.
- Forest management plans will be written to the standards of the EQIP. Management plans will address invasive species, opening of the canopy, natural oak/hickory forest regeneration, etc.
- With the 3-year agreement, IRAP can assist the landowner with project funding to cover management practice implementation.
- Landowners will also receive a stipend for each turkey season that they allow access (amount based on the acreage offered for the program).



Insurance and Other Information

- Each IRAP participant is required to sign a liability waiver at the time when they apply for the youth turkey hunt.
- Liability for hunting activities on state leased land is covered under the State of Illinois Recreational Use of Leased Land Act, 745 ILCS 67.
- In addition landowners may purchase insurance on their property through IRAP and be reimbursed for their expense (\$2 million liability).
- Landowners may withdraw from the program at any time during the year with a 30-day written notice.
- IRAP payments to landowners will be made in December following the approved activities for the preceding year.

- At times, there could be the possibility that IRAP leased property may not have an assigned hunter use the property (more properties enrolled in the program than hunters that registered for the lottery in any given county).

For Additional Information Please Contact:

Bob Caveny
Illinois Recreational Access Program Coordinator
One Natural Resources Way,
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
Office: 1-217-782-5719
Cell: 1-217-556-0236
bob.caveny@illinois.gov

as how many hunting sites there are per county. Currently, there is more than 5,000 acres enrolled in IRAP in 14 counties, including Iroquois and Bureau counties and Sangamon, Macoupin and Pike counties. More sites are being added weekly so it is important to check IDNR's website.

Other public access activities IRAP is leasing property for include:

- To allow for fishing in ponds, rivers and streams, creating more places for families to fish.
- Creating additional access points along public rivers to enhance access by non-motorized water craft.
- To have places for nature lovers to explore, birdwatch and photograph wildlife.

This program is just a start in addressing several challenges the IDNR faces. IRAP's goal is to promote outdoor activities to our youth and families in hopes of educating and recruiting additional outdoor

enthusiasts who might otherwise not have the opportunity to participate. In addition, this provides for access to specific locations that may otherwise be closed to the public, expanding outdoor opportunities in general.

For more information on IRAP, contact Tammy Miller at tammy.miller@illinois.gov or go to IRAP's website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP>.

- 1, **Super-Couponing Workshop** in Bolingbrook at the Fountaindale Public Library. 630-759-2102 or www.fountaindale.org.
- 3-12, **Noises Off** in Chicago Heights. 708-755-3444 or www.dramagroup.org.
- 3-5, **Southern Illinois Boat & Fishing Show** in Marion. 618-993-2657 or www.visitsi.com.
- 3, **Treasured Stories by Eric Carle** in University Park. 708-235-2222 or www.centertickets.net.
- 4, **Wing Fest** in Quincy. Sample savory hot wings from talented chefs. 217-223-1000.
- 7, **Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad** in University Park. 708-235-2222 or www.centertickets.net.
- 8, **Paul Mickey Science Series Lecture** in Springfield. 217-785-0037 or cline@museum.state.il.us.
- 10, **Jeffrey Osborne: An Evening of Love & Soul with special guest Howard Hewett** in Waukegan. 847-782-2366.
- 10-12, **Midwestern Herb and Garden Show** at the Times Square Mall in Mount Vernon. 618-242-3151 or www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com.
- 10-12, **Progressive International Motorcycle Show** in Rosemont. 1-800-331-5706 or www.motorcycleshows.com.
- 11, **Eagle Day Festival** at Lewistown in the Dickson Mounds Museum. 309-547-3721 or kdunnigan@museum.state.il.us.
- 12-26, **Big Muddy Film Festival** at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. 618-453-7703 or www.bigmuddyfilm.com.
- 14, **Valentine Craft Sale** at the Student Center of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. 618-453-3636 or www.siu.edu/~sccrafts.
- 15, **Kronos Quartet performs "Harp and Altar"** in Urbana at the Krannert Center for the Arts. 800-527-2849 or 217-333-6280.
- 16, **Lock 16 Spring Dinner & Lecture—Stories of Immigrants in Illinois** in LaSalle. 815-223-1851 or www.lasallecanalboat.org.
- 17, **Starting a Business in Illinois** in Carbondale at the Dunn-Richmond Dev. Center. 618-536-2424 or sdbc@siu.edu.
- 17-26, **"Almost Maine"** in Romeoville. 815-836-5500 or www.lewisu.edu/plt.
- 17-18, **Big Dam Film Fest**, featuring independently produced films from across the country and abroad in Quincy. 217-223-8380.
- 18, **Galena Mardi Gras Parade** in Galena. 1-800-942-5362 or visitgalena.org.
- 18-20, **Masters of the Sky—Birds of Prey** in Alton 618-462-6979 or www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Rivers.
- 20, **Polish Heritage Day** in Lemont. 630-863-9304 or www.lemont.il.us.
- 21-22, **Gateway Green Industry Conference & Trade Show** in Collinsville. 618-650-7050 or madison_co@extension.uiuc.edu.
- 22, **Spring Job Fair** in Dekalb at the NIU Convocation Center. Mary Myers 815-753-7169 or myers@niu.edu.
- 22, **Let's Go Science** in University Park. 708-235-2222 or www.centertickets.net.
- 24, **Black & White Tea** in La Salle. 815-223-1851 or www.lasallecanalboat.org.
- 23, **"Drum!"** in Grayslake. 847-543-2300 or www.cicillinos.edu/tickets.
- 23-25, **Truthseekers Homecoming** in Marion. www.marionccc.org
- 24-25, **24th Model RR Show and Swap meeting** in three gyms in Lena. 815-369-2624 or countrywindmill@yahoo.com.
- 24-26, **The 45th Annual Elmhurst College Jazz Festival** in Elmhurst. 630-617-3400 or www.elmhurst.edu.
- 25, **70th Annual Barbershop Shows** at BCPA in Bloomington. www.soundsofillinois.com. Jim Stahly, 309-531-8850.
- 25, **Kelly Clarkson performs** at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall in Champaign. www.songkick.com
- 25, **CLC's 28th Annual Salute to Gospel** in Waukegan. 847-782-2366 or www.geneseetheatre.com.
- 27, **Scuba Clinic** at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 217-333-8747 or www.campusrec.illinois.edu/adventure/scuba.html.

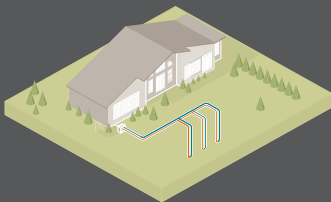
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To be considered for inclusion, please submit events in the format used above. Preference is given to events sponsored by non-profit entities. Submitting an event is not a guarantee of publication. Photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless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

Deadline: January 15 for April events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. E-mail to: Lrigoni@aiec.coop.

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Tonica, IL
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- ▶ Just 2 glasses a day of this delicious, inexpensive, low-calorie juice is enough to help keep dangerous artery-clogging cholesterol from forming.
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